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Big Questions...

I like Big Questions. Big Questions promise hope and change and can open new doors of opportunity and thinking. Big Questions are also hard, by their very nature profoundly challenging, and therefore we often avoid or ignore them. We all too easily toe the line, go with the flow or get offended when our ideas or values are challenged. But we will miss any good from this time that has stolen so much if we are not prepared to ask them.

As lockdown descended upon us all I found myself immediately moved from the trivial to the important. Suddenly, the traffic lights were not changing quickly enough or the football results were not consuming my day, and instead just getting loo roll or paracetamol and finding essentials for my family became the norm. Facing into the fragility of life, how unstable our society, jobs and futures really are then quickly moved me to start again asking Big Questions.

COVID-19 is still dominating, still wreaking havoc upon our world. We are all staring into an

unknown future. No-one has been here before and therefore no-one knows what to do. It's too easy to get angry or depressed, to have our energy sucked up by the next theory, news article or imposed restriction.

So can I invite you to ask or maybe ask again the Big Questions? Why am I here? What is the point? Is there a God? Are we here by accident or design? We cannot dismiss these questions with a clever soundbite, a snippet of truth or because the tele said so. Can I invite you to dare to ask, to dare to discuss rather than argue, to dare to listen as well as speak?

Life is definitely not as lovely at it was in January. For many it was pretty awful then anyhow. Maybe, if we are prepared to ask these Big Questions and maybe even to seek answers, then we can all find deeper value, greater purpose and lasting hope.

May God bless you today on your search,

Matt Ford

Cover: #BigOutdoorArtChallenge winner was Zoe from Badger class (Year 2) at Eastrop Infant School

LINK magazine

Published under the auspices of Highworth Churches Together.

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Highworth Link is published monthly except in January and August.

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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

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

Deadlines:

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



Citizen of the Month for September: Finn Farnell

Hundreds of NHS rainbow keyrings have been spotted around Highworth and Swindon. Hand-made by five-year-old Finn Farnell, these special keyrings have been made to raise vital funds for Swindon's Great Western Hospital Children's Ward.

"Finn loves doing crafts and can spend hours making things," Finn's mum, Kaomi said. "During lockdown I got him a few items to keep him busy, including beads so he could make rainbow bracelets to cheer up the extended family whom we were unable to see. His Nan is a Community Paramedic based at the Orbital Centre. She cannot wear a bracelet to work so she asked if Finn could make her something that she could wear. I had a few split rings so Finn started making rainbow bead keyrings. Soon her colleagues were asking for their own keyrings with NHS beads and that is when they really took off. We started getting orders through the Highworth Facebook page too and once the article in the Swindon Advertiser came out, orders flooded in from all the corners of the UK! So far Finn has made over 400 keyrings and there have been a few sent to Brits living abroad too, so Finn's keyrings are global.

"Finn does everything himself; he cuts the lengths of thread, threads the beads, packages the keyrings in little sweet bags and seals each bag with a thank you sticker. I've even had to buy him his own long-stem lighter so he can seal the ends of the thread himself too. We aim to average about 5-10 keyrings a night. He will happily sit for a couple of hours making them. He pays attention to each order and does his own quality control. He even lets me know when I get orders wrong! He gets very excited when he spots someone wearing



one of his keyrings or when people send us photos.

Finn has raised an amazing £560 so far, and orders are still coming in. "I think every British person recognises the importance of the NHS in our lives and wants to thank them," Kaomi continued.

"Even Finn recognises how important it is to raise this money. He thinks the absolute world of his sister, Ocean, but is only just beginning to realise that she is special. Ocean suffers from a rare epilepsy condition which has delayed her development a bit and

causes infantile spasms. When she was hospitalised last Christmas, we struggled to feed her. The hospital only had one highchair, but Ocean is unable to sit unsupported and so we were forced to feed her in her pushchair, which could be a real

struggle. A crowd funding page was set up by Richard Martin to raise the necessary funds to buy a child's bath chair and two tumble chairs, which support the child and which are much easier to clean than traditional highchairs. Ocean will be in and out of hospital for the next couple of years and these simple, relatively affordable and extremely useful items will benefit not just her but many

other children as well. Richard was aiming to raise money by running marathons, but the coronavirus put paid to that so Finn's efforts are really helping towards meeting the £1500 target."

"I really like being able to help my sister and other children like her," Finn said. He plans to continue making the keyrings to order, for a £1.50 donation, as long as the demand continues. You can order your own keyring from Kaomi Farnell via Facebook or email kaomif@googlemail.com. You can make a donation at <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/richard-martin-2020runs>.



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HOPE

for Highworth

Goodbye Vorda

It was with great sadness that on Tuesday 22nd July, after 40 years on Brewery Street, staff at Vorda Pre-school said goodbye to children for the final time.

The History of Vorda



The Pre-school evolved from a playgroup which was started in 1975. In the autumn of 1993 Vorda was the first pre-school in Thamesdown (now Swindon Borough) to take the step of opening the doors to younger children aged two to three

years; our 'Piglet' room sessions. Vorda pre-school had always strived to be responsive to the needs of the community, offering parents the opportunity to work or train.

We've prided ourselves on having mature, experienced staff who were actively committed to the importance of providing a caring and positive early years environment, which was reflected in the Ofsted report as outstanding in personal development, behaviour and welfare.

Why are we closing?

As a charitable organisation, Vorda has always run on a tight budget and this year a slight fall in numbers caused a significant drop in our income. Additionally, government policies over the past few years (notably a funding freeze and minimum wage rises) meant the gap between our income and running costs began to widen too far to reconcile. Whilst we had built up financial reserves to absorb one bad year, Vorda could not afford another one and so the Committee, alongside staff members, explored many alternative options to keep Vorda open.

Sadly, it became clear that without a significant increase in the numbers of children, none of the options available to us would make the difference needed to keep Vorda open, particularly as efforts to change were halted by COVID-19. At an EGM, parents voted unanimously, although with a great deal of sadness, to close Vorda in July. As a result, all of Vorda's valued staff, lots of whom had been at Vorda for many years, were made redundant and our families given the summer to find alternative childcare arrangements.

What are we proud of?

We will always be proud of our achievements over the years. Most recently, gaining bronze for The Healthy Eating Award in 2019 and being well on the way to achieving a Gold by the end of this year. We have developed our outdoor areas and made them a more stimulating sensory environment for children to explore and learn through nature. We have raised sponsorship to educate a child in the Gambia for the past 10 years.

We've also maintained areas rated outstanding by Ofsted for the last three inspections. Like other settings we were asked to close on 20th March but continued to care for vulnerable children and children of keyworkers. During this time we provided all our other children and families with fun learning packs personally delivered to



their front doors by staff. We have lots to be proud and thankful for.

What will you remember?

If you've ever had any involvement with Vorda you'll remember Christmas concerts, Easter Egg hunts, Easter Bonnet Parades, Christmas trips to Roves Farm and Summer outings to the Cotswold Wildlife Park. Last year the staff even played a game of hide and seek whilst the children were on the train, popping out when they passed by. We have always tried our best to please!



Over the years we've welcomed so many visitors to enrich the children's education and add a little extra excitement to the day. Two of our favourites come to mind: Pam Jones from the Environmental programme who taught us how important and easy recycling is to do. And how could we forget the lollipop lady visits? Bringing her own road inside, she helped us act out different scenarios to keep us safe and sent all the children home with a lollipop of their own.

We want to thank you!

Highworth has always been kind to us, whether it has been support at our fayres, donations of

raffle prizes from local businesses or simply just providing the best little adventures for our children to enjoy. Trips to the library were a big hit, particularly in December when Father Christmas arrived with presents for everyone. We've been able to go out on listening walks on the walkadile around the town.

And let's not forget trips on the bus around Highworth which were also a favourite because holding your own ticket and waving out of the window is surely the best thing to do when you are young. Bella and her team at St Michael's Church, staff at the Highworth library, John Williams with his magic shows and many more people in Highworth have given our children and staff many happy memories to treasure.

How did we say goodbye?

In previous years we've hosted a fun afternoon for leavers with party games and our magician for the entertainment. Last year we invited the parents along who proudly watched the children singing songs and being presented with their learning journals and certificates. This year the celebrations haven't been quite as we would have wanted but we still had our party mornings and shared special moments with all of our children and their parents as we wished them

luck on their next steps ahead. There were tears, laughter and happy memories shared.

Linda Cowley, Vorda's Manager, said many parents have commented about Vorda's closure and have shared fond memories



The Vorda Team

of not only their attendances but that of their children and grandchildren too.

Its closure feels like losing someone close to you but, like all losses, Vorda will have a special place in many people's hearts and will be sadly missed.

#BigOutdoorArtChallenge Winner

Between 6th-12th July hundreds of schools and school children headed outside and created over 500 amazing artworks using what they could find in the environment around them.

First place for the Yrs 1-3 category was awarded to Zoe from Badger class (Year 2) at Eastrop Infant School for her outstanding artwork entitled 'Peas and Love'.

The #BigOutdoorArtChallenge was launched by the Council for Learning Outside the Classroom and The Children's Challenge to encourage teachers and pupils to make more use of the wider school environment. The challenge sought to inspire school children across the UK to explore the wonder of nature and use the natural materials



around them to create an artwork.

Dr Anne Hunt, chief executive, said: "We were astounded by the number of schools and children taking part in our first Big Outdoor Art Challenge. It proved to be a simple way for pupils and teachers to celebrate getting outside and taking a few moments to reconnect with nature wherever they were. With such a vast range of submissions, all so different and so creative, it was an

extraordinarily difficult job to choose the winners."

All submissions to the #BigOutdoorArtChallenge can be seen here:

<https://www.instagram.com/explore/tags/bigoutdoorartchallenge/>

Market Promotions

Pupils at Southfields Junior School have been busy creating posters to advertise Highworth's Saturday Market.

The posters were presented to Market Manager Richard Williams. "The pupils have done a fantastic job," Richard said. "They have put a lot of work into creating these adverts and their end product is much better than anything I could have created."

The posters will now be used to advertise the Market on Facebook.



Two of the many entries

Westrop Teachers visit Finland

At the beginning of March, Mrs Acres, Miss Power, Mrs Christopherson and Miss Pimm travelled to Finland to continue the Erasmus+ project. We were joined by the visiting teachers from Wales, but unfortunately the teachers from Italy and Spain were unable to join us.



Mrs Christopherson taking assembly

It was a long journey to our Finnish partner school in Tohmajärvi, more than three hours on the plane to Helsinki, then a four and a half-hour train journey. The school had an ice rink next to the playground for the children to skate on and there was space for them to leave their skis by the front door! We watched woodwork and metalwork classes and some art classes and were taught some Finnish games. The children made some traditional Finnish food for us and chatted while we all ate. They were quite shy trying out their English. We tried some forest school activities, which included cooking sausages on a fire pit and skiing, although the 5-year-old we were with was much better than us! In turn we shared a Powerpoint presentation about Westrop Primary School and were asked lots of different questions about

what school is like in England.

We stayed by a frozen lake that was hundreds of kilometres long. We could see people fishing through holes in the ice. As well as the three days spent at the school, we were also able to see a brand-new school, swim in the frozen lake and visit the botanical garden in Joensuu. It

was warm and full of exotic plants and animals.

On our journey home, we stopped in Helsinki and had a look around. There were Moomin trolls everywhere. We were particularly impressed by the new library where you can hire rooms for free and do activities like 3D printing or weaving.

The next visit is planned to be in Spain and will happen as soon as travel restrictions are lifted. This will then be followed by a visit to Italy and all the countries will come to Westrop at some point after that. Because of the current situation, the project coordinator has asked the British Council to extend the length of the project considering travel restrictions and school closures.



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Cubs' Tadpole Challenge

Towards the end of April we had to go to the Eastrop Farm to collect our tadpoles and pond weed.

My mum filled a large plastic box with rainwater from our water butt. I added little stones to the bottom to make it look more natural and put in some rocks as well for the frogs to stand on. When we ran out of rainwater we had to fill up a container with tap water and leave it for a few days for the chlorine to evaporate before adding it to the tadpole water. I had loads of tadpoles. I had to feed them every day. They ate romaine lettuce. I had to put boiling water over the top of it to soften it before adding it to the tank. I also gave them some fish flakes which they really liked.



Thomas Farnell with one of his frogs

The tadpoles took two months to become frogs. It was really interesting to see how they changed and how their tails disappeared. We kept their tank down the bottom of our garden in the shade, which was good because once they became frogs they climbed up the sides of the plastic box and escaped under our shed. A month later I still see them; I can always find frogs around our inflatable pool in the garden. I liked doing this challenge because these frogs were my first pets. If I did it again I would like to start with frogspawn so I can watch the tadpoles hatch.



Wrde Cub Camp Challenge

The camping challenge involved setting up camp and staying outdoors for one night. I had to pack my own bag with everything I might need as I wasn't allowed to 'pop' back in for anything.

I had to plan what food I was going to cook for dinner. We had a BBQ where I cooked sausages, burgers, etc. I set up the tent myself. I had to peg out the inner tent and then put the waterproof outer over the inner and secure it with the guys. I found putting up my tent a bit of a challenge but I checked with my mum from time to time to make sure I was doing it right. I also made a flag to mark my campsite. Dad decided to join me in my tent for the night. It was a warm evening and I was asleep by 10pm after having 'smores (melted marshmallow and chocolate

between two biscuits).

I slept in the tent all night and was woken by the birds in the garden. Dad and I chatted lots. I really enjoyed camping out, especially making mad shadows on the tent with my torch. Mum made us a full cooked breakfast in the morning which we ate on the patio. This was to give me lots of energy because we then walked a section of the Ridgeway from Ogbourne St George to Barbury castle and back. It was a great hike. I learnt that the BBQ gets a bit exciting when the sausages are popping and to watch out for flames. I will definitely be camping again but next time I really want to camp with my friends.

Harry Skillett

The end of an era, leading to a new beginning



Since 2012, Air Commodore Dawn McCafferty has been in post as the Commandant of the Royal Air Force Air Cadets. Air Cdre McCafferty joined the Royal Air Force in 1988 as a secretarial officer and served until her retirement in 2006. At this point she had risen through the ranks to the status of Group Captain after an amazing 23 years' service.

For tens of thousands of young Air Cadets and staff members around the country, the Commandant is a key rôle model. Air Commodore Dawn McCafferty was no exception. At every event or camp that she visited, she was welcomed as a celebrity, with hundreds of cadets eager to have a photo taken with her or ask her one of their many burning questions.

878 Highworth Squadron were incredibly lucky to meet the Commandant (by chance) in London at the RAF 100 Commemorations in 2018. We turned the corner towards Horse Guards Parade and somehow managed to bump into her coming the other way. All the cadets were extraordinarily thrilled to be able to take a photo with the figurehead of the Royal Air Force Air Cadets. Since then, several of our cadets have

been able to meet Air Cdre McCafferty at camps and awards ceremonies, which reaffirms the meaning behind such a wonderful organisation and the people who make it so.

After eight years of service as the Commandant of the RAFAC, Air Cdre McCafferty has had to stand down and pass the baton onto a new leader. Air Commodore Tony Keeling will officially take over the position in September 2020. Between July and September, Interim Commandant, Group Captain John Lawlor will 'hold the fort', so to speak, and hopefully play a part in bringing the RAFAC back to face-to-face activities.

Everyone at 878 wishes Air Commodore McCafferty a peaceful and relaxing retirement and all the best for the future. Hopefully, we will see you as part of the organisation again soon Ma'am!

Cadet Sergeant Anna Talbert, 17

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

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From the Lions Den

Most of you will know by now that Lion Rosemary Jackson passed to Higher Service in July.

Rosemary will be very sadly missed by all who knew her. She was well-known and well-liked throughout the Town and in the Lion's family. Rosemary joined the Highworth and District Lions Club in 2005 after being a Member of Slough Lions for many years. During her time with us she was President and Zone Chairperson as well as being involved in many projects. She leaves a husband, Keith, and family in many parts of the country who have our sincere condolences.

Unfortunately, we had to close the Lions Charity Shop in Newburgh Place in March until further notice and also to cancel the outing for the elderly in September, although we have continued to make donations to good causes as usual. We will be distributing vouchers to the elderly before Christmas and, subject to the ongoing COVID-19 restrictions, we may be helping Father Christmas in December. Watch this space (and Social Media).

Donations for March: Visit Highworth Ltd £250, Prospect Hospice £50 (in memorium), Dressability £100, Lions Club International 'Sight First' £250, Hope for Children £100, Rivitalise Disability £100 and Warneford School Study Support £620.

Donations for April: Visit Highworth Ltd £250, Swindon Food Bank £1,000, Swindon Woman's Aid £500, Shield Wilts PPE assembly £220.

Donations for May: Visit Highworth Ltd £250, Helen and Douglas House Children's Hospice £500, Jessie May Children's Hospice £500, Friends of ROSHNI UK £500.

Donations for June: Visit Highworth Ltd £250, Julia's House Children's Hospice £500, PTSD Resolution £300, New Life Charity for Disabled Children £100, NSPCC Swindon Branch £500.

Donations for July: Visit Highworth Ltd £250, Highworth Mayor's Charity £100, Highworth Town Ladies Football Team £648.

Rodney Davis,
Highworth and District Lions Club

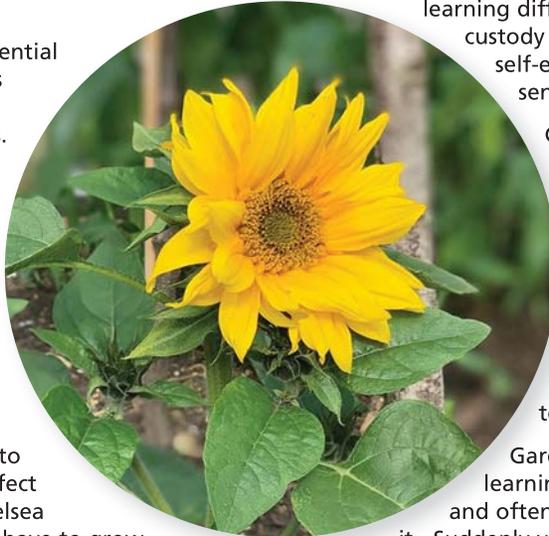
About Gardening

For some, the COVID-19 lockdown meant that they had more time on their hands, time to look around their homes and appreciate what they had, time to reflect on social ties, to think of friends and family and how to connect with them when they were remote, and more time for other things.

For a significant, and essential minority, the coronavirus pandemic meant long, tiring and stressful hours. A lot of people turned to gardening as therapy, as a way of creating a home space to relax in and as a means of providing fresh food for the household when provisions run short in the shops.

Gardening doesn't have to be about having the perfect manicured lawn or a Chelsea Show-garden. You don't have to grow prize marrows or the perfect peony. You don't have to rattle off the long latin names and know the entire family tree (sorry!) for every flower, shrub or fruit in your garden. It's about the satisfaction and happiness you get from deciding on what you want to grow, why and where, then choosing, sowing, planting and feeding your plants (maybe even talking to them and playing them music too) to see them grow. If you do have a garden, watching the gradual change in it over time can be fun; you can take pictures at a set time each day/week/month to see how much it actually changes. You'd be surprised!

Plants are non-judgmental. You can nurture your garden, or your pot of herbs, care for it, watch it grow and change and before you know it, it's lived (or died) by your hand.



Gardening is scientifically proven to provide mental and physical health benefits (although anyone who gardens already probably knows this). Whether it's helping ex-service people with PTSD, your Mum or Grandad with dementia, people with depression or anxiety or learning difficulties, or those in custody or remand, it can provide self-esteem, inner calm and a sense of purpose.

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Inside a Highworth beehive

When you see a bee in your garden what do you do? Run away in panic? Dismiss it as just another insect?



You might be surprised to know that she is in fact part of a very sophisticated community as well as a very hard worker.

I must admit, I had no idea the life of a honey bee hive was so organised and was surprised to learn that there can be about 60,000 bees in a healthy hive, and although most of them are female worker bees there are in fact three castes which are queen, worker and drone.

The queen bee is the heart and soul of the hive. She is the largest bee in the colony and the reason for just about everything the rest of the colony does. She is the only bee without which the rest of the colony cannot survive. She has two main jobs in the hive: one is to produce chemical scents that regulate the unity of the colony and the second is to lay lots and lots of eggs. She is essentially an egg laying machine; more than 1,500 a day at 30 second intervals. Although a queen can live for two or more years, some beekeepers change her after a couple of seasons to ensure productivity.

The worker bees are all female and make up the majority of the bees in the hive. During the active season they only live for six weeks or so but may go on for four to eight months in the less active winter season. It may be a short time but they certainly pack a lot into their short lives. They work as a team and during the busy season they literally work themselves to death. The moment she is born her chores begin. Initially she will work within the hive and the first three days are spent on housekeeping. She will clean out the cell from which she emerged so it is ready to be used again.

Days 3 to 16 are taken up with undertaking duties. The honey bee hive is one of the cleanest and most sterile environments found in nature and so our bee will remove any dead bees or diseased brood before

it becomes a health risk.

Days 4 to 12 are spent in the nursery tending to her baby sisters by feeding and caring for the developing larvae. On average, she will check a single larva 1300 times a day.

Days 7 to 12 are when some of the workers take their turn looking after the queen.

Days 12 to 18 are spent taking the nectar from returning field bees and placing it into the cells on the honeycomb. They also take turns in lining up on one side of the hive entrance and fan their wings to draw air into the hive, controlling the temperature and humidity within.

Days 12 to 35. Once a worker is about 12 days old they are mature enough to produce beeswax. This is used in the building of new wax comb and in the capping of ripened honey and cells which contain developing pupae.

Days 18 to 21. The last task before she ventures out in the field is that of guarding the hive. She now has fully developed sting glands which contain an impressive amount of venom. With her fellow guards she will sit by the entrance and check every bee that arrives for a familiar scent.

Days 22 to 42. The final days of her life will be spent outside, visiting up to 5 million flowers for each pint of honey produced and travelling up to two to three miles from the hive. A busy bee indeed!

The drones are the only male bees in the colony and make up a relatively small percentage of the population. At first glance they do not seem to contribute much to the hive. They don't build comb, they don't forage for food from flowers, nor do they have a stinger to defend the hive. They are simply there to mate with a new virgin queen if required. Now that might sound like an idyllic life for the drones but it comes with a heavy price. The problem is that their sexual organ is barbed, and after mating, the drone's most personal parts and a large part of its internal anatomy is torn away and it falls to its death.

But it does not end there. Once the weather gets cooler and the mating season is over the workers will not tolerate having these now useless drones around. They literally toss the drones out of the door where they are left to die.

Who would want to be a drone?

Paul Newton Smith

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Westrop Surgery Update

Last month I wrote about the changes made to clinics in response to COVID-19. This month I wanted to talk about some of the new software that we have introduced and how it will further enhance how healthcare is delivered at Westrop.

Chronic disease reviews were one of the big challenges during lockdown. While the surgery and staff were working as normal, we were unable to bring patients in for blood tests or face-to-face reviews for their chronic conditions (such as Asthma and Diabetes). Thankfully, phlebotomy is now up and running and the subsequent reviews are taking place remotely or in person where needed. To aid this, we are excited to be phasing in Medlink for certain conditions. When used, a link will be texted to your smartphone which will allow you to complete an online review about your medical problem. In the case of Asthma this would ask about your level of control, demonstrate inhaler technique and help us to gather useful information such as smoking history. Following the online submission of your form, all data is reviewed by a nurse. Based on the responses to the questions and the preference of the patient, appropriate follow up can be organised.

We are hoping that using this software will bring a number of benefits. One is to make the nurse reviews more efficient and targeted, as they will already have the Medlink summary to guide them towards the main issues. Also, uptake of invitations to traditional reviews can be limited, sometimes because the patient is busy and unable to attend, and sometimes because the individual feels they are coping ok with their condition. Hopefully, the ease of use and accessibility of a virtual review will help us reach out to more of our patients and identify problems that would otherwise have gone undetected. Where used already, Medlink has received excellent feedback, with 92% of patients

recommending it.

The other piece of technology that we have been using for some time now is accuRx, and some of you may already have had interactions with this. This allows us to do video consultations, but also for patients to upload photos direct to their medical records; something that can be really invaluable with rashes and the like. The doctor can then text or phone the patient back with advice. The text service can also be used to forward links to patient information leaflets, Med3's (sick notes) and a host of other useful information. Hopefully, all of this means increased efficiency and accessibility for patients, as well as safety in the context of Covid-19. All the GPs are now using this technology multiple times during a surgery, avoiding the need for patients to travel down to the surgery whilst not compromising on patient care.

We have also introduced new software to make it easier to contact us. It's still possible to phone the surgery in the same way you always could, but there is now an online contact service available through our website. If you have a non-urgent medical problem, an admin query (for example a request for a fit note or a question regarding a test result), or you want access advice on a particular condition, this can now all be done online, avoiding the need to phone within specific hours.

As I write this, I anticipate that while some see the above as an exciting and positive change, some will not share my enthusiasm for these new opportunities. Well, if that's you, fear not! None of this is designed to replace a traditional model of general practice and how you interact with the surgery, it is purely there to enhance the service we offer and improve accessibility should you want to use it.

Dr Stacey



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Elm Tree Surgery, Shrivenham – Flu Vaccinations Update

There has already been a lot of publicity about flu vaccines for this autumn. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic more people than ever will be eligible and want to be vaccinated, which we would clearly encourage. Because of the greatly increased numbers and the necessity to maintain social distancing, the planning is more complicated than in previous years.

We hope to hold several flu vaccination clinics in Shrivenham Memorial Hall and patients will be invited to attend a specific session depending on their age and clinical needs. We will be initially concentrating on the most vulnerable (especially those patients who were shielding and their households), then the over 65s and those between 18-64 who have specific underlying medical conditions, followed by children aged

2-3 and those children between 12-17 with specific underlying medical conditions. Children aged 4-11 will be vaccinated under the school's vaccination programme and finally those aged 50-64 (expected to be November/December). Full details will be published towards the end of August/early September once our plans have been finalised, so please do not make any requests about flu vaccinations until then.

One of the results of the Covid pandemic is that general practice, like many other parts of society, has had to change rapidly and we have quickly adjusted to the digital age. Information will no longer be by posters and leaflets in the surgery but by texts and social media – our website, our Facebook page and the NHS websites.

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Sport *Compiled by Jason Daniels*

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



Highworth Walking Football Club

The town's walking footballers were delighted to read the Wiltshire County's Walking Football Association's press release issued in July. After lengthy discussions with the county's walking football clubs and the support of the Wiltshire Football Association, the prospect of holding a County Walking Football League has now become a reality.



Teams from one end of the county to the other, including Amesbury, Calne, Chippenham, Corsham, Devizes, Melksham, Salisbury, Swindon, Trowbridge and, of course, Highworth have come together to form the league which will comprise both Over-50's and Over 60's divisions. Matches will adopt the small-sided, six-a-side format with each game lasting around 15-20 minutes allowing multiple games to be played at each meeting. League Chairman, Terry McCosh commented, "This League has been a long time in the making and will at last allow all teams to play competitive football within our own county and against our fellow Wiltshire clubs. The walking football scene in Wiltshire has been progressing steadily for several years but until now we have had to travel to Gloucester and Berkshire in order to play competitive league football. The Wiltshire FA must be congratulated for giving us the freedom to define a structure specific to our form of the game". It is intended that League fixtures will be played at the Wiltshire FA's new state-of-the-art headquarters recently opened in Devizes.

We know from experience that having a healthy competition base has helped to encourage more players back into the game. The recreational sessions played at venues throughout the county are a brilliant way to maintain fitness and enjoy a simple game with like-minded individuals. We anticipate that bringing attention to this League

will entice many new players to come forward to enjoy these social sessions as well as wanting to play competitively.

Kevin Turner. M: 07748 366 979
E: www.wcfawfl@gmail.com

Highworth Running Club

As has been the case for everyone this year, the Highworth Running Club have had an unprecedented 2020. For well over three decades we've hosted at least one running event for people to come and enjoy and this year our 5 Mile event was scheduled to take place less than four weeks after Boris announced a UK-wide lockdown. For the first time in the club's history, we had to cancel our springtime race. In 2001 we came close due to the emerging foot-and-mouth outbreak and got lucky with the timings; this year not so much so.

Given the uncertain times ahead the club have taken the very tough decision to refrain from hosting any races this year; the Wickstead



A Year Without Races

Wander normally held in November included. Following the guidelines of England Athletics we also had to postpone all club training sessions and do our best to fit our training in privately, locally and, if we could, within the suggested hour. Thankfully technology allowed us to stay connected and living room fitness sessions were conducted by our amazingly forward-thinking coaches over video conferencing applications before being allowed to begin our phased return in July with strict adherence to numbers and traceability.

Whilst at time of writing restrictions remain imposed and of course followed, the relief has been evident amongst those runners able to conform and the entire club look forward to the



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day that we can all meet up as we used to. Currently, the club are planning to host its next race in April 2021 so please do keep an eye on the website for details.

Jason Daniels

W: www.highworthrunningclub.co.uk

Swindon Croquet Club

Swindon Croquet Club has ambitious expansion plans as part of Swindon Borough Council's development of the Moredon Sports and Wellbeing Hub.

The Club currently has three full-size lawns and is aiming to create three further full-size lawns in order to meet demand for the sport's growing popularity with aspirations to host regional, national and international tournaments. SCC already supports local community groups, providing adapted equipment to accommodate wheelchair users and partially sighted participants on lawns immaculately maintained by our club members that avoid the need for external assistance. The Club has requested allocation of £250,000 from Swindon Borough Council's project budget of £3.5M in order to bring its ambitious plans to fruition.

Beverly Briggs

W: www.swindoncroquetclub.org.uk

Highworth Town Football Club

After last kicking a competitive ball on 7th March away to Portsmouth's Moneyfields FC, the Highworth Town Football Club re-opened the club's doors on 4th July, albeit for members only and with strict social distancing protocols in place.

Training has resumed, players signed and friendly fixtures arranged although currently these will be behind closed doors. As yet, there is no date for resumption of league games although dates for early rounds of the FA Cup have been announced. We will continue to keep our website up to date with fixture news and, of



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course, memberships remain available for those interested in access to the club's 'App' giving you access to private forums, team videos and photographs as well as having news sent directly to your inbox.

Derek Lloyd W: www.highworthtownfc.com

Wrag Barn Golf Club

Wrag Barn Golf Club held their Men's Championship over the weekend of 18th and 19th July. The event was sponsored by Fish Brothers Toyota who displayed a selection of the latest Toyota models on the day.

This event is the most prestigious and most popular event in the golfing year. With over 130 participants making this the largest field ever for this competition, the excitement and nervous anticipation was palpable. Marshals ensured the players started on time, looked out for the odd stray ball and ensured the pace of play was maintained as much as possible. The top 20 Gross players and top 20 Net players from the Saturday then qualified to go through to round two held



Ace Andres

on the Sunday. Despite a fairly heavy downpour overnight on Saturday the weather held up for the Sunday and the best golfers enjoyed wall-to-wall sunshine with a light breeze.

Some spectacular scores were recorded but the very calm, cool and collected Andres Gomez Williams was once again victorious with the most amazing 2 round score of 143 gross. Well done Andres; a very worthy winner!

Tracey Lee W: www.wragbarn.com

A Sporting Return to Normal?

The prospect of normality beckons and whilst some elite sports have found ways to finish the unfinished or eventually start the delayed, it is not without its differences. Stadiums now absent of crowds provide eerie silent ghost towns where cauldrons of noise once lifted rafters and spirits.

The communication between footballers, normally drowned out can now be heard and regularly prompts an apology from commentating duos and smiles from those watching the once unique spectacle at home on TVs. But whilst the world has pressed 'play' for the highest tiers of sport, the finger continues to hover nervously over the pause button as we all wait to see if we have been premature.

The initial thirst sports fans have endured has, for now been quenched. Could we be the castaway deliriously guzzling on salty water or have we found a freshwater spring that will regenerate sport to its full vitality? Only time of course will tell but I know which one I'm hoping for!

Jason Daniels



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Make a list of those niggles that have driven you mad over lockdown. Then give us a call for a free survey, trash the list and put your feet up!



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Arts Section *Compiled by Iain Barnwell*



Contact: HighworthLinkArts@gmail.com

For the Love of Scrubs

For one Highworth resident, furlough gave her the time to dust off her sewing machine and turn her hand at making scrubs for the Great Western Hospital and other locations.

"I cannot sit and be idle," Wendy Smith said. "And I felt guilty being paid to sit at home and do nothing. So as soon as the National Trust furloughed me, I began to look around for something to get involved in. I spotted a call on Facebook from a group called 'For the Love of Scrubs' who were asking for sewers to step up and knew that this was something I could contribute to.

"I started sewing when I was 9. My mum would sew without a pattern, but I've never mastered that skill. My Dad would cut out the pattern for me and lay it out. I made my own wedding dress and when my children were younger I would sew clothes for them. But with clothes so cheap now it must be at least a decade since I last used my sewing machine!

"I began with small projects like making headbands and bags for the scrubs to go in ready for washing, then moved on to masks and finally full scrubs. I used spare duvet covers that I didn't need for my first sewing attempts. There are a few fiddly bits such as pockets and the V neck, but there is a simpler pattern

available that is easier for complete beginners. The patterns are all available to download for free at <https://www.thepatternpages.com/blog/>



[for-the-love-of-scrubs/](#). It takes me two to three hours to make a top and two hours for trousers.

"Once I used up all my material I took the scrubs to one of the Swindon co-ordinators' houses. She has a bin outside for finished items and another full of donated material for you to collect for your next project. A lot of this material is children's duvets which makes for some interesting scrubs. Last time I went I got a whole bolt of material. The fabric must be polycotton. I always wash the material first to preshrink it and make sure that it won't disintegrate at high temperatures.

"The co-ordinators give us sewers' feedback on which sizes are most in need and they took the finished items to where they were needed. During lockdown they all went to the hospitals. When cases there started to fall the scrubs started to go instead to the GP and dentist surgeries.

"My family have got involved too; my granddaughter has been sewing masks since her school closed. We have also sent the patterns to Nepal so people there can make scrubs, bags and masks and excess scrubs have been sent to Africa.



"My advice to anyone wanting to sew is to just try it. You don't need a fancy sewing machine. Pick something simple, go for it and don't get upset

if it goes wrong. Sewing gets easier with practice".

Featured Artist: Christine Middleton



What made you start painting?

Christine believes she started painting, and drawing, when she was very young because she felt it came naturally to her and because she had an older cousin who encouraged her who enjoyed the hobby as well.

How long have you been painting?

Christine says she still has "a few crude colourings" from her childhood that her mum kept for her, so she believes she has been an amateur artist for about 70 years.

For about 20 years, Christine has been a member of Highworth and Lechlade Art Societies and regularly attends the Tuesday art group in the council offices. She likes that the group is full of both "friendly and excellent artists" and that they all have "great fun painting and laughing together".

Do you have a particular style or technique?

Christine remembers that, in the '70s, there was a "craze of google eyed girls". She painted some of these for her interested relatives. With limited money, she would draw and paint to give away as presents.

She expanded into using acrylics, painting birds and other animals, "a new craze" she says, back in the '70s and '80s, whilst she was raising her two children.

Her work was admired by friends and neighbours who asked her to paint them something. She says that it "was great as it provided a small

income whilst I was not working".

As the demand for her paintings grew, she recounts being "asked to paint a prize racing pigeon!".

Despite being daunted by this, she claims she "really enjoyed capturing the amazing array of colours!" and that "he was a beauty!". She remembers initially buying a faux fur coat with her income from painting.

She was thrilled to be accepted into the Society of Floral Painters (an international society) after having applied and travelled to Derbyshire for them to judge some of her work. The trip helped inspire her to adopt her botanical style and led her to visiting various botanical gardens.

She regrets to say that the Society of Floral Painters has ceased to exist.



She began working part-time and that was when she and a friend decided to attend an art class. This class was run by Patrick Bown who "introduced me to, and showed me how to use, watercolours"; the most difficult medium to master. She has happily overcome this and believes it is now her favourite medium.

What subjects do you enjoy and what inspires you?

Christine enjoys "intricate and detailed painting", flora and fauna. She is often inspired by her garden and by all of the flowers and wildlife.

She finds it very fulfilling being in the Wiltshire countryside during her frequent walks with her husband and it encourages her to put brush to paper.

What do you get out of it?

Christine says that she "finds painting very



soothing and relaxing” and that it has helped her get through this challenging time. She gets “a real thrill” when her paintings are admired by people and more so if they buy one.

She is particularly proud that Lord Faringdon (of Buscot House & Gardens), Rory Bremner, and Pam Ayres have all bought some of her work.

What have you got planned for the future?

Christine admires loose painters and “keeps giving it a bash”, but claims her fingers “hover over the #1 size brush just longing to add lots of detail”.

In the future she says that she “will try and try again to slap the paint on” and possibly “become a loose woman”

For anyone interested in Christine’s work, visit highworthartistsociety.com/christine-middleton

If you’d like to nominate someone for Featured Artist, please contact me at HighworthLinkArts@gmail.com

Iain Barnwell

JTP Singers adjust to the lockdown

During the COVID-19 crisis, the Janice Thompson Performance Trust has continued to support our young singers by offering singing lessons online over Zoom every Tuesday from 5.30pm onwards.



Each week our Team Teachers, Jessie Thompson, Flora Wilkins, Andrea Lockwood, Alicia Rendle and Shelley Morgan have been inspiring small groups from the youngest 3-year olds to our Advanced 17-year olds. The teachers are ably assisted by A-Level student Katie Terrett and classical singer Matilda Wale, whose studies at Birmingham Conservatoire have been interrupted by the lockdown.

Online projects, including a video presentation of ‘Over the Rainbow’ and ‘Somewhere’ by members of the Concert Choir, have been released on Facebook (jtptrust singing) for all to

enjoy. ‘Over the Rainbow’ received almost 1000 views.

In the face of the uncertainty surrounding singing and coronavirus our classes are continuing online in September.

“We have been

determined that Covid-19 will not interrupt the young singers’ vocal enjoyment and development” said JTPTrust Director Janice Thompson. “We have simply moved our exam preparation and performances online!”

If any singer would like to join us online please get in touch with Janice V Thompson at the JTP Trust on info@jtptrust.org.

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Warneford recreated masterpeices

Warneford students have excelled themselves once again with their latest art challenge. Years 7 & 8 were asked to choose their favourite piece of work and recreate it using items found in their home.

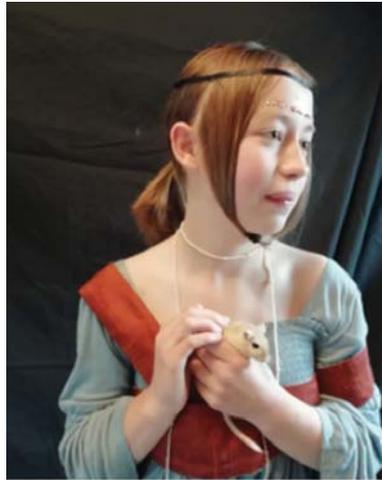
The original challenge was dreamt up by a Dutch Instagrammer called Tussen Kunst & Quarantaine (which translates as 'between art and quarantine') who wanted to unite art



Abigail Yr 7

lovers through creativity during a period of isolation. The challenge was quickly picked up by famous museums such as the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam and the Getty Museum in Los Angeles and social media has been awash with these recreations ever since.

You can view all of the student's recreations at <https://bit.ly/32XCHit>.



Otty Fasham Yr 7



Sally Yr 8

Joe Turner Yr 7



Harry Tucker Yr 8



Paris Ashford Yr 8



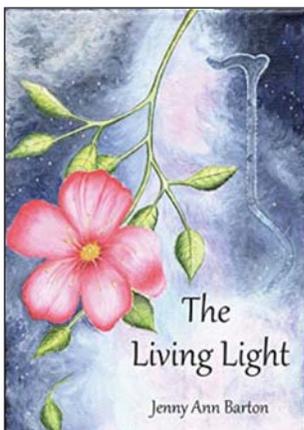
'The Living Light' by Jenny Barton

The Living Light is an exploration of the faith that has shaped the life of one individual. It is a visual and spiritual feast that one can dip into and out of to find comfort, hope and enlightenment. Each page radiates love, combining Jenny's experiences and insights with one of her delicate paintings and passages from the Bible.

A recurring theme throughout the book is the symbol of a staff. As a child, Jenny attended a Catholic School where Church was part of everyday life. Even from a very young age, Jenny had a strong faith and she would sit on her doorstep and talk to Jesus. When she was only 7 years old, she prayed to Jesus to "show her a sign, not for proof, but just to feel closer to him". Looking up at the sky, she spied a symbol to her left which drifted across her vision before fading. Jenny thanked the Lord for the sign and pleaded that he never take it away from her. He never has. Jenny still continues to see this symbol of a staff and derives much reassurance that Jesus has remained constantly by her side.

"This book was been a labour of love," Jenny told me. "The book itself was easy to write. One day I suddenly felt this need inside me and just had to create it. The words and paintings just flowed seamlessly, one from the other. But getting it published was hard. I found an online list of Christian Book publishers and picked one who was based in America called 'Lighthouse Book Publishing'. I had to pay upfront to get the

book published but they wanted me to do everything; I had to scan in all the images, etc. When the first book returned it looked awful; there was a white border around the cover image and a black line down the side. The pictures inside were small and blurry and the text that accompanied the pictures was on a different page. But I was determined and although the distance didn't help, I worked hard and eventually got the book I had envisioned".



"Whilst writing this book I have felt that my faith has grown. It has allowed me to say thankyou to God for all the things that have been given to me. It's also a way for me to share my faith and connect with others. My hope is that everyone who reads this book will find comfort, support and peace, especially during those

troubled times we all have in our lives".

The book costs £15.49, with all proceeds going to the charities 'Network for Animals' which tackles global animal abuse and 'Appeal for Syria' which provides humanitarian aid to children and families affected by war and coronavirus.

Copies can be ordered from Amazon at <https://amzn.to/3gjB3vD> or direct from the publishers at <https://bit.ly/3fqySVJ> or it can be purchased from the Lighthouse Bookshop.

Jenny is now busy writing and illustrating a children's story which she hopes to complete and publish in the next couple of years.

Highworth Library Update

Highworth Library is currently open for Click, Call and Collect, reservations and returns only. Books can be ordered online at <https://bit.ly/30IMJct> or by calling 01793 463500. You will need your library card and PIN. Staff can also pick out books for you if you don't know what to read or you can book a 15 minute browsing session. You will be called once your books are ready to collect and others can collect the books if you are shielding. Previous books can be returned during collection. The Library has a one in one out system and

masks should be worn. Books will be issued for six weeks. There is no access to toilets, computers and other facilities within the building.

Computers can now be booked for use, but there is no printing or scanning available at this time. Slots are limited to 45 minutes, starting on the hour. Call Highworth Library on 01793 463500 to book.

Our new opening times are: Monday 10am-2pm, Tuesday 1pm-5pm, Thursday 10am-2pm



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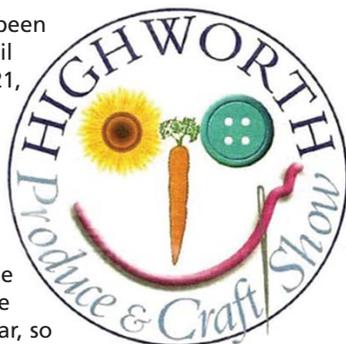
Highworth Community Clean-up

Help clean up our neighbourhood by joining us on **Saturday 12th September** at 3pm outside the Council Community Room on Gilbert Lane or Northview Community Centre.

We will provide bin bags and litter pickers. Families are welcome and encouraged to join in.

Highworth Produce & Craft Show

The show has been postponed until September 2021, giving you an extra year to craft, paint, photo, brew and bake. Next year's schedule will be the same as the one for this year, so you can check on our website:



<http://www.highworthproduceshow.com> or
Facebook @highworthproduceshow

for all the details. I hope to see our regulars and 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.

Highworth & District Floral Art Society

September's Flower festival has been postponed until 2021. 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.



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Highworth Flowers & CAP

This summer our wonderful local flower shop owner Justine (Highworth Flowers) teamed up with keen local gardener Bernard Walker to raise money for CAP.

Our Highworth Christians Against Poverty (CAP) centre offers free professional debt advice, lifeskills and money management courses to anyone in our community. In the six years since we have opened we have seen over 50 families go debt free. Many have attended our Lifeskills courses making new friends, learning how to live well on a low income and feeling part of the community along the way.

Bernard moved to Highworth 18 months ago and straight away started creating a beautiful garden. He loves growing plants and also loves supporting those in need. Justine suggested she would be happy to sell some of his plants for a good local cause.

Bernard says, "I think CAP are a fantastic charity. Growing plants is my hobby and my passion. I already grow plants for another charity and I felt this was an opportunity I could also take to help



provide financial support for CAP in a way I also enjoy!"

CAP are a national charity on a mission to release thousands of families from grinding poverty through award-winning debt counselling and community groups.

If you are struggling with unmanageable debt please don't stay alone. Call 0800 328 0006 and ask for a free appointment. Or get in touch with Kathryn on 07885 579876 for an informal chat.

Kathryn Ford

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Big Sunday – Church for us all



Highworth Church Members singing the Blessing

The leaders of the four Highworth Churches lead a joint service as part of a special Big Sunday, which was live-streamed from St Michael's Church on Sunday 12th July.

The Big Sunday was one event this year that did take place. Matt Ford (Community Church) welcomed the viewers and opened the service by saying that the Church, ever since its inception, has always been about people. Rev Geoff Sowden (Anglican Church) offered this service as a gift to the community and led a prayer acknowledging the struggles and losses, the unknown future, the partings from loved ones, and the loss of control, holidays, hugs, exams and normal life we have all had to deal with. Rev Rachael Wilson (Methodist Church) spoke about the many events and work Highworth Churches together undertake, prayed for educators to always have the strength and wisdom to do their best for their students and encouraged us all to be lifelong learners. Rev Robert Jordan (United Reformed Church) prayed for believers and non-believers to come together to build a better society where we are all more loving and caring towards each other and thanked all those who had shared their

time and resources during lockdown.

The service was a real combination of community with faith. A variety of Highworthians spoke about their own personal experiences of loss during lockdown and their hopes for the future. The Highworth schools thanked businesses for their donations to key workers' children, parents and carers for taking on the rôle of educator, teachers for their dedication and commitment and the wider community for all their support during this most difficult of times. Different church members read out the poem 'Ours is a Town on the Top of a Hill' and Kathryn Ford encouraged everyone to take part in the 'Round the World Challenge' to raise much-needed funds for CAP.

It was a heartfelt and moving community service, which ended with the evangelist speaker Gavin Calver giving Jesus to the people that they may find hope through his sacrifice and an end to the brokenness we all find ourselves in.

The Big Church Service was watched live by over 250 people and has been viewed 958 times on Youtube. You can watch it here: <https://bit.ly/2C1lIGi>

Highworth Churches Information

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

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

Services in St Michael's:

Sunday 6th September: 9am Holy Communion (CW) Service

Wednesday 16th September: 11am Midweek Church Holy Communion Service with coffee

In accordance with current Government guidelines face coverings must be worn in Church. Hygiene and social distancing guidelines must be adhered to.

Virtual Church services:

St Michael's Church

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

Roman Catholic Church

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

Highworth Methodist Church

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

Midweek service on Zoom takes place on Tuesdays at 7.30pm. It lasts about 45 minutes and it is an opportunity to worship God and also have a little chat with your Church Friends. Please email hmbulletin@gmail.com or call Peter T: 01793 764385 to get the log in details.

United Reform Church

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

Highworth Community Church

We are publishing daily encouragement on our HCC YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCG1MXSAzh uV0aWk3tYEzUw>

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

You can also access the Hope for Highworth YouTube channel at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpu76C97aC mAue_8hfqCXOg

Highworth Church contacts

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

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

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

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

Community Church Leader: Matt Ford T: 07712 521046



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Ours is a Town on the Top of a Hill

by Jon Hares

Ours is a town on the top of a hill,
with a market since King John and a High Street still.
Ours is a town in the heart of green fields,
Full of spy stories, Queen Anne Architecture
and church bells
that have pealed for centuries.
Ours were streets where children played happily,
schools buzzed with activity.
Families gathered for tea, Sunday lunch,
automatically.

Then the Lockdown came. And life went on hold.
Students returned to the family fold.
Traders walked out of the market.
Customers left the shops.
No traffic on the roads,
Everything stopped.

The 2-metre rule taped on pavements for all to see,
The ironic colours of the busy bee,
We'd never dreamed of mutual aid groups
back in January.
Or of needing the foodbank just to get through
to next week.
We'd never heard of shielding, social distancing,
or self-isolation.
37.8 became the number of the nation.

Our families changed.
We'd never thought through losing Grandma,
or Mum.
Of saying goodbye through a screen on our phone.
We held Zoom birthdays just to help our kids see,
That they still have friends and family.
They belong in a community.

Four hour round grocery trips.
Santiser pumped at every door.
Masks, gloves and queuing like never before.
Thursday bell ringing, replaced by the 8 o'clock clap
Daily briefings, recording the grim toll on
our news apps.
All weddings off. Sports and holidays cancelled.
And babies born in May that may not legally exist,
still.

We questioned a lot. Began a soul-search.
We Googled "prayer", went to online church.
Joined in virtual play groups, committees and clubs.
We couldn't watch football and they closed
all the pubs.
We stopped shaking hands and we
couldn't have hugs.

Anxiety crashes like a wave over the bow.
As they ease the lockdown what can we do now?
Economists forecast great financial hardship.
Mental health the dark figure that stalks the
statistics.

So, how much of this time was just a phase,
temporary?
How much will it sculpt our lives,
change our society?
For we have lost love ones, been unable to
grieve normally.
Businesses have closed and some stare
at redundancy.

Some face tough choices about childcare or debts.
Some are full of heartache, pain and with
many regrets.
Some are working with pressures that feel
too great to bear
Some are lonely and isolated, thinking
nobody cares.

I draw my inspiration from a man on a cross.
Who knows our pain, our suffering and loss.
A servant who paid the ultimate cost,
Prepared to wash feet, clean our dirt off of us.
To embrace our struggles, to know our weaknesses,
To be kind with our faults and hear our
deepest wishes.

A friend who will walk into the future with you.
Whatever you face, never abandoning you.
He will pick up the pieces of your broken dreams
He will walk with you through sorrow, he will
cast out all your fears.

He is faithful and kind, he is loving and just.
There is no one more worthy of your deepest trust.
So start that conversation.
For there's hope on your knees.
Don't hold back from crying out.
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- Aug 24 Frank Dean – remembering you every day and especially today on what would have been your 90th birthday. Love and miss you so much. Jean, Beverley, Sharon and families xxx
- Aug 29 Alan Sharps – missing you especially on your 84th birthday. It's only been one year. We love you now and always. Love June and Bev
- Aug 31 In loving memory of Alan Sharps. One year ago. Missing you now and always. Love June and Bev
- Sept 7-13 Diamond wedding – Julia and Alan Bishop. Their anniversary on Sept 10th 2020
- Sept 19 Joyce Ryder – remembering a dearly loved Mum and Nan. Forever in our hearts and thoughts. Love from Janice and Pas, Louisa and Chris, Pep and Amy xxxxx

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

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



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How to make a lasting memorial

Franklin Memorials is a proud and independent memorial masonry business in Highworth. Started in 2017 as a joint venture with Geoff Evans (past owner of G&L Evans Funeral Services, Westrop, before his retirement from the business), Paul Franklin was kind enough to show me round his workshop and explain the process of memorial making. Here is what Paul had to say:

"The first thing is for the client to select a type of stone for the memorial and I have a case full of stone samples to choose from but it is also important to check the graveyard and churchyard rules and regulations with regards to the type of stone and size of memorial allowed in each. There are four Dioceses in the local area, each with their own set of rules.

"Council run cemeteries are less strict but there are still limitations on the size of memorial and type of material allowed.

"Once clients have selected the stone, they can then choose the shape of the headstone or cremation tablet. These come ready made for engraving. If I'm adding an inscription onto an existing memorial then I will take a rubbing of the original font. I measure every letter and space and create a design proposal on the computer. I add the new inscription details onto this design proposal and then send it to the client for them to approve. Clients may want a few changes made. I

do not mind this at all because after all, the end result is a lasting tribute to a loved one and the inscription has to be the best for the client.

"As soon as the memorial design proposal is approved and the permit from the cemetery or church authorities received I will then order the memorial from my suppliers and once delivered, start work on carving the inscription onto the memorial.

"Once the letters have been carved, I hand paint the letters with a hard-wearing sign writer's enamel paint. Popular colours for inscriptions include black, white, gold, silver, grey and cream although some cemeteries will allow other colours as well. I can also gold leaf the inscription if required and this is allowed.

"Each headstone and base is attached to a recommended foundation using stainless steel dowels and a long metal rod known as a ground anchor. Different ground anchors are used depending on the ground conditions within the churchyard or cemetery. I will always use the recommended dowels and foundations for fitting memorials.



"I try to fit the headstones during dry days. I have a motorised wheeled machine for transporting the gravestone for me which is very handy when I have to leave the van at the other end of the graveyard or cemetery.

"It's not a quick process. Graves do need time to settle so it's best to leave it six months to a

year before erecting a headstone. Unfortunately, a child died in 2015 after being crushed by a falling headstone so all graveyards are now required to carry out regular safety tests to identify any headstones that are dangerous. They will either lay the memorial flat on the grave space or try to contact the original owners to arrange for the memorial to be made safe by an accredited and approved memorial mason. I also get asked to repaint lettering that has started to wear away. A few years ago, I cleaned and repainted the lettering on the War Memorial at Christ Church, Old Town, Swindon. I will never leave a job until I am completely happy with it. After all, these memorials are lasting tributes to loved ones and therefore deserve to have time and care taken over them.



"I don't just engrave headstones. In the past I have also engraved stone plaques with personalised house names and numbers and even etched a granite chessboard for a customer. I can also do mirror etching, where the glass surface is lightly etched to give a 3D effect, or reverse etching, which gives a flat image but which can be painted from the reverse; this can also be from a customer's design where possible.

"I really love this job. Potential clients are always welcome to visit my workshop (by appointment) or I am happy to visit clients in their own home

or garden, whatever will make them feel more at ease. I am very proud to be one of the sponsors of the Highworth Bowls Club and I am fully BRAMM (British Register of Accredited Memorial Masons) registered and licensed. I have my BRAMM fixer license and BRAMM advanced fixer license, in January of 2019 there were only 12 memorial masons in the UK to hold this advanced qualification from BRAMM.

"During the current situation with the coronavirus pandemic I am fully kitted out with hand sanitiser, gloves and face masks, etc. and have also carried out a COVID-19 risk assessment and will also conform to the social distancing recommendations".

Franklin Memorials is located in Unit 14 on the Blackworth Industrial Estate, Highworth. Visit www.franklinmemorials.com for more information or contact Paul T: 01793 766715, M: 07887 923390, E: paul@franklinmemorials.com

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The Pamper Lounge Turns Two!

Leanne and Karen opened the doors to The Pamper Lounge on the 24th August 2018. Two years later the Salon has grown from being predominately a Hair Salon to now offering Beauty including Gel Nails, a diet plan for clients with the 1:1 Diet Business and bespoke vintage style frames for sale with jewellery soon to be included on the lead up to Christmas.

Opening the Salon was our dream come true. We found the location purely by accident when we went the wrong way. Turning the car around we



saw the TO LET sign and knew immediately this was the place for us to start our business. Our opening was incredible with over 70 locals attending and many are still clients. We were planning to hold a two-year Anniversary but of course that is now on hold due to COVID-19. Our plan is certainly by Christmas to hold a celebration event for our clients to show our gratitude and appreciation so watch this space.

Lockdown was difficult to begin with. My Father sadly passed away at the beginning of March which of course was devastating. However, the time at home gave us time to think and reflect on our business and make changes to grow further.

Physical changes in the Salon include a much improved sign outside giving a more modern and contemporary look. Inside the reception area has been updated making it much easier to keep sanitised. We removed the Sunbed in February as this really didn't represent us anymore in our passion

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for Health and Wellbeing. This space is now our new Beauty room and Karen is currently training in many more beauty treatments to offer our clients; so more exciting times ahead.

Reopening on the 4th July was simply wonderful and busy of course as you would imagine. Clients giving us virtual hugs was so lovely and just seeing them all again has been amazing. Being a small team with just the three of us, it has been pretty straightforward to follow the new guidelines set for salons to work in a safe and sanitised environment.

We are excited for our future and continue to



local after a long day for a cool G&T.

learn and develop new treatments along the way to meet our clients' needs and make women, and a few men, look and feel fabulous.

A huge heartfelt thank-you to all our clients and the local community, including local businesses, for making us feel very much at home, so much so it is very much our plan to move from North Swindon to Highworth in the near future, much easier to then pop down to the

Much Love, The Pamper Chicks.

*Find us on Facebook / Instagram:
[@thepamperloungehighworth](#)*

Fairytale Occasions Update

We reopened on the 4th July, still by appointment only to ensure our customers receive the best service and feel safe.

Lockdown was a difficult time. We couldn't move online because many of our designers have terms forbidding you from selling their dresses online. But lockdown did give us an opportunity to refresh the inside of the boutique and rearrange it to create more space. We haven't had any problems with



ordering dresses, in fact one designer can even do a super rush delivery. But we have introduced a new two-step appointment system.

Step 1 is a virtual appointment via Zoom to discuss theme, dress style, fabrics, costs, etc and **Step 2** is an instore chance to try on the dresses.

You can read more about the process at <https://bit.ly/3ie1Dqr>. It's great to be able to meet customers together face-to-face.

Nikki



Too much stuff

This is the 4th part of a series of articles about what individuals can do about climate change, comprising of ideas from readers of *Ripples Community Magazine* for Fairford and Lechlade, and *Highworth Link Magazine*. This article focuses on consuming less, reducing product/packaging waste and recycling. Future articles will deal with energy and water use and other forms of consumption.

When we buy and use products, we put pressure on our climate. So to reduce the impact of profligate consumption and waste we need to:

- consume less and only buy what we really need
- keep packaging to a minimum to reduce what we send to landfill and recycle
- make smart decisions about the things we do buy and how we deal with any waste we produce.

Actions for individuals

A lot of carbon dioxide and other related greenhouse gases are emitted when producing, packaging and transporting the products we buy and use, and then even more is put into the atmosphere when waste goes to landfill. By making small changes to our daily routines we can make a big difference to our consumption and waste and together make a difference to the footprint of the whole country.

Many consider recycling to be the No 1 objective, but as the worldwide plastic scandal unfolds, it's clear we'd do much better not to produce it in the first place.

AVOIDING consumption and waste is actually easier than you might think and we have members of our group who do remarkably well with this. Some top tips to avoid waste are:

- Plan meals for the week that will ensure all leftovers are eaten/re-used so you use everything you buy.
- Freeze any unused food instead of binning it. Even vegetables can be frozen very easily; just chop them up beforehand and put them straight in the freezer.
- Buy only what you need. The throw-away fashion culture is a major source of waste across the modern world and this goes for food too.
- Try to avoid packaging. You can do this by making packaging-free choices in the supermarket, buying from packaging-free shops like the Health Box in Lechlade (which sells foodstuffs and cleaning products that you can collect in your own containers) and Abbey Home Farm Shop in Cirencester (where you can fill your own containers with fresh milk), or buying from markets. Markets are often cheaper so check out your local market. A list of these can be found at the end of this article. While buying from markets will reduce packaging, there is no guarantee that all the food is locally sourced so to be super green, check where the food comes from before you buy.

The next best thing is to **REDUCE** the waste that has to go to landfill. You can:

- Put raw food waste in your own compost bin if possible and use it on your garden. This is not possible for everyone, but it does dramatically reduce the amount households throw away and improves soil quality. Food waste bins are also available from many Councils for free if you are not able to compost your waste.

| Actions | Examples using a daily newspaper |
|--|---|
| AVOID it (completely) | Cancel the paper – probably not acceptable |
| REDUCE it (do it less) | Get just the weekend edition |
| REPLACE it (find another way) | Subscribe and get your daily newspaper online |
| OFFSET it (find a way to absorb the CO ₂ that's emitted) | Difficult to calculate, let alone to do it |

- Pass meat waste to a dog owner and non-meat scraps to a chicken keeper.
- Have a go at making 'eco-bricks'. These are plastic bottles stuffed full of non-recyclable plastic, so densely packed that they can be used as building materials or dropped off at sites around the country. See www.ecobricks.org.
- Reuse plastic bottles, containers and bags rather than buying new ones. A plastic bottle takes hundreds of years to decompose and even then the microplastics left are terrible for the environment. Let's reduce how many are produced in the first place.
- Have a hot drink container that you wash out and use each time. Buy hot drinks only if you can use your reusable cup to get yourself into this habit.
- Pass unwanted clothes to friends, charity shops, or sell at car-boot sales.
- As a last resort, recycling. For more information on recycling policy in your area please go to the recycling pages for Swindon Borough and Cotswolds District Councils. The key thing is that paper, card, tin cans, glass, textiles and many plastics can be recycled as long as they are clean. Cotswold District Council now collects tetrapacks and batteries from kerbside, but Swindon Council does not. 'Visit Highworth' also has bins for various unusual items. As well as reducing landfill and nasty emissions, making new products from recycled materials generally uses a fraction of the energy than from raw materials.

Finally, we can **REPLACE** our normal purchases with greener options like:

- Using blocks of soap instead of handwash.
- Picking items with recyclable packaging or that are themselves made from recycled materials like toilet roll and kitchen roll over other options. Cheeky Panda and Who Gives A Crap are companies supplying these items. There are also own-brand recycled products in the supermarkets, you just have to look out for them.
- Getting milk from a milkman, for example through Milk and More, that comes in reusable glass bottles.
- Repairing clothes/other household items or buying second-hand from charity shops or online.
- Using tinfoil or greaseproof paper instead of cling film as they can be washed and reused and eventually recycled whereas cling film cannot. Alternatively, you can buy beeswax food wraps or even make your own.

- Buying locally sourced products to reduce wasted transportation. For example the Veg Hut near Watchfield or Coleshill Organics both have self-service shops on their farm sites with the added bonus of being packaging free.

Influencing decision makers

As consumers we have the power to dictate what retailers do. If, based on green principles, we refuse to buy things or change the products we choose then retailers will change with us to maintain profits. Complaining will also make change happen quicker. So make your voice heard if you have something to say about the way a retailer is offering their service.

Key points

If we all make small changes to how we manage waste in our lives, we can make a big difference.

Buy only what you need and plan ahead to avoid waste wherever possible.

You don't have to do everything to make a difference; any steps you take are positive.

If we change our habits or express our opinions on what we want as consumers, retailers will follow us.

Have a go at these

Look at what kind of things you can recycle and start separating. You will be amazed at how much of your waste can be recycled.

Order a food waste bin or buy a compost bin and avoid leftovers going to landfill unnecessarily.

Make choices at the supermarket based on reducing packaging and food miles. Show them these things matter to you.

Look out for repair cafés, currently in Cirencester, Wantage, Swindon and CHEQS Repair Café (opening soon in Quenington) where you can get help repairing household items.

Visit a market or buy local/packaging-free products in the shops. **Highworth** market runs every Saturday 8am-2pm; **Faringdon** market runs on the first Tuesday of the month 8am-1pm; **Carterton** market is every Thursday; **Fairford** market is every Wednesday morning; and **Cirencester** market is on Mondays 10am-4pm and Fridays 9am-3pm.

Thanks to Rachel Minney for researching and writing this article.

Next edition: *How avoiding meat and dairy products is a major way to reduce your environmental impact on the planet*

From our MP

Firstly, can I thank everyone who is continuing to support our local businesses, shops, pubs, restaurants and the Saturday Highworth market. These are really tough times as the economy reopens and even with the extensive Government support either directly, or through schemes such as Eat Out to Help Out, businesses need us to stay afloat and protect jobs.

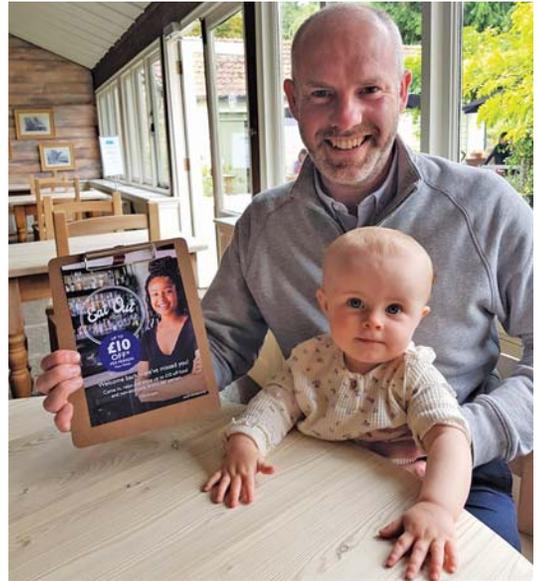
The COVID-19 lockdown saw many people with extra free time on their hands and this presented an opportunity to take up new hobbies or rediscover old ones. One such hobby, which has seen a surge of interest is cycling, with many bike shops reporting a significant rise in sales since the start of the outbreak.

Cycling has many benefits; it can improve people's health and fitness and more people using bikes than cars can really help the environment. The Government has recognised this, which is why it has been keen to take advantage of this increased enthusiasm for cycling. At the end of July, the Government set out a comprehensive long-term vision to increase cycling and walking, backed up with a £2billion investment to revolutionise cycling in the UK.

When it comes to cycling, the most important thing is safety, which is why cycling training will be available for anyone who wants it, and will be delivered through schools, local authorities and cycle training schemes. In addition to this, a consultation has been launched to look at possible changes to the Highway Code which could further increase safety for cyclists.

Plans have been published setting out higher standards for cycle infrastructure, in order to make sure that schemes are better designed around cyclists' needs and to make sure they can support a larger number of cyclists in the future. These higher standards will make clear that schemes which consist mainly of paint, which make pedestrians and cyclists share the same space, or which do not make meaningful change to the status quo on the road, will not be funded. A new inspectorate, Active Travel England, has been established to make sure these higher standards are maintained.

Among other measures announced as part of the Government's long-term vision include: empowering local authorities to crack down on



traffic offences, intensive funding of 12 new areas to become more cycle friendly, known as 'Mini Hollands' and increasing access to e-bikes by setting up a new national e-bike programme.

In Swindon we are very lucky to have a very good cycle network, which includes the Eastern, Western and Southern flyovers. These three routes were made possible thanks to a £3.75m investment from the Government. I am also keen that we continue to explore any ways to improve cycling access between Highworth and Blunsdon, either through nationally funded schemes or linked to any future development.

I am very excited by this ambitious plan from the Government and hope it will inspire even more people to get on their bikes and enjoy discovering our local areas.

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

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New Mayor for Highworth

Richard Williams has been elected Highworth's new Mayor with 8 votes for and 3 against.

Richard served as Deputy Mayor in 2013-14 and should have been appointed Mayor in 2014 but sadly lost his seat at the elections. He is well known in Highworth for co-running the sweet stall with his daughter Frankie and as the Market Manager. He has also been Highworth's Town Crier since 2012 and Chair of Trustees of the Rec since 2010. He is an active member of the Highworth Apple Juice and Cider Project and runs a pest control business in the town.



Richard Williams,
Highworth's new Mayor

"I feel it's a privilege to be the Mayor of the Town I grew up in," Richard said. "And it will be an honour to serve my community." Each new Mayor chooses a charity to fundraise for during their term. Richard has chosen to support the SN6 Wheel Sports and their bid for a skate park in Highworth.

The other appointments made during the Annual Council Meeting were:

Election of vice-chairman/deputy mayor:

Cllr J Murphy with 10 votes in favour and 1 abstention

Appointment of sub-committees and working groups:

- Neighbourhood Plan Working Party: Cllr Penny, Cllr Smith, Cllr A Bishop, Cllr Murphy Community Representative Pauline Webster
- Staffing Committee: Cllr J Bishop, Cllr Vardy, Cllr Murphy, Cllr Smith, Cllr Newton-Smith
- Policies Committee: Cllr Smith, Cllr Saunders
- Wildflower Feasibility Group: Cllr Vardy, Cllr Saunders, Cllr Williams, Cllr Evans
- Sustainable Highworth Working Party: Cllr Saunders, Cllr Williams, Cllr Newton-Smith, Cllr Gardiner
- Community Representatives: Beth Taylor, Josie McGregor, Mary Kitchener, Luke Tremblin

Appointment of representatives to organisations:

Highworth Twinning Association (HTA): Cllr R Williams

Highworth Community Partnership Group (HCPG):

Cllr N Gardiner

Highworth Action For Fair Trade (HAFFT): Cllr K Smith

HIGHWORTH TOWN COUNCILLORS

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Tel. 01793 762377 / 763511

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

BLUNSDON

**Blunsdon Village Quiz, Saturday 7th November
7.30pm**

This year the Blunsdon Village Quiz will go online via Zoom Video Conferencing. The quiz will start at 7.30pm and costs £2 per head. To enter or request further details please email kkasperczakalex@gmail.com with the following information: Team Name Number (Maximum of 6), Contact Name, Mobile Number and email address. All proceeds to St. Leonard's Church.

FARINGDON

Faringdon & District U3A

Please note that all U3A meetings are currently carried out by Zoom as a result of the coronavirus.



On **Thursday 10th September** at 2.30pm our speaker Ian Keable will talk about 'The Art of Trickery; How magicians are seen in paintings'.

This Zoom talk shows how magicians have appeared in art throughout the centuries, whether in paintings, satirical prints or cartoons. The 18th and 19th centuries saw a proliferation in engravings and lithographs showing the magicians both indoors and on the streets. Cartoonists and satirists delighted in linking politicians with skulduggery and images of them featuring the three-card trick, vanishing illusions or pulling a rabbit out of a hat. In addition, to bring the illustrations alive, Ian, a magician, will perform some of the tricks depicted which should be very interesting.

Zoom details will be sent to all members. Members could also consult the U3A website: <https://faringdondistrictu3a.com/>.

LECHLADE

Lechlade Art Society goes online world-wide

The major event of the art society's calendar is the annual exhibition. It is a way of reaching the community and celebrating



the fine work that is produced. It is also an opportunity to buy and sell work. This year the committee made the difficult decision, along with countless other groups, societies and organisations, to cancel this event but to try out something new. It is delighted to announce that there will be a presence on the Internet by way of a catalogue of work from members. This virtual exhibition will be online for the whole month of September to browse the works from your computer. You will also be able to contact the artists if you are interested in making a purchase. Try out the link on the art society web page: www.lechladeartsociety.co.uk and enjoy this year's exhibition.

COVID-19 – our memories

COVID-19 is a pandemic of historical importance to us all. It has affected livelihoods, relationships, how we look after our community, both people and the environment. It will be talked about for many years and generations to come.

In order to capture this event for historical purposes Lechlade Library asked the local photography club to display some photos in the Lechlade Library. There is also a book in the library for you to enter your thoughts on how COVID-19 has affected you in many different ways.

If you want to set down for historical viewing your thoughts, emotions how you have dealt with it, pop into the Library and write a piece in the book. We hope you will help.

Lechlade Community Library

SHRIVENHAM

Shrivenham Golf Club

The course continues to be very busy and it has been great to see so many visitors. The ladies played and won a match against the senior men's section. Everyone enjoyed the experience and a return is booked for September. Social distancing was in evidence. We have allowed our junior girls to take part in the Angela Bassett singles knockout competition this year. The results so far are: Elizabeth Peters beat Lillie Chowns and Amelia Seal beat Carole Lee. Amelia is having an amazing year as she lowered her handicap from 32 to 22 in the space of 3 weeks. A star in the making. Elizabeth has, since her victory, had to pull out due to injury. Two of our juniors, Amelia and Lillie are taking part in the Oxfordshire OLCGA championships which are being played at Badgemore golf club and we wish them every success.

For the Summer season the club has taken on some new staff both on the course and in the club house. The buildings are being refurbished led by the seniors and the ladies have been assisting as well. A new road surface has also been laid in the lane leading up to the club.

Carole, T: 01793 783853, cleefairways57@yahoo.co.uk

STANTON FITZWARREN

St Leonard's Church

Welcome to our new vicar (who is now the Priest in Charge at Stratton Team Ministry). Rev. Elveen Mead was licensed on 31st July by Zoom. She is keen to get to know as many of us as possible.

We look forward to working with her in these strange and difficult times. Due to these exceptional circumstances it is not possible to publish all service times and details in advance, so please go to www.stantonchurch.info as there will be something happening most weeks. One thing that is definitely being planned is a family service at 11am on **Sunday 13th September** with the theme of climate and creation. Let us know if you have any ideas about how you, especially the children, could contribute.

The church building can be used for private prayer or quiet contemplation by arrangement with Liz and Roger Hillman. Phone 01793 762935 to organise a time when it is safe for the building to be left open for you.

Liz Hillman



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



LOCAL CONTACTS

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

BUSES

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

COLLEGES

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

LAW & ORDER

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

COUNCILS

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

FIRE SAFETY

| | |
|------------------------|---------------|
| Home fire safety check | 0800 389 7849 |
|------------------------|---------------|

DOCTORS AND HOSPITALS

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

LIBRARY

| | |
|-------------------|--------------|
| Highworth Library | 01793 463500 |
|-------------------|--------------|

RECREATION

| | |
|---------------|--------------|
| Highworth Rec | 01793 762602 |
|---------------|--------------|

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 |
|--------|--------------|

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)*



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