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Why Me?

The other night I was 10 minutes from putting the finishing touches to a special evening meal for my wife and I when the smoke alarm beeped. Now I am far from being a technical whizz but I knew that beep meant the battery was low. I expertly removed the unit, attached a new battery and replaced it all while stirring the sauce and checking the marinated parma wrapped chicken breasts weren't burning. All was well. Then; 'beep'. The other smoke alarm, this one in the hall, strangely needed my attention as well. Slightly annoyed I jumped to and replaced that unit's battery. Sorted. A minute later however, whilst tossing the mini roasties in some sea salt; 'beep!'

'What?' My stress levels rose. I pressed the reset buttons hoping the beeping would stop but to no avail. My expertly created wonder dinner was fast degenerating so I removed both units and took out their respective batteries thinking I would sort the problem after we had eaten. Beep!

How? Where is the beep coming from? They must have a mains powered alarm. The only thing for it, my overcooked brain thought, was to disconnect the units from the mains. I rushed to the garage, grabbed the right tools, turned the power off to the units and unscrewed them from the ceiling and the mains electricity supply.

The meal was ruined but I was victorious. Beep! You have got to be kidding me. I was tired. Stressed. Angry

and at a complete loss. And then I noticed the old alarm. The one the new units replaced 6 years ago. The one I had never touched. Beep. Noooooo!

Why me? It's a phrase, a viewpoint we often encounter at silly times, like I have detailed above, and also at major life-altering circumstances. Why me? What have I done to deserve this? It's probably one of the most unhelpful questions we can ever ask. It cries for answers that are unlikely found, focuses on the negative and leaves us frustrated, discouraged and self-centered.

As we move into new freedoms and new challenges the "why me's" will keep coming. Can I encourage you to instead replace that cry with a new one? Instead of why me you can ask: "Why not me?" Solidarity with a suffering world, whilst still leaving you with your mess, recognises suffering happens to all and sets us up for better questions like "What do I do now?" "What do I need to get through this?" and "Who can help me?"

These better questions have changed my life. Through them I have discovered faith, purpose and comfort. Unfortunately, burnt meals and misdiagnosed beeps are part of living in this messy world. I pray however, that you find the courage to ask better questions and through them find the strength, support and encouragement you need to keep going, keep living and find meaning. Blessings.

Matt Ford, Church Leader HCC

Cover picture: One of the families from Highworth Pre-School pictured planting trees at Pentylands (see page 7)

LINKmagazine

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Contributions:

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

Email is preferred; otherwise deliver to The Lighthouse Bookshop.

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

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

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

Deadlines:

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

Busy Bumblebees



Bumblebee Class at Westrop Primary and Nursery School have been very busy developing their garden. Tova, Clare and the children collected stones to divide our areas; the digging patch, vegetables and wild area. We have a small pond which we are hoping to pop some frog spawn in soon. It's raised so the children can see into it safely.

The children planted vegetable seeds which have germinated and are regularly checked and

watered, nearly ready to go into the veg patch! We all scattered wild flower seeds over the wild area; fingers crossed for a flowery meadow!

We spend a lot of time outside. Come rain or shine you can find us mud painting, constructing houses with bricks, tyres and planks, water painting, creating feasts in our mud kitchen, washing our wellies, chilling behind our sensory curtain and much, much more.



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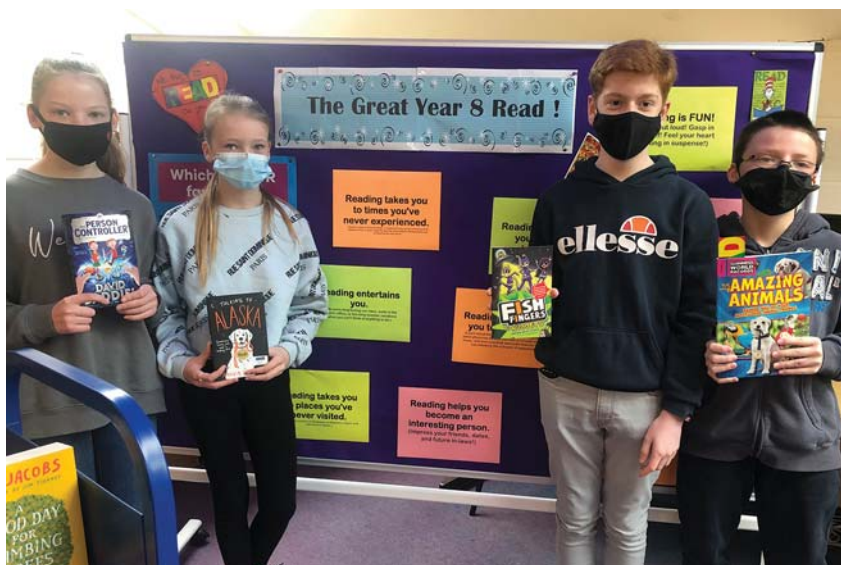
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Warneford's Great Year 8 Read! (or Gr8 Yr8 Read)

Warneford's Year 8 English teachers brought their students to the library to participate in our first ever Great Year 8 Read in the week before Easter break.

Mrs Wakeley, the teacher behind the project, explained: "We are not only promoting the many benefits of reading, but specifically reading for pleasure with family members.* Every year 8 student was given the opportunity to select a free book. There are numerous studies that reinforce the importance of reading and its academic benefits for every age group. But what is also important is the enjoyment that it brings and a chance to get lost in a story and escape to a different world".

Two of the Year 8 students commented as they



departed the library: "I'm excited to read this book. I've only read a few pages so far, but I'm intrigued!" (Florence) "Good introduction; I love the way it starts out." (Jasmine)

* The go-to source for tips on reading is Book Trust: www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/tips-and-advice/reading-tips/



From tiny oaks great oaks grow

At the end of March, Southfield Junior School were invited to take part in the Community Tree Plant at Pentylands Country Park Highworth. Ken Saunders, Project Organiser, was able to accommodate us over a two-week period and so the great tree planting expedition began.

Our school was allocated a special area in which each child was given the opportunity to choose, plant and label their own tree. This will enable the children to follow how well their tree flourishes and grows and give them a place to visit with their friends and family in the future. This activity fits brilliantly with our school motto which is 'From tiny acorns, great oaks grow!'

Ken talked to the children about the importance of this amazing project and explained that not only are trees beautiful to look at, but they are essential for life. They benefit health and the environment, boost wildlife and bring communities together. They are also the longest living species on earth and they link us with the past, present and the future. A valuable lesson for us all!

Everyone really enjoyed being a part of this project and we would like to thank the organisers for enabling our school to be part of something that will benefit the community of Highworth in the years to come.



Here are a few comments from the children.

Year 3 "It was so special because I planted an oak tree which is my name in Hebrew."

Year 4 "I enjoyed planting my tree because it will help the wildlife, give us oxygen and I will get to see it grow."

Year 5 "We loved having the chance to plant a tree that we will be able to show our parents and visit in the future."

Year 6 "The tree planting was well organised and it was fun. The people were very kind and very clear in their instructions."

Mrs Law

Thank you Highworth Lions


Everyone at Southfield School would like to thank Highworth lions for their kind donation of laptops during the most recent school closures. Having the laptops to give to some of our families enabled our children to access online learning and stay connected to their teachers and school.

Thank you!






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Thank you from Highworth Pre-School



A big 'thank you' to all our families who came out to help us plant trees at Pentylands. It was lovely to see so many of you enjoying yourselves. Together we planted 105 trees which was great. We can't wait to watch them grow and we very much hope you enjoy going back to visit your trees.

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Highworth charity urges those in debt to get urgent help as lockdown restrictions are eased

Highworth Churches Together have been running a Christians Against Poverty (CAP) debt centre for seven years. The free service is available to all people in the surrounding area.

The combination of rising unemployment, reduced hours, illness and larger bills covering the period when so many people have been at home has created a situation where many people now have unmanageable debt. As people emerge from lockdown, the uncertain economic effects may impact people hard. However, for people here in Highworth and the surrounding area, there is a solution.

Kathryn Ford, Highworth CAP Debt Centre Manager, said: "Although we've continued helping people out of debt throughout the pandemic, we know that many people have been in survival mode and it's only as we come out of lockdown that they will start to seek help. We want everyone to know that we're here to give that help completely free of charge along with localised support, understanding and encouragement".

The Debt Centre currently has appointments available so we're urging people to get in contact as soon as possible to get help and get their lives back on track.

There is a team of volunteers, some of whom have been in debt themselves and are now out the other side, able to give a helping hand with practical solutions.

CAP client, Lisa*, said:

"Without CAP I think I would probably be dead as I wouldn't have had money to buy food! Now,

I'm going to Uni! Now, I know I can afford it and I feel mentally better, I'm hoping to change people's lives the way CAP has changed mine."

If you know things are out of control and you're stressed, missing meals or sleep, please give us a call and let us help you get your life back on track. Book an appointment with CAP by calling Freephone 0800 328 0006 or visit capuk.org

* Name changed to protect the anonymity of CAP client.

Christians Against Poverty (CAP) is a UK charity determined to reduce UK poverty by delivering debt counselling, money management, job clubs, life skills groups and support for people breaking life controlling habits.

We only work through local churches (more than 580 of them!) Take a tour at capuk.org/about-us

CAP is committed to its services being available to all individuals regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.



Contacts:

Local contact: Kathryn Ford 07885 579876
kathrynford@capuk.org

Local PR team: pr@capuk.org, 01274 760801

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Pentylands Country Park Community Tree Planting

Back in September 2020, when the Friends of Pentylands Country Park were asked by the Great Western Community Forest to participate in a nationwide initiative to plant trees, it all seemed so simple.

We just had to arrange a day for the community to help plant 5000 trees in the park. Not a problem. In 2009 The Valentine's Day tree plant saw the community planting 400 trees in one day and contractors planting the remaining 2450 trees.

Then it started. Why only 5000 trees? Why not one for every resident of Highworth? Sounds a good idea. How many residents do we have in Highworth? Well, the 2011 census said we had 8000, let's play it safe, go for 10,000.

It soon began to look not so great. That number of trees required a licence, mapping of the planting areas, desktop archaeological surveys and details of all utilities, electricity, gas, sewage and water mains (3) with a 4th scheduled.

Throw in last minute requirements for ground radar surveys, shortages of trees, tree guards and stakes and COVID restrictions dictating the need for booked planting slots, and we were starting to feel that it really wasn't such a good idea.

At the last minute, a supplier came through with 4,500 trees and it allowed us to steam ahead. Public response was exceptional. Spread over two weeks, hundreds turned out to help plant, including the Mayor Richard Williams who visited each weekend to help with the planting. Some planted one or two trees, others larger numbers, but the important thing is that every tree counted.



One family who had never done any tree planting in their lives started with one tree each and ended up planting 63. A company, HRMI / NERC based in Swindon, planted 500.

Southfields School planted 250. The Pre-School play group planted over 100, but one family of four planted 200 trees; now that's impressive.

Being on site everyday was extremely rewarding. There was such a buzz from children and adults alike. Some families returned numerous times to plant "Just a few more trees".

By the time you read this, 10,000 trees will be in the ground and the stress, worry and sleepless nights will be a thing of fading dreams.

Thanks go to Marjorie Saunders, Berit Aherne, Paul Newton-Smith and others who helped out on the day, organising the planting events, booking everyone in and spacing out the planting area with poles, etc.

Special thanks go to the people of Highworth who gave up their time to help make this tree planting a success. You are phenomenal. You should be proud of yourselves. Without you, this couldn't have happened. Your efforts have truly made Pentylands Country Park, HIGHWORTH'S BREATHING SPACE.

My thanks and appreciation go out to you all.

Ken Saunders

Chair: The Friends of Pentylands Country Park

Highworth Twinning Association

Along with many other local organisations, we have had to stop our activities because of COVID-19. We very much regret we have not been able to visit or receive guests from either Wassenberg or Pontorson in 2020 and this will also be the case for 2021.

In the spirit of friendship, we have sent books to both the Presidents for them to share with their members. The book is 'Every Day Nature' by local author Andy Beer and was supplied by our own Visitor Information Centre. It's one way we thought to keep in touch and show that we haven't forgotten them!

Welcome to our new Town Clerk


Highworth Town Council are delighted to announce the appointment of your new Town Clerk, Deanne Rose.

Deanne, who is a native of Highworth and attended Warneford School, has worked for Highworth Town Council as Assistant Clerk since August 2016. From September 2020 until February this year she has been the Acting Deputy Clerk following the retirement of David Lane. In February, councillors asked Deanne to step up to the Acting Clerk rôle, to which she


willingly agreed.

Following a recent interview, Deanne was a clear winner from a very competitive field and councillors were delighted to be able to offer her the post.

With her huge local knowledge, enthusiasm and desire to create a town to be even more proud of, Highworth can look forward to an exciting future.



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Highworth Forget Me Not Café - Spring into Summer Zooms!

After our new Highworth Memory Café successfully launched early last year and the restrictions that COVID 19 brought bringing in-person sessions to a standstill, we have ventured into a new Café format on Zoom.

Following our December 2020 taster session, we have now competed three Spring Zoom café sessions on the last Thursday afternoons of each month. We have all really enjoyed reconnecting across the group and have loved our times together. Starting our sessions with general catch-ups, followed by Photo and Picture Quizzes from Kevin and Musical Sing Alongs with Karen and Rachel, we've shared lots of fun and laughter together. Café members have shared epic reminiscing stories from their lives and travelling experiences over the years, bringing along their photos too. Screen sharing brings the words, photos and quizzes into our homes and is an ever growing experience of what technology can enable us to do in order to stay connected and still meet together.

In March we had some fabulous guests from the Wantage Silver Band, who shared their band history, musical pieces, various instruments and also brought us interactive Quizzes and Questions; a big thank you to Sam and Sara.

It's been great to connect and collaborate with new groups within our surrounding towns and villages and discover new experiences online together. Please do get in touch if you or your

group would like to connect in with the café and you'd like to help bring a new venture into our session times.

As we continue towards Summer we will remain on Zoom through April to June, with the hope of one day being able to safely meet up in person when we are able. We can't wait to share the yummy cakes again!

So, for now, we look forward to planting sunflower seeds in our homes and gardens and seeing how tall they grow, (a bit of healthy competition and shared experience!) and joining together with Aven in April for a gentle Seated Exercise session along

to familiar music. Introducing new collaborations will no doubt have some more quizzes and fun ideas to get us all thinking and learning new things too.

We also send out monthly info on the many other groups around the community that are available to you to join; there's more than you think!

We'd love you to join us from 2.30-4pm. See our poster details for dates and info or email Kevin and the team at forgetmenot.highworth@gmail.com or call Ruth on 07970 543423 for a chat.

Whether you are a family living with dementia or Seniors feeling isolated who would love connecting with others across the town, our Zoom doors are open! So please do get in touch; we'd love to connect with you!



Highworth Forget-Me-Not Café
Spring into Summer Zooms!

We would like to invite you to our Spring Zoom Café Sessions.

We will get together online with live Café sessions and will be meeting on the last Thursday of each month from 2.30-4.00pm via Zoom.
(please email us by the Tuesday before, to book your place)

Zoom links will be sent out prior to each session and if you need any help setting up Zoom on your device do let us know and we'll try and help get you connected.

Please join us
2.30pm - 4.00pm
Thursday 29th April
Thursday 27th May
Thursday 24th June

We'd love to see you this Spring and help bring the café to you!
We want to bring you ongoing support and encouragement, fun, laughter, music, quizzes and most of all a smile to brighten your day!

For more details please email Kevin at forgetmenot.highworth@gmail.com or call Ruth on 07970 543423

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Visit Highworth. We are Open!



Visit Highworth will re-open its doors on Tuesday 13th April at 10am and look forward to welcoming you with an abundance of new local arts and crafts to peruse.

We are very pleased to welcome Marlborough bronze sculptor Patrick Bull who is inspired by nature. Pop in and see his wonderful craftsmanship.

We are pleased to announce that with the help of Paul Moore and Robin Clegg we have reproduced the Walks around Highworth displayed on the podium board as a booklet which can now be purchased from the Visitor Centre for £4.



Guided Town Tour walks, arts and craft workshops and evening talks will take place from July for a nominal fee. The Museum will hopefully open at the end of May.

We look forward to seeing you very soon.

Mayor's Easter Raffle

On Easter Saturday I held a raffle at the market to raise money for the skate park. I am delighted to say that, with the support of the community, we raised another £300 for this long overdue community asset.

The winners were: Theresa, who got the 1st prize, a 1 kilo chocolate bunny; Ian got 2nd prize, a 500 gram bunny and Paul got the 3rd prize of a small bunny and egg.

I would like to say thank you to all those who bought tickets and helped to make this a success.

Richard Williams

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Swindon SEND support

Swindon SEND Families Voice is a parent carer forum run by parents and carers. We are a non-profit making Community Interest Company and have been supporting local parents for over three years. We support all parents and carers in the Swindon area

who have a child or young adult aged 0-25 with any Special Educational Need or Disability (SEND) whether they have an official diagnosis or not.

We do this through providing free workshops, support groups and 1:1 support. We understand how challenging it can be to a parent of a child with any kind of additional need and we don't want any parent in our community to feel isolated and lonely. We are always only a phone call, email or message away!

Through the pandemic, we have been supporting parents by offering virtual coffee mornings and a telephone support line, sending our 'Helpful Guide' books to 500 parents. In the summer term we will be sending out 300 Support Packs! We can't wait for restrictions to ease so that we can get back to what we love doing, which is visiting



Introducing our new Listening and Support Phoneline for parents and carers of children with additional needs

Who Are We?
We are a parent carer forum run by local parents and carers of children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

When will the phoneline be available?
Every Monday morning from 9.30am-1.30pm
And Thursday evening from 7pm-10pm

Who is the phoneline for?
Parents and carers of children with any additional needs whether the child has an official diagnosis or not

What will the phoneline offer?

- A listening ear
- Understanding
- No judgement
- Support
- Information and signposting
- Care and Empathy

Tel: 07486 873405

Join Us On  [facebook.com/SwindonSENDfamiliesvoice](https://www.facebook.com/SwindonSENDfamiliesvoice)

OUR VOICES BETTER TOGETHER

schools and meeting parents face-to-face! Another big part of what we do is to work with Swindon Borough Council and Clinical Commissioning Group (who commission our health services) to try to improve services for families who have children with additional needs, so we always want to hear from parents about their experiences about local services.

If you are a parent or carer and would like to get in touch with us you can call us during our telephone support line hours, Monday 9.30am-1.30pm and Thursday 7pm-10pm on 07486 873405, email us at swindonsendfamiliesvoice@outlook.com or find us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/SwindonSENDfamiliesvoice/>

Swindon Dial-A-Ride

As normal service starts to resume in the UK don't forget that Swindon Dial-A-Ride is here to help you get out and about on our door-to-door transport using either our accessible minibuses or volunteers using their own cars.

If you are unable to use public bus services because of a disability or impairment, give us a call on 01793 616050 for more information on how to become a passenger.

If you are a not-for-profit group that could benefit from the use of a minibus for day trips/meetings, etc. call us on 01793 617828 for more information. You can contact us by email if you prefer at transport@dialarideswindon.org.uk

Swindon Dial-A-Ride is a non-profit transport organisation that provides transport for people with disabilities in Swindon and surrounding areas.

Increased police patrols in Highworth

You may have noticed more police officers around Highworth Town Juniors Football Club following an increase in criminal damage there.

We've received reports from the club that, in the past couple of months, a large group of youths (approx. 15 in total) has been leaving drug paraphernalia and smashed bottles of alcohol at the clubhouse.

PC Sam Walton said: "The increase in anti-social behaviour and criminal damage means the club has to pay for the clearing up; costing time and money.

"The group, which has also been caught on CCTV, is also showing no regard for the COVID rules, mixing with others from many households and putting them and their families at risk.

"We will be increasing our patrols to find the perpetrators and to prevent further damage.

"We would ask that any member of the public who sees or hears anything suspicious in this area to report it to us via 101 quoting crime reference number 54200094277."

Alternatively, you can report anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Twinning Society update

2020 was a non-event for Twinning and I think we have to face the reality that 2021 is not going to be much better.

- We have made the decision that there can be no visits in 2021. It is simply too soon, the COVID pandemic is not yet over and although the situation improves, it will not be over in 2021. Let's hope we can resume visits in 2022.
- There will be no AGM this year. There is nothing to report and there are no definite

plans to advise. We are, of course, not allowed to meet in person and a Zoom meeting would exclude those not using the facility.

- The earliest we would consider putting on a social event would be late summer or early autumn, but it is too early to be more specific as we do not know what restrictions may still be in place.

*Richard Pearce,
Highworth Twinning Association*

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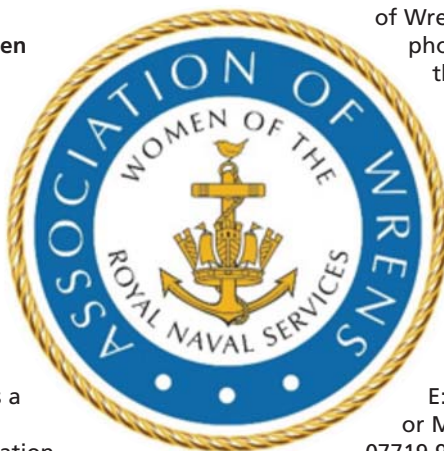
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Do you have any Wrens in your family?

I'm not referring to the tiny, feathered variety in the garden but the indomitable ladies who joined the Women's Royal Naval Service. Specifically, ladies who joined up between 1946 and 1981 and did their basic training at Training Depot Burghfield/HMTE Burghfield/HMTE Dauntless/HMS Dauntless/Reading.

Dauntless Divisional Photos is a nationwide project, in collaboration with the Association



of Wrens, to gather divisional photographs and memories from those training days but also to reunite ladies with old friends, share anecdotes and relive exciting moments.

So if you, your mum, granny, aunt, godmother or even next door neighbour donned a blue suit and aimed for a life on the ocean wave, please get in touch on either

E: ddpwrens@gmail.com

or M: 07765 435295 /
07719 909844.

Hedgehog friendly Highworth

We are delighted to see how many people have joined us on our Facebook page (Hedgehog Friendly Highworth). At the end of March we have 182 members. Thank you all for your interest.

Hedgehog numbers are in decline. They can wander for up to two kilometres every night in search of food. Our gardens are a great source of food but only if the hedgehog can get in! Making a hole in a garden fence and your neighbour's and their neighbour's (you get the idea) will give them access to roam freely. Remember, they eat all those bugs you try so hard to get rid of! Just remember not to use slug pellets!

Most of us are hoping for a warm and sunny summer. Leaving out water for our prickly friends would be very welcome. Make sure it's shallow and heavy so it can't tip up easily. But please; no milk! Hedgehogs are lactose intolerant. They like cat food but make sure kitty can't get at it. An upturned plastic box with a hole cut out of the front with a brick inside the entrance will stop all but the most determined cat from reaching its paws in. Something heavy on top will stop it being overturned in windy weather or by cats or foxes. Should you be lucky enough to spot one of these charming little

creatures then why not log your sighting?

Let's all do our bit to help. Thank you.

Oak and Furrows (Cricklade): www.oandf.co.uk
T: 01793 751412 (advice)

British Hedgehog Preservation Society:
www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk
T: 01584 890801 (advice)

Hedgehog Street: www.hedgehogstreet.org
T: 01584 890801 (to log sightings and info.)



Photo: Hedgehog Street

Are you a member of the National Trust?

Did you know that there is a local supporter group, the Upper Thames and Ridgeway National Trust Association? (UTRNTA)

The National Trust has over 5,000,000 members in England, Wales and N. Ireland and membership entitles you to visit hundreds of historic houses and areas of beautiful landscape.

Supporter groups such as your local UTRNTA offer social activities including outings, coffee mornings, talks and an annual holiday.

The Association also raises money which it donates to properties and projects of the



National Trust.

During lockdown, although many activities have had to cease, members have been able to meet together on a range of topics virtually on Zoom. These are delivered live by experts and are illustrated with an opportunity for questions after the talk.

If you are a member of the National Trust we would welcome you to enjoy our Zoom talks as a guest. In May we have a talk from Matthew Denney on 'Great

Exhibitions'. More talks are in the pipeline for June and July.

If you are interested please contact Gillian Miller
T: 01793 762559 or E: millerwrde@homecall.co.uk

Local Environmental and Peace group join up for socially distanced demonstration against US/UK Trade deal

A few members of Faringdon Peace Group and Extinction Rebellion joined up with other environmental groups to protest about the ongoing negotiations with the US in connection with a possible US/UK trade deal.

The main issues of concern are:

1. The negotiations are being carried out in secret with no parliamentary oversight and will lead to lower food and environmental standards. E.g. Unlabelled chlorine-washed chicken and hormone injected beef. The US views UK standards as barriers to trade. The UK uses the 'Precautionary Principle' which means a substance or practice has to be proven safe before it can be used. The US doesn't have that.
2. The terms of the deal are enforced through International Investor State Dispute Settlement Courts (ISDS courts) where corporations can sue governments if a change in regulations means the corporation loses profit. If the UK enacts policies for the benefit of UK citizens, e.g. clean air policies which result in lower profits for US corporations, the corporations can sue the UK government in the ISDS courts for loss of profit and there is no appeal.

3. The talks exclude any discussion of carbon emission reduction targets, i.e. an issue as the deal lasts for 30 years and US standards are lower than ours.
4. The talks will lead to increasing privatisation of the NHS and higher drug prices. Higher drug prices have already been agreed but the main prize for the US is our NHS where they want increasing access for US healthcare companies and a move towards the US system of insurance-based healthcare and the reduction of the existing free at the point of use healthcare as in the NHS which is the envy of the world.
5. Poor trade deals fuel climate chaos and war.

Further details and references can be found on the Trade Justice Movement at www.tjm.org.uk

Check out Extinction Rebellion Swindon's Facebook page or main site <https://extinctionrebellion.uk>

Plastic Free Swindon at www.plasticfreeswindon.org.uk

Faringdon Peace Group at www.faringdonpeacegroup.org.uk

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Murder in Eastrop

The burial records for St. Michael's Church in December 1835 contain the following. 'Buried Eliza Jones, an Irish woman. Murdered.'

Several papers told the sad story of a jealous man.

The main witness to the event was Sophia Dix. She was the servant of a Richard Griffiths of Eastrop. He kept a beer house and lodgings for poor travellers.

On Monday 7th December, Eliza had arrived at the house along with another woman, three children and a blind man. All were strangers and 'trampers'.

Some two hours later, about 7.45pm, a Henry Wynn came into the house and confronted the blind man. "Joe I don't thank you for sending me out on a walk and taking my woman away with thee." The blind man denied this and Eliza told him not to fall into a passion. She did not come with anyone.

At this, Wynn called her a liar and struck her on the head with his hand. He then took out a clasp knife, opened it saying "I have a d-d good mind to stab thee." Eliza was very frightened and got into a corner. A John Dyne told him to put the knife away. Wynn scraped his boot with the knife then suddenly stuck it into Eliza. He then handed the knife to Dyne.

The two men carried Eliza upstairs where Sophia undressed her and gave her a little gruel. She could not keep this down. The Highworth surgeon, Mr Gay, was sent for and arrived within

20 minutes. Sophia stayed with the victim until midnight and then returned the next morning at 5.30am. Eliza was in great pain and died at 8.45am.

An inquest was held in Highworth. Sophia's account was agreed to by Mr Gay and Highworth's assistant overseer, Mr T Seeley. Mr Gay stated that the knife had entered between the 9th and 10th rib, passing into the bowel.

Henry Wynn was a travelling tinker, a native of Birmingham and about 47. He and Eliza co-habited and he was a very jealous man. The jury found him guilty of Wilful Murder and he was taken to Fisherton Gaol.

In March 1836 Henry was tried at the Salisbury Assize. He admitted stabbing Eliza but not wilfully. His reason had gone because she had left him and gone with the blind one.

He was found guilty. To be executed on Monday next, the 14th. His body to be buried in the gaol precinct.

On the 14th the prison chaplain preached a sermon based on the 8th chapter of 2 King's, the first part of verse 13.

"What is your servant but a dog, that he should do this great thing."

Henry Wynn was hanged at 12.15am and did not speak from the scaffold. The rain was falling heavily so there was only a small crowd gathered to watch.



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Pandemic claims the lives of more than 2,000 people with dementia in South West England

Charity coalition says 'never again' as Alzheimer's Society investigation reveals 92% report pandemic causing more rapid increase in dementia symptoms

A staggering 2,000 people with dementia are estimated to have died from coronavirus in South West England since the pandemic hit the UK in full force in March 2020.

They are among more than 34,000 with the condition to have died in England and Wales from COVID-19, making people with dementia the worst hit by coronavirus. In addition, new calculations from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) reveal that deaths of care home residents, where at least 70% of people have dementia, are 30% higher than previously thought. There have been almost 12,000 (11,624) deaths since January 2021, which includes care home residents who have died in hospitals or elsewhere.

A coalition of dementia organisations including Alzheimer's Society, Dementia UK, John's Campaign and TIDE (together in dementia everyday), have come together to say never again will those affected face such hardship and loss.

Alzheimer's Society's investigation has shown the pandemic's toll goes even further than deaths from the virus. In a survey of 1,001 people who care for a family member, partner or someone close to them with dementia, an overwhelming 92% said the pandemic had accelerated their loved one's dementia symptoms; 28% of family carers said they'd seen an "unmanageable decline" in their health, while Alzheimer's Society's support services have been used over 3.6 million times since the pandemic began.

Alzheimer's Society's Dementia Connect support line has been flooded with calls from relatives revealing how quickly their loved ones are going downhill, losing their abilities to talk or feed themselves. Nearly a third (32%) of those who lost a loved one during the pandemic thought

that isolation/lack of social contact was a significant factor in that loss. People with dementia in care homes have been cut off from their loved ones for almost a year, contributing to a massive deterioration in their health. A third (31%) reported a more rapid increase in loved ones' difficulty speaking and holding a conversation, and a quarter (25%) in eating by themselves. Only 13% of people surveyed have been able to go inside their loved one's care home since the pandemic began. Almost a quarter (24%) haven't been able to see their loved one at all for over six months.

Alzheimer's Society is calling for meaningful close contact, indoor visits to be the default position without delay from 8th March. There are an estimated 850,000 people living with dementia in the UK, including more than 92,000 in South West England. Dementia organisations, including this coalition, joined forces as One Dementia Voice in July 2020 to call for designated family carers to be given key worker status to enable care home visits to loved ones. Family carers are integral to the care system and to the people for whom they care: it's they who know how to get their loved ones to eat, drink and take medicine and are often the first to know when something is wrong. While the Government recently announced that indoor visits will restart for one family member from 8th March, the coalition emphasises that this must be the default position and that blanket bans on visitors (where there is no coronavirus outbreak) are unacceptable.

The pandemic has not just hit those in care homes. With 470,000 people with dementia living in the community, many are reliant on unpaid family carers for support. 42% of these carers say lockdown has caused a rapid increase in feelings of depression in their loved one, while over half (54%) say they've seen a rapid loss of memory. Carers themselves have been hugely affected – seven out of ten (73%) say that the last year has negatively impacted their mental and physical health with anxiety (42%) and

exhaustion (34%) the most cited symptoms. Over half (54%) are saying that the pandemic has left them feeling less able to care for their loved ones.

Alzheimer's Society, Dementia UK, John's Campaign and TIDE (together in dementia everyday) are calling for:

- A Recovery Plan with the needs of people affected by dementia at their heart.
- Meaningful close contact, indoor visits to be the default position without delay from 8th March.
- An end to blanket bans on care home visits where there is no active outbreak.

- A recognition that family carers are integral to the care system.
- Family carers to register their carer status with GP surgeries to ensure they get vaccination priority and call on NHS England to ensure all surgeries enable this.
- Universal social care that we can all be proud of, free at point of use, like the NHS, like education and providing quality care for every person with dementia who needs it.

Alzheimer's Society's Dementia Connect Support line – 0333 1503456 – is available seven days a week, providing information and practical support for people affected by dementia.

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The Listeners' Treasure Trove set to reopen

Swindon & District Samaritans shop at 5/6 Curtis Street in Swindon will shortly re-open and needs volunteers to support this vital fundraising activity at the heart of our local community.

Can you help with time and skills to really make a difference by volunteering in our shop and supporting the people who contact us?

As a shop volunteer there's lots to get involved with, including window dressing, working behind the till, sorting donations and talking to customers. No experience is needed; if you're friendly, approachable, motivated and keen to learn whilst working with a great volunteer team this could be perfect for you!

Currently, we'll be open on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays with training available. We're looking for volunteers who could offer a regular commitment between the hours of 9.30-12.45 in the morning or 12.45-16.30 in the afternoon on one of these three days.



If you're interested, please check out more details on <https://www.samaritans.org/branches/swindon/sh-op-volunteers/> or email: Swindon@samaritans.org as we'd love to hear from you.

As a Samaritans support volunteer said: "I'm pleased to be able to contribute to the work Samaritans does and to help take some of the pressure off listening volunteers".

All of our volunteers help to keep Samaritans going. They make it possible for us to be here for those that need someone to listen in times of distress.

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Sport Compiled by Jason Daniels

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



Highworth Tennis Club



We're back. Ace, ace baby!

Highworth Tennis Club is open again for members and non-members to play at the Recreation Ground. All those who love tennis have been frustrated by the lockdown and the cancellation of matches and social gatherings at the Club. However, the time has not been wasted as considerable efforts have been put in to renovate the courts.

The courts themselves have been extensively pressure washed and most now have new nets. They are therefore looking smart and ready for play through the summer. The Club welcomes new members and offers very competitive rates, but you do not need to be a member to play. Our 'pay and play' scheme means you can easily book online and gain access to the courts. We can even lend you balls and rackets if you would like to play and do not have your own.

Coaching, open days and other events will take place throughout the summer; Her Majesty's Government allowing. Visit our website www.htc.org.uk for more information or email us via its links to talk about joining the Club or using its facilities.

Andrew Shortland

Highworth Town Football Club

For obvious reasons our First team and Reserve team didn't get to finish their 2020/21 season so all eyes are now on the next that is planned to start in early August.

At time of writing we hope our outside catering facilities will be (by now) open with appropriate social distancing in place. Please keep up-to-date via our social media channels for opening times and here's hoping we can look forward to a great season of football.

W: www.highworthtownfc.com

Twitter: @HighworthTownFC

Derek Lloyd

Highworth Running Club

For the second spring running we were forced to cancel our 5-mile event and now look to April 2022 before we can competitively put runners on roads. Anyone registered to run either last year's or this year's event will have their entry carried over to next year's.

Please do get in contact with us if you have any questions. Hopefully by now we've been able to resume our training nights so please do look us up and come and find us if you fancy some early summertime friendly running.

W: www.highworthrunningclub.com

Jason Daniels

Highworth Leisure Badminton

We would love to welcome new people to our friendly leisure Badminton sessions. Highworth Leisure Badminton was formed in August 2016 as a friendly social gathering to play non-league Badminton. Badminton in Highworth has been in existence for over 30 years in some form and prior to lockdown our numbers ranged from between 7 and 12 per week from about 20 current regulars. There is no commitment to play every week as we operate on a 'pay and play' basis.

The sessions take place at Warneford School in Highworth every Thursday between 8pm and



Come and play Badminton to beat the Lockdown Blues

9.30pm. We are eager to start playing again and our return will follow all relevant government guidelines.

It's a chance to get some exercise, meet like-minded people, have a chat and enjoy a pleasant social evening. We are a mixed ability of men and women, aged between 18 and 70. Beginners are welcome and there are plenty of people who can give you tips on your game or just get you started. We hope to meet as usual at the local pub for social drinks after the session for those who wish to reflect on the world's crisis that week, or just have a chat!

Badminton nets, stands and shuttle-cocks are provided and someone usually has a spare racket to use if you just want to have a try. You are more than welcome to just turn up on the night, the first session is free. For more details feel free to get in touch.

Graham Seeley E: seeleygraham@yahoo.co.uk
M: 07769 703702

Paul Moore E: paul@biddelsprings.co.uk
M: 07970 709929

Paul Moore

Highworth Town Walking FC

By the time that this article is published, lockdown, self-isolation and the endless weeks of not being able to play football will hopefully be a thing of the dim and distant past. All our social sessions were due to recommence at the start of April, with competitive football on schedule to restart in the Wiltshire FA Walking Football League.

With our Over-60's team topping their division and the Over-50's placed well in contention, it could be an interesting climax to the season.

Despite the adverse effects that COVID-19 had on us however, two very welcome developments occurred during lockdown. Firstly, the club agreed to commence running a ladies' session and a few of the girls have already attended some of our open Sunday sessions. Across the country ladies' walking football has really begun to accelerate and our aim is to be at the forefront of this evolution. Ladies, you are more than welcome!

Secondly, we are extremely pleased to report that the Wiltshire County FA created a position on its council for a walking football representative. This is a significant step for our sport and endorses its ever-increasing recognition and I am extremely proud to announce that I was elected to this council role by Wiltshire's walking football community.

If you are interested in playing on a Thursday morning 11.15am – 12.15pm or Sunday mornings, 11am – 12pm please feel free to get in contact with me.

E: highworthwfc@gmail.com
M: 07748 366979

Kevin Turner

Swindon Croquet Club

Members of Swindon Croquet Club are delighted that play has restarted following the lengthy lockdown closure. Clive Smith, who took up croquet seven years ago and has become an accomplished player, has been appointed as Chairman of the Club. Clive has taken over from John Small who has worked tirelessly for the Club; a committee member since 2010 and Chair since 2015. His efforts have been greatly appreciated by all members. Clive is keen for as many as possible of the regular tournaments and

events to take place this year. He said "Everyone at the Club is enjoying being back on the lawns, playing this great game again and meeting up with friends". Club members are very friendly and are always keen to welcome and encourage new members.

The three full-sized lawns are immaculately maintained and equipment is available for visiting guests. The Club holds the prestigious Sport England Clubmark Award, which recognises safe, well-run clubs, and strictly adheres to all COVID social distancing and hygiene regulations. Free trial sessions are available and all details can be found on our website or if preferred please give John Airey a call.

W: www.swindoncroquetclub.org.uk

John Airey T: 01793 873026.



New Croquet Chairman Clive

Beverly Briggs

Wrag Barn Golf Club

We are thrilled to welcome our members back to Wrag Barn Golf Club after a long winter of no golf and wet weather. For many, the past 12 months have been challenging and we are very grateful to our members who have maintained



Birdies make way for Caterpillars

their support throughout.

During lockdown, the greenkeepers have used the time to carry out some essential maintenance which is difficult to achieve when the course is busy. Trees have been felled, drainage pipes laid and bunkers drained and remodelled. My husband Tim last spent so much time on a digger when he built the course 30 years ago!

As the summer progresses we will open the clubhouse for our members and visitors to enjoy the new menus and celebrate life events. The idea of socialising with friends is very exciting. To find out more please do visit our website www.wragbarn.com.

Verity Manners

Highworth Bowls Club

Planned Re-Opening for 2021.

It's been a long 2020 but we now see some light and relaxation of the restrictions that have been in place. We are keen to re-open the clubhouse, the bar and the green to play bowls and most importantly continuing to ensure the 'COVID-Safety' of all members and visitors.



We will be holding two open days this year, one on **Saturday 22nd May**, the other on **Saturday 31st July** from 10.30am to 4pm. We will provide you with all the equipment you need to try the sport of bowls together with tuition; all you need is to come along and join the fun. Bowls truly is the 'sport for all'. It can be played by all ages, abilities and sexes making it the perfect sport for all members of your family to enjoy together.

We welcome new members; if you've become isolated or lost a loved one then joining our bowls club can help you to enjoy life again and make new friends. People feel safe in familiar surroundings and bowling can create great friendships, not to mention providing company both on and off the green. If you think you'd be interested in enjoying a community-spirited group that could lead to a healthier lifestyle then we'd love to hear from you.

E: hbcmembershipsecretary@gmail.com

W: www.highworthbowlsclub.org

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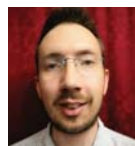
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Items featured subject to stock availability

Arts Section *Compiled by Iain Barnwell*

Contact: HighworthLinkArts@gmail.com



Coronavirus Statement – Festival Cancellation

As the situation surrounding COVID-19 continues both in the UK and globally, we have had to take the difficult decision once more to cancel the Wrdeup Music Festival in 2021.

The primary aim of WrdeUp is to hold a community event that is a fun, safe, family day out. Whilst the

announcement from the Government is that we will enter Step 4 on the 21st June, this is only a guidance date and could be delayed should we sadly see any spike in cases during Steps 1-3.

With potentially less than two weeks' notice to finalise arrangements, it is sadly not feasible for us as an organisation to have any allowance for cancellations or last minute changes to the regulations of putting on such an event and the WrdeUp organisers would not want to put at risk any of the community we serve with a potential local outbreak due to the Festival going ahead.

We have considered the option of running the event later in 2021 but sadly this is not possible due to the event being run by a small team of volunteers who have other commitments.



It is so very disappointing as we have been working hard on new ideas, redesigning the festival to make you as COVID-safe as possible whilst still bringing you an afternoon of family fun, food and festivities alongside some amazing live music.

We are incredibly thankful to all of you who have continued to support the

Festival. Seeing the comments on social media and those made to committee members makes us realise we have such a great WrdeUp family behind us; your support gives us hope in these difficult times and we THANK YOU so very much!

Our team is a small one and we would welcome new members to the organising team (if nothing else you get a free ticket to Highworth's biggest garden party) so please reach out to any of the team personally or make contact via our social media routes.

Stay safe WrdeUppers and we will "Rock the Rec" on **Saturday 9th July 2022**.

Wrde Up Committee
Community Interest Company No. 10479794



The Swindon Summer Bowl

Last year we produced the Swindon Summer Bowl in response to COVID-19 and a cancellation of community and cultural events. We worked closely with the event safety advisor group (ESAG) from SBC as well as the parish who manage the Town Gardens – South Swindon Parish Council (SSPC). At first when the idea was floated we were naturally met with a range of questions and doubt...after all, we were striving to put on events when the rest of the country were cancelling.

The plans we produced and worked on the basis of "IF this is allowed at the time, this is how we will run and manage it" was a bit of a gamble but it was so exciting at the same time. I didn't want to stop; we were the first producing these 'COVID-safe' events. To cut a very (very) long story short, we had a fully signed-off and approved event management plan and 7-week schedule of events ready to go. We then got approval for live entertainment ahead of the pack, so launched our venue on 17th July.

We successfully ran a full, varied and flavoursome schedule of events which saw comedy nights, workshops, family shows, fitness classes, circus lessons, bands, DJ's, an art auction and a school prom fill our colourful space at the Bowl in the Town Gardens in Old Town. The programme ended on the August Bank Holiday, I feel it was the perfect time to end it. We were blessed with a busy last weekend, surrounded by friends and family and I couldn't have been prouder of our incredible Fandangos team which pulled off something which everyone said unachievable at

the time. We provided a safe, comfortable, fun and exciting experience for people.

The whole project was completely overwhelming. I ran it with my ever supporting girlfriend, Jess, to whom I owe endless thanks. We rewrote the rule book! Unfortunately, we've been unable to run the project this year due to disagreements on the cost to hire the space.

Performers on Lockdown



Performers (similar to the whole event industry) have been hit doubly hard by the COVID-crisis; not that I'm saying they're any worse or better off than any others. There was an initial wave of cancellations and working dropping out for performers and events, but the industry seems to be hit with 'first to go, last to return'. This being said, the more performers can adapt and think of innovative ways to produce performances and get work out there the better. We're

thinking about producing outside perambulating-audience shows; watch this space!

I've been incredibly lucky over lockdown as I was living on a farm with lots of my performer friends, it didn't really feel like lockdown! There we're 11 of us all together; it was good fun! Since lockdown lifted then work has started to come in for live performances but it's very slow.

We're looking forward to producing more community and cultural events for our town. We hope to try and plan a few pop up events throughout the year to allow people to comfortably welcome back quality events!

Turning a lockdown passion into a business

Lockdown has been an imprisonment for some, and an escape for others. For Cabin & Cowshed founder Jess, lockdown gave her the time she needed to create a new business venture.

"I am very passionate about sustainable living," Jess said. "A couple of years ago I switched from plastic packaged shower gel to soap bars. When the first lockdown began I decided to order a book on natural soap making as a way of finding a fun new hobby and to learn new skills. I spent months researching and sourcing materials and then challenged myself to create a range of eight all, natural soaps. What started as a lockdown hobby eventually turned into a business venture.

"Soap making is a bit like alchemy. You combine a base of oils and butters with sodium hydroxide and a chemical reaction called saponification then takes place, turning it into soap. Sodium



The wide range of soaps produced by Jess

shea butter and then add pure essential oils for scent and use a variety of clays, herbs and botanicals as natural colourants.



hydroxide sounds a bit scary but it isn't present in the final product so it's completely safe to use.

"I create soap using the ancient cold-process method and each bar is formulated to include lots of skin loving oils and nourishing butters to truly pamper the skin. We use a base recipe of olive oil, sweet almond oil, castor oil, coconut oil and

The main aim is to provide bath products which not only smell incredible but are also made using the purest of ingredients. I spent a lot of time pairing essential oil scents together, researching top, middle and base notes and soon became fascinated with how different blends evoked certain feelings or memories. There was a lot of trial

and error involved as some blends smelt wonderful in the bottle but just didn't work well in the soap.

"I used social media to document my soap making progress and was surprised at how many people showed an interest. This definitely gave me the encouragement I needed to turn my new hobby into a business. I think it also helped that I was making soap in the middle of a pandemic where frequent hand washing was encouraged, but I also feel that people are becoming more aware of what products they are using on their skin and are always looking to turn to more sustainable solutions.

"The one piece of advice I would give to others about turning a hobby into a business would be to just go for it. If you're passionate about something and want to make it happen, take the leap.

I was nervous to post about my soap-making

journey on social media because I was worried about what people would think and when I first started making soap a few of my friends would say "Who would even buy soap though? Only old people use soap!" I think it's fair to say I've changed their minds now.

I've got a summer range of soap bars coming out soon and it'll then be time to formulate a new autumn and Christmas range. I'm hoping to move into a bigger space soon which will hopefully allow me to expand our product range and begin experimenting with body butters, bath teas and perhaps even some shampoo bars; we shall see."

You can view Jess's soaps online at www.cabinandcowshed.co.uk and occasionally at Highworth Market. Highworthians can benefit from free delivery by using the promo code 'HIGHWORTH' at checkout.

Sarah Gardiner

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BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL

COVID COMPLIANT

Swindon Museum and Art Gallery virtual exhibition, Optimism: Spring to Summer'

Swindon Museum and Art Gallery has announced the launch of a virtual exhibition, selected by the committee of the Friends of Swindon Museum and Art Gallery, to celebrate Spring and the prospect of better times to come.

The Swindon Borough Council-owned venue on Bath Road has been closed for a year due to the global pandemic but Swindon Museum and Art Gallery has been making the best of digital resources to help people access the collection, which is credited with being one of the best in the UK.

This has included the continued work of 'Art on Tour at Home', which has developed a number of free online talks, activities and learning resources. This new virtual exhibition has been produced using ArtUK's curation tool, which has been invaluable for sharing Swindon's collection with audiences during lockdown.

After the restrictions of winter and lockdown, the choices of artwork in this exhibition are driven by the optimism of the arrival of Spring.

Linda Kasmaty, the Chair of the Friends of Swindon Museum and Art Gallery, explained why this exhibition is so important. She said: "The slow reduction of restrictions allows us to look forward to enjoying the changes that Spring brings, followed by the arrival of Summer.

"The artwork reflects these changes with the soft greens of Spring, early flowers and wide skies. This is followed by the warm days of Summer, brighter colours, the casual enjoyment of the warmth, meeting in groups and travel for holidays. Further lifting of restriction leads to the playing of sports and the warmer colours of the harvest season.

"Our Optimism is finally met with the return of crowds, large groups of people at concerts, fairs, and social events."

The exhibition will be available to view through ArtUK from Saturday 20th March, the first day of Spring.

Connor Mountford, Communications Executive,
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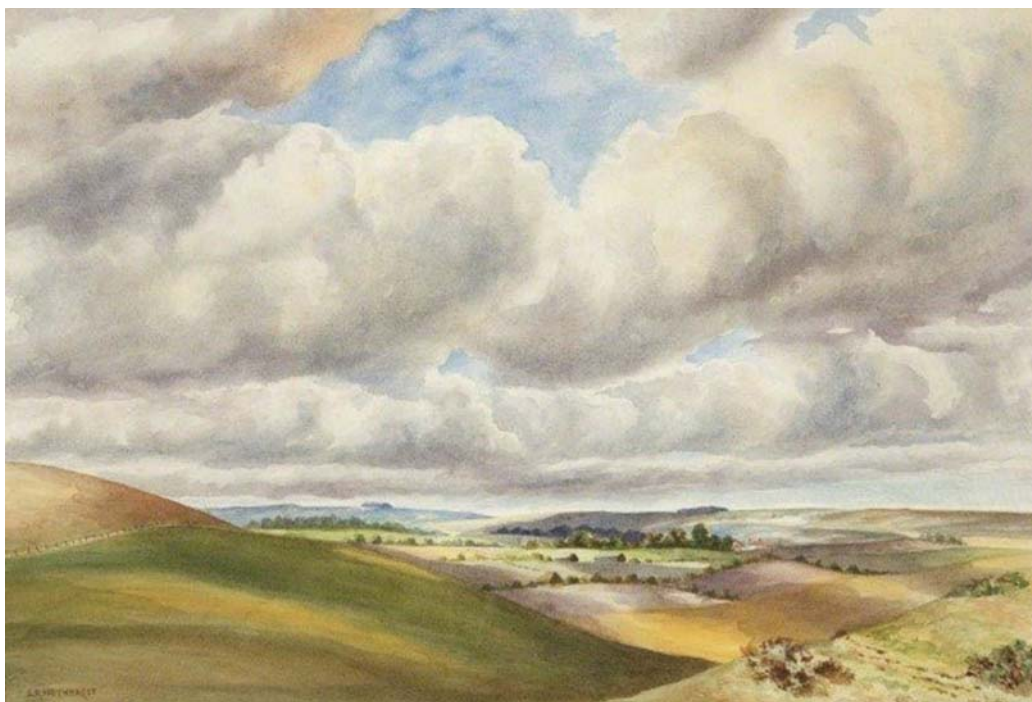
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Pictured below are three of the artworks available in the virtual collection.



Springtime in Mill Lane, Swindon, Wiltshire; A. L. Stephens



The Edge of Salisbury Plain; Sidney Richard Nethercot (1878–1951)



Burderop Park, Wroughton, Wiltshire, Mrs Calley in the Garden; Kate Allen Tryon (1865–1952)

The Cotswold Challenge set to help the lost generation

At the beginning of the first lockdown in March last year, a team of self-employed professionals Nigel Chute (Chute Design); Allison Murray (Allison Murray Design); Chris Roberts (Chris Roberts MBE PR) and Fiona Scott (Fiona Scott Media) founded The Cotswold Challenge to provide support and an educational initiative to 15-19 years old students who were going to miss out on their GCSE and A-Level exams.

With education in schools and colleges apparently being disrupted for the second year running, it looks like The Cotswold Challenge will be needed again, so The Cotswold Challenge team have decided to launch The Cotswold Challenge again this year for a second but final time.

The team believe that the past year's Year 11, 12 and 13 students, who have been penned 'the lost generation', need to be able to showcase their talent and be rewarded for what has been, without doubt, a very tough time for them as we come out of a third lockdown.

The initiative was so successful in 2020 that the

competition for 2021 will be extended to include students in schools and colleges in Swindon.

The Cotswold Challenge 2021 will be launched on **Tuesday 1st June** and will once again feature some very generous financial prizes for the winners. It will also retain the original three categories of Art & Design, Creative Writing and Innovation & Entrepreneurial Thinking. The final closing date will be **Tuesday 6th July** and judging will take place in mid-July.

To find out more, please visit: www.thecotswoldchallenge.com or email allison@allisonmurraydesign.com or chrisrobertsmbe@gmail.com.





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

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www.stmichaelshighworth.co.uk

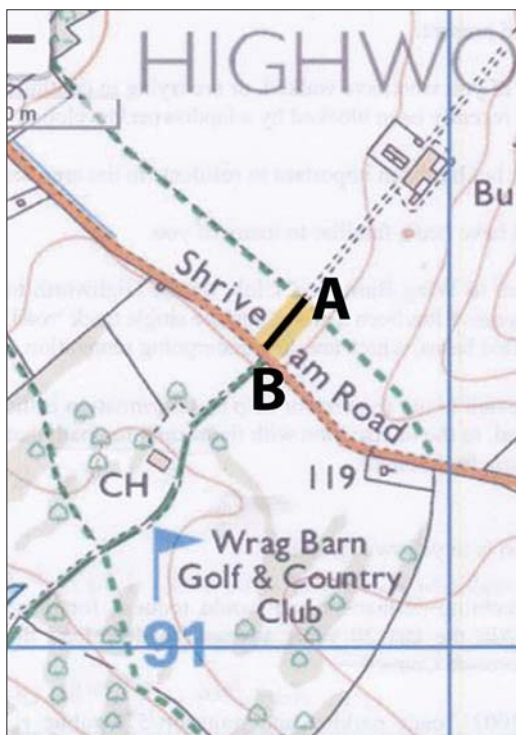
Highworth Community Church

Warneford School, Shrivenham Road
SN6 7BZ

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

Meets Sundays, 10:15am

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



Dear Link readers

We just wanted to let you know that the Ramblers Wiltshire and Swindon representative Wiltshire Ramblers - Swindon & NE Wilts (wiltsswindonramblers.org.uk) delivered the application for the Definitive Map Modification Order (DMMO) to Swindon Borough Council on Friday 15th January, 2021.

The application is for 'a public footpath to be added to the definitive map between Public Footpath 37 Highworth and the B4000 Shrivenham Road, along the track to The Buildings.' This will allow pedestrians to walk up the bit of road opposite the road to Wrag Barn, in order to join the footpath running parallel to the B4000.

Its receipt was acknowledged by the Rights of Way and Highway Information Manager, Highways and Transport Service Delivery, at the Council. There is no stated timescale for a response however, when we receive any updates, we will, of course, share them.

Kindest regards,

Hugh Reader and Lou Thompson

Do you remember?

You may remember the 2012 Festival, it was Olympic year and the Olympics were in Britain. In Highworth our September Festival had an Art in Action theme. During the years lots of people had been involved in Art projects culminating in an Art in Action day at the Community Centre and the resulting work was to be displayed at the Festival.

What did we do? Well, the centre of Highworth was painted onto cereal boxes, each artist taking an individual building which was then pushed over the church railings to form a display. Shop windows had displays of peg dolls, along the railings there was home made bunting, each of the flags having details in some way about Highworth at the time, the groups, the activities, the prices of common items. Paintings were displayed in the Council Offices and there was a big cow and a tree that had been covered in pretty papers. The cow makes an appearance at times from the upstairs butcher's window.

We had several hundreds of fabric squares decorated by various techniques joined together by ribbons and displayed on the railings outside Inigo House. Southfield School joined in enthusiastically, (with practically all the classes producing a colourful item), as did many other people in the town.

The resulting collage looked spectacular. It's such a pity that this, representing hundreds of hours of work by so many people, has not been seen since that year and in these COVID times I hope that Link will print the photos of some of these fabric squares to brighten us all up.

Do you recognise your work pictured opposite? Names of participants were unfortunately not kept.

Gillian Miller



David Herbert Howard

David Herbert Howard, Fred, died peacefully on Wednesday 7th April. Vickers Supermarine Apprentice, Garrard engineer, and then specialist in the production of advance precision cutting machinery. Much loved husband, father, grandpa and friend to so many.



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Christian Aid stands with the poorest of our neighbours. We work in 37 countries, with people of all faiths and none, to stand up for dignity, equality and justice. We always work through local partners. With your help, we can make an even bigger difference.

Christian Aid Week is from **10th–16th May**. Last year, due to COVID-19, we were unable to do any collecting. We did ask you to donate via the Lighthouse Bookshop and online and over £600 was raised locally. Thank you to everyone who contributed. This year we are again unsure what we will be allowed to do. Hopefully, we will deliver our Little Red Envelopes to every home in Highworth. Please respond by giving something to help those unable to access vaccines and suffering the effects of climate change. The envelopes will be collected if we can or they can be returned to the Lighthouse or any of the churches or The Bridge.

Donations can also be made online at www.christianaid.org.uk Thank you for your support.

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Highworth Recycling

You may be surprised to know that Swindon BC can only recycle so much of our plastic waste but there are other initiatives out there who can take bits that the Council won't. Not only that, you could raise money for a good cause in the process!

The recycling is boxed up and sent to a company called Terracycle who process the plastic and turn it into all sorts of things such as garden furniture and playground equipment. You can see more of what they do at www.terracycle.co.uk. Please do have a good read of the list below to see what we can recycle for you and who you would be raising money for. Please check the items you pass forward though and if it's not on the list, pop it in your bin or recycle it as you would normally.

Drop off points (once lockdown is lifted) are Highworth Preschool and the Visitor Centre on the High Street. At some point in the future we are hoping to have more places to drop off so watch this space or to keep updated join the Highworth Recycling group on Facebook.

PROCEEDS TO HIGHWORTH PRESCHOOL

- Empty crisp packets, any brand. Small packs, share packs, multipack wrappers. NO popcorn, peanuts or pretzels, mini cheddars and please no origami triangles!
- Plastic bread loaf bags, any brand. NO rolls, bagels, crumpets, brioche.
- Plastic drinks can ring carriers, such as you get on a 4 pack of beer cans. Any brand.
- Kinder chocolate wrappers. Bar wrappers, Kinder eggs yellow pods, foil outers, basically anything except for the plastic toy. NO other brand.
- Toothcare items such as plastic toothbrushes, electric toothbrush heads, empty toothpaste tubes, all packaging. NO electric or bamboo toothbrushes. Mouthwash bottles can go in kerbside plastics.

PROCEEDS TO VISION AID

- Old eye glasses.

PROCEEDS TO AGAINST BREAST CANCER

- Old bras, any condition.

PROCEEDS TO NEW COLLEGE SWINDON

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PROCEEDS TO DISASTERS EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

- Kids yoghurt pouches and baby food pouches with lids on. Any brand.
- Cheese wrappers. Flexible kind only. Can be block cheese, individual cheese wrappers, net bags. NO sliced cheese flat trays but we can take the peel off lid. Any brand.
- Empty make-up such as eyeshadow, compact, lipstick, lip balm, mascara. Packs for beauty wipes. Flexible plastic tubes for body creams and moisturiser. NO shower or hair products or baby wipe packs.
- Ferrero Rocher packaging. Hard plastic boxes and inner trays. Cellophane and gold foil. Everything except the little brown paper cupcake style case. NO other brand.
- Flexible dishwasher tablet packaging, flexible stain remover powder packaging, flexible cleaning product refill, flexible packets for home cleaning wipes, flexible dishwasher salt bags. Any brand.
- Baylis & Harding plastic caps, pumps from product bottles and flexible plastic lotion tubes and caps. NO plastic bottles and NO other brand.
- Carex handwash refill pouches and caps. Carex, Imperial Leather and Bayleys of Bond Street hand wash pumps (not bottles).
- Head & Shoulders, Pantene, Aussie Shampoo and Herbal Essences refill pouches. NO other brand, NO hard plastic bottles.

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Photo: Guide Dogs



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As part of our ongoing commitment to engage with the Highworth community Highworth Town Council would like to ensure that everyone has their say when far reaching decisions are made that affect us all.

An important part of this is the Neighbourhood Plan which covers many aspects of how our town will develop and look in the future.

Going forward HTC will be producing various documents keeping you all informed on what is happening and asking for your views and suggestions and we would like to have a logo to help promote this.

However: **IT'S YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN SO WE WOULD LIKE YOU TO DESIGN THE LOGO**

PLEASE EMAIL YOUR DESIGN TO:
admin@highworthtowncouncil.gov.uk



CLOSING DATE:
14th MAY 2021

Or deliver it to The Council Offices,
3 Gilberts Lane, Highworth, SN6 7FB



Hannington Village open Gardens Sunday June 13th 2021 11am - 5pm

The Hannington Garden Openings, as part of the National Gardens Scheme, had become a much-anticipated annual event. The visitor numbers had been steadily climbing as visitors would return year on year and bring their friends. In 2019 we had the most glorious weather and finding places for all our visitors to park became something of a problem. We raised a record amount of money for the Cancer charities that the NGS support and started to plan for 2020.

Like so many events in 2020 we had to cancel, even though the gardens had so much of our time and attention that they looked better than ever. This year we hope to welcome back those of you that have visited before and to welcome new visitors.

Hannington has a group of nine gardens, some are large with full time professional gardeners. Some are smaller and lovingly tended by their owners. Many of them enjoy spectacular views over the Thames Valley as the village



runs along the brow of the hill. Teas are served in or from the village Hall depending upon any COVID-19 restrictions that still apply. The village does have a very special atmosphere and some interesting and historic buildings.

We look forward to welcoming you. Combined entry is £7 per person, children are free. All money goes to the NGS cancer charities. More details and other gardens can be found on the NGS website [ngs.org.uk](https://www.ngs.org.uk)

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



Nov 15	Dear Jane, we are missing you as ever on your birthday. All our love, Richard, Emma, Max and Oliver xxx
Dec 10	In memory of Rose Jones, 3 years gone. From Brian and Benson
Dec 13	In loving memory of Roy and Sheila Johnson
Dec 25	Knight – Thinking of you Mum and Dad on this Christmas Day. Wish you were here to celebrate with us. Love you, miss you. Lyn, Ruth, Patrick and all your family xxxx
Dec 25-26	In memory of Mum and Dad at Christmas time. All our love Lindsay, Helen, Mark, Martin, Alex, Ross, Ben and Lucy
Dec 30	Roy Jackson – love and missed by so many
Jan 06	Cyril Knight – Thinking of you Dad on your birthday. Always in our thoughts but especially today. Love you, miss you. Lyn, Ruth, Patrick and all your family xxxx
Jan 31	Remembering a dearly loved husband and father – David Cox. From Shirley, Nicola and Neil
Feb 04	In loving memory of Jim Prew. Sadly missed. From all the family
Feb 09	In loving memory of Clive Angood on his birthday. Greatly missed by Christine and family
Feb 14	Lots of love Mum. God Bless. Marie, Steph and Kate
Feb 22	In loving memory of Joan Prew. Sadly missed. From all the family
Mar 05	God bless Richard love Marie

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

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



Highworth Churches Information

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

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

FROM THE REGISTERS

Remembering the recently bereaved:

Helen Cawthorne

Roderick Brown

Ruth Archard

Edward Ruckert

LIVE SERVICES

Live services in St Michael's Church and the Methodist Church have been cancelled during the lockdown. It is hoped that they will restart at the end of February. Please check the Church websites for updates.

VIRTUAL CHURCH SERVICES:

St Michael's Church Services:

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

Roman Catholic Church:

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

Highworth Methodist Church:

We are streaming a live Zoom service every Tuesday evening at 7.30pm. If you wish to take part, please email highworthmethodistchurch@gmail.com for the login details.

Rev David presents an online service which is available to watch on YouTube at <http://bit.ly/2LplZB7>. A new video is posted at 10.30am for each Sunday while we are unable to meet together. All previous services are also available to watch.

United Reform Church

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

Highworth Community Church

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

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

You can also access the **Hope for Highworth** YouTube channel at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpu76C97aCmAUE_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

OUR REPRESENTATIVES

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Tel. 01793 762377 / 763511

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01793 764668 Mob: 07791 122843
sweisinger@highworthtowncouncil.gov.uk

Community Wellbeing Coordinator required for Fairford, Lechlade and surrounding areas

Working for Wellbeing, a new charity that has been created to support everyone's well-being in Fairford, Lechlade and the surrounding villages in South East Gloucestershire. It will provide a service designed to ensure that everyone will have efficient access to the support and services they need to make their lives better. Whilst the focus will be to reduce isolation and assist those with mental health issues, it will also assist young people to find the help and activities they need.

We are now looking for a motivated Community Wellbeing Coordinator to make a difference to the lives of so many people in our local community. This important rôle will require you to liaise with a wide variety of local and County-wide support organisations, volunteers and service users and be their key point of contact. You will also oversee the running (by volunteers) of our Community Cafés, website and telephone hotline.

To be successful in this rôle, you should have at least 2 years' experience in community development and enjoy networking with key stakeholders in this sector. Whilst you will work from home, you will be required to travel to meet a vast range of people in local government and the charity sector who will be vital to the success of our mission. You will have excellent interpersonal skills as well as a clear understanding of the issues underpinning the needs for additional well-being support in our community.

The rôle will be part-time (20 hours a week) with a competitive salary (£23,088 per annum pro rata) and you will be responsible to the Trustees who will provide both guidance and support.

We know this will provide a wonderful, inspiring challenge for someone who would like to build on the good work of many others – it is also an opportunity to create something special from the beginning. For a copy of the Job Description, please email robertjohnread@me.com. To apply, please send your CV with a covering message explaining why you are suitable for this rôle to robertjohnread@me.com

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Fairford & Lechlade Business Club Awards 2021

It wasn't our normal awards evening, however, we felt we still needed to celebrate those businesses that have managed to survive and thrive in these times.

In my day job as Head of Marketing at the Air Tattoo, I can totally empathise with how difficult it has been for some organisations this year and for some it has been devastating both personally and from a business perspective. However, it has also given people time to think, review and evolve and the judges agreed that the award entries were outstanding and a fantastic representation of what can be achieved in our small corner of the Cotswolds spanning Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and Oxfordshire.

You may have noticed that we look a bit different since Allison Murray, the winner of the Business Person of the Year in 2020, kindly



offered to look at our branding. We'll explain more about this process at the AGM in April but a huge thank you to Allison for this as she did this as a volunteer.

On the matter of volunteers, a huge thank you to my steering group, particularly Shirley from Cotswold Boat Hire who is the Vice Chair. All our steering group are volunteers so this has been a labour of love to make sure we put on a professional event, worthy of our members and the finalist and winners on the night.

Thank you to all those who entered the awards and voted for the Hospitality Awards and to those who joined me on the judging panel. Congratulations to all our finalists and winners!

*Best wishes
Helen Webb, Chair - FLBC*

The Winners

Most Outstanding Business Student of the Year Award

Each year we work with Farmor's School to find the Most Outstanding Business Student. As part of the Business Studies curriculum the students put together a plan for a business idea they have had. The school then shortlists six of the best plans and the Judges selected three finalists:

Charlotte Jaques – Amet Plants

James Cobbing – JC Charcoal – Air Purifier

Rosie Baker – Love the Lentil Things

The Winner: Rosie Baker – Love the Lentil Things

The judges were extremely impressed by all six entries from the students. However, they were able to narrow it down to three Business Plans that particularly stood out with a design for a new Charcoal Air Purifier and creating fake plant garlands and flowers using recycled waste plastic.

The winning entry from Rosie and her business called Love the Lentil Things, a vegan/vegetarian fast food stall that is located in the grounds of Cirencester Park. Her aim was to try to educate

people on the importance of eating clean good food and had realistic cost and profit projections as well as concentrating on customer satisfaction.

New Business of the Year

This category is open to all new ventures started within the last two years with those entering showing how their business has progressed from an idea to a trading business. The judges commented that the fact that they had survived the past year was an amazing achievement as it is difficult enough to start a new business, let alone in the current environment. The Finalists were:

*Leanne's Pet Care, Lechlade Marina Ltd,
Iris & Wilf*

The Winner: Lechlade Marina Ltd

The judges commended Ian and Jules on how quickly they had restored the Lechlade Marina that had fallen into such disrepair over the past few years. The neglect has been all but wiped away and it is now a lovely part of the Thames with a waiting list for moorings. Not only have

they brought about a positive change to the Marina and with it the surrounded area, but have immersed themselves in the local community, joining the steering group for the business club and the River User Group for the Upper Thames as well as sitting on the Lechlade Town Council. The judges had a huge amount of respect for what has been achieved as a new business in just the last two years.

The Most Innovative Business of the Year Award

All businesses are innovative in some way, so entrants had to illustrate how they have managed successfully to introduce new ideas, products, customers, techniques or technology to help grow their business. This category was so relevant for this year as so many businesses have had to innovate to survive. The judges were impressed by all the businesses in this category and what they had achieved and the Finalists were:

*Beanology C.I.C. Lechlade Craft Barn,
Buscot Tearoom, Jen Winnett Art*

Winner: *Jen Winnett Art*

The judges were astounded by the energy and passion Jen had for her business. As well as it being a very unique brand which she has termed 'eco art', the products are her very own colourful animal portraits with an eco-twist in terms of paper, packaging and clothing. They were impressed with the diversification during lockdown and use of social media to raise the profile of her fledgling business. They were heartened by the recent launch of free online art lessons for children, using art to help them as it had helped her.

Business Person of the Year

This award is about celebrating personal business acumen which should be recognised and encouraged, highlighting the skills and ability of a business owner or employee. The Finalists were:

Lizzie Skinner – Beanology C.I.C

Penelope Warren – The Trout Inn

Aggy Dadan – edible by Aggy

Winner: *Lizzie Skinner – Beanology C.I.C*

The judges were impressed with the positive impact one person could have on other people's lives. The company was born in 2006 as a pre-schools music and movement group, with aims to reduce isolation and increase mental health support, joy and happiness. Since COVID-19 this has developed with the company name changed to Beanology and Lizzie started delivering her courses on online as well as 1-1 workshops. The number of testimonials about how the courses and interaction have helped so many with their wellbeing and mental health cannot be ignored, so well done Lizzie for bringing light into people's lives.

Business of the Year Award

Business of the Year is the premier award and is open to any business that can demonstrate a successful track record of excellence and achievement. This year we had some very strong entries for this award and all were outstanding businesses, but there only could be one winner. The Finalists were:

*Boots Fairford, Bulldog Websites,
The Paperback Shop*

Winner: *Bulldog Websites*

The judges were delighted to award the accolade of Business of the Year to Bulldog Websites who have been finalists for a number of years. They offer an excellent service to build and maintain websites, manage social media and give general advice on all things digital in a professional but friendly manner. Their business has gone from strength to strength over the past few years and has progressed further during recent times, offering business options to evolve their digital offering. The judges thought that they were worthy winners and it shows that perseverance pays dividends! Congratulations Bulldog Websites, the Fairford & Lechlade Business Club Business of the Year.

Howard Dowler Award

This award is in memory of Howard Dowler, one of the founding members of the Business Club. It is a special Award made by Helen Webb as the Chair of the Business Club to the person or business that has made an outstanding contribution to the local community. She didn't have to think for long about this as this person

and their team has done everything they could to keep the hospitality spirit alive in the local community during lockdown and when they could open, put in place an impressive COVID-19-safe environment for their customers.

The 2021 Howard Dowler Award Winner:
Penny Warren – The Trout Inn, Lechlade

The Bob Warren Hospitality Award

This award was introduced in memory of Bob Warren, former landlord of the Trout Inn, Lechlade, and long-time supporter and one of the founder members of FLBC.

Friends, family, customers and local residents were asked to vote for the hospitality venue (café, pub, restaurant, B&B or hotel etc.) that best demonstrated the spirit of Bob Warren – offering great hospitality, excellent customer service, a warm and friendly atmosphere and providing a fantastic all round experience. There were 33 venues up for this award and the 6 that had the most votes were finalists:

*7A Coffee Shop, Buscot Tea Rooms,
Kushi Indian Dining, Lynwood & Co.,
Spikes Diner, The Coffee Post*

Winner: The Coffee Post

Congratulations to Maxine, Georgia and the team, not only have you kept us going with delicious cakes during these times, you have also kept the post office open; such an important amenity.

Special Award for 2021

Service to the Community

The judges felt that we needed to recognise another business and team in the local area that, similar to the post office, was essential to the local area and carried on and became even busier than usual, despite the obvious difficulties of operating in a COVID-19-safe way.

Winner – Service to the Community Award:
Boots Fairford – Will Pearce & Team

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BLUNSDON

Blunsdon Community Choir is online

If you love singing and you're looking for a friendly community choir, then look no further. Blunsdon Community Choir has been singing throughout the lockdown on Zoom, and if you can manage getting onto a Zoom call via a link sent on email, you are just who we are looking for. Or, if you would rather wait to sing with us in person in June, then we would also love to hear from you. We sing all types of songs in all genres, age 10 and up. Come and join us, and let's get singing together.

Alison Porter,

E: blunsdoncommunitychoir@gmail.com

New owners at the Heart in Hand Pub

After 21 years Blunsdon was very sad to say goodbye to Steve and Sheila Leppard who have been one of the main centres of community life. The pair bought the pub in 2000 after Steve set up and ran the bar at Highworth Town FC, where he also worked as Chairman, and the couple have raised hundreds for local charities. Their son Daniel will continue as Chef with the new owners Darren and Claire.

FARINGDON

Award for caring neighbour

When Molly Day died in September her neighbours decided to honour her memory by creating an online bouquet scheme called 'Flowers from Molly.' This website allows Faringdon residents to nominate someone to receive a bouquet of flowers. Since then almost 100 bouquets have been delivered. Organiser mum-of-three Rebekah Pugh received an award from the High Sheriff in recognition.

Local Environmental and Peace group join up for socially distanced demonstration against US/UK Trade deal

Members of Faringdon Peace Group and Extinction Rebellion joined up with other environmental groups to protest about the ongoing negotiations with the US in connection with a possible US/UK trade deal.

The main issues of concern are:

1. The negotiations are being carried out in secret with no parliamentary oversight and will lead to lower food and environmental standards. e.g. Unlabelled chlorine-washed chicken and hormone injected beef. The US views UK standards as barriers to trade. The UK uses the 'Precautionary Principle' which means a substance or practice has to be proven safe before it can be used. The US don't have that.
2. The terms of the deal are enforced through International Investor State Dispute Settlement Courts (ISDS courts) where corporations can sue governments if a change in regulations means the corporation loses profit. If the UK enacts policies for the benefit of UK citizens, e.g. clean air policies which results in lower profits for US corporations, the corporations can sue the UK government in the ISDS courts for loss of profit and there is no appeal.
3. The talks exclude any discussion of carbon emission reduction targets, i.e. an issue as the deal lasts for 30 years and US standards are lower than ours.



4. The talks will lead to increasing privatisation of the NHS and higher drug prices. Higher drug prices have already been agreed but the main prize for the US is our NHS where they want increasing access for US healthcare companies and a move towards the US system of insurance-based healthcare and the reduction of the existing free at the point of use healthcare as in the NHS which is the envy of the world.

5. Poor trade deals fuel climate chaos and war.

Further details and references can be found on the Trade Justice Movement at www.tjm.org.uk

Check out Extinction Rebellion Swindon's Facebook page or main site https://extinctionrebellion.uk

Plastic Free Swindon at www.plasticfreeswindon.org.uk

Faringdon Peace Group at www.faringdonpeacegroup.org.uk

Faringdon U3A and District Zoom talk on Thursday 13th May 2021 at 2.30pm

May's speaker will be Al Sylvester on the RAF Mountain Rescue Service. Al, a renowned RAF Rescue Service leader with over 20 years of service, has attended more than 400 rescue operations including the recovery and rescue of downed aircrew of military fast jets and civilian aircraft. Thankfully, the majority of his rescue missions involved successfully searching some of the most hostile environments of the British mountain ranges. His talk will be about these experiences and is bound to be exciting.

LECHLADE

Litter Picking Please!

May I make a plea? Put a plastic bag in your pocket and fill it with litter collected from the places you love to walk! If we all do it then very soon we could have litter free footpaths!

Veronica

Ding dong merrily... Theatre @ The Trout – Reflections on a festive season

It was the strangest Christmas for many but as the saying goes, 'the show must go on'. The



Left to right, John Williams, Janie Eyre-Brook, Lisa Stone, Dominic Valentine and Andy Pritchard. Photo: Beth Pryor.

Theatre at the Trout group stepped up once more for a final fling in 2020 with some festive readings whilst their audience enjoyed a brilliant Christmas dinner prepared by Penny Warren and her amazing team! Who would have believed that dinner in a marquee in the depths of a damp winter would be a sell-out? It was, and much appreciated by all. Magnificent food was accompanied by seasonal offerings from Shakespeare to Mr Beeton, Joyce Grenfell to Kenneth Graham. There were the inevitable (but always enjoyed) painful cracker jokes and some mystic magic from John Williams.

Before the 3rd national lockdown was announced, as ever full of enthusiasm and optimism Andy Pritchard said, 'Obviously the current situation means plans are fluid, but the pantomime is ready to perform and we have two other shows in (virtual) rehearsal. So we're confident 2021 will be a great year for community theatre in Lechlade and Theatre @ The Trout!' Let's keep fingers crossed.

Margaret Hing

Lechlade Lions Sow and Reap Project 2021

Started in Autumn 2020, the Lechlade Lions launched the Sow and Reap Project 2021. The COVID-19 period has been hard on all of us, including organisations raising funds for community support.

The Lechlade Lions have been providing transport of COVID-19 vaccines, collecting and delivering prescriptions to those unable to do so themselves, cleaning up rubbish dropped in our beautiful area by the thoughtless, funding computers to schools and much individual support.

The Sow and Reap 2021 project invites you to take cuttings, split plants and sow seeds to provide plants that you can then sell on to neighbours, friends and the community and have fun in doing so. The money raised is of course yours to use as you wish, but we hope you will consider donating some or all to the Lechlade Lions charity by donating through the Virgin Money Giving website.

If 100 of us raised £30 each, you will have raised almost as much as that raised in 2019 at the open water swim, which has been postponed for a second year. We have already received such a

donation for £35 and hope that you will all have fun and participate. Let's see the challenge go up. "We can raise more than you". Let's make the Lechlade Lions funds grow for our community.

*Lion Tim Yeoman,
Lechlade Lions Fundraising Group*

Lechlade Community Library

Do you all feel like us, completely frustrated at our continued lockdown and probably tired about conversation that centres around COVID-19?

Well, light is on the horizon so long as we all follow the rules. The Library has been operated by a few to ensure books dropped off and reservations are being processed. As frustrating as it is to receive an email stating your reservation is awaiting collection, we have been extremely careful to ensure yours and our volunteers' safety in not opening, but Simon and Marian Winckles have done a sterling job in opening for three hours for reservations to be collected and are going to do it again. If you get a call asking you to collect on a certain date please do so if you can.

New books are being added to the Library every month, even during lockdown, by Marian and Joan Yeoman, so there will be a plethora of new titles, some of which have been shown in the window recently, and will be available to all when we reopen. All being well, that will be 10am Monday 12th April and we look forward to seeing you. Masks and sanitizing of hands will still be expected as will Track and Trace. The importance of this has recently been newsworthy.

Our library functions because of the community being prepared to act as volunteers but, as importantly, it could not continue without the Gloucestershire County Council recognising the importance of the Library to this community and the effort put into it by those involved both as volunteers and in volunteer Directors. I wish to express my thanks to them. We have secured funding for four more years which will give us a secure basis on which to buy books and later refurbish the Library. This is great news for the Library and the community as a whole.

Gloucestershire Libraries have changed their

access for ebooks and magazines from RBDigital app to Libby app and Overdrive. This works very well on computers and laptops but does not on Kindle Fire tablets.

Use www.glosuk.overdrive.com to access the new ebook/magazine system on Kindle Fire.

This is your library and therefore we welcome any suggestions and recommendations to improve our service to you all.

*Tim Yeoman, Chair,
Lechlade Community Library Directors.*

Lechlade And District Lions Club Litter Picking

Last year, the south bank of the Thames between Halfpenny Bridge and the Roundhouse was used by a minority of unscrupulous individuals as a dumping ground for their rubbish.

This is a beautiful area and a lovely resource for the community, but unfortunately nobody seems to take responsibility. It is the wrong side of the river for the Lechlade Town Council, some falls within Cotswold Water Park and Wiltshire County Council and the rest landowners who, of course, are concerned about the welfare of their animals.

Last year a few local people and some Lechlade and District Lions picked up this rubbish on an 'ad hoc' basis. They have a pride in their area to care. The largest item left as rubbish was a four person tent!

This year, the Lechlade and District Lions have decided to do a litter picking rota. Every Monday two Lions will walk the area from 10am, weather dependent, and hopefully keep the area clean. Following a Bank Holiday they are likely to do so later in the week.

This is not an 'officially' organised litter pick but the Lechlade and District Lions hope that it will garner public support. If you feel you want to do your part you will likely find the Lions in their florescent jackets down on the south bank. Please supply your own equipment as due to COVID-19 they will not be able to assist with pickers and gloves.

If you are a business that benefits from Lechlade being kept pristine and helps encourage visitors to enjoy and spend their money, you may wish to support the Lechlade and District Lions Club through their Virgin Money Giving site where



they are registered as a charity. Go to:
www.lechladelions.org.uk/donate

Lion Tim Yeoman

Raising money for Macmillan

The annual 'Mammoth Macmillan Quiz' generally takes place in February and has been well supported in Lechlade in the past. Keith and Sharon Fuller were not sure whether this could go ahead this year and were resigned to just holding one later in the year. However, Keith decided that it would be possible to hold the quiz over Zoom so it went ahead on Friday 26th February. Bandwidth held and team members in different households were able to confer over Zoom and text messaging.

There were eight quite intriguing rounds which tested a wide range of general knowledge. 40 people from 24 households formed 13 teams and the quiz ran like clockwork. The final scores were collated by Sharon. Tony and Jane Sullivan Brown, Shirley and David White, Iain McCleod and Clodagh O'Halloran in the 'Home Aloners' team came first with 77%, second was 'My brain Hurts' with 73% and third were 'Dog-eared' with 71%. A magnificent £620 was raised by donations.

Keith intends to hold a summer quiz on **Friday 2nd July** in the Town Hall. He would really like some support in the form of a group of interested people to get together to discuss fund raising ideas. This would not involve hours of your time but would be really appreciated. If you are interested, contact Keith at kdfmac@gmail.com

Margaret Hing



Macmillan Quizzers at work on Zoom

SHRIVENHAM

Shrivenham Cricket Club

Well, it would appear that there will be local league cricket allowed from May. This is indeed very good news and so there will be linseed oil applied to cricket bats and pads and boots will be cleaned in readiness. This is, of course, subject to there being no further 'spike' in infection, and deaths. Light at the end of a long, long tunnel.

This means that Shrivenham cricket will recommence this May at the Memorial Recreation Ground when we will be competing in Division 6 of the Wiltshire County Cricket League instead of competing in the Oxford Cricket Association League. An exciting change and one that is more suited to our players who tend to live more on the Swindon side than in the Oxfordshire area.

A taste of our early fixtures are listed below just to 'wet your appetites':

Saturday 1st May

Bathford v Shrivenham (Away)

Saturday 8th May

Shrivenham v Burbage & Easton Royal 3 (Home)

Saturday 15th May

Christian Malford v Shrivenham (Away)

Saturday 22nd May

Shrivenham v Chippenham 4 (Home)

Sunday 29th May

Avebury 2 v Shrivenham (Away)

We hope to see a few cricket enthusiasts at The Rec to watch some local cricket again, hopefully, in nice weather.

We are also hopeful that the thought of a new purpose-built pavilion will entice a few new loyal playing members, even though the pavilion will not be in commission until 2022.

Julian Stevens

STANTON FITZWARREN



Easter Bunny returns to Stanton

The villagers were out in their droves again to witness the return of the Bouncy Bunny and her Friends who arrived a day early on Saturday

delivering Easter Eggs, to the sounds of YMCA and Dancing Queen, to every child in the village and also some special adults.

The parish church added to the excitement on Easter Sunday, leaving copies of the Easter story and eggs in their porch for the village children and passers by. [#bestcommunityever](#)

Jayne Price

St Leonard's Church

During lockdown the village parish church building St Leonards has been closed to services. It was with great joy that on Easter Sunday a Holy Communion Service was held. It was lovely to hear the organ being played, to be sung to by a very small group of singers with all social distancing in place and to see friends once again and flowers in Church and in the Easter garden.

Easter eggs and booklets from the Bible Society about the story of Easter were collected by children when leaving the church building. The rest of the booklets and Easter eggs are now left in the Church porch for children from the village to collect.



CHURCH SERVICES:

Sunday 2nd May: 9.30am Morning Praise

Sunday 9th May: Family service in the churchyard if weather allows or on Zoom. Check the website or contact Liz Hillman T: 01793 762935 for details

Sunday 16th May: 9.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 23rd May: 9.30am Morning Praise

Sunday 30th May: 9.30am Morning Praise

Our vicar Rev. Elveen Mead

rev.elveen@gmail.com is keen to get to know as many of us as possible. She hopes to come to our village for an informal walkabout every other week.

The church building can be used for private prayer or quiet contemplation by arrangement with Liz and Roger Hillman. T: 01793 762935 to organise for the building to be left open for you to visit safely.

In these strange and difficult times it is not possible to be sure of all service times and details in advance, but it is planned to hold these services in the church building with all the recommended precautions and social distancing. Please go to www.stantonchurch.info for updates.



Spring will lift off at Stanton Park Exhibition Saturday May 1st & Sunday May 2nd:

Every Cloud will be hosting a members Arts & Crafts Exhibition in the Barn and as well as enjoying the exhibition, visitors are welcome to purchase any of the work on display. Small items such as jewellery and greetings cards will also be on sale.

At the same time, and at the other end of the Barn, we will be hosting a fund-raising sale of pre-loved treasures and donated materials that may be of interest to home crafters, so please come and take a look, you may find a treasure!

All events run from 10.30am-2.30pm both days and refreshments will be available from the kiosk in the courtyard to coincide with the opening times.

SOUTH MARSTON

South Marston Gardening Club Plant Sale

We will be holding our annual plant sale on **Monday 7th June 2021** in South Marston Village Hall from 7.30-8.30pm. On sale will be a variety of plants for your house, garden and allotment including annuals, fruit plants, hanging baskets, herbs, house plants, perennials, shrubs and vegetable plants.

Pop along and enjoy chatting with Gardening Club members for advice whilst enjoying a cup of tea and a slice of cake. Parking is available on Old Vicarage Lane, next to the school.

For more info contact Angela T: 07789 068340.

LOCAL CONTACTS

Police, Fire, Ambulance	Emergency	999
Police	Non-Emergency	101
NHS	Non-Emergency	111
COVID-19 Test Line	Non-Emergency	119
Gas	Emergency	0800 111999
Electricity	Emergency	105
Water	Emergency	0800 3169 800
Pest Control	Non-Emergency	07789 781151

BUSES

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

COLLEGES

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

LAW & ORDER

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

COUNCILS

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

FIRE SAFETY

Home fire safety check	0800 389 7849
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DOCTORS AND HOSPITALS

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

LIBRARY

Highworth Library	01793 463500
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RECREATION

Highworth Rec	01793 762602
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PHARMACIES

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

PRESCHOOLS

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

SCHOOLS

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

TAXIS

V Cars	01793 701701
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TRAINS

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

OTHER SERVICES

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

PRAYER PLACE

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

I would like to be known as: _____

I would like you to pray for: _____

(Optional) Name _____

Address _____

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

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