

HighworthLINK

HIGHWORTH'S COMMUNITY MAGAZINE BROUGHT TO YOU WITH THE COMPLIMENTS OF THE CHURCHES OF HIGHWORTH



July 2020

Be a water carrier

The first Christian missionaries in China were Franciscan Priests. In 1294 Pope Nicholas IV sent the Italian Priest John of Montecorvina to China in order to preach the Gospel.

Over three decades John converted thousands of people and built several churches. However, eventually, the missionaries were expelled from China and there were no Priests to lead the parish.

One Church which was founded in a remote valley in the North of China continued on but struggled. There was no one to celebrate Mass and their numbers dwindled but they continued to pray and to teach the faith to their children.

As time went on, a distance grew between them and their neighbours. The Christians were regarded as different and somehow 'foreign' and they were looked on with suspicion.

The Christians gathered together and they decided that the way forward and the way to build bridges with their neighbours was to demonstrate their faith by being of service to them. They decided that at the beginning of each workday, before watering their own paddy fields, they would look to find a neighbour who was struggling with their work or who was sick and they would water that person's fields first.

Very soon they became known not as Christians but as the 'water carriers'. After another 300 years missionaries returned to China and they found there

was one valley in the North which was completely Christian. All the neighbours had been converted to Christ because of the witness of service.

The story of the Chinese 'water carriers' reminds us that the essence of Christian life is to serve others. Each of us is called to be a 'water carrier' for our neighbour to look for ways to help and support each other. During these months of lockdown we have all come to appreciate how interdependent we all are. We have come to understand in a new way the importance of a whole range of people whose work of service we can easily take for granted. We have come to a new appreciation, not only of healthcare workers and caregivers, but also of supermarket workers, refuse collectors and delivery drivers. All these we have discovered we cannot do without.

People often talk about what we might learn from this pandemic. There are many things we will learn but my hope is that we learn and relearn the central importance of service. That we will continue to see and appreciate the service others give to us but also come to see that each one of us is called to be of service. To be truly human is to give something of ourselves in the service. Let us hope we will continue to admire the dedicated service of so many, but also that each of us seeks to imitate what we respect in others and look for new ways to be of service to one another.

May each of us be the 'water-carriers' in the place we live.

Michael McAndrew

Cover: Signs of the times. Westrop School.

LINK magazine

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Contributions:

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

Email is preferred; otherwise deliver to The Lighthouse Bookshop.

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

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

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

Deadlines:

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



From the editor...

Nine days before the April Link was due for delivery the world as we know it changed. Event cancellations started coming in thick and fast.

Mere hours before the Link was sent to our printers I wrote the first 'update'. The Link team were constantly in touch trying to put in place measures to keep our deliverers and sorters safe and prevent spreading the virus to others. Then the unspeakable happened. Our printers closed. With no magazines and with the lockdown growing increasingly severe the decision was taken to move the Link online and to deliver via

email and through our website.

This magazine is our first tentative steps back towards normality. Its pages are filled with a mixture of old articles drawn from the three online issues as well as new articles. Our advertisers will be back from September when we hope to resume normal door-to-door delivery once again and you are welcome to contact the Link to discuss your advertising needs. In the meantime we hope you enjoy our little magazine.

Sarah

Citizen of the Month for April: Rachel Uzzell

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

Helen Simpson, Highworth Pre-School

Citizen of the Month for May: Marian Wilhams

Marion is something of a legend among the Highworth Operation Christmas Box Appeal set. Turning 90 this month, she has been involved in the project for many years and has written thousands of Christmas messages to accompany Highworth's boxes. Indeed, it seems unthinkable now to send out the boxes without them.

"My involvement with Operation Christmas Child all started when my grandchildren were at Northview Primary School," Marion said. "The school asked their pupils to get involved and put together a box. I helped them to assemble their boxes and the year after I decided to volunteer as a box checker.

"I really like getting involved in things. I cannot just sit and do nothing. I feel lazy and operation Christmas Child gives me lots of opportunities to get creative. I love knitting; I used to teach it at school and in fact all the charities I support are to do with children. Knitting is very therapeutic for the fingers.

"The Christmas messages started about three years ago when I stopped checking the boxes. Just after Christmas I go around and collect old



Marian with a photo of one of Highworth's boxes being opened in Liberia, easily identified thanks to Marian's handwritten message



Christmas cards from my friends and neighbours. Then I have to prepare the cards. Each one has to be trimmed to remove the picture from the written part. This is the worst part and I have to be very disciplined because it's a really boring job. Once they are all ready, I will bring 50-100 cards to the table at a time and I will write 'Happy Christmas' on the back of each picture in red pen. Once I have done all the cards I go back and start writing the message. It all takes time, but I pace myself. I think I managed to write about 2,300 cards last year.

I don't manage to put together my own box now, but I do still collect items to go in other boxes. I think it's a really good cause to be involved in. I spend about £20 on items. Everything is new, nothing is second hand."

Marion you are a star!

Editor: Operation Christmas Child takes place in November every year. The aim is to make a box for a boy or girl aged 2-4, 5-9 or 10-14 that they can open on Christmas Day. Normally I would ask you to start collecting items, but it is not yet known if Operation Christmas Child will go ahead this year. We will endeavour to keep you updated as the situation changes.

Citizens of the Month for June and July: Highworth Covid 19 Mutual Aid Group

Covid-19 has presented significant problems for our community. With numerous residents forced to retreat inside whilst a deadly disease ravished our country, one group of Highworthians came together to form a community response.

'Highworth Covid-19 Mutual Aid' is a Facebook group that aims to connect need with action. It's founder, Claire Launchbury, went to school in Highworth, but only moved back from Hackney a few years ago. In early March, she started to notice on her friend's Facebook feeds that Mutual Aid Groups were popping up around London. Recognising the importance of such a scheme, she set up the Highworth Facebook group on the 14th March, just as the first vulnerable Highworthians started isolating in their homes. "The group has grown massively since then." Claire said. "It has really made me realise what a great community we have here". The group saw an immediate response and since then hundreds of residents have joined the group, including Leanne White, Alison Cross Jones and Amy Hegarty who became fellow admins and who each brought a new perspective and additional set of key skills.

"It's been a big learning curve", Claire continued. "I've never done anything quite like this before. Jon Turnbull from the Swindon Mutual Aid group was really helpful in our first month when we had to deal with a large number of online requests as well as referrals from the GP. We didn't start getting properly organised until Alison joined and gave us her experience of working with other charities".

"The people of Highworth have been fantastic" Leanne agreed. "We have had some interesting requests. In the early days of the group we had someone asking for brambles for their pet stick insects and another for a table for jigsaw puzzles. Not everyone is online so we also walk round our community. There was one lady who spoke to Leanne from her window who really wanted wool so she could crochet, so we put the request on Facebook and took a load round to her house. It highlighted a need in the community to check in directly with those who may be struggling and to give contact to the isolated so they can chat to another human face-to-face."

"We have had lots of positive feedback as well," Amy said. "You realise how important this is when you receive messages praising the efforts of the group as a whole. One of the reasons we moved to Highworth from London last year was because we wanted a sense of community. There really is something amazing here in Highworth that you don't get in the big cities. The group has made me realise how many lovely and interesting people there are in our community and has opened up a whole group of people with whom I wouldn't normally talk."

"We would like to hope that the group's impact will last beyond the coronavirus pandemic," Alison said. "We have seen our community pull together and look out for one another and I hope that this



Alison Cross Jones



Leanne White



Claire Launchbury



Amy Hegarty

Citizens of the Month for June and July: Highworth Covid 19 Mutual Aid Group (cont.)

continues to be the case going forward."

"We would also really like to emphasise that the mutual aid group isn't just us," the group collectively stated. "The group encompasses over 50 volunteers and it wouldn't function without them."

Many of the members of the Highworth Mutual Aid Group have never met, including the four

admins. "We are looking forward to being able to meet for a coffee once this is over," they said.

If you require help of any kind the Highworth Covid 19 Mutual Aid Group can be contacted via email at covid19highworth@gmail.com or on their FB page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/207589316973214>

Rainbows over Highworth

Highworthian children are following the national trend by placing rainbows in their windows.

It is a way for those trapped inside their homes to show that they are thinking of others, particularly those working in the NHS to whom many of the rainbows are dedicated and to bring a ray of brightness to everyone's day. Even stones bearing rainbows are being found. Here are a few rainbows spotted around town:

(See our back cover for photos)

One Million Bubbles

On 11th and 12th April I took part in a Worldwide Event called 'One Million Bubbles'.

It was created by a balloon artist in America, who encouraged people to stay home and create a fun balloon design to be put outside their homes. The aim was to help spread positivity and make people smile during this unsettling time.


Nearly 1,900 balloon artists and enthusiasts took

part in 81 countries across the world, spreading joy and love to so many people. Despite only creating a small rainbow balloon column, I was so grateful to all the lovely and kind comments people made about it, proving that balloons really do cheer people up.



Everyone who participated in this event posted their designs and creations on social media tagging #OneMillionBubbles #BeSafeBeKind #StayHome enabling all the artists across the world to be connected together. If you'd like to see some of the amazing masterpieces created during this event, be sure to check out the hashtags above on Facebook and Instagram.

Emily Gunn



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Home-schooling at Highworth Pre-School

Highworth Pre-School are giving daily updates on activities for our children during school closures.

We know it's a tough time but all our families are making the most of time together with home-schooling, nature walks, bug hunts, crafts, music, daily exercise and taking time to relax. We hope you all Stay Safe and that we get to see you soon.



News from Eastrop Infant and Southfield Junior School

Since the closure of schools at the end of March, key worker children from both Eastrop Infant and Southfield Junior Schools have been coming together to enjoy different activities. We have been creating and learning both inside and outside in the glorious weather.

Without even realising, the children have been covering all subjects, just in a slightly different way. We have been out on bug hunts (it's amazing what you can find under logs and stones), built sturdy magical nests for rare birds in the Woodland area (the birds were so grateful they even left chocolate eggs), created chalk drawings of shadows, debated where we need to stand in relation to the sun to get the best shadow (science), kept fit by dancing (with Jo Wicks), made and attempted assault courses, played rounders and even flew a kite (PE). Oh, the glorious sounds of cheering, then laughter, when seconds later it falls to the ground. Where does one need to stand to catch the wind? A

very important question to be able to fly a kite (science).

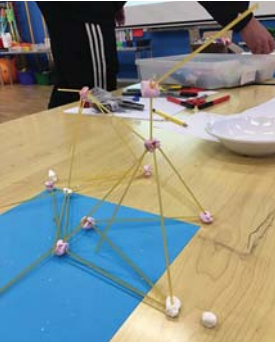
When presented with a rather large cardboard box, the children decided to create a Time Machine. Researching various times in History, they added the buttons accordingly, chronologically of course, they even attached a large button for The Future! (DT/ICT). They have been creative too, colouring mindfulness drawings, painting pinecones, drawing rainbows, making posters and cards and learning about and creating VE day bunting to name but a few of the craft sessions (Art). Also writing poetry (English) and using the iPads for Time Table Rockstars (Maths).

The children have had lots of fun and we have seen new friendships formed. I know that I speak for myself and all the staff at both schools when I say it has been a privilege to help and support our community during this difficult time.

Mrs Law



Westrop Primary continues to challenge students



Keyworkers' children have had a busy couple of months since the school officially closed.

They have created and displayed lots of different types of flower craft to bring some joy to the community, made and flew Japanese flying carp, completed a challenge to build the tallest tower out of marshmallows and spaghetti and have helped keep the vegetable garden under control. Throughout it all they have shown fantastic group work and resilience.

Well done Westrop!



The Churches of Highworth want to pray for you.

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

Jesus cares, and we care too.

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

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

churchispraying@gmail.com

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

There is HOPE!



HOPE

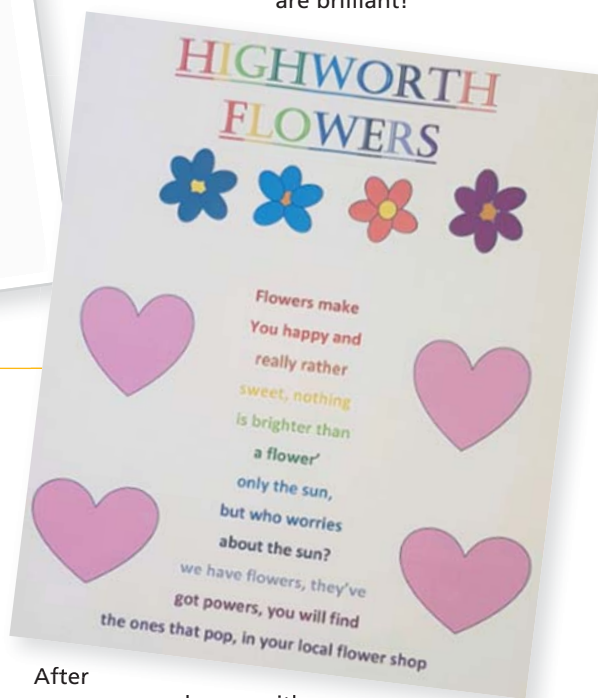
for Highworth



Southfield School goes local

The children at Southfield wanted to support the local authority. Mrs Law wrote to the Highworth Town Council and asked how we could do this. The children were asked to support our local community by creating 'Shop Local' posters, helping to keep Highworth thriving.

Well done Lilly, Lucie, Mason and Henry, these are brilliant!



Fab Four Video Virtual Tour of Southfield School

Four children at Southfield Junior School have recently been very busy putting together a Virtual Tour of their school. This tour has been made available to the parents of the children starting in September and has been put on our website too.

The children planned what they wanted to say and discussed what areas of the school would be important to the new starters to make them feel safe and comfortable. Their lines were typed up so they could learn them and a year 5 pupil videoed the whole thing in stages. We had 27 videos in total.

The video in the playground suffered from a lot of noise because it was a very windy day. We went back into the playground and thought of solutions on how to protect the tablet from picking up the extra sound. Ah ha! She stood in the shed which shielded the wind and gave a perfect recording! A great strategy which worked well.



After everyone was happy with the recordings and the editing finished, we added all the videos to an editing software, added a title, credits and music then we sat down and watched it together. Apart from the embarrassment when they were watching and listening to themselves, they all thought it was a fantastic result. I am very proud of what they achieved in only three hours!

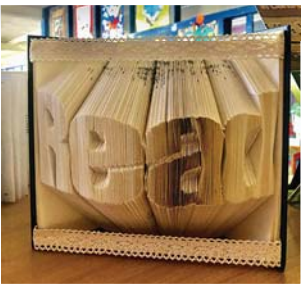
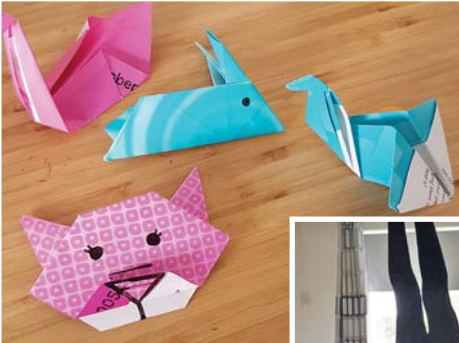
Take a look: <https://www.southfieldjuniorsch.co.uk/New-Starters/>

Mrs Law

Warneford Snippets

Warneford Students have had a busy couple of months. They have been challenged to share their art, undertake a fitness challenge, demonstrate their best moves, create

origami models and design their own 'Heath Robinson' style machines. Here is a snapshot of their efforts. Keep up the good work Warneford.



Miss Shellard's book art



Highworth Claps for the NHS and Careers

Highworthians have emerged from their homes seven times so far to clap, cheer, bang pots and make noise in tribute to all those risking their lives on the frontline during this pandemic. It is a chance for neighbours to come together to show solidarity and feel involved during what is otherwise for many quite a lonely and isolated time.



The Storey family entertain

musical interlude each week which has entertained and delighted their neighbours and we thank them for efforts."

Pets have also joined in with the action, with one cute pooch becoming a global superstar. "Archie is quite a celebrity now after he surprised us with his clapping on Thursday 9th April. It was the first time we had taken him outside and he took us by surprise by joining in with us and the neighbours when we clapped for our NHS and key workers. He will do it indoors when he's excited. We have taken him outside since and although he hasn't clapped again he does join in by barking. He has appeared in the Star, The Mail, The People and even on Lorraine on ITV. He's had nearly 2.5 million views on the internet. I cannot believe what a little star our beloved Maltese has become."

Wrag Barn organised a very different tribute. "With our course bereft of spiked shoes, trolleys and dimpled balls dropping from the sky, a chance conversation with my neighbour gave one of our greens a purpose we are immensely proud of", said Verity Manners.

"In the absence of golfers we were asked if the 'air space' above our course could be used to test the software on a new drone, providing a perfect opportunity. The strain being placed on the world at the moment is starkly topical, particularly for those in the care profession; so with the help of three passing walkers and 2500 golf balls we spread out and wrote our thank you. The drone was able to photograph our work and give us a wonderful birds-eye view of our message where we could judge for ourselves how straight our lines were (courtesy of a hosepipe). Whilst we spent the morning having a bit of fun we wanted more importantly to convey our gratitude for all those putting themselves at risk to help others."



*Star of the internet,
Archie the dog*

And finally Emma Bull had this to say: "Hearing the clapping every week makes me feel proud to work for the NHS and be part of an amazing team. I feel that all key workers are amazing; from delivery drivers, teachers, emergency services, supermarket workers and anyone who has continued to work through this awful time. Thank you everyone."



VE Day 75th Anniversary Celebrations



Highworth came together to celebrate VE Day by swapping street parties for 'stay at home' parties. A two-minute silence was held in the morning to remember all those who have lost their lives, both through war and Covid-19. This was followed later in the day by cakes and drinks in front gardens as neighbours raised a toast and shouted to each other from a distance.

As a big manufacturing centre, Swindon was on the Luftwaffe's radar and sporadic bombing killed 48 people. Highworth was more lucky. Our only night of bombing saw 50 incendiary bombs land in fields nearby and according to reports, this produced "a first-class firework display".

But Highworth and neighbouring Coleshill were central to Churchill's plans for a secret resistance army. Our local post office (now Propsect) was run by the famous Mabel Stranks. Possible recruits were sent to Highworth to be vetted by Mabel before being sent to the GHQ at Coleshill house for training in blowing up bridges and booby-trapping toilets in preparation for a German invasion.



Mabel (2nd left) and the staff at Highworth Post Office. circa. 1940

VE Day at the War Memorial



A brief ceremony was held by a few members of the local RBL branch, along with two members of our great community. A two-minute silence was held and then a wreath commemorating 75 Years since VE Day was laid on the memorial by Ruby Perry. A small port was also taken and social distancing was observed.

Gerry Evans

WWII Memorabilia: The Blood Chit

This blood chit was given to my husband Ian by Webb Moore who is American. Webb was an AC 130 gun ship pilot and he'd followed his father and grandfather into the American Air Force.

The blood chit belonged to Webb's grandfather. It's a piece of fabric which is sewn into an airman's flight suit or flying jacket. It promises money for the safe return of the airmen to friendly forces. Webb's grandfather served with Brits in Burma and asked his grandson to return the chit to a British officer. Ian was an officer in The Queens Royal Lancery and met Webb during a visit/exchange.

The two hit it off immediately and are still great mates, despite the distance.

Louise Thompson



Celebration by Beryl Wicker



*The sun is shining to welcome the day,
Come lassies and lads, come away, come away
And join in the celebration.
The trumpets are sounding. The church bells
ring clear
And the flags wave high from the steeple.
So, deck yourselves out in your finest array,
Come away, come away all you people.*

*Carry the tables out in the street.
Bring out the tea urns and good things to eat
And join in the celebration.
Forget all your worries and every day cares.
Dance and rejoice with the nation,
Thank God for the end of those terrible years.
Come join in the celebration.*

Beryl's book of poems 'The Tapestry of Life' is available now for £12. Call her on 01793 764395 for a copy.

A different Easter Remembrance

It was a different Easter. It is a different spring! The church buildings all closed up, the organs silent, the worship bands scattered, the Christians in their own homes isolated and alone. So where was the joy? The triumphant and vibrant singing? The celebration? The "Hallelujahs"? Well, that was different too.

The solitary solemn willow cross which stood through Holy week in the garden of the Methodist Church became 'alive' with flowers on Easter Day. The sound of people singing *"Thine be the glory, risen, conquering King, Endless is the victory Thou o'er death has won"* was heard not in the church buildings but in so many homes in our town. The joy of the truth that Jesus was, and is, alive resounded with Hallelujahs from bungalows, flats, bedsits and houses. This was and is the triumph of Easter.

Some have enjoyed streamed services and reflections distributed by post and email, all are being linked in pastoral video and phone calls, many are learning new IT skills as they take part in Bible studies and prayer meetings on Zoom.

We continue to have the church buildings closed



and the congregations scattered; everything seems different. But not everything. Not fewer but more places of worship. Not less but more prayer and praise as we are reminded that the Church is people being in solidarity helping each other and our community. Not a ritual to be gone through but a deliberate choice to lift hearts and minds to God the Father who loves us each and everyday and gives the strength for each new day. Instead of worshipping together, we worship Sunday by Sunday in our homes, sharing services on the radio, TV and internet with others who seek to love, learn and serve the risen Lord Jesus.

However different life is, whatever we are going through, wherever we are, whatever the future holds of sadness and of joy, we know with certainty that what the Bible says in Romans Chapter 8 Verse 39 is true. *'Nothing can ever separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord'*. Nothing, nothing, absolutely nothing. Hallelujah!

Gwen, Highworth Methodist Church



Many thanks to the Highworth Emporium!

Westrop Primary School would like to say a big 'thank you' to Aga at The Highworth Emporium.

Your donation of Easter eggs cheered up our pupils no end. It's not easy being one of the few children to still be attending school whilst your parents continue to work. But your very generous gift really helped to brighten our day.

Easter Families

The staff of Highworth Pre-School sent a special Easter message to all our children on our new lockdown Facebook page just for current families, to help support them during these uncertain times.

We loved the photos we got back of what the children are doing at home with their families. Keep going and we will get through these times together.

*Helen Simpson,
Highworth Preschool*



Easter Gardens

Daffodils, tulips, cherry blossom: Easter should be a chance to enjoy the sunshine and fresh new greenery following the long dreary winter.

Sadly, this Easter the beauty of our four Spring Gardens could not be appreciated in person, so

instead enjoy this little taster. We really look forward to a time in the future when we will be able to invite you in to enjoy our gardens for real... and to have that essential tea and cake.



Ken Hooper

More flags needed for the High Street



A big thank you to Richard Williams for the annual climbing of the ladder and putting up flags on the High Street, this year in time to celebrate VE Day. We hope you enjoyed the sight, which we feel brightens and makes the High Street more inviting.

In the future, rather than bunting just for May Day, we

would like to put flags up depicting our local Clubs and Societies: Scouts, Brownies, Silver Band, bowls, tennis, football, schools and playgroups, the list is endless. We would like them to go up in time for Easter each year and

down by the end of the summer or when the Christmas trees go up.

If you are interested we would love to have your Club or Society make or supply a flag. Please get in touch with sandra.rendall1@gmail.com for further details on size, etc. Whilst we are on restricted movement and trying to find things to do, this could be the ideal time to get started.

I am also involved with the Visit Highworth Centre, and with your permission we would like to keep an up-to-date register of all Highworth-based Clubs and Societies together with local service providers such as Builders, Plumbers, Electricians, Home businesses etc. This way we can help promote and use our town's talent to those who make an enquiry. We are also happy to advertise your events or sell your tickets, all we ask is that your poster be A5 size please.

I look forward to hearing from you. Remember to stay safe.

Sandra Rendall

New Allotment Community Group

A few of we allotment plot holders have put our heads together and have formed an allotment community group. The reason for this is that we all have various levels of knowledge and skills together with a trug load of passion for growing your own.

We are hoping to pull more of us together to give the Football Grounds Allotments a real sense of community; helping each other out and getting to know each other. We could hold 'Seed and Harvest' swap shops and maybe with our handier ones, 'Build your own Composters and Scarecrows' workshops.

There are many different reasons for renting an allotment plot, apart from the growing bit. It's a beautiful place for a bit of quiet time, or to chat and make friends. If you are interested in owning a half or full plot, please see the lovely ladies at the Highworth Council offices for details.

All Highworth allotmenters are welcome to join our Facebook page for a natter and to share tips



and advice at https://p.facebook.com/groups/696157557802760?group_view_referrer=profile_browser or search for 'Highworth Rec Allotment Group'. Note: this is a private group so you will need to click 'join group' then wait to be added.

In the meantime, here is a picture of my plot where I spent my birthday with my children in mid-March. Note to self: I'm a newbie, it's all a learning curve for me!

Sam, Beth & Dave

Highworth Market returns

Highworth Market returned to the Market Square at the beginning of June with the majority of stallholders present. Chris and Heather who run the fruit and veg stall will be back soon but you can still buy fish, olives, cheese, sweets, cards, knitwear/haberdashery and sausages.

There is a one-way system in effect with a separate entrance and exit on the side of the podium by the map. Stalls are limited to a maximum of two customers at a time and pay with card if possible. Please keep everyone safe by respecting social distancing and by following instructions from the stall holders. The market is open every Saturday from 8am-1pm. For an up-to-date list of stallholders follow their Facebook group 'Highworth Market'

Richard Williams, Market Manager



Mowing at Pentylands County Park

The Park is managed by The Friends of Pentylands Country Park, the members of which are all volunteers from the local community. The park was mowed in late May by a contractor under an arrangement with The Friends. There has been concern about mowing this early particularly where there may be skylarks. We have regularly sought advice on this matter and this advice has been consistent. Mowing may take place in late May but should not be mown again for six weeks.

The RSPB web site reiterates this advice but states no mowing within seven weeks. This is because, if skylarks are present, their first brood will have fledged by late May and they won't be sitting on a second brood for the next couple of weeks.

In an ideal world the fields would not be cut until late August / September but by then there

would be no value in the crop and no contractor will cut a worthless crop without payment, nor use valuable storage space for an unusable crop unless there is financial compensation.

If I can put this into perspective, Swindon Borough Council own the Park but do not provide any funding. The community in the form of The Friends must raise the costs of its insurance, upkeep, maintenance and improvement.

Whilst we are able at times to take advantage of project funding in one form or another, day-to-day running costs are another thing. The hay crop normally provides sufficient to cover most of our basic running costs. A guaranteed funding stream is still some way off and until then it is regrettable, but we will need to live with the current situation.

Ken Saunders

Proposed Development: Redlands Park Swindon Road, Highworth

Proposals for a further 45 new homes at Redlands Park are being prepared for submission to Swindon Council. The site was included in a recent consultation draft of the council's local plan review which included three other sites: on the Shrivenham road (200 Homes), to the east of Roundhill Meads / Lechlade Road (250 Homes), north of Crane Furlong and west of Lechlade road (25 homes).

The illustrative layout for the second phase shows how the land is situated between two permitted housing areas and could accommodate the extra housing needs of the town. This site is modest in size compared to other alternatives and there are a number of reasons why the promoters feel that the site is suitable:

- It will be relatively discrete in the landscape
- It is a relatively easy walk from the shops and the school
- The new roundabout will allow the traffic to access the road network without causing congestion in town
- This smaller and more contained development of 45 homes will be less damaging than



schemes with 200 or more homes

The owners will be submitting an outline planning application for the site in the near future. An outline application establishes the principle of the development in line with the consultation draft Local Plan Review, with further details to be determined as part of a reserved matters application in the future. Local people will be notified and able to comment on the application once it becomes 'live' on the Swindon planning website.

David Hares

Request for outline planning permission to build 250 houses on land at Shrivenham Road Planning application s/out/20/0422

A Land Acquisition Company has applied to build 250 houses on land off Shrivenham Road. Highworth Town Council (HTC) has been informed that this application is due to be considered by the Planning Department at Swindon Borough Council (SBC) in early July 2020, at the earliest. HTC has also been informed that the Planning Officer has extended the deadline for comments and is willing to accept correspondence on this application up to early July 2020.

This application to build 250 houses in Highworth, if passed, will have a massive impact on a small town such as Highworth. The development will increase the population from 8500 to around 9500. It is, therefore, vital that those who wish to comment, whether in support or against, should be allowed to do so. In order to decide whether you

wish to comment, please go to the Planning Portal on the SBC website and view the documentation on this application. The direct link is shown below.

<https://pa1.swindon.gov.uk/publicaccess/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=Q80I15PTGJM00>

If you do wish to comment, you should Email or write to: E: sbcddc@swindon.gov.UK

Address for Letters: Planning and Transport
Swindon Borough Council
Wat Tyler House
Beckhampton Street
SWINDON
SN1 2JG

Please be aware that HTC is not a Planning Authority, SBC is and if you do not send your comments to either of the addresses above, your comments will not be taken into consideration.

David Lane, Town Clerk, Highworth Town Council

Friends of Angel's Orphanage Update



You will be thrilled and relieved to know our children at Angel's Orphanage are staying safe and well and are in good spirits.

They have a structure to their day which starts with yoga & meditation and includes school study, house cleaning and cooking, fun physical activity like volleyball and football, reading time (thanks to our supports they have a good library to choose from), quizzes and gardening as well as their daily devotion and singing. We have also given them some small group projects to do. All this is helping them to remain calm and optimistic.

Just like us, Nepal is in lockdown. The children have been in the house for over two months. Their lockdown is very strict. Everyone is allowed out for two hours in the morning and in the evening just to shop locally for food. If you go out in between or further afield without the necessary form you will be beaten by the police and taken to the prison.

In early May the government said they had 109 confirmed cases and 0 deaths, but we have been told by a medical friend that there has been many deaths from 'flu' this year. The Nepalese people are already feeling the consequences of lockdown. Their biggest industry is tourism and hospitality. The first of the two good seasons (Feb-May) has gone. Like here, the many, many thousands who are employed/self-employed within this industry have been laid off so there is no pay and in Nepal there are NO SAFETY NETS.

Even by the next season (end September-mid December) people will not be travelling, particularly as Insurers are not going to cover Covid.19. Development and building projects sponsored by China and India are on hold and many things necessary for the Nepal economy will not be coming through. Without a doubt, Nepal will be plunged back into severe poverty for some time to come.

This will have a severe knock-on effect on our children's futures. We have seven waiting to sit the School Education Certificate but it is not known when this will happen, and three of them are anxious to apply to be nurses but cannot until they pass the SEC. Now the new school year has started and our children are having Zoom lessons each day. In Nepal most internet connections are through mobile devices and data is hugely expensive. Thankfully, the telecoms companies in Nepal are currently offering 'one hour unlimited data' at around 30p. On its own not a large sum, but with rent increases and food prices going up it is a challenge.

Meanwhile, back in Highworth, we are unable to fundraise due to social distancing. Our fundraising efforts have moved to Ebay so if you have any unwanted items that you could donate for sale then please do get in touch at E: fo-aao@hotmail.com. After all, every little helps, every penny counts.

Friends of Angel's Orphanage

Working together, whilst we are apart

These are strange times we are living in now. Schools are closed, restaurants are shut down and so, unfortunately, are the Royal Air Force Air Cadets.

However, just because we are apart does not mean we cannot still work together with the help of some pioneering technology. Even though our cadets cannot get out into the community at events like Wrde Up or Swindon Pride we are still here, quietly working away to remain visible in the public eye.

Our Parade Nights have become a virtual affair which certainly seemed strange at first. The cadets have been set challenges to complete during our Virtual Parade Nights, like creating a presentation for potential new recruits. I am sure anyone who is currently working from home can understand that speaking in a Microsoft Teams meeting is incredibly daunting. Our cadets are slowly becoming more confident at presenting in front of all participants, including staff, which is developing a skill that would not have been necessary had we been face-to-face.

Challenges have been set from Headquarters Air Cadets and our very own Cdt Martin was the winner of this challenge for April. Her poem, on how the Covid-19 situation is affecting RAFAC, was selected as the Dorset and Wiltshire Wing representative for the Commandant's Challenge and then managed to win the Corps-wide competition. Well done Cdt Martin!

First-aid training sessions are also being run virtually giving cadets a way to keep their life-saving knowledge up-to-date. Keeping fit is

Your Flight has been Delayed

The Royal Air Force Air Cadets, your flight has been delayed
You see, a nasty little virus, is now somewhat a plague
All face-to-face activity has now become suspended
That is until the virus has at last and finally ended

Cancelling our AEFs and postponing all events
This virus is controlling us and we are in repent
No more planes within the sky or shooting on the ground
Even the parade squares are not making a sound
Instead we turn online and this is where we meet
To discuss our motivation and exams we must complete

So as I said before cadets, your flight has been delayed
You see, a nasty little virus, is now somewhat a plague
Although you're trapped at home and cannot go outside
Just know the Royal Air Force Air Cadets are always on your side
So listen to the government and heed what they command
We must all work together and obey their every demand
For if we just adhere we'll reach the skies once more
And we will go above and beyond like we did before

Cadet Katie Martin, 878 (Highworth) Squadron

certainly important at the moment and our cadets have been working hard to complete the fitness section of the Blue Duke of Edinburgh award.

The NCOs have continued to meet via Microsoft Teams to develop new ways to interact with the cadets and in a time when we cannot do so physically. Now, one of the most important aspects of being a part of this organisation is the positivity we feel just by talking to someone. Checking in on our friends who we have not seen for a while and just having a chat with them can really make a difference.

From 878 Squadron, please stay well and happy, and stay at home if you can.

Sgt Anna Talbert, 17

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

Educación Plus Update

In March I travelled to Costa Rica to visit the six boys from the shanty towns who came to England last year (featured in the December/January edition of the Highworth Link). I was interested to see if their amazing adventure had changed their worldview in any way. Two weeks later any worldview that anybody had before was neither here nor there.

The boys and their families are surviving, just. Many of the parents were casual workers: on construction sites, as street vendors or as hotel chambermaids, for example. The stringent lockdown in Costa Rica, similar to the UK, meant that Costa Rica closed its borders and all tourism-related jobs (600,000 of them in a total population of 6 million) were lost. At the same time all construction work was stopped and, of course, street vending stops when no one is allowed out.

Many of the families Educación Plus works with, including the boys who visited Highworth, are in more danger from the economic fallout than from the Covid 19 virus itself. There is no unemployment money or other government help for them, nor do they have any savings to fall back on.



We believe that, even in this desperate situation, God is at work. We have been given one hundred cards, worth about £90 each, that can be redeemed for groceries at a chain of Costa Rican supermarkets, possibly to be repeated next month. This could literally be life-saving for some.

On a personal note of a more local nature, I cannot speak too highly of Highworth Travel. My flight back was cancelled at very short notice and they sorted it all out with no hassle or panic and got me back on the last flight out (I think it was the last flight – it all got a bit confusing towards the end). We usually book our flights online but never again! Without

Highworth Travel I might have been emailing this from Costa Rica and waiting until about July to come back. Thank you. I hope your business quickly recovers from all this when it's over.

Keith Holder, Educación Plus, T: 01793 764144

PS: We work with more than 100 families. If you would like to help the families who won't receive one of our cards, please let me know. £15 will buy a bag of groceries for an average sized family.

Highworth Historical Society Update

At the present time we are unable to know when our meetings can restart. It may be that we rethink our format and/or meeting place.

Our new website was up and running just before lock-down. Paul has done a fantastic job. Please visit us on www.highworthhistoricalsociety.co.uk This site will also keep you up to date with future events. Thank you to the people who in their sort-outs have found items / photos for us.

I have used the time, when not gardening, researching the policemen of Highworth and the crimes they dealt with. Wiltshire Police lay claim to being one of the earliest county forces. They were founded in 1839, shortly after the County Police Act was passed. Hence their motto 'The

Oldest and The Best.' If anyone has information of the town's police from the 1920's to after WWII please let me know.

If you bought tickets for 'The Hard Way' from the Lighthouse then I have the money to refund. I was unable to pick up the money from Highworth Information at the old bank. When they reopen you can pick it up from there or let me know your address.

Thank you everyone who has supported us in the past. Keep well and we hope to see you back with us soon.

*Christine Suter T: 01793 764811
E: chrissuter16@googlemail.com
16 Swindon Road, SN6 7SL*

The importance of Brain Food

We are living through a very difficult time and for many of us our mental and physical wellbeing is being challenged. It is therefore important that we do everything possible to minimise the impact this crisis has on our mental wellbeing. A key part of this is our brain health which can be kept in optimum condition with a healthy diet and regular physical activity.

You could argue that your brain is the most important organ in your body and therefore it is critical that we look after it. The brain is 80% water (we can only survive a couple of days without water), 11% fats, 8% protein and 3% vitamins and minerals with a pinch of carbs.

Our brain is a picky eater and it has the ability to supply its own nutrition and only lets in what it requires to function. Water is allowed in freely across the blood-brain barrier as well as oxygen and then nutrients, proteins, fats and carbs, vitamins and minerals. The brain cannot process the type of fat that the rest of the body burns to release energy instead it relies totally on glucose, a sugar, for its source of energy. The brain is active 24/7 and so requires a continuous supply of glucose. This source of glucose will come from the carbohydrates we eat and the brain's requirements will be tightly controlled by the blood-brain barrier so don't go reaching for the cake because if the brain has sufficient glucose you will gain a few pounds in other parts of your body. Stick to good carbs which are those containing naturally produced sugars or slow releasing sugars. Good examples of these are fruit, berries and vegetables as well as wholemeal pasta and brown rice.

For its structure and function, the brain requires polyunsaturated fats (PUFAs) which are mostly oils and found in plants and fish, omega-6 and omega-3.

Serotonin is a neurotransmitter and is mainly associated with our moods, appetite regulation, sleep and our happiness. It is produced in the intestines and the brain. Serotonin production in the brain requires an essential amino acid which can only be found in certain foods, especially those rich in animal or plant-based proteins. Another important neurotransmitter is dopamine which enables us to feel pleasure, impacts our reward, motivation, attention, problem solving and motor control. Plant-based foods are an excellent source, for example spinach, nuts and seeds, as well as high protein animal products like chicken, beef, eggs, cheese, milk and yoghurt and fish (salmon, bass, halibut)

As well as dietary choices, regular physical activity is important to keep your brain healthy and your daily routine should include some exercise. If you are currently not doing anything then start small, set yourself a goal that you will achieve and go from there.

Here are some activities that can also bolster brain health; do jigsaw puzzles, sudoku, crosswords; draw a map of your town from memory; try writing with your less dominant hand; socialise; increase your vocabulary; play cards (there are a number of games you can play on your own); dance; learn a new skill; teach something to someone else.

Start today and see this situation as an opportunity to make small changes that will impact your health and wellbeing positively.

Theresa Moyuikhan
NUTRITION, WEIGHT MANAGEMENT
AND BEHAVIOUR CHANGE COACH

To advertise in The Highworth Link

call 01793 861977

advertising@highworthlink.co.uk

Westrop Medical Practice Update

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

Since 2017 the practice has increased in size from around 10,000 patients to 27,500. The original Highworth and Blunsdon branches have expanded to include Hermitage Surgery in Old Town, and most recently, Taw Hill Surgery which we took over on 1st October 2019. After a challenging few months under IMH leadership, we were keen to take over the reins and make changes to improve patient care and accessibility.

To help us do this we were fortunate to recruit a number of new clinical and admin staff to complement the existing staff. In particular, we are excited to welcome a new partner, Dr Christine Anota, who has recently moved to Swindon from Kent and is working seven sessions a week exclusively at Taw Hill. Terry Walker, operations manager, has moved from Hermitage Surgery with Emma Bint taking over his rôle.

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

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

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

One final word of note is for our hard-working and loyal patient participation groups. All three surgeries have their own and they provide an invaluable way of gaining patients' perspectives and feedback on different aspects of patient care.

We always welcome new members either in our 'virtual group' which involves answering a questionnaire twice a year, or in the 'actual group' where a small number of us meet to discuss the results of the questionnaires and decide how changes should be implemented. If you are interested in joining you can find the details on our website or fill in a form at the surgery.

*Simon Stacey, GP,
Westrop Medical Practice*



Blunsdon Surgery
01793 721254

Highworth Surgery
01793 762218

Hermitage Surgery
01793 522492

Taw Hill Surgery
01793 709500

REMEMBRANCES OF LOCKDOWN

On Monday 23rd March lockdown came into effect across the UK. Two months later, as lockdown began to ease, we asked residents to submit their remembrances of lockdown and what it has been like for them.

My Corona Poem

by Harvey Morland, Y10 Warneford

*This coronavirus arrived in the UK
Affecting lives every day
January 29th was the date it all started
Boris came out and made everyone alerted*

*No football, the season has paused
Was it a bat, what was the cause?
Bars, restaurants, pubs, school
Half the year disappointed, half say it's cool*

*No toilet paper, everyone stacking up
No-one allowed to meet close-up
Queuing for hours to get into shops
Toilet paper for hand sanitizer, swaps?*

*Home learning, what could go wrong,
Will it be weeks or months, how long?
Clapping for key workers, NHS, frontline services
Empty deserted anti-bac offices*

*Slowly this virus will drift away
When will we be going back on holiday?
Bundesliga back on 16th May,
At home, you must stay*

*At the end of the day, the planet is healing,
finally breathing
Oceans are getting cleaner; fish can swim deeper
Pollution has decreased all over the planet,
Can it reform, have we learnt to protect it more*

*Schools slowly returning,
Children preparing for school learning
Into school by 9 o'clock
I wake up in shock
Social distancing in place
Break time, there is no chase. 2 metre rule,
even in preschool. Unless in the same household,
teachers always on patrol.*

Lockdown has been like retirement!

Best bits: Time to do those "one day..." jobs.

Worst bits: Not meeting for worship and not meeting up with the wider family

Bryan Elkington

.....

I have been lucky enough to be able to keep working so it has not been as strange as I know it has been for lots of other people. It didn't take too long to get into new routines but the idea of using the lockdown to get fit and eat healthily only lasted a couple of weeks!

Best bits: Travelling into work on empty roads was a pleasure but that has now gone. It has been great to see wildlife reassert itself a little; I have never seen or heard so many birds in and around my garden. I couldn't be prouder of everybody connected with Warneford: teachers, other staff, parents and students have all worked together to keep things going.

Worst bits: As with many people, it has been difficult not being able to see friends or family, especially those who are unwell or finding it difficult to cope. Not having the buzz of students around the school has also not been great.

Mr Steele, Headteacher,
Warneford School

.....

During lockdown I have spent more time and money on my garden and enjoyed being in it more. New plans have emerged for it and the weather obviously has helped.

Best bits: Shopping has been less frequent and I have acquired more baking skills and prepared more food from fresh. Someone who couldn't bake a cake before can do so now. No excuses. Everywhere has been so much quieter, the sky less full of aircraft, the roads less full of traffic. It has been more peaceful and people have been

looking out for each other. Joining in with the NHS clapping on Thursday evenings. Choir practice at a distance using the internet.

Worst bits: The downsides were that golf couldn't be played but we are now back on the course. Even if distancing and new rules for the game from R and A and England Golf have been applied. Social events have had to stop. Church has been missing every Sunday although I have watched events on the tv. I love my own company but have felt sorry for those who have been struck down by the virus and think myself very fortunate.

Carole Lee,
Shrivenham Golf Course

Lockdown for my family has been hard, hard and hard. As key workers, my wife and I had to attempt to balance childcare of a tot with working from home and small children just don't understand why the world has changed!

Best bits: On the flip side, the best thing has been spending more time with the family as well as seeing the nation re-evaluate what's important. They say that necessity is the mother of invention and it was heartening hearing that people had started to bake their own bread and plant vegetables.

Worst bits: The worst thing of course was not seeing family members outside of your own home. Thankfully, our generation have been blessed with the ability to video conference which of course made it infinitely more tolerable; a generation ago how different things would have been!

Jason Daniels, Sports Editor and
Chairperson of Highworth running club

I've enjoyed lockdown, slower pace of life, no rushing.

Best bits: Spending time with my children and in nature.

Worst bits: Missed my family and friends a lot.

Victoria Edmonds

Lockdown seems unreal and I just wish it wasn't

Best bits: No stressful school morning and more sleep.

Worst bits: The financial impact has affected us massively and it's sometimes been hard to enjoy time with family when you're worried about paying the bills.

Joanne Stone

Lockdown has been strange and worrying and somewhat life-changing.

Best bits: Spending more time with my family.

Worst bits: Missing the people I work with and not seeing my wider spread family.

Emma Taylor

Lockdown has been stressful, scary, weird, hard to comprehend, film-worthy.

Best bits: Being able to help the community with volunteering, being at home with my family, less work (although I'm now getting a tad worried about the lack of work).

Worst bits: Going to the supermarket, seeing selfish hoarders and trying to avoid people who insist on coming up close despite the 2m rule. Not being able to see my family.

Sara Clowes

Lockdown has seen one of us working and one on furlough. Busier than usual but in different ways. Setting up a Zoom church (now called vurch in our house) and being one of the huge group of scrubbers in the country sewing scrubs.

Best bits: The community coming together. Noticing things more. The peace, the birdsong. Seeing the eagerness with which people of all ages attend zoom meetings and family meetups. Social media put to good use.

Worst bits: Seeing friends and family members struggle with mental health issues at this time

Wendy Smith

REMEMBRANCES OF LOCKDOWN

Lockdown has been surprisingly easy and straightforward as we have been able to get into a simple daily routine and feel that in fact we have benefited in so many ways from this unprecedented situation.

It is odd that not one person has been inside our house in the last 12 weeks and only two people into the garden apart from the numerous considerate 'deliverers'. With our family living and working abroad, we had no immediate plans for a family gathering and now see little chance of this happening during their summer holidays. However, the use of electronic equipment such as Skype, FaceTime and Zoom have been used innovatively and increased our contacts greatly with both them and friends far and near. We know we are fortunate to be able to do this. It has also been valuable to hear about the lockdown state in France and Spain where regulations have been more stringent and widely enforced. We have also kept in contact with our twin town of Wassenberg and hear of the difficult and demanding situation that exists in their large secondary school that returned to work some weeks ago.

Best bits: The kindness of so many neighbours has been truly amazing (gifts of garden produce and other goodies appear on our doorstep) and so many organisations, St Michael's Church streaming services, small businesses delivering goods, all have made light of the circumstances when in many cases their own futures might be in doubt. We sincerely hope not.

The mild dry weather that has been the order of the day almost since the start of lockdown has enabled us to benefit from access to and work in our garden. We have become much more aware of the changes to plants and wildlife as spring has given way to summer. We have seen our pond come to life with newts competing with goldfish for the 'food flakes' thrown in, young frolicking fox cubs in the neighbour's garden, a mole and now the wonderful sight of the water lilies opening in the full sun.

Worst bits: A knee operation cancelled, one of the first operations cancelled, when can it now be safely done? Its already been a long wait. A major worry also occurred at the beginning with an inability for several weeks to get a delivery

slot with any supermarket chain though the kindness of neighbours overcame this hurdle. Now after three months, we do miss being able to choose things for ourselves in the shops, we miss local outings and closer contact with friends and the wider social life that we previously enjoyed. There will surely be a return to these activities in some 'distanced' form before we forget what life was really like before Covid 19 arrived?

Ian & Gillian Miller



Lockdown Discoveries

Moving into a new home in December has given us plenty to do during the lockdown. However, with the prolonged time confined to home and with such lovely weather we have been able to spend time getting to know our new garden: how the sun moves across through the day, making plans for next year, identifying plants as the season progresses, what grows where, what to keep. But mostly we've been getting to know the wildlife that already lives here including numerous flying creatures such as bumble bees nesting in a corner, bee-flies with their long proboscis visiting the early flowers and masses of (as of yet unidentified 'bees') mobbing a cypress tree. The soothing humming of busy bees working in the mass of blossom adorning the apple trees. We now wait in anticipation to see and taste the fruits of their labours! Quite a number of different butterflies passing through.

Then there are the birds. We are learning to live with a glut of pigeons who clearly own the place! The dunnock who often follows the pigeon; two pairs of blackbirds fighting for territory; squabbling sparrows, evening noisy visits from magpies and most lunch times we have come to recognise the calls of crows as they see off a kite soaring overhead. And of course there is the bird song: robin, garden warbler, blue tits, great tits, blackbirds, etc.

With evidence of hedgehogs overnight, bats overhead in the evening and daytime sightings of foxes, there has been hardly time to go and pick up a paint brush again! How fortunate we have been to have such entertainment to keep us distracted from the worries of the world.

Hilary Beach

Sport *Compiled by Jason Daniels*

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



From the Sports Editor...



It's not until it's taken away that you realise how much you miss it.

This is true for many aspects of life but whether a sports fan or not, the fact that our television sets, radios and coffee shop conversations repeatedly reference what's going on competitively throughout the world, makes it a pretty cohesive social glue. I've lost count of the times a taxi ride abroad has begun with the acknowledgment of my being English, whereafter jovial references to our key footballing cities always follow. I must shamefully admit I actively promote the misconception that every Englishman knows either David Beckham or Wayne Rooney.

Whether we seek it out or not, our lives are framed by sport. With the advent of spring comes the quintessentially English Oxford and Cambridge boat race, the Grand National and the London Marathon. It can only be summer if we've followed our next English hope at Wimbledon and, if we're lucky (or not depending on your point of view), our summer afternoons may be filled with an international footballing competition or Olympic games. The return of the football season marks the onset of autumn with cross-country athletics following before Gary

Lineker rounds up the year on a Sunday evening before Christmas.

As news bulletins of the global pandemic built over February and March I don't think anyone really expected sport globally to be cancelled. The ramifications would be unimaginable but happen it did. Suddenly phones no longer gave us goal alerts on Saturdays and Monday mornings started without the friendly banter between rival team fans. Of course we all understood why and our thoughts were never far away from those families connected with oft-reported statistics, but in a world where social distancing became a new phrase and new skill to practice, the subject on which most connect socially was missing.

Life for those I've personally spoken to (over email, not face-to-face of course) felt rudderless as we drifted (and may still be continuing to do so) until normality resumes. The jigsaw puzzle of life thrown up into the air, the picture in a state of indeterminable flux. But the indomitable human spirit will prevail, it always does. The edge pieces will return, as will the pieces in the middle and the picture will once again make sense. It just goes to show that nothing can be taken for granted, even things that have been there for our entire lives but looking forward as we must, finally being able to embrace the things we've missed will be a unique and fantastic experience for us all.

Jason Daniels

Swindon & District Motor Cycle Club

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



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

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

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

Jason Daniels

Photograph courtesy of Kelly Daniels

Highworth Walking Football Club

By the time this is published the memories of playing may well be distant ones, but our season nonetheless kicked off with the Thames Valley League in early March.

Having served our apprenticeship in Division 1 and the Championship we were rewarded not only with a debut season in the Premiership but also by having a second team permitted to enter into Division 2.

The Premiership lads got off to a magnificent start by beating reigning champions Wokingham with a Paul Watling goal. Draws against Bracknell and Watford then followed, together with a tremendous 3-0 win over Aylesbury courtesy of a goal from Steve York and a brace from Paddy Armstrong. The day was only slightly tempered by a 0-2 loss to Oxford. This left us second in the table, a fantastic result which far exceeded our expectations.

Colin Smith's Division 2 side fielded a strong line-up including Highworth lads Ade Tucker, Dave Mitchell and Cyril Knox. Four wins, a draw and no goals conceded left us three points clear at the top. Whilst I found myself top scorer with three, Ade chipped in with a couple and Colin himself grabbed one. At the time of writing there is understandably no walking football taking place, but you may wish to note that our normal times to meet are Thursday mornings 11.15am-12.15pm at the Highworth Halo REC and Sunday mornings 11am-12pm at Stratton's Grange Leisure Centre. For more information feel free to contact me.

Kevin Turner T: 07748 366979

Email: highworthwfc@gmail.com

Goalkeeping Coaching in Highworth

Luke Adams has recently returned from the United States having played and coached in Philadelphia, New Jersey and wants to give something back to the club and community that provided a fantastic environment for him as a child.

In affiliation with Highworth Juniors Football Club he has opened up a goalkeeping school. After visiting and speaking to a lot of grass roots clubs and coaches one often mentioned frustration is that their goalkeepers don't get any specialised training. Qualified at UEFA Goalkeeping B License standard, Luke has worked at Bristol Rovers FC's youth academy and professional senior teams across the pond.

The initiative kicked off (pun intended) in March but due to COVID-19 restrictions has been put on hold until further notice. However, once normality returns, Luke's Goalkeeping School will operate Saturday mornings from 10.30-11.30am and if keen to be involved please do drop Luke an email or contact him via Facebook where he's also posted some training videos and invites self-



isolating footballers to upload theirs. One parent has already posted a recommendation claiming "Luke's contact with me from the first email has been fantastic which as a parent is important to me. My son went to him for the first time today and he absolutely loved it. He was nervous walking up, but Luke had him feeling comfortable right from the start. Lots of excellent coaching and I can't wait to watch his progress each week."

Jason Daniels on behalf of Luke Adams
 E: lukeadamsgoalkeeping@gmail.com /
 Facebook: [lukeadamsgkschool](https://www.facebook.com/lukeadamsgkschool)

Highworth Phoenix Diving Club

Like every other sports club in the country, we have not been able to meet since early March. There have been competitions cancelled and as our competitors dive in age-groups, this may have an adverse affect on which events they can enter next year; of course assuming we are back to 'normal'. The biggest disappointment has been the cancellation of the European Masters Aquatics Championships in Budapest, although when or if it is rescheduled, Jose will have moved into the really select 80+ age group and will have missed her chance to compete in her current age group!

Although we've not trained, there are things going on behind the scenes. Exercise routines have been uploaded to our Facebook page and hopefully, divers have been following these leaving them super fit when we resume! During the lockdown one of our older divers Amelia, has booked onto a Level One online coaching course and there have been video conferencing workshops for coaches and committee members

so we haven't been idle but we all can't wait to get back onto the boards. Until then, keep safe.

Irene Aldridge

Tennis Club Update

The tennis club is open for private play. No group sessions or social sessions are on. We can take court bookings online from the website: www.highworthtennis.com. £6 per court, per hour for non- members. The clubhouse is closed so there are no toilet facilities. All social distancing guidelines must be followed. Singles play is allowed for two people from different households. Doubles play is allowed for people from the same household. Players must bring their own equipment. Entry is by keypad so we suggest carrying wipes or hand sanitizer.

Club coach Simon Hennell is also available for private lessons, his mobile is 07834 088038. Updates will be posted on the website as well as the club

Facebook page 'Highworth Tennis Club'.
 E: membership@highworthtennis.com

Karen

Ask SBC for cycle space during lockdown

With social distancing measures set to be part of our lives for the foreseeable future, it's



absolutely vital that people are able to stay safe when cycling and walking and to have the space they need to pass each other safely. Segregated cycling space is also hugely important for key workers travelling to hospitals, care homes and other essential workplaces.

Highworth is not safe for cyclists so please let your SBC how much this is needed, why it's important, and how easy it is to do.

You can find out more and get a draft letter at W: www.cyclinguk.org/covid-19-safe-space-social-distancing

Highworth Town Ladies Football Club

We were having a successful season until the Covid-19 pandemic made itself unwelcome. In our inaugural season we were competing for promotion as well as our campaign in the final



Fresh From Facing Melksham

stages of the league cup before the season was expunged. It was a fantastic achievement considering that half of the squad were only 16 and it was a challenge making that step; although I must say they embraced the challenge and our results reflected this.

It was a daunting prospect forming a new ladies football team, although that transition was helped by Fraser Haines and the rest of Highworth Town FC who supported us and made us, and continue to make us, feel very welcome. The football club has always been a big part of the Highworth Community and we are very proud to represent it. Naturally, we are focusing on the upcoming season and we are setting our ambitions even higher. We are looking to add some silverware and we will be looking to compete for the League Title along with the League Cup. In addition, we look forward to the new challenge of entering the Wiltshire Ladies Football Cup. We have already made some new additions to our club and are now a part of the HTFC website which we are looking forward to using next season along with our existing social media accounts.

We are very happy to announce our coaching staff for the upcoming season will remain unchanged with Steve Curtis continuing to be our manager and Nik Cooper and Kevin Davis as assistants. We hope that we are able to begin training as soon as it is declared safe to do so in order to prepare for the upcoming season. We would welcome any newcomers to come and try out for the team and we'll circulate further details of this in due course through our social media and website outlets.

Finally, if you feel your business would be interested in supporting our football club please

e-mail us. We are keen to progress up the pyramid of women's football and we would love to take our Highworth community with us on that journey.

Highworth Town Ladies Football Club Committee
E: HighworthTownLadiesFC@outlook.com

Wrag Barn Golf Club

Golfers have been able to play at Wrag Barn Golf Club since mid-May and were blessed with fantastic weather. Measures of course had to be put in place to ensure social distancing with Marshals issuing instructions on the use of hand sanitiser and the avoidance of touching anything except personal possessions.

The main bar and catering operation remains, at time of writing, still closed to avoid groups congregating and many are missing the post golf banter and forensic analysis; no doubt this will return in due course.



May gave green light for greens

We look forward to welcoming visitors to Wrag Barn later in the summer but at the moment we are only open to members and their guests who, quite rightly, are making the most of the amazing weather and long daylight hours; it's wonderful to see everyone back on the course.

Verity Manners

Highworth Bowls Club

We have some good news! At the time of writing we were able to schedule the re-opening of the Bowls Club for bowling activities for Saturday 6th June where bowling members should be able to bowl, albeit under certain



Jacks in June?

conditions ensuring social distancing is maintained. Unfortunately, the clubhouse and facilities will remain closed initially and we will provide updates as and when restrictions are eased. This said, Rink bookings are being taken for bowling members so please visit our website to find out more. As Membership Secretary I'd love to hear from you and help you 'Grab Life By The Bowls'.

Kevin Brown

W: www.highworthbowlsclub.org

E: hbcmembershipsecretary@btinternet.com

T: 07803 784860

Swindon Croquet Club

The lawns at Swindon Croquet Club are being maintained in preparation for the day play can be resumed and returning members will enjoy improved club facilities courtesy of new lighting, heaters and hand dryers. Plans for expansion of the club as part of the Moredon Sports Hub development have been disrupted by the pandemic but discussions with Swindon Borough Council are ongoing with some proposals due to be completed by the end of this year.

The sport of croquet has an impressively long history with the first recorded 'all-comers' match being played in Moreton-in-Marsh in 1868. Croquet recently featured on BBC Points West due to the popularity of the game during lockdown. One major retailer has reported a 600% increase in sales of croquet sets! As a result of this, it is hoped that families will be keen to continue playing once restrictions are relaxed and the club is always keen to welcome new members. For further information, please visit the website.

Beverly Briggs

W: www.swindoncroquetclub.org.uk

Highworth Town FC

The Covid-19 hiatus allowed the club to have the annual pitch work carried out earlier than normal which is a small benefit although it will be tough financially getting up and running again. The Committee are working hard to seek whatever grants may be available to us and extend thanks to all who contributed to our 'Just Giving' page. Manager Ross Adams is confident many of last season's squad will return but is also keen to recruit some new faces. Keep an eye on our website and social media for updates as restrictions are hopefully eased.

Derek Lloyd

W: www.highworthtownfc.com

Highworth Town Walking FC

At a time when Corona just meant a bottle of beer, the lads at Highworth Town Walking Football Club started an appeal to raise £1200 to purchase a defibrillator. Being of the older generation we are a little more susceptible to cardiac arrest and for every minute delay in applying treatment the player's chances of survival reduces by 10%.

Even though venues like The REC have their own unit this will allow us to keep a dedicated unit pitch-side and reduce time to



treatment to a matter of seconds. Just over a week ago we reached our target and the unit was delivered recently. We now have the comfort of knowing that at all sessions at The Highworth REC, Grange Leisure Centre and at leagues and tournaments, we will have a pitch-side unit to help if anyone is unfortunate enough to need it. A massive thank you to players, families and the good folk of Highworth who raided their piggy banks to contribute. All we need now is some football! If you are interested in playing at The Highworth REC on Thursday mornings or would like to try it out at Grange Leisure in Stratton on Sunday mornings, 11am to 12pm, please contact me by phone on 07748 366979 or via email.

Kevin Turner

E: highworthwfc@gmail.com

Highworth & District Floral Art Society



Photo: Mair Huband

It is with much sadness that the Flower Club has cancelled the Flower Festival at St Michael's Church which was due in September. This would have been the club's 13th Flower Festival, having been held every four years since 1973.

Like many other Societies, at present our members are unable to meet and it was therefore decided by the committee that we would be unable to meet this commitment. We now look forward to rearranging the Festival for 2021 when we hope that we will all be back to some sort of normality.

Dementia Friendly Highworth

Do you want to help Highworth develop as Dementia Friendly



Community? As we have had to suspend the Dementia Awareness Sessions that we held in the Community Room, we are now holding regular online sessions. These have proved popular so far so please join us to help support those living with dementia in our community.

We can all do small actions to help people live a little better with their condition. Information on how to register for the session will be posted on the Highworth Online Facebook Group.

Alternatively you can go to <http://www.dementiafriends.org.uk>, click on Become a Friend and Find Your Information Session. Register now to join over 3.2 million Dementia Friends!

Highworth Produce & Craft Show

In view of the current uncertainty we have reluctantly made the decision not to run the Highworth Produce and Craft Show for 2020.

We do hope you have been using this lockdown period by crafting, painting, making preserves, etc. Well then, you will be ready to enter next year's show in 2021. We are hoping to see the craft tables full.



The schedule for 2021 will be the same as this year's, so you can check on our website <http://www.highworthproduceshow.com> or Facebook [@highworthproduceshow](https://www.facebook.com/highworthproduceshow) for all the details. You now have 15 months to prepare, so I hope to see our regulars and hopefully lots of new entrants on **Saturday 11th September 2021**. In the meantime why not send in your photos of your makes and bakes to our Facebook page.

Further details from Sandra on 01793 762197 or sandra.rendall1@gmail.com



Photo: Neil George. Highworth Sunset with Lights



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LIVE**



**R E F L E C T
R E M E M B E R
F I N D
H O P E**

**12 JULY
2020
10:30AM**

A special opportunity to find hope in a time that has cost so many so much. Loved ones, jobs, education, employment. We have all lost something. Join us as we remember those we love, and find hope for the future.

SEARCH 'HIGHWORTH BIG SUNDAY' ON FACEBOOK FOR MORE DETAILS

Lent Lunches Update:

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

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

Thank you to all who came and for your generosity. Lent Lunches are arranged by Highworth Churches Together. This year they were at St Michael's Church.

HTJFC Sponsored Walk

On 14th March around 150 people set off from Highworth Town Juniors Football Club on a sponsored walk. 12 football teams were represented with over 60 children and their families taking part to raise funds for the football club and the fantastic Charity 'Doing it for Dan', set up in memory of 11-year-old Daniel Climance which aims to help young people achieve their sporting dreams by awarding grants to individuals, teams and organisations in Wiltshire.

The group walked over four miles over grassy fields (and mud). The Freke Arms marked the half way point and the children all received free soft drinks and snacks which was a most welcome break for children and parents. They

returned to the club in the early afternoon to be greeted with more free soft drinks, courtesy of Jackie & Jeff Youd. The walk was organised by Dave Hall, a great supporter of the football club, and Mark Collett the HTJFC Club Chairman. It raised in excess of £3000 with over £800 being donated to 'Doing it for Dan'. Graham Hancock from the Charity said "I am amazed at the turnout and support from Highworth Town Juniors FC. Both of our organisations help young people to be outside and exercising. We are very proud to be associated with Highworth Town Juniors FC and look forward to more joint events in the near future. Dan would have loved the walk".

For further information on HTJFC please visit <https://www.highworthtownjuniorsfc.co.uk/>. For further information on 'Doing it for Dan' please contact Graham Hancock by email graham@doingitfordan.co.uk

Highworth Town Juniors FC would like to thank everyone who took part on the walk and look forward to seeing you all again next year.

Christian Aid Week

Christian Aid Week this year was very different due to coronavirus. There were no house-to-house or street collections; however, we still need to raise money for our work with the world's poorest and most disadvantaged people; those who are at the greatest risk from



coronavirus. In Sierra Leone, for example, there are no intensive care unit (ICU) beds and in Malawi there is one ICU bed for every one million people. In refugee camps, people are not able to keep socially distant from one other and 40% of the world's population do not have access to soap and water.

Christian Aid and our partners already have experience of limiting the spread of infection during the Ebola crisis and we will build on this experience to continue to stand together with communities living in poverty during this period. If infection rates start to develop as they are in Europe, then people in poorer countries will be hit even harder. Many are already living with the problems caused by climate change. We will be working on the ground to help prepare communities to limit the impact of Covid-19.

There is still time to help. Please pray for us in this vital work, and support us where you can by making a donation.

How you can help:

Donate at the website:

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/give-money/make-donation>



Donate by Phone:

020 7523 2269

Thank You, on behalf
of Highworth Christian
Aid Committee

Pete Croton

Virtual Bike Ride

Recycles Booth House in Swindon are hosting their first Virtual Bike Ride, following the cancellation of 'Ride London' this year.

The aim is to ride 100 miles within 30 days. This can be in the comfort of your own home (if you have the facilities) or you can take the opportunity to get out and about this summer. We ask for a £15.00 donation (£7.50 for under 16's) and everyone who completes the challenge and sends proof to Hello@recycles-swindon.co.uk will receive a medal and certificate.

You can sign up at

www.entrycentral.com/recycles2020. The money raised will be used to support those who are experiencing homelessness. Recycles helps to

create opportunities for people who have experienced homelessness to turn their lives around and get involved in running a small business and gain valuable work experience in a safe environment, supported by fully trained mechanics and support workers. Information is available at Recycles Ride 100 Challenge.

250,000 steps for Mind!

Hi, my name is Molly and I am ten years old. In May my dad, step mum Lauren and I we raised £325 by walking, running and dancing our way to 250,000 steps in one week.

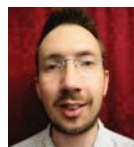
We have been facing a frightening pandemic. Some of us have housemates or family that we live with but others are left on their own in this challenging time. This is a very sorrowful chapter in human history. Many of us have lost loved ones and are worried about everyone else. Therefore, we decided to raise money for people who are in need of some support or a friend to speak to. Mind is a charity that offers that and more, but they can only continue if people raise money for them.

You can visit our fundraising page is available at <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/molly-homewood>. We would like to say a big thank you to everyone who has supported our efforts.



Arts Section *Compiled by Iain Barnwell*

Contact: HighworthLinkArts@gmail.com



Highworth's Young Musicians' success

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

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

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

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



Swindon Mayor Kevin Parry with Sally Armstrong

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

Alan Fletcher, Rotary Club

Update on the White Horse Folk Club and their concerts

The White Horse Folk Club are unable to run any concerts for the rest of this year but we do hope that as things improve and restrictions are slackened we shall be able to bring some more excellent musicians to Highworth in 2021.

The Folk Club continues to meet virtually and we are able to enjoy each other's songs and company. We have no idea how long this virtual

meeting will be needed but be assured we shall all meet one day!

Our concert in April this year was to have been with Martin Simpson. We are in discussion with his agent and hope to agree a date in 2021. Clearly all arrangements can only be provisional at this stage.

Update from the Arts Council

If you are an artist, creative practitioner, freelancer or part of a bigger organisation you might be eligible to apply to the Arts Council Emergency Fund. The emergency response funds are open to individuals and organisations who aren't part of the Arts Council National Portfolio.

To know more please visit the ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND website.





Highworth Silver Band on Zoom

Virtual Highworth Silver Band

Like most other musical groups we are still in lockdown and will not be having any rehearsals or performances until it is safe to do so.

However, we have not been idle and have been producing collaboration pieces with everyone individually performing from their homes. We have three pieces on YouTube so far and we are currently putting together another (Amarillo). You can see our efforts here:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4Cka9gxpVlwlIS-9E64xLw> or just search for "Highworth Silver Band" on YouTube.

Collaborating online gets some air through the instruments, keeps us motivated and hopefully stops our lips getting out of condition. A special thank you must go to Karl, one of our baritone

players, who took it upon himself to master the technology and has co-ordinated and produced these pieces. A heartfelt well done Karl and thanks to all of our players who have worked so hard to use this new way of making music.

Some of us have also been providing individual musical contributions during the Thursday NHS clap including On Ilkley Moor (Bb Tuba), Knees Up Mother Brown (Eb Tuba) and Somewhere Over the Rainbow (Eb Horn).

Roll on the day we can all get together again and make music as a band.

*Keith Waight, Highworth Silver Band,
E: highworth.sb@gmail.com,
W: www.highworthsilverband.org*

**To advertise in The Highworth Link
call 01793 861977**

advertising@highworthlink.co.uk

Photography in lockdown

For the first eight weeks or so of lockdown I was restricted to photography from my back garden, which limited me primarily to Starlings and Red Kites.

I have a full-time job as well as being a semi-professional photographer with a passion for wildlife so, even in lockdown, my opportunities for photography have been limited to very early mornings, late evenings and weekends. Once restrictions were lifted a little, I was able to walk out into the countryside more and start to capture wildlife in a fully rural setting.

After eight weeks of being restricted to the house, this had a major benefit to my mental well-being. There is nothing better than being sat in the countryside with the sun on your face, listening to birdsong all around you and waiting for the wildlife to come. And come it does (eventually).

Strangely, one of the effects of the lockdown, with many people being furloughed, is that

there are a lot more people walking in the countryside. This has meant that wildlife tends not to appear as frequently, or in such close proximity as it normally does, making photography more challenging. So finding places off the main walking routes has been a necessity for me. Conversely, the lockdown has meant that a lot more urban wildlife, primarily foxes but also a few deer, have been visible in areas they are not normally seen around in local estates.

It is strange, but as I have been working from home, I have found the isolation and lack of direct contact with colleagues very challenging mentally, so photography has been a real outlet and release for me in that respect. Having said that, I find the isolation from a work

environment challenging, the opposite is true of photography, where I find the isolation mentally invigorating.

Keith Davidson

W: www.keithdavidson.smugmug.com,
F: <https://www.facebook.com/KeithDavidsonPhotography/>



Some remarkable results of Keith's photography during lockdown



W: www.keithdavidson.smugmug.com,
F: <https://www.facebook.com/KeithDavidsonPhotography/>

Unknown artist creates Sweet Trail around Highworth

An unknown artist has created their own art trail around Highworth. They drew 20 images of yummy food items and attached them to lampposts around the town.

The trail started near to 106 The Dormers and then the numbered pictures led the viewer around the play area near the Community Centre, down Knowlands and Sevenfields and along the footpath to The Cullerns and back to the Community Centre.



Google Maps

Thank you whoever took the time to put together this trail.

www.highworthlink.co.uk

Dear Highworth Link

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

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

Mrs K. Harman

Dear Highworth Link

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

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

Julie Jones

Dear Highworth Link

I work as a nurse in GWH. Last Sunday I found a 'KEYWORKER GOODY BOX' on my doorstep containing a selection of garden vegetable plants and a chocolate Lindt bunny. I have no idea which thoughtful person or group put it there but I wanted them to know how much it was appreciated and say a very big thank you.

Karen Wilson

Hello Highworth Twinning Association

I'm writing you this email on VE Day, 75 years after the end of World War II. I will be 65 years old this year and I am happy to have spent my whole life in peace and freedom. I thank all those who have contributed to this, especially the British people.

Normally, the 10th anniversary of our town twinning, together with the European Days, would take place in Wassenberg in one week, but thanks to Covid the wine stays in the cellar and we stay at home. Even though we unfortunately do not have the possibility to meet personally in Wassenberg on the occasion of this event, you can pick up the phone, write an e-mail or whatsapp, or drop a letter in the letterbox.

After the Heinsberg district was very badly affected at the beginning of the pandemic, the number of infections is now fortunately falling continuously. Wassenberg itself currently has less than 10 reported infected persons, but the number of unreported cases is very high. Unlike in other European countries, we do not have a curfew, but a ban on contact with more than two people. Of course, restaurants, hotels and camping sites are closed and the borders to most of the neighbouring countries are closed. From the beginning of this week however at least the hairdressers have opened their salons again, under the condition that you have to wear a protective mask like in other shops. Moreover, the minimum distance of 1.50 metres must be respected. Sports fields and swimming pools remain closed, and even worse, you are not allowed to visit your relatives in old people's homes.

As many members of our twinning community do not speak English well enough and we are not well informed in the German media about the situation in England, apart from the health of Prime Minister Johnson, I would ask Highworth Twinning Association to describe the current situation in the United Kingdom and especially in Highworth in a few lines so that I can pass this information on to our friends in the twinning community.



I hope to see you and all the other friends from Highworth very soon safe and sound.

Heinz-Josef the relatively new secretary of the twinning association in Wassenberg

Dear Editor

I read the May Link and saw an article requesting crowdfunding assistance with saving the golf course at Shrivenham. I have recently seen some alarming notices in connection with our Swindon Road, Highworth Golf Course. This is of course, apart from the golfers a very popular place to walk. I wonder if a similar request for crowdfunding assistance for our golf course should not be made.

Tricia Croton

Dear Editor

With reference to your request for information regarding the Highworth P.O.W Camp, I can certainly remember it.

Situated alongside the Coleshill road, between Eastrop and Wickstead Farm, it was a constant source of curiosity amongst the townsfolk. Some concrete remains of a building can still be seen across the field, but I have never been able to establish exactly what it was used for. Several concrete slabs surrounding the building seems to indicate a gun emplacement and the surrounding was some sort of accommodation for the crews. Perhaps there is someone of my generation who might know the answer. Most of the accommodation on the site was in the form of Army huts, situated close to the Wickstead Farm.



The camp housed both German and Italian prisoners and they were kept busy by clearing ditches and streams in the local countryside.

I remember heavily guarded groups being brought up to the town centre to socialise with the local population. The enclosed photo shows one such group with us at the Red Lion pub.

I also remember a football team from the town visiting the Camp to play a game against the prisoners. The town team contained two semi-professionals at the time! They were 'Jimmy Higgs' and 'Gordan



(Ginger) Harris'. Two very talented players indeed. The public were allowed into the camp to watch the game and it was well supported. We won of course though I can't remember the actual score. I can't recall any animosity being shown at all. After all, the prisoners were happy to be out of the War and being cared for. They didn't want war any more than we did. One actually came back to marry a local girl.

I hope I have been helpful with my limited knowledge of Highworth P.O.W camp.

Alec Woodbridge

Peter Barnes, GP

Many residents of Highworth and Blunsdon will remember Peter Barnes, a GP partner at Westrop surgery from 1995 until he was sadly forced to retire due to ill health in 2009. It is with great sadness that he lost his fight on 23rd March. Despite having left the practice over 10 years ago, staff and patients alike still talk fondly of Peter and he continues to be much missed by all. To remember him we asked some of the people who knew him best to describe why he was so loved and respected:

Chris Lloyd, GP partner Westrop:

I had the great pleasure of working with Peter at Westrop and he was both a fantastic friend and colleague. I can remember interviewing him for the job and one of his references described him as a gentle giant. He trained at the same medical school as me and in his prime was a superb rugby player. He was great fun and had a brilliant sense of humour. Peter was fantastic to work with and a brilliant GP, always willing to give more of his time and care to patients.

He fought hard throughout his illness and was wonderfully cared for by Kate, Alice, Tom and Ellie who have been truly amazing throughout. We will all miss him terribly.

John Bestwick, GP partner Westrop:

What to say about Dr Peter Barnes; the best doctor to work with. He was such a good colleague to me; funny, cynical and dry yet in reality always willing to go the extra mile with patients and that is why they all loved him. He had an incredible memory, especially for patient anecdotes, and was so friendly.

He was the main pillar of our team at Westrop Surgery and when I joined in 2003 he gave me a card saying inside, 'Welcome aboard the Good Ship Westrop!' and that was what it was.

His personality matched his size perfectly and I always felt confident with him around.

I can't tell you how much we miss you, Peter and we always will.

Angela Rogers, Matron at Park View Rest Home:

Dr Barnes, as I always called him, was one of the nicest people you could ever meet. He was also



the kindest and most respected doctor and always gave us a lesson or two on his weekly visits. He had a lovely manner with the residents and would always crouch down beside them (well he was very tall!) and offer reassurance and support and the residents loved him and trusted him.

I remember he used to tell me that a good assessment starts before you see the patient and continues by observing and watching for any signs of pain or angst and then he said you let the patient tell you their problems! We could be there for ages but Dr Barnes just smiled and said he had plenty of time!

The rounds every Wednesday at Park View would take ages as Dr Barnes would entertain us with his humour, his anecdotes and his latest recipes. I will miss Peter hugely but want him to be remembered as a wonderful "old" fashioned doctor who respected us all and made us all feel important and competent.

Helen Pavely, Receptionist, Blunsdon Surgery:

Working with Peter from when he joined the practice in October 1995 was always a joy. He really loved his rôle as a GP and had an excellent rapport with his patients and the staff at Blunsdon Surgery. He always loved to chat and was forever congesting our small dispensary telling us his latest stories and family news! I have so many fond memories of Peter and especially the Westrop Surgery Christmas celebrations which were legendary, with Dr Ling as his side-kick they caused uproar and laughter

with the entertainment they organised (often at the staff's expense). Peter appreciated good food and loved cooking and I have many recipes which I still use that he hand wrote for me. He has left an indelible mark with me and I am very grateful that I had so many happy years working in Blunsdon with his larger than life personality and presence.

**Julie and Kevin Wright,
Patients at Westrop Surgery:**

Dr Peter Barnes; when I think of him a smile always comes to my face. Although I only knew him as my doctor I can honestly say he was the most caring genuine man. He helped me through

so much in my life, I don't think he ever realised just how much he helped people. Even when he first became ill he was still there for others and constantly thinking of his patients. There isn't anything else to say about this wonderful man who will be missed so much.

For those of you who wish to remember Peter, his wife Kate plans to hold a memorial for anyone who would like to attend. At the time of writing and because of the Covid-19 pandemic no date has been set but we will post details on the practice website, www.westropmedicalpractice.nhs.uk/, nearer to the time.

Dr Simon Stacey

Kenneth (Ken) Poulton 1926-2020

A few weeks before the lockdown, a very well-known and popular member of the Highworth community passed away.

Ken Poulton died on the 9th February, a week after celebrating his 94th birthday. He had not been in the best of health over the last few years. A celebration of his life was held at St Michael's Church on Monday 24th February led by the Rev. Geoff Sowden. Phillip Poulton paid a tribute to his father.



Ken was born in Kent and after school he joined the Royal Navy. Whilst based at Chatham in Kent as an Artificer he was involved in a motorcycle accident and was admitted to hospital. During his stay he met Elizabeth, a naval nurse and they soon realised that they had a special bond between them. After a whirlwind romance they were married on Boxing Day 1953 at Carlisle, Lancashire.

The following month, Ken was sent on a three-month tour of the Mediterranean. The year after he was sent on a tour of the Americas and the couple didn't see each other for a year.

In 1956 Ken left the Navy and went to Vickers Armstrong at Crayford, Kent. He later moved to the Vickers Hydraulics Division at Weymouth and

in 1966 to Vickers Plant, South Marston. It was this move which brought the family to Highworth.

The couple had three children: Alison, Carole and Philip, and three grandchildren. Ken and his son soon became involved in many organisations throughout the town. Ken was a Town Councillor for many years and Mayor on two occasions. In 2004 he officially opened the town's new Library on Brewery Street, replacing the old portable building in Eastrop that served

the town for 35 years. Ken was also a founder member of the Highworth Lions Club, a member of the Highworth Branch of the Royal British Legion and the President of the Silver Threads until it finished due to lack of membership.

Sadly, Elizabeth passed away in 2015 shortly after celebrating their Diamond Wedding anniversary.

Ken led an active life and lived life to the full. He enjoyed his gardening and his holidays in Tenerife. His life deteriorated towards the end but he still enjoyed a chat with friends calling in at The Highworth and in TT Linnets.

Many will miss his cheerful greetings and his sense of humour. As Ken would say: "Roger and out".

Mair Huband



**Y O U R
COMMUNITY
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CHURCH**

B I G S U N D A Y

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**R E F L E C T
R E M E M B E R
F I N D
H O P E**

**12 JULY
2020
10:30AM**

A special opportunity to find hope in a time that has cost so many so much. Loved ones, jobs, education, employment. We have all lost something. Join us as we remember those we love, and find hope for the future.

SEARCH 'HIGHWORTH BIG SUNDAY' ON FACEBOOK FOR MORE DETAILS

Guest Speaker Gavin Calver

Highworth Churches Together have organised for Gavin Calver, Director of the Evangelical Alliance, to be guest speaker at the Ecumenical Service in St. Michael's Church on Sunday 12th July at 10.30am.

Gavin is passionate about unity and the importance of building relationships. An evangelist ordained by the Baptist Union, he trained at the interdenominational Bible college London School of Theology. Gavin has been director of mission at the Evangelical Alliance since 2015 and also chairs the Spring Harvest Planning Group. He was previously national director of Youth for Christ for six years, and has two children with his wife Anne, a Baptist minister.

If for any reason the Church has to close, the speech will be filmed and shared either via Zoom or YouTube. Please look out for event details on Facebook and/or contact



one of the Churches before the event to check final details.

Virtual Church Services

St Michael's Church Services:

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

Roman Catholic Church

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

Highworth Methodist Church

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

NEW Midweek service on Zoom on Tuesdays at

7.30pm. Please email hmbulletin@gmail.com to be invited to the next one.

United Reform Church

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

Highworth Community Church

We are publishing daily encouragement on our HCC YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCG1MXSAzhU0aWk3tYEzyUw>

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

You can also access the Hope for Highworth YouTube channel at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpu76C97aCmAUE_8hfqCXOg

Highworth Churches Information

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

Saturday Prayers: At 12noon every Saturday until the end of the crisis we will all pray together for the town and the nation.

Everyone who is a part of the Highworth Churches will do this wherever they are, many outside, and anyone is free to join in where they are as we consistently pray for hope, wisdom, healing and an end to the troubles.

CHURCH CONTACTS:

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

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

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

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

Community Church Leader:
Matt Ford T: 07712 521046



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



- Mar 27-29 Syd Huband – in loving memory of Syd who passed away 10 years ago. Mair, Arfon, Ruth, Bethan, Abigail and Anne
- Apr 3-5 Highworth Action for Fairtrade (HAFFT). Supporting our Fairtrade town.
- Apr 12 Steve Pope, a good mate. Pete and Denny
- Apr 21 Cyril Knight – Dad it's fifteen years since you have been gone. How did that happen? Miss you always. Love you. Lyn, Ruth, Patrick and all of the kids xxxx
- Apr 25 Frank Dean – thinking of you every day but especially today on the 15th anniversary of your passing. Love and miss you so much. Jean, Beverley, Sharon and families xxxx
- May 29 Happy birthday Michael, much love, Mum xx
- Jun 17 To my dear husband Mike Badger on the first anniversary of losing you. I miss you so much. Love always, Yvonne xxx
- Jun 17 In memory of Mike Badger, who to us was Dad and Mate. It's been a year since we lost you but you are always in our thoughts and hearts. We love and miss you so much, Katy and Bobby xxx
- Jul 03 Toby Drayton – missing you always especially on this your 50th birthday. Mum and Dad xxx
- Jul 11 Happy birthday Mum, much love, Lesley xx
- Jul 28 Sian and Ian Vockins. Congratulations on your Silver Wedding Day. Have a wonderful time. Married at St James' Church, Sevenhampton 1995 at 2pm

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.

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

The Uzzells Return to The Plough

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

The Churches of Highworth want to pray for you.

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

Jesus cares, and we care too.

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

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

churchispraying@gmail.com

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

There is HOPE!



HOPE

for Highworth

Enjoy Ciao Eatalia food from home

We were very disappointed to have to close Ciao Eatalia temporarily in line with the measures that the government has put in place to stop the spread of Covid 19. However, it is completely understandable and as part of the wonderful Highworth community we hope that our friends and customers continue to be in good health.

Being at home on lockdown has enabled me to have some much needed family time and I have enjoyed teaching my daughter Alba (who is 4) some cooking skills. It was my mamma and nonna who taught me how to cook and there are many of these traditional recipes that have found their way on to Ciao Eatalia's menu. Italian food is so central to our culture and is at the heart of family life.

Everyone pitches in to make huge dinners for our very large extended family and so for me going

into the restaurant trade was a natural progression. I love cooking and I love eating and I feel very blessed to have been able to share this and at the moment I am missing it.

I started doing the live cooking videos just to keep in touch and hopefully to inspire people to cook something new. I've been playing around with ingredients at home too and have many new ideas to bring back to Ciao Eatalia's kitchen with me. We hope to reopen soon but accept that the health of the nation comes first, so we await news of improvement just like everybody else.

You can see all our online cooking videos at www.facebook.com/ciao.eatalia/photos?lst=754600800%3A100007938420858%3A1588276255

Fabio Giacalone



To advertise in The Highworth Link

call 01793 764768

advertising@highworthlink.co.uk

Local building company comes 'Highly Commended'

In February 2020 Great Western Building Services Ltd was proud to be chosen by the LABC as finalists for a Local Business Excellence Award for medium size extensions. We received a 'Highly Commended' for an extension completed in 2019. We worked very closely with the client during initial contact and subsequent site visits to ensure GWBS had a full understanding of their requirements.

The property in Wroughton required a single storey flat roof extension with two large roof lanterns and Bi-fold doors. A large rear sandstone patio area with raised beds and custom-built oak and glass leanto canopy, which covered the top tier level of the new patio. This created a lovely bright family area for our client.

The 'Highly Recommended' award is based on the efficiency of work carried out, general work practises and ethics of our contractors working



HTJFC U9T showing off their new tops

and work hard to ensure transparency and high-quality customer service before, during and after completion.

on the site, and the quality of the finish.

We at GWBS pride ourselves on honest and open communication with our clients to ensure we work together to create quality finishes on all projects. We understand that a trusting client/contractor relationship is of the utmost importance, and we provide detailed no-obligation quotes and are always on hand for any questions or advice needed.

Based in Highworth we have worked on many local properties and always enjoy the warm welcome we get from our fellow Highworthians! We are happy

to organise visits to previous projects, to give you confidence in us and our ability. We are also proud to sponsor one of the best local grassroots football teams, Highworth Town Junior Football Club U9T.



Swindon Mayor Kevin Parry presenting the award to J P Donovan of GWBS

Highworth Emporium is a greats gift retailer finalist 2020

It's official. Highworth Emporium is one of the best gift retailers in the UK and has been selected as a finalist in The Greats Gift Retailer Awards 2020.

It's the fourth year the Emporium has been in a final having won Best New Comer category last year. This year Highworth Emporium reached the final in three categories:

- Independent Gift Retailer of the Year – South West
- Best In-Store or Window Display
- Best Retailer Initiative (For Shop Local Christmas raffle and Visa ad initiatives)

The Greats Awards, now in their 18th year, were launched by Progressive Gifts & Home magazine to recognise and reward the UK's very best gift retailers across the retail spectrum.

"These dedicated awards for gift retailers have risen immeasurably in status over the years and



are now universally acknowledged as being true accolades of excellence," commented Sue Marks, Editor of Progressive Gifts & Home. "Being selected as a finalist was a fantastic achievement. There was a huge entry this year with some outstanding first class entries."

All retail finalists were decided as a result of an industrywide poll of gift suppliers, reps and agents and validation by a panel of experts.

The winners of this year's prestigious gift retailing award, The Greats 2020, will be revealed at an Awards lunch at the Honourable Artillery Club later in the year.

The Awards recognise and celebrate not only the top independent and multiple gift retailers regionally and nationally but also outstanding retail employees.

Further details can be found at www.thegreatsawards.co.uk



Winning last year

Top Tips for dealing with debt after lockdown

This year has been a challenging one to say the least, and we're only halfway through it! Everyone has been affected by the coronavirus outbreak and the consequent lockdown, but the ways in which we've been affected individually may be very different.

If you previously had debt that you were managing well, it may be that a change in circumstances means this has now become a problem. You may no longer be able to make your regular repayments. However, there are helpful steps you can take to deal with it.

How to deal with problem debt

- Make a budget detailing your current income and expenditure (both essential and non-essential). There's a great budget planner on moneyadvice.service.org.uk which you could use to help with this.
- Check what help or benefits you may be eligible to claim at turn2us.org.uk.
- Look at what's left over in your budget. If you have more going out than coming in, where could you realistically cut back to free up some money? This might mean switching to a cheaper energy tariff or cancelling unused subscriptions.
- If your budget is too tight, make a list of all the companies/people you owe money to.
- Contact each one, explain the situation and ask about any payment holiday schemes they offer.
- If you need extra support, take the step to seek professional advice from a debt advice charity such as Christians Against Poverty – see capuk.org for more information.

How paying down debt saves money

Alternatively, the lockdown may have seen you save on costs such as travel, eating lunch out, childcare and school trips. If this is the case, it may be possible to save what you would have normally spent and use it to pay down debt.

If you have savings at the moment, it's likely the interest you earn on them is almost nothing, so all you're doing is keeping the money in the

bank and not actually getting anything for it. However, interest will continue to be added to any debts you owe every month, which means that having the debt could be costing you money right now.

It makes sense to decrease the amount of debt you have and lower the interest, if you're able to. There's lots of information on how to do this at moneysavingexpert.com.

Remember to keep a savings buffer for emergencies and unexpected costs.

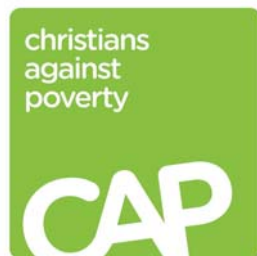
Other ways to save money during (and after) the lockdown

You may find that you have more time to save for annual expenses such as your vehicle MOT. The DVLA has given an extension of up to six months for vehicles with an MOT expiring after 30th March – see gov.uk/dvla for more details.

If your vehicle is parked on the road, legally you need to keep it taxed and insured. If you have a garage or driveway available, you could declare your vehicle off the road with a Statutory Off-Road Notice (SORN). This means you won't have to pay for the road tax. See gov.uk/make-a-sorn for more information.

Christians Against Poverty (CAP) is a UK charity which, through local churches, delivers debt counselling, money management, job clubs, life skills groups and support for people breaking habitual dependencies. Visit capuk.org to find out more.

Locally we are based in the Bridge Centre, Sheep Street. Contact Kathryn on 07885 579876 for a chat if you'd like to know more! Totally confidential, non-judgemental!



Kathryn Ford

Kathryn Ford, Centre Manager - Highworth
Christians Against Poverty
T: 07885 579876
Normal working days: Mon-Thurs

A Message from Our Mayor

During this very unprecedented and difficult time I have been reminded yet again that Highworth is a fantastic place to live.

The Community spirit is very strong as I have witnessed myself on many special occasions in our calendar year, when often almost 2,000 people turn out to support their town. The community spirit is now stronger than ever with offers of support from many organisations and clubs, groups and individuals and neighbours popping notes through letter boxes to offer help. The Churches of Highworth have also joined forces with Hope for Highworth; simply email churchespraying@gmail.com to add your name to the list.

Alan and I, along with many others, have stood at their front doors every Thursday since 26th March at 8pm to clap for the NHS: the noise soared through the cold clear night sky. I am not ashamed to say that I have been moved to tears on more than one occasion.

The Town Council office staff, outside workforces and councillors have worked very hard to make



Mayor Julia Bishop Presenting the certificate accrediting Highworth as a Dementia Friendly Community

quite difficult decisions to get everything right as, like everybody, we have never witnessed anything like this in our lifetime.

I would also like to thank you, the people of Highworth, for all your support during this last year raising money for the Prospect Hospice. Sadly, I had to cancel three big events I had planned, such as the concert on March 14th due to two members of the male choirs being taken ill. I would also like to thank the people who had already paid but did not ask for a refund. All of the money goes to Prospect Hospice and we know that all charities will suffer at this time.

We now have to look to the future as none of us knows

how long this will last. With the help and support of our community, loved ones, families and friends we will look forward to long warm summer days and emerge appreciating what we have and be mindful of the needs of others who may be less fortunate.

Julia Bishop, Mayor of Highworth

From our MP

Non-essential shops have been allowed to start re-opening, a crucial step towards normality and a vital measure to get the economy back on track to protect jobs. There is no getting away from the challenges we all face, but as a Government we have shown through the scale of fiscal support we are providing, we are doing everything we can to both save lives and protect the economy; an unenviable balancing act.

I'd like to pay tribute to all the local businesses

who have either been able to continue trading or are once again looking to re-open. They will all need our support, particularly our local shops and market.

Covid-19 has impacted on my work and like everyone I have had to make changes. Thanks to technology, whilst my office has been closed myself and my team have worked throughout from home. I have missed being able to get out and do visits, though I now seem to spend most

of my time in virtual online meetings! I have lost count how many interesting backgrounds I have seen. The majority of the casework has been focused on helping residents and businesses navigate the various support packages, as well as answering questions on the ever-changing guidelines.

Parliament has also returned and as with anyone who returns to their formal workplace, changes will be required. Patience will be needed as it will take time to get them all right, that is the case whether it is Parliament, or any business up and down the country. Parliament returning is vital for democracy and crucially accountability (and I say this as a Minister, I should be held to account for my work).

That said, there have been challenges.

Initially, we all operated remotely, speaking and voting online. Many MPs were left red-faced when their internet connection failed them mid-question, or they voted the wrong way in a division. Even the impressive Chancellor accidentally voted against the Government!

As Parliament has returned we have allowed those MPs who are shielding, or in isolation to continue to vote or raise questions remotely. I welcome this during these challenging times but some MPs would like to make remote voting permanent for all MPs. I don't support this

because it allows MPs to vote without being engaged with the debates / decision making. Also as a wider issue, I worry that those MPs who wrongly have second jobs, or who don't make the effort to fulfil their duties and are shown up by their poor voting records, would suddenly have 100% voting records, with little or no engagement with the Parliamentary process. This would do our democracy a disservice.

The Parliamentary staff and authorities are working tirelessly to get the right balance on changes, now and going forward they will have my full support, and to be fair most MPs are seeking to help get this right.



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](https://www.facebook.com/justintomlinsonofficial)
Twitter [@JustinTomlinson](https://twitter.com/JustinTomlinson)



Extracts from the minutes of a meeting of Highworth Town Council on 17th March 2020

91. PIGEON CONTROL

CLRs have received complaints from the Public regarding pigeon netting in the High Street. They acknowledge that it is the responsibility of the property owners to deter pigeons from roosting on their building, however given the success of the recent measures taken by the Council on the Council Offices, a letter is to be sent to the owners to advise them that this new option is available.

92. CORRESPONDENCE:

a. Coronavirus Update from National Association of Local Councils. Councillors debated issues facing the Council and Staff and how to allow the Council to continue to operate while the Coronavirus emergency is affecting the country. Resolved by Cllr Smith and seconded by Cllr Newton-Smith that any two of the four Chairs with the Clerk or his Deputy, be given delegated authority to make operational decisions on behalf of the Council until the current situation is resolved. Eight Councillors voted in favour and one abstained. The Resolution was duly carried. Councillors also agreed to close the Council Meeting rooms, including the Community Room for hiring until further notice.

Government guidelines are to be followed. Working from home is being considered for some of the Office staff. The Council is keen to continue to provide its service to the Public and will endeavour to do so within guidelines.

95. MEMBERS BUSINESS:

Cllr Murphy - Councillors agreed to support Community Groups that are being organised to provide assistance to those self-isolating by putting the contact details of the group on the Town Council website. People should be reminded though, to be vigilant.

HIGHWORTH TOWN COUNCILLORS

Council Offices, 3 Gilberts Lane, Highworth SN6 7FB
Tel. 01793 762377 / 763511

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DEPUTY MAYOR & VICE-CHAIRMAN

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Maureen Penny, Squires Court SN6 7FH
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Steve Weisinger, 8 Barra Close, SN6 7HX
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sweisinger@highworthtowncouncil.gov.uk

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

National Trust update

Badbury Clump, Buscot village and White Horse Hill car parks are open now. The pay and display machines will not be taking coins at present, there will be the option to pay by mobile phone and for Members to scan their membership cards.



Buscot Tea Shop is open from 12noon-4.30pm every sunny day for takeaway and the toilets will also be open while the Tea Shop is open. Social distancing will continue to apply and there are signs displayed in the car parks to remind visitors.

*Vilma Knight, Business Support Co-ordinator,
Buscot & Coleshill Estate*

FAIRFORD

Request for Information on Names from the War Memorial

If anyone has a contact for the families of any of the following men from the Faringdon War Memorial please can you contact sally@faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk, T: 07711 424484

Gunner REGINALD WALTER FRANK LUCKETT
Driver RAYMOND CHAPMAN
Private CHARLES FREDERICK JACKSON
Major PERCY PROCTOR
Private JAMES PROCTOR

Fairford & District Society Choir

We were really sad to have to cancel our concert in May, but we have started rehearsing for our Christmas concert on **Saturday 28th November**, all being well. We will update with full details nearer the time.

Judith Walpole

LECHLADE

NEW Lechlade Community Library

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

family. She will be sadly missed.

The Lechlade Community Library shut on 12th March. It is not yet known when we will reopen, but our 29 volunteers are champing at the bit to serve you again as soon as we are allowed to do so.

Lockdown however has not meant that the Library has been inactive. All books being returned through the door have had to be booked in and registered. Four Directors have been doing this on a rotational basis. Any outstanding books can be returned any time and no fines have been implemented on late returns. Do remember if you are a member of a Library you can access books and audio books on website www.RBdigital.

We decided to help youngsters having to cope with lockdown by arranging a short story and poem competition, which has been widely promoted in Facebook, but by the time you read this the competition will have ended and some lucky youngsters will be the recipient of up to £320 in prizes.

For youngsters who are the children of Emergency workers or vulnerable, and who have been looked after by schools, we decided they



were in need of something special to compensate for them not being with their families so we donated a book to each child in liaison with the school. For children not going to school we have run two weekend book stalls where children can choose four books on loan, picking them up with parents from a table and socially distanced.

Because we have to ensure social distancing and safety for our volunteers and our customers when do open, we have arranged for a screen to be installed on the front desk. This is being provided by LR Engineering in Fairford and has been the result of funding by the Friends of Fairford. We are exceptionally grateful to them for this generous grant.

A risk assessment has been completed on the Library and we are ensuring the building will be recommissioned before opening. This will involve a reduction in those entering and ensuring distancing and sanitisation procedures are in place. We will give further details at a later stage.

The Library provided two windows full of memorabilia and photos to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of VE Day. This was extremely well received by the community as a whole and thanks must go to Paul Cobbs, Simon Winckles, Lechlade History Society, Shirley White, Tim Yeoman, Jane Sullivan Brown and the children of Lechlade for all their hard work in contributing to this display.

I am very grateful for having a Board of Directors that have worked hard over this difficult period but we look forward to receiving customers as soon as we can and we will be ready.

Tim Yeoman

Success for Lechlade eco-friendly business

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

The business was started just five years ago by Hayley Bryon who was delighted with this award. She explained that in the beginning she just had an on-line presence but needed premises so recently opened a shop in Lechlade. She says that 85% of her business is still from the Internet. She quotes her internet site saying that her aim is to



Hayley proudly displays her award outside her shop

create fabulous parties with balloons, party favours (e.g. personalised sweet cones) banners, etc. but at the same time being kind to environment. As with 21st century life, the shop appears to be full of bright colours and dazzling decorations but Hayley is very conscious of the push for responsible use of plastic and foil by re-using and recycling.

Fabulous Partyware uses ALL recyclable packaging for the online orders such as cardboard bubble wrap and Kraft tape. In addition to this, the latex balloons she supplies are also biodegradable. She has even managed to source biodegradable glitter for the Lechlade Festival.

Margaret Hing

Lechlade in World War II

The Kennet & Avon Canal and the River Thames were both fortified as east-west lines of defence. Both lines were patrolled by volunteers and the plan was that any German invasion from the south could be slowed to allow more time for the military to regroup and mount a more

organised defence.

The Thames was fortified with pill boxes (every half mile) and gun emplacements. Bridge approaches were defended and charges placed under bridges so that they could be blown up. Most of the defences were on the north bank.

The Upper Thames Patrol guarded our stretch of the river with regular night foot patrols between the Red Lion pub in Lechlade and The Trout. They also had patrol boats.

Lechlade History Society

Lechlade Art Society

Graham Cox gave a fascinating and very professional demonstration to members of the Lechlade Art Society in February. He produced two finished pictures in less than two hours.

He began by explaining that quality materials are important, he would be using Canson grey paper, Caran D'ache pastel pencils, Rembrandt soft pastels (selecting just 14 colours out of a box of 96), acid free tissue paper (useful as a palm rest for intricate work) and a good set of blender tools.



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

Margaret Hing

Delores Vintage Singer

Local singer Delores set the 1940s mood by performing a variety of classics in a garden in Lechlade. "It was such a super day," Delores said. "I think I'll remember it always. The weather and



the little pockets of family and friends that came to listen and I had 6000 views on my Facebook live stream, with watchers from Spain, Italy and even Australia. It was a perfect day!

"I love anything from the 1940's and 1950's and my house and wardrobe are testament to that. I sing the songs I used to hear my grandparents sing in the kitchen when they were buttering my toast. The songs are so nice and comforting and they tell a story. Nostalgia always draws an appreciative crowd.

"I would like to say a big thank everyone who supported me. We raised £270 for the Lechlade Lions. I'm now keeping busy with my Singing Telegrams."

Delores can be found on facebook at www.facebook.com/Deloresx

SHRIVENHAM

NEW Shrivenham Golf Course

Since the government, England Golf and the R and A have allowed golf to be played again with a few adjustments, Shrivenham Park has seen a rise in the number of players on the course. It has become a Pay and Play Course at the moment and it is vital that tee bookings are made before arriving at the course. Contact the club on 01793 783853 The rate for a green fee is £15 for 18 holes. We are not playing any competitions this year and will return to those in 2021 with new handicaps which will be rolled out in November 2020. The cancellation of competitions also applies to county golf and some may take place in the Autumn at County level. Our new lady and gentleman Captains crept into to place to keep the club running and

committee meetings have been held on zoom. There was no special Drive-In Day.

Everyone is very welcome to come and play our course. Favourable membership deals are available and we look forward to welcoming you on our fairways. All fees at the commencement of a round and food and drink can be purchased at the window by the main door of the clubhouse. Those villages in the local area who have enjoyed the freedom of walking across the course during the lockdown must remain on the main path following the telegraph poles and not roaming across the course for their sake and the players sakes. Please stay safe and alert at all times.

Carole Lee

STANTON FITZWARREN

Lockdown Fun and Frolics

There has always been a close community spirit in our village, with residents happy to help each other, but the Covid-19 lockdown has fostered a deeper community spirit.

We will miss the 8pm Thursday evening ritual spent clapping, drumming and swaying along to 'We'll Meet Again' or 'You'll Never Walk Alone', whilst waving to each other from our driveways and gardens.

After the first clap, ten weeks earlier, we decided to fundraise to support NHS charities and our

village hall, with an honesty box table-top sale. This was followed by donations from residents for displays put on by the children; a stunning gymnastics routine and a choreographed trampoline dance to music, all recorded in gardens and then transmitted over our village Facebook site. We raised more hosting a virtual game of Bingo across our front gardens on VE Day and a Zoom Quiz on the second bank holiday in May. In total we have raised a breathtaking £700, but we hope to break the £1,000 mark with some other village events planned in the weeks to come.

What's even more notable is the kindness shown by all; from running errands for those unable to get to the shops, singing happy birthday from the roadside when people celebrated a birthday and our Parish Council funding an Easter egg delivery to every child in the village, paw-delivered personally by the Easter Bunny herself!

The icing on the cake was the Scarecrow Trail, with over 25 houses participating, a real joy to witness the efforts residents had made. We had a Boris Johnson, Goldilocks, a family of minions – with the winners being chosen as Simon Cowell (child designed) and Mary Berry (adult made).

The lockdown has resulted in a slower pace of life, with most of us being at home. It's allowed us to get to know our neighbours, supporting each other through the highs and lows of these unprecedented times and having some fun in the process.

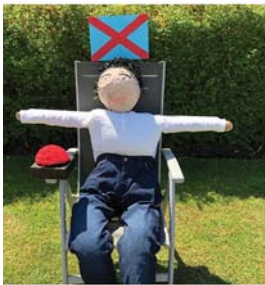
Jayne Price

Every Cloud Update

Although Stanton Country Park has now re-opened to the public, Every Cloud Arts & Crafts is unable to open the Farmhouse tea-room until it is safe to do so, given how small our kitchen is.

We look forward to welcoming back all our loyal customers as soon as possible. The Farmhouse Garden has been blooming all by itself during lock-down. In the meantime, we hope to be able to offer new opportunities for all members of the local community to engage in creative arts and crafts and by using the Barn. If you would like to be updated, please follow us on our Facebook page or go to our website and subscribe to our regular newsletter.

If you would like to support us in these difficult





times, we would be delighted if you would consider joining Swindon Community Lottery and nominating us as your chosen good cause. Full details are on our website.

Tools for Self-Reliance

The Swindon Group of the national charity 'Tools For Self-Reliance' is re-opening its project, also based in Stanton Country Park, in the courtyard on **Friday 3rd July**. Members of the group will be present every Friday morning thereafter between 10.30am-12.30pm to receive donations of tools for refurbishment. In addition, on the 1st Friday of every month, they will present a selection of second-hand/refurbished tools and machinery for sale at very affordable prices commencing the 3rd July.

All of any income generated will support the work of the charity, whose mission is to work in partnership with grass roots projects across Africa to supply the tools, skills and business training for men and women to earn a living, to support themselves and their families.

If you have need of a particular tool, you are welcome to check it's availability by email or text to avoid unnecessary journeys to Stanton. Please contact group facilitator
E: derek.billingham@btinternet.com
or T: 07796 956 974.

Anne Billingham



SWINDON

Swindon Night Shelter

We would like to sincerely thank The Rotary Club of Swindon Old Town and its Satellite club members for their personal donation of £875 from their dining fees. Your kind contribution has come at an operationally unprecedented time for us here at Swindon Night Shelter. We have been serving rough sleepers in the town now since 2008 when a group of Christians felt called to set up a weekly night shelter (hence the charity name).

The charity has steadily grown over the years and now is a wide reaching and well-known presence in the town and reaches people through five main aspects:

- The Haven Day Centre – a place where individuals can walk in, have a hot meal (breakfast & lunch).
- The Hub Shop & Café – our 'social enterprise' element of the charity thus the main funding contributor to the good work we do with our guests. A place where the public can come and buy essentials at a discounted price or just have a coffee and socialise.
- The Gate Cafés – we have five 'pop-up' cafés in the community strategically placed around the town, the vision underpinning this is to meet people where they may feel isolated or vulnerable. An affordable breakfast is provided and again a place where you can reach out services.
- Friday Night Shelter – Our walk-up weekly night shelter where rough sleepers can come and have rest, a shower, meal and access clothing.
- The Hive (Warehouse) – we work closely with partnership agencies to provide work placements (including unpaid work orders) for those needing to experience the working pattern in the build up to re-integration into the community. This is also where we distribute and manage our charitable surplus.

As with so much of our known world right now all of our normal services have ceased, but we are serving the town from afar during this pandemic:

- Food Parcel Provision – We are now

approaching 500 adults and 200 children whom we have served in the community with food, toys and toiletry items. Accepting referrals from over 20 different agencies we are making fresh food parcels for the community, this can range from individuals to large families.

- Guest Outreach – we are still calling and supporting the 198 guests we have on file here, offering emotional support at this time and sending out provision where there is a need.

We thank you again for your donations at this time, we are doing all we can to assure that our food provision and outreach work remains up and running at this time. Your donation gives us further comfort that we are able to keep going and purchase those crucial items which enables the operation to keep going!

Dan Reed

Choir life in lockdown

For Performing Arts groups and Choirs in Swindon and the UK the current lockdown has meant that meeting to sing and perform together is impossible. The carefully planned concert schedules are in disarray and all are keen to get back in front of their audiences at some point in the future.

The Swindon based Wessex Male Choir is no exception and though disappointed they cannot perform their annual summer concert this year they have been busy behind the scenes continuing to sing and keep their voices in shape. Before the lockdown they had been working on an 'Oliver' medley including the famous 'Consider Yourself'. So, for a bit of fun they have adapted the works to reflect the current situation to make 'Consider

Ourselves (At Home)'.

The Choirs' Musical Director Thomas Graff said "Keeping the guys motivated while we are not able to sing together is hard. We always record our rehearsals and provide a lot of extra online support for choristers to practice at home so we thought that, like many other groups, it would be fun to put together a patchwork of voices recorded at home and then add this to some video from each. The result has been well-received on social media and provided our audience with a little light relief and keeps us in touch.

"The choristers are really missing the experience of singing together each week and this was a way to maintain the camaraderie and still produce something as a group. Singing on your own to a backing track is tricky and the result is a little rough around the edges but fantastic fun to do. Creating the video with families and partners really brought out the creative side of them."



If you want to see and hear some of the choristers singing from the bathroom window, doing star jumps or wearing a lampshade you can find the video on Facebook (Wessex Male Choir).

Just before the Lockdown the choir had taken delivery

of a new keyboard partly funded with a grant from Royal Wootton Bassett town council, for which they are extremely grateful. Sadly it's not getting much use at the moment but they look forward to singing together again soon and hopefully some concerts in the winter season.

If you would like to know more about the choir, visit the Choir's Website at www.WessexMaleChoir.co.uk.

John Islip

WE URGENTLY NEED

500

**LOCAL PEOPLE
TO GIVE £5 A MONTH
TO HELP FUND A NEW NURSE**



Prospect
Hospice

Here in Swindon when you need us

TO SIGN UP TODAY PLEASE GO TO:
prospect-hospice.net

TEL 01793 815815

Useful Contacts in Highworth:

DOCTORS

Westrop Surgery T: 01793 762218
(Please call 111 for coronavirus related illness)

FOOD SHOPPING

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

Budgens T: 01793 763594 Currently selling face masks, plants and meal deals.

Bloomfields T: 01793 766399
Currently delivering hampers & picnics locally. Also supply cheese hampers and cheeseboards to order. E: info@bloomfieldsfinefood.co.uk with details and they will get back to you. Will deliver.

Andrews Quality Meats T: 01793 762085
Currently selling BBQ packs and other treats. Keep up to date on Facebook.

McColls T: 01793 766413

Tesco Express T: 0345 026 9201

Cushty Food Supplies T: 01793 297316 selling fresh veg, eggs and cleaning products

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

TAKEAWAYS

Dolphin Fish Bar: Reopened for collection.

Ciao Eatalia (Italian) T: 01793 762888
Currently selling meat from their supplier. Visit their Facebook page for more info.

Highworth Pizza T: 01793 766966
Open for collection

Kebab Grill T: 01793 765119 Open for collection

Kebria Tandoori (Indian) T: 01793 765239
Collect/Deliver

Rafus (Indian) T: 01793 765320 Collect/Deliver

Spice Kitchen (Indian) T: 01793 766886 / 764309
Collect/Deliver. Offering 30% off for NHS staff.

Smart's Fish & Chips T: 01793 764579.
Place order before collection.

PUBLIC HOUSES

Goldfinger T: 01793 765447
Offering Sunday roast dinners for collection (will deliver to those isolated). Visit their Facebook page for more info.

Highworth Hotel T: 07770 814731
Offering Sunday lunches for collection only. Menu and prices available on their Facebook page. E: info@thehighworth.com

Saracens Head Hotel: Visit their Facebook page when bored and have a go at their quizzes.

PHARMACIES

McParland Pharmacy T: 01793 762220

Home Farm Pharmacy T: 01793 861392

OTHER USEFUL CONTACTS

Highworth Hardware T: 01793 765188
Open 9am-3pm. Now cutting keys. Always willing to try and get items not in stock – just ask at the desk.

Highworth Emporium T: 01793 763675
Shop remains online for the time being at www.highworthemporium.co.uk. Now able to offer balloon creations again. Collection by appointment only.
E: hello@highworthemporium.co.uk

Lighthouse bookshop: Items can still be ordered via this link
<https://clcbkshops.com?tag=lighthouse9968> with a commission going to the Lighthouse bookshop.

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

LOCAL CONTACTS

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

BUSES

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

COLLEGES

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

LAW & ORDER

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

COUNCILS

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

FIRE SAFETY

Home fire safety check	0800 389 7849
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DOCTORS AND HOSPITALS

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

LIBRARY

Highworth Library	01793 463500
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RECREATION

Highworth Rec	01793 762602
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PHARMACIES

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

PRESCHOOLS

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

SCHOOLS

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

TAXIS

V Cars	01793 701701
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TRAINS

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

OTHER SERVICES

Citizens Advice Bureau	08444 994114
Trading Standards (business)	0207 830 6000
Trading Standards (consumers)	03454 04 05 06
Alcohol and Drug Service	01793 695405
Pest Control	08000 988652
Samaritans	01793 537373
Women's Refuge	01793 610610

PRAYER PLACE

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

I would like to be known as: _____

I would like you to pray for: _____

(Optional) Name _____

Address _____

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

