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Covid and injustice

Covid seems to have had the consequence of shining a light on injustice. Injustice issues that have been a part of society for a long time have been brought to the surface. The virus has been

very powerful in highlighting, for example, systemic racial injustice (we are reminded by the recent trial of George Floyd's murderer), resource injustice with the unequal sharing of Covid vaccines across the nations and the continuing injustice against women.

Into this situation came the proposed European Football Super League which it seems had been in secret discussion for some time, but was then announced by the big clubs as a result of lost revenues from the lockdowns. The effect was almost universal opposition; why? In an article I read by Matt Jolley from the London Institute of Contemporary Christianity, because of the perceived injustice. The plan would benefit the rich clubs at the expense of the poorer clubs; the



decision had ignored the powerless and excluded those clubs who did not automatically qualify.

The writer in this Christian publication pointed out we find out what

we hold sacred when it's threatened. In this issue the argument for justice and fairness resulted in the plan being abandoned.

As we all look ahead to the Government roadmap lifting of the restrictions which we have endured for so much longer than expected, my prayer for our society is that we can use the opportunity of Covid's searchlight on injustice to bring blessing and good news out of tragedy.

I can't help reflecting as a Christian teacher that the good news Jesus came to preach and to live out was of a Kingdom that specifically included the poor, the powerless and the outsider.

Rev. Geoff Sowden, St Michael's

Cover picture: Develop new interests and learn in a friendly, informal, environment with USA. See page 10

LINK magazine

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

Contributions:

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

Email is preferred; otherwise deliver to The Lighthouse Bookshop.

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

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

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

Deadlines:

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

Local charity delighted with ongoing support from Dandelion Financial

Dandelion Financial of Highworth have again this year supported the free debt advice service that Christians Against Poverty (CAP) provide to our area and community.


CAP are grateful to Andy Carter & Sarah Watch for their ongoing support of our charitable community work.

Through this award-winning charity, anyone in Highworth and the surrounding towns can receive FREE professional, confidential, holistic debt advice and support. CAP also run Job Club, Lifeskills and Money Management courses.



If you want to find out more about how CAP can help you, please visit our website www.capuk.org or call 0800 328 0006 to book a free home visit.

(See article on Dandelion Financial on page 38)



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Citizen of the Year 2020: Your winner

Last year, our readers voted for the person they wanted to elect as Citizen of the Year. It was a tough choice between ten deserving Citizens of the Month, but there was a clear winner.

Your votes decided Finn Farnell deserved the prize and Matt Ford was delighted to present Finn with his trophy earlier in the year.

5-year-old Finn made hundreds of NHS rainbow key chains which he sold, raising £1500 for the Great Western Hospital Childrens' Ward. Finn was nominated for his hard work and desire to help other children.

Well done Finn – a very worthy winner!



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Spreading the love

If you were one of the many people that got out walking over lockdown, you might have spotted one of the many hearts dotted around our town, spreading joy and reminding anyone struggling with their mental health where to get help. We spoke to Lynette Kotecha, the person behind the hearts:

Lynette, how did the idea come about?

"In 2018 my twin sister set up a business called 'Team Kotecha Dance Fitness' which I've been really involved with. It was founded following the tragic suicide of our best friend, to keep her memory alive. It started as a dance class, but now it's so much more than that; it's a really supportive community for people who need each other.

"Then my neighbour lost his wife recently and was feeling very alone, and we wanted to do something to stop people feeling like that. When I moved to Highworth I loved the fact that I always felt supported. People would smile and say hello to me on the High Street, and when I had my first child I joined a music group at the library and everyone totally welcomed me in. I wanted everyone to feel that way.

"So I hoped the hearts would bring a smile to people who need it."

How many have you put out?

"We put out 20 in January and another 60 in March all around Highworth, including the old golf course and Pentylands. Now, we replace them



as and when we notice they are missing. My little boy is three and really enjoys getting involved!"

And what has the feedback been from the local community?

"We've had lots of lovely feedback from people of all ages. People particularly like the bus stop hearts, as it's a time you often sit and think about things so it could be a time when the help lines are really needed."



It's not the first time you've done something to spread a little positivity around Highworth, is it?

"No! We did a Christmas trail in December where we hid 20 Christmassy pictures around Highworth. If you found them all, you took a photo with your favourite and were entered into a competition! It went down really well."

How do people get involved with Team Kotecha?

"My twin sister runs the business, based in Wales, but I'm really involved and run challenges on Facebook that I know a lot of people from Highworth have joined. The challenges vary; from walking 5000 steps a day, to walking 100 miles. There is a great, positive community and it really is for everyone; our members range from 13 to 80!

"We also do dance fitness classes on Zoom, and a free craft afternoon every couple of months."

Get involved on Facebook:

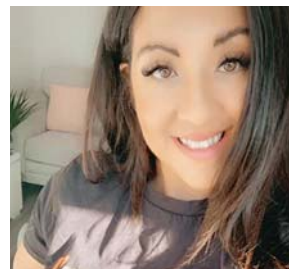
Team Kotecha Dance Fitness: <https://www.facebook.com/TeamKotecha>

Team Kotecha Daily Challenge: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1208755866176767>

If you need any support, don't suffer alone:

Samaritans: call 116 123 for free 24 hours a day,
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Text SHOUT to 85258 for free, 24/7

Mind: www.mind.org.uk/information-support/



Lynette Kotecha

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What does the 'Personal Tax Allowance' mean?

Every person who is resident in the UK is given a personal allowance each tax year.

The personal allowance is the amount of income you can receive before paying tax – and it generally increases each tax year. For the 2021/22 tax year, it is £12,570. So, if you earn £20,000 in 2021/22, you will be subject to income tax on £7,430 of your earnings.

The personal allowance is reduced when your income exceeds £100,000 in a tax year (by £1 for every £2 your income exceeds £100,000) – so that if your taxable income reaches £125,140 (in 2021/22), you will no longer receive a personal allowance.

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One million bubbles

In 2020, during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic, 2200 balloon artists from 81 countries took part in a global campaign to spread love, joy and hope through their art. Whether it was in front gardens, public spaces, windows or balconies, thousands of international balloon professionals joined forces to be a source of light in a very dark world.

Three different projects were held in 2020 and thousands of artists from around the world took part, creating marvellous works of art to make their neighbours and friends, if even for a moment, smile. The hashtag [#onemillionbubbles](#) was even trending on Instagram on Easter weekend 2020.

This 'campaign of kindness' known as 'One Million Bubbles' continued on April 24th and 25th, 2021. I took part again to help bring smiles to the faces of our local community.

My aim was to make people smile, even just for a minute, and I hope that the balloons I made did just that. Thank you to everyone who stopped by to compliment them, your kind words mean so much.

If you missed them, there are lots more pictures on my Facebook page; [Balloons By Em](#).

Emily Gunn



SpeedWatchers wanted



The Highworth Community SpeedWatch group at Redlands has issued an appeal to residents to make Highworth a no speeding zone.

The CSW scheme, run by Wiltshire Police, works with volunteers to operate calibrated speed cameras at sites with proven speeding issues.

Details of speeding vehicles are uploaded to Wiltshire Police who take appropriate action.

The scheme at Redlands has been authorised to recruit additional volunteers to operate on other roads in the town. Suggestions are Shrivenham Road, Cricklade Road, St Michael's Avenue and Roundhills Mead. Others would be considered.

A traffic survey will check the road meets the criteria for a CSW site once a minimum of three volunteers have indicated they are willing to cover a particular road.

Volunteers must be over 18, able to stand during a session, and able to read licence plates of passing vehicles.

To volunteer, email highworthcsw@gmail.com or DM the group's Facebook page, <http://facebook.com/highworthcommunityspeedwatch>

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Are you no longer in full-time employment or looking after a family?

The u3a is a national organisation available to you. It's for people who want to get together to share their interests and learn new things in a friendly and informal environment. **No qualifications required!**

The Swindon u3a covers Highworth and the villages, and is very active, having over 150 different sections! These span a huge range of activities, including outdoor groups such as bowls, walking and archery; and indoor interests for example languages, keep fit, yoga, literature, hobbies and pastimes you can share, photography, local history, aviation, and many more.

In addition to the groups (which usually meet in the daytime), there's a monthly meeting with an interesting speaker and the opportunity to chat to other members over tea and coffee. Some sections have trips, for example the theatregoers, concertgoers and travel groups.



Bridge players

The 'third age' is the time in your life when you have the freedom to follow the interests which give you pleasure and will continue to keep you active and alert. There is no upper or lower age limit; it's 'stage not age'.

During the time of COVID-19, some sections kept going

online using 'Zoom', but with the Government's 'opening up' step, sections are coming back into full swing.



Gardening

The pictures show examples of enjoyable group activities.

Wednesday 2nd June this year is 'u3a Day' and there will be a stand in the Brunel Centre in Swindon all day, so if you're in town you can talk to some members.

For further information visit:

www.swindonu3a.org.uk, T: 01793 614629
or call Christopher Ockwell on T: 07712 078942.

Robin Clegg



Let's Keep Highworth Tidy



POSTER COMPETITION

**Would you like to see your artwork displayed
for all to see?**

If so, we would like you to design a poster which we can display around our Town and use on social media to promote our anti-litter campaign.

The competition is open to two age groups.
Junior: Ages up to 12
Senior: Ages 13 to 17

Why are we doing this?

Because litter is unsightly, a threat to the environment and makes our beautiful Town untidy.

Please submit your hand drawn copies to Jacqui at HTC office in Gilbert's Lane or email your design to admin@highworthtowncouncil.gov.uk
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Tony's topical tip of the month

OK, so it's that time again, when gardeners are being very busy sowing seeds and planting and asking themselves, "What did I sow in this or that pot and where or what was it that was planted in the greenhouse?"



Obviously labels are the answer and you have many, right at the tip of your finger.

Well, that is if you like ice cream. The lid off an ice cream tub will make 10 or even 12 labels and more can be made from the tub itself. The plastic is not easy to work with so why not ask a friend to help you cut some labels just like this; enjoy!

Tony Brewster

Be Hedgehog friendly this June

June's top hedgehog tip is to ask gardeners to avoid using slug pellets and replace them with alternatives such as beer traps.



Hedgehogs are poisoned by slug pellets. Beer traps offer a safer way to protect your plants and not harm our spiky friends.

Lauren Hogarth, Hedgehog friendly Highworth

Photo: British Hedgehog Preservation Society



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From the Lions Den

My last contribution to the Link was in the February edition. It seems a long time ago but a lot has happened since then.

Following step two of the Government's Road Map, we were able to open our Charity Shop in April. Unfortunately, we were only able to open for four and a half days owing to staff shortages and, because of stock problems, we were not able to take donations. This situation has improved, but we can still only take a limited amount of donations and we are not able to carry out collections from customer's homes. Hopefully this will improve.



President Norman Little, Lion Keith Ratcliffe, Lion Rodney Davis, and Lion Jack Thornton

Unfortunately, Club activities have virtually ceased other than Zoom meetings, but a welcome distraction from our problems was provided by a local lady called Sam. She was celebrating a landmark birthday in the week before Easter by going around the streets of Highworth and surrounding areas dressed as an Easter Bunny. Luckily, she had a Lions collection bucket with her and she managed to raise the

magnificent sum of £432.22 for the Lions Club from cash and online donations. Well done Sam and her helper, and thank you.

For the remainder of the year, we hope to put on a 'Meet the Lions' stall on the Podium and, if COVID-19 stays away, have an outing for the elderly, as usual, in September. We hope to have our usual Christmas activities with Father Christmas, etc, and continue to support local and National charities and good causes whenever possible. We could do so much more if we had more active and committed members and volunteers so please do get in touch if you'd like to get involved.

I have been putting the list of major monthly donations on the Charity Shop door during closure but, in case you have missed them, here is the list since January:

JANUARY

Visit Highworth Ltd.	£250.00
Brain Tumour Research	£250.00
Highworth Mayor's Charity	£150.00

FEBRUARY

Brighter Futures, GWH	£200.00
Swindon Food Bank	£200.44

MARCH

Visit Highworth Ltd.	£250.00
Wiltshire Air Ambulance	£500.00
Swindon Woman's Aid	£250.00

APRIL

R.N.L.I.	£500.00
Wiltshire Search & Rescue	£500.00
Highworth Forget-me-not Café	£200.00.

One last word: you've probably noticed that we have moved the defibrillator from the old Police Station to the Westrop Surgery in Newburgh Place.

Rodney Davis,
Highworth and District Lions Club



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Highworth War Memorial: 100 years

For those people new to our town, here is a brief account of how the memorial came into being 100 years ago on Sunday 3rd April 1921.

In May 1919, a group of ex-soldiers asked the town council how Highworth would remember the dead. A public meeting was held and a lot of ideas put forward. At this stage, no-one suggested the memorial that we see today. Mr. Wolfe-Barry of Parsonage Farm offered to give the old Tithe Barn field, (the area now covered by the two Brewery Street car parks and the road), but only if a community hall was built. This idea was popular, especially with the Headmaster. It would save the school hall from smelling of tobacco and drink on a Monday morning.

Mr Moulton favoured a fountain and horse trough in the Market Place, but Mr Percy Clack had the most ambitious idea. The field had a spring, so why not a swimming pool and a hall? Carried away, he then proposed a free library, a garden and a band stand!

February 1920 saw another meeting and it was decided to have two memorials. One would be for peace. The cricket field, now the top Rec, would be bought by the council. This would give a safe place for children to play. The soldier's memorial would be the one that we see today.

Another meeting was then held to decide on the site. Rev. Bailey, the Congregational minister, felt that it should be by the road so that everyone who passed by would see it and remember. It was agreed. Finding the money was a problem and two appeals had to be made before the



money was found in November.

So, on April 3rd 1921, Mrs Arkell unveiled the memorial. It was estimated that about 1000 people attended. The families of the dead stood, half-shielded by the church trees, but their sobs could be heard.

Over the years the memorial became very shabby and the Historical Society took on the project to have it cleaned. Donations came in from local traders, the Freke-Norton Trust, private townspeople and fundraising by the society. Work was completed and the memorial re-dedicated on Sunday May 3rd 2015.

Christine Suter. Chairwoman, Highworth Historical Society

www.highworthhistoricalsociety.co.uk

Hopefully, the Historical Society will be able to start meeting again in the autumn. In the meantime, our little museum in Visit Highworth may be open shortly. They stock our books on some aspects of Highworth life. This includes 'Highworth Remembers' (£3) which gives the story of the town during WWI.

Highworth Library book reviews

Hamnet by Maggie O'Farrell

(London: Tinder Press, 2020)

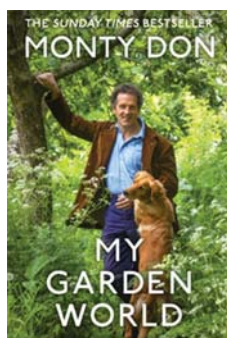
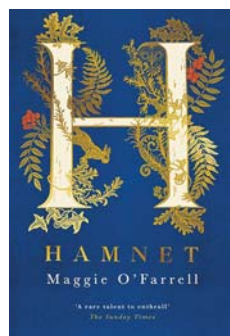
Nominated Winner of the 2020 Women's Prize for fiction and Waterstones Book of the Year 2020.

Set in 16th century England in the time of the Black Death Plague, this is a very different book to Maggie O'Farrell's usual modern day, contemporary settings. I was not disappointed; a book about love, loss and grief and finding a way back from the brink; topics on which O'Farrell writes very sympathetically and touchingly.

On a summer's day in 1596, a young girl in Stratford-upon-Avon takes to her bed with a fever. Her twin brother, Hamnet, searches

everywhere for help. Why is nobody at home? Their mother, Agnes, is over a mile away, in the garden where she grows medicinal herbs. Their father is working in London. Neither parent knows that one of the children will not survive the week.

Hamnet is a novel inspired by the son of our famous playwright, William Shakespeare. It is a tender and unforgettable reimagining of a boy whose life has been all but forgotten, but whose name was given to one of the most celebrated plays ever written.



My Garden World: the natural year by Monty Don

(London: Two Roads, 2020)

A must for a time when we're all spending a lot more time in and around our homes and gardens.

'My Garden World' is a celebration of every living

creature that we all share, from the ubiquitous blackbird to the feisty fox, interspersed with interesting little facts along the way. Did you

know that the mole can dig at a rate of 15ft an hour, midges are indiscriminate about their prey; humans, cattle or deer are equally attractive, there are eighteen different species of British bat and that the droppings of a bat are made up entirely of the wings and bones of their prey and have almost no liquid content at all?

'My Garden World' is Monty Don's personal journey through the natural year, month by month, season by season, observed from the immediate world around him. A beautiful read indeed, which brings us ever closer to the natural world around us.

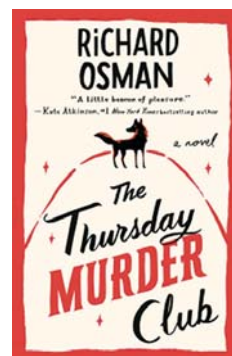
The Thursday Murder Club by Richard Osman

(Leicester: Charnwood, 2020)

This is an exceptionally clever book, the plot being deft and daft in equal measure (maybe a few too many red herrings as one nears the end?).

It is centred around four friends in a retirement home; Elizabeth, Joyce, Ibrahim and Ron might be pushing 80 but they still have a few tricks up their sleeves. Can our unorthodox but brilliant gang catch the killer before it's too late? Well, I think you already know the answer to that!

It is catalogued as a crime book and indeed more than one person meets an untimely end, but its real strength lies in the acute observations on old age, middle age, family dynamics and really just on life generally. It is also funny; a wry wit which manages to hit the spot without tipping over into cruelty about human frailty.



One of the most popular new titles of 2020.

Children's Corner

The Night Bus Hero by Onjali Q. Rauf

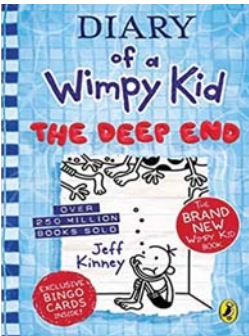
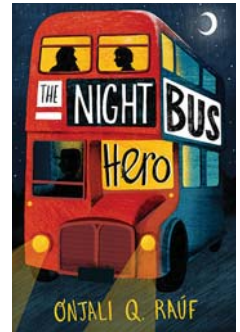
(London: Orion, 2020)

Told from the perspective of a bully, this book explores themes of homelessness, while celebrating kindness, friendship and the potential everyone has to change for the good.

Inspired by Onjali's own childhood experiences of growing up in London and seeing the impact of homelessness on those around her, 'The Night

Bus Hero' follows an unlikely friendship between our narrator and Thomas, who lives in the park.

Can they get to the bottom of some unusual thefts taking place across the city and discover what it takes to be a real hero?



The Diary of a Wimpy Kid - The Deep End by Jeff Kinney

(UK: Puffin, 2020)

Book 15 of the diary of the Wimpy Kid series keeps on giving.

In 'The Deep End', Greg Heffley and his family hit the road for a cross-country camping trip, ready for the adventure of a lifetime. But things take an unexpected turn and they find themselves stranded at an RV park that's not exactly a summertime paradise.

When the skies open up and the water starts to rise, the Heffleys wonder if they can save their vacation or if they're already in too deep!

Alison Dutton, Highworth Library

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Sport *Compiled by Jason Daniels*

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



Swindon Croquet Club



All white at the back

Swindon Croquet Club members recently gathered to spruce up the Clubhouse and Equipment Store with bright white paint. It was definitely a case of 'many hands make light work' and following successful completion of the project, Chairman Clive Smith declared that the Clubhouse could now be seen from outer space!

The club is always keen to welcome new members and free trial sessions, with equipment and tuition provided, are available. For further details please visit our website or contact John below.

Beverly Briggs

W: www.swindoncroquetclub.org.uk

T: 1John Airey 01793 873 026

Highworth Town Junior Football Club

The junior football club are back in action following the latest FA and Government guidelines. After several months of no action for all the children, everyone was delighted to be back as we re-opened for training sessions in April.

It was fantastic to see the joy on the children's faces as they met up with their team mates and joined in with the sessions provided by the club's coaches. Whilst they were delighted to be back,

unfortunately the club has suffered a number of mindless vandalism attacks which have all been referred to the Police, along with the CCTV footage that has thankfully caught everything on camera. For some time now we have had unwanted guests gathering in the club in the evening and leaving a trail of rubbish and broken glass behind. An incident involving youths hanging off of, and eventually pulling down, our guttering was only eclipsed when a car drove into, and smashed, the gate at our entrance causing hundreds of pounds worth of damage. The latter resulted in our club member Dominic Rosato launching a Go-Fund-Me page and within two days the club had raised over £1000. I would like to thank Dominic for coming up with the idea and also thank the local residents and members of the club who contributed.



Joyful Juniors

My extended thanks go to the Great Western Building Services, a local business who kindly offered to purchase and replace the gate. I cannot believe how quickly local residents responded to come to our aid. Thank you on behalf of everyone at HTJFC; we will use the money to improve the security to help discourage these types of incidents.

Mark Collett (Chairman)

W: www.highworthtownjuniorsfc.co.uk

Highworth Town Football Club

The club has re-opened for members and hopefully by now, (I wrote this in April) the 'outside only' restrictions will have been removed.

We've been informed that the Southern and Hellenic leagues will undergo a restructuring as part of the Football Association's national review and it seems the First Team's visits to the South Coast may be a thing of the past with several



Re-shuffling the League Packs

Oxfordshire clubs replacing us. The reserves opposition in the Hellenic league will also change, leaving us with a more westerly base.

If you are interested in following our progress, please do look us up on social media or via our website.

Derek Lloyd

W: www.highworthtownfc.com

Wrag Barn Golf Club

Third Time Lucky? After a long winter of lockdown, it has been wonderful to see so many golfers at Wrag Barn enjoying the triumphs and tribulations of chasing that little white ball. People haven't forgotten how to play and there have been some fabulous scores which bodes well for the Championships later on in the summer. For now, there is a full calendar of competitive and fun competitions scheduled to go ahead at Wrag Barn Golf Club in the coming months.

One of our first charitable events took place in April in aid of the British Heart Foundation. It was a mixed event and 24 teams braved one of the wettest days this spring to help 'Beat Heartbreak Forever' by raising £705 for the local branch in Faringdon. To find out more about the British Heart Foundation please take a look at their website www.bhf.org.uk. As lockdown eases, we are planning to hold functions again in the Clubhouse and are looking



Our Members Enjoying the Sun

forward to celebrating long-anticipated weddings and parties, not forgetting a programme of Tribute Nights. Please look us up online to find out more.

Verity Manners

W: www.wragbarn.com

Highworth Running Club



Running social distances

Whilst we had to cancel our races again this year, Boris did say we could resume our training runs in the spring which was an enormous relief to all. Running on your own is fine, but we do enjoy a natter at the same time. Normally we'd invite anyone interested in us to come along and join us on a run, but due to our need to track and trace those we run with, our training sessions are currently only open to club members.

Please keep an eye on our website for protocol updates if you are keen to join us.

Jason Daniels

W: www.highworthrunningclub.com

Cotswold Farm Gardens open weekend

Supporting National Garden Scheme (NGS) and A Rocha.

Saturday and Sunday, 12th & 13th June (2pm – 5pm)

Cotswold Farm,
Duntisbourne Abbots,
GL7 7JS

Tickets £7.50, children are free (pre-booking available via the NGS website for the weekend or on-site contactless payment)

A beautiful Arts & Crafts Cotswold garden in a stunning location, overlooking a quiet valley on descending levels with terraces designed by Norman Jewson in the 1930s. Enclosed by Cotswold stone walls and yew hedges the garden has all year-round interest.



T: 01285 821837,
W: www.cotswoldfarmgardens.org.uk

Four Phenomenal Women present a lighthearted evening of drama and poetry

Saturday 24th July, 7.30pm. Highworth St Michael and All Angels Church.

Tickets are £10 (including a drink) and are available from the Lighthouse Bookshop from mid-June or T: 01793 763337.

All proceeds to Swindon Branch of the Samaritans (Charity no 219432).



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Dear Highworth,

Before the pandemic, my mum, Carole Farmer, ran children's groups in Highworth for 10 years in total.

Sadly, she is unable to continue running these groups as over the past year her hip has unfortunately deteriorated and she's waiting for an operation. She has felt really down about not being able to start back up again and thinks that she is letting people down.

I am so proud of her. Her amazing groups allowed mums and dads with young children a chance to make new friends and provided a safe place for children to have fun in Highworth. I would like her to realise the impact she had on so many parents and children.

Many thanks.

Jennie Farmer



Dear Editor,



I am writing this to share my open water swimming adventure especially as we are seeing lots of positive press on the mental health benefits. I started swimming in the Cotswold Water Park with my daughter, Alice, three years ago. We love it; it has an addictive quality.

We swim skins (no wetsuit) and this year have dipped through the winter. On the 27th Dec I achieved 100m and Alice 200m at four degrees! (Alice is much more hardy). I am now training for a Relay English Channel Swim. To qualify I have to double dip in water colder than 16 degrees; swim for 1½ hours followed by a break and then back in for 1 hour. I have attached my blog and fundraising page for support and interest.

I'm happy to be a swim buddy for any Highworth people!

<https://clarewiddop.wixsite.com/clareshanneldip/post/welcome-to-my-adventure>

<https://www.totalgiving.co.uk/mypage/clarewiddop>

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Dear Editor,

The staff and parents at my son's pre-school recently organised various fundraising events for a beautiful, courageous, little 5 year-old girl called Avaya who is fighting Neuroblastoma (a very rare, but aggressive childhood cancer).

She has gone through various treatments but unfortunately it's still not enough. The National Neuroblastoma panel are looking at alternative treatment, but this won't be covered by the NHS. This treatment will come at a cost far beyond the family's means and that's why they need your help.

As soon as I became aware of Avaya's illness, I wanted to help save her life. I heard about a challenge that was well out of my comfort zone, which I knew would test me.

I decided to run four miles, every four hours for 48 hours (in total, 48 miles) starting at midday on Friday 30th April, finishing at 8am on Monday 2nd May. As a firefighter, I felt it would be challenging and appropriate to run the last four miles in fire kit, and I was overjoyed to be joined by other firefighters. Seeing all the support, including Avaya and her family, made me pull my socks up and give it one last push.

I can't thank everyone enough for all their support over the weekend and leading up to the challenge. Please help to save Avaya's life by donating to my GoFundMe page.

*'Avaya's fight against Neuroblastoma':
<https://gofund.me/4c19fac3>*

Many thanks.

Rhae Honey, Blunsdon



Dear Editor,

Recently I was lucky enough to have spotted a pair of beautiful tawny owls in the trees at the bottom of Highworth.

I managed to get a quick photo and I wanted to share it!

Steph Bath

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The Church remains open daily for private individual prayer. All activities in Church are subject to change in line with Government guidelines.

In accordance with current Government guidelines face coverings must be worn in Church. Hygiene and social distancing guidelines must be adhered to. Hand sanitizer is located in the South Porch for use on entering and exiting the Church.

10.15am Sunday Service:

The 10.15am Sunday Service is being held in Church and streamed live. Please contact the Church office to book a seat at the service.

The live service can be found at www.twitch.tv/stmichaelshighworth

Service sheets, summaries, prayers and blessings can all be found on the Church website.

Other Services

Sunday 13th June at 3pm. The 3 – Family Service

Wednesday 16th June at 11am.
Midweek Church Holy Communion Service

Youth Worship every Sunday at 7pm.
(term time only)

Prayers

Tuesday Prayers are held every Tuesday morning at 9.30am.

Friday Blessings are held every Friday morning at 9.15am.

Remembering the recently bereaved:

Margaret Hobbs

Fredrick Millwall

Mary Gadd

Kenneth Watts

Eileen Head



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



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| 10/3/2021 | Eric Ryder: Remembering and missing a dearly loved Dad and Bamp. Forever in our hearts. Love from Janice & Pas, Louisa & Chris, Pep & Amy xxxx |
| 12/04/2021 | In memory of Steve Pope. A good friend and our Best Man. Pete and Denny xx |
| 21/04/2021 | Cyril Knight, 16 years Dad since you passed away. Miss you & think of you every day. Love you lots, Lyn, Ruth, Patrick & all of your family xxxx |
| 25/4/2021 | Frank Dean: On this 16th anniversary. Miss you more each day, always with us. Jean, Beverley, Sharon & families xx |
| 28/04/2021 | Ivy Ponting - Remembering a dearly loved Mum, Nan and Great Nanny, Shirley and family |
| 19-21/6/2021 | In memory of Gordon and Tim. Missing you both so very much. Trish, Tanya, Ben & Claire |
| 29/6/2021 | Gordon, forever in our hearts, loved and missed. Sue, Liz, Hannah and Alex |

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The Bridge Centre: here to support you

Do you need help with something and are not sure which way to turn? The Bridge Centre on Sheep Street exists for this very reason! With Christians Against Poverty Debt Advice Centre, Swindon Food Collective (Food Bank), Benefits Guidance and a range of sessions for people of all ages, there's something for everyone.

But The Bridge Centre is much more than a service provider. Our volunteers offer a listening ear and a friendly face too and we would love to get to know you. Rooted in our Christian faith, we want to show the love and the kindness of Jesus to everyone who walks through the door. We want you to know that you are welcome, no

matter what your background or life experience. We've invested significantly in becoming COVID-19-secure so we can keep serving our community safely.

Why not call in and say hello? As social restrictions hopefully lift at the end of this month, our new drop in times will be from 11am-1pm Monday to Friday. If you need help with something specific, then pop your head round the door anytime, call us 01793 765060 or email bridge@highworthchurch.co.uk.

We'd love to meet you and we're happy to help.

Jon Hares

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.

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/2LpiZB7>. 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 currently streaming every Sunday and Wednesday 11am and 7pm respectively.

All the details, content and more can be found on our YouTube Channel (type Highworth Community Church into the search) or via our website: highworthcommunitychurch.org

We are planning to have in person services in the Parish Church at 4pm over the Summer.



Highworth Church contacts

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

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

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

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

Community Church Leader: Matt Ford T: 07712 521046

The Churches of Highworth want to pray for you.

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

Jesus cares, and we care too.

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

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

churchispraying@gmail.com

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

There is HOPE!



HOPE

for Highworth

OUR REPRESENTATIVES

From our MP

As Spring ends and the days draw out into (hopefully!) a warm hazy summer, it is a great opportunity to get out into the garden; whether it is mowing the lawn, cleaning the patio or tending the flowerbeds.

Maintaining a garden is not easy. As Kipling observed, "gardens are not made by singing 'Oh, how beautiful,' and sitting in the shade." However, the joy and peace of mind that being in nature brings is immensely beneficial to our mental health, especially over the past year when it could have been easy to feel cooped up during the pandemic.

In and around Swindon, we are fortunate to have access to some beautiful open spaces as well as the fields and countryside around Highworth. In addition to this, there are some amazing community gardening projects such as Twigs garden at Cheney Manor and Every Cloud's

tearoom & garden at Stanton Park. Both of these fantastic charities provide vital support to people struggling with their mental health, offering them a peaceful space to relax and take their mind off their worries.

I am always happy to support them and will be visiting Twigs as they re-open again as part of national mental health week. After such a difficult year, taking care of our mental health has never been more important.

With people unable to see family, or having to shield or self-isolate, it has been easy for people to feel isolated and alone. Further to this, a huge amount of anxiety would have been felt as the pandemic unfolded. Community spirit has never been more important, supporting our neighbours and community has been vital.

I am delighted that we are having more open and honest discussions around mental health and



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that stigma around the issues has decreased significantly; initiatives such as national mental health awareness certainly play a key part in this. I hope that we can continue to build on this and encourage more people to speak out on the subject and support each other. In particular we must continue to utilise our fantastic open spaces to help improve our physical & mental health.

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**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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Steve Weisinger, 8 Barra Close, SN6 7HX
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sweisinger@highworthtowncouncil.gov.uk

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



Highworth is open!

It's been a tough year for small businesses, and we're delighted to see much of Highworth open up again, ready to welcome you back with open arms. There's never been a better time to support local. We asked a few businesses for their thoughts:

Andrews Quality Meats

"We're still open, 8am-3pm. We're continuing our deliveries which were popular over lockdown and have a new, online shop:

<https://www.andrewsqualitymeatsltd.co.uk>.

"We've been here over 26 years and you get to know people in that time so when they don't come in, you do notice! We're seeing customers we haven't seen since February or March last year and it's really nice to see people again."

"We supplied lunches to local schools and in April we started a home service to those isolating. We have managed to survive as a business because of the support from our lovely customers, the dedication of our amazing staff, our flexibility and of course, lots of hard work."

"Thank you for shopping local and supporting us."

Bloomfields

"As a food retailer we've been lucky to remain open. Before the first lockdown, we decided to offer essential supplies alongside our usual food and drink and were able to supply the community when supermarket shelves were empty."



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Headlines Hair and Beauty

"We're open again and very pleased to be back. It's been full on and so lovely to see everyone! We would like to say a big thankyou to all our clients for their continued support."

Highworth Emporium

"The third lockdown was definitely the toughest, so we decided to come back in style and decorate the shop with a rainbow balloon garland."



"We are fully open now and we still operate our website (www.highworthemporium.co.uk) for 'click and collect' and home delivery. We cannot thank our customers enough for all the help and support we received during lockdown and we're looking forward to welcoming you back at the Emporium. Rest assured, we have all safety measures in place to make your shopping experience pleasant and safe."

The Saracens Head

"We've been busy making the outside space great; a new marquee to cover our outside courtyard, new heaters and card machines that can reach outside. We're offering full outside service, food and drink (see times on our Facebook page) and we're looking forward to hopefully opening inside by the time you read this, as well as showing the Euros in June."



"We'd like to thank all our customers who have visited since we reopened for their continued support."

The Freke Arms

"By the time you read this we'll be open, and if you haven't visited yet you can expect some big changes! We have decorated the whole pub and the big news is that we're going to be open as a grill house; 'The Grill on the Hill'. We're very excited."

"The new signage is currently being made, and of course we'll have a new menu, featuring all our popular classics alongside an extended steak and grill options."

"We've missed all our regulars and are excited about meeting new ones!"

Visit Highworth



"We re-opened our doors in April and, if we haven't seen you yet, 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 into a booklet, this 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 have opened at the end of May."



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Keeping it in the family

Financial planning firm Dandelion Financial is keeping it in the family by welcoming the director's son into the business.

Mortgage specialist Ben Watch has joined Dandelion Financial, run by his mother Sarah Watch and business partner Andy Carter, after spending more than four years as a mortgage advisor in Bath.

Ben is the third generation of his family to work in financial planning. Sarah's father worked for the Prudential and two of her brothers are financial advisors.

At Dandelion Financial, he will offer mortgage advice as well as advise clients on life and critical illness cover and income protection. He'll also have a paraplanning role and is currently working towards his qualifications to become a financial advisor.

Sarah and Andy have been providing independent financial advice in Highworth for more than 15 years - seven of these at Dandelion's High Street offices.

For further information visit www.dandelionfinancial.co.uk or T: 01793 765153.



Mortgage specialist Ben Watch



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

LECHLADE

Lechlade Collectors Club

It is with a heavy heart that the Committee had to take the decision to cancel the Rally for a second year. This decision was not taken lightly, but despite the new vaccine rollout, the pandemic continues to impact all those that we care about: our family and friends, our Rally Family; Exhibitors, Members, Stall holders, Marshals, Helpers, Caterers, Entertainers and the Public who come along to enjoy the Rally.

We are now planning and looking forward to our 8th Lechlade Annual Vintage Rally & Country Show in 2022. All Exhibitors and Stall holders that attended in 2019 (our last rally) will receive a booking form in January 2022 and we look forward to welcoming everyone to our site at Clanfield next May.

*Margaret Gruber, on behalf of
the Lechlade Rally Committee*

Working for Wellbeing

Working for Wellbeing is a new charity covering Lechlade, Fairford and the surrounding area.

Its main aims are to connect those in need with local organisations that can help them, to assist in the setting up of activities to foster a sense of community and reduce isolation and loneliness, and to provide education for health and well-being.

The idea for the new charity evolved from a local Patient Participation Group. Founder John Read explained: "It was very apparent that many people visiting the surgery were suffering with loneliness or stress. We started to look for better ways to address these issues and came across an experiment in Frome for 'social prescribing'. Dr Helen Kingston, who pioneered the experiment, recognized the need to address the needs of patients which lay behind their medical issues.

She set up a database of local services and support groups and then referred each patient to those groups which were best able to help with financial, social and lifestyle issues. The end result was that the local hospital saw a large drop in its admissions to A&E."

Recognizing that such an initiative could ease pressure on the Doctors' surgery and improve people's wellbeing, the Participation Group invited organisers from Frome to make a presentation about their experiment. This was enthusiastically received and a working party was set up to see how the lessons from Frome might be applied to the Fairford and Lechlade areas. After several months work and advice from Cotswold District Council and the Gloucestershire Rural Committee Council, it was decided to form a charity to attract funding to employ a Wellbeing Coordinator.

"Despite Covid, we have been very busy finalizing our charitable status application," John explained. "It hasn't been an easy road. We have had to do a great deal of work to ensure that we have the right policies and procedures in place, for example, data protection and safeguarding, and that we have a properly constituted board of trustees and secretarial and financial systems. But we have had a good response from our communities with many volunteers, including representatives from the Town Council and Churches, putting themselves forward to help set these up. I am particularly grateful to the former Chief Executive of the Cirencester CHURN project who has given us invaluable advice.

"We have secured £20,000 from Gloucester County Council to employ a Wellbeing Coordinator for 20 hours a week to help support our Social Prescriber in signposting clients to the help they need. Our Community Café in Fairford Community Centre will open as soon as Covid restrictions lift and we shall also be partnering with Lechlade Baptist Church to provide the same opportunity to socialise at their Beans Café."

The group are also in the process of setting up social media accounts and hope to use this platform to promote and encourage



'neighbourliness' among the community. "Covid has been a chance for people to give their time to help others," John added. "And many of the volunteers I have spoken to are keen to continue volunteering in the future. We are hoping to use social media to connect volunteers to people who are vulnerable and isolated and who are in need of someone to help out in the garden or walk the dog a couple of times a week, or just have someone to talk to. We will also be encouraging people to contact us about their financial or social problems so we can put them in touch with the help they need."

If you would like to know more about Working for Wellbeing please contact:
robertjohnread@me.com.

Sarah Gardiner

SHRIVENHAM

Shrivenham Golf Club

It has been great to see players out on the course. We have all been thankful to our green-keeping team for keeping the course in such good condition and we have observed several small improvements. The old buggy shed has been renewed and the buggies upgraded. A new fence is being erected by the first tee. Competitions have been taking place. It is great that we have taken on so many new members and we wish them every success during their time with us. We aim to give reasonable golf at very competitive prices. We look forward to the restrictions being lifted by late June and a return to clubhouse social events.

In July it is hoped to have a book sale. Mixed competitions will also restart. Notices will appear in the clubhouse windows. Social putting is resuming on the last Friday of the month. It is ideal for those who only want to or are only able to walk a short distance. You play on our putting green wearing flat soled shoes and play 9 holes. All equipment will be sanitised and only 4 people on the green at any time. £2 per person per session including a drink and biscuit. Dates are up and are as follows:

**May 28th, June 11th, July 2nd and 30th,
 August 13th and 27th.**

Competition results so far are:

Edwin Rose won the senior April Medal with a nett 69 playing off 29 and second place was

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---	---	---

BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL

Arthur Brinkley with a nett 72 off a 17 handicap. The ladies Thursday medal was won by Kaye who accomplished a round of 72 playing off 29; the Ladies Sunday Medal was won by Molly Garrett with an amazing score of 63 off a handicap of 37 and reducing to 33. The Granny Cup was won by Kaye scoring 36 stableford points, in second place was Denise with 31 stableford points.

The junior girls have been playing as well. The BB and O championships were held at Badgemore Golf club near Henley and Amelia played. The Oxfordshire championship is being held at Henley golf club at the start of June. The county playdays have started at Kirtlington golf club. More details for county golf for ladies and girls can be found on the Olga website.

Carole cleefairways57@yahoo.co.uk

Shrivenham Cricket Club

What is there to say or tell; very little over the past few months? Actually, things are now 'looking-up' as sport in general is now allowed as we ease out (with provisos) of COVID-19 restrictions. There is still, at the time of writing, the constrictive travel regulations where car sharing is not allowed which creates a major problem if a player(s) has not got access to a vehicle. Being positive though, we are allowed to engage in the sport we love. After only one game in the whole of the 2020 season, for the 2021 season we are already 'in business'.

Our first friendly match was on Saturday 17th April away at Sevenhampton to United Churches (who are in Division 2). A chance to recall our skills after so long and the weather was very kind to us. United Churches won the toss and decided to bat first. They made a pretty good job of it too with a score of 230 for six wickets with Shrivenham using seven bowlers. We started well enough with Keith Alvey top scoring with 67

(retired not out) but could only get to 177 for 7 and so registered our first loss of the season! (losing by 53 runs).

On Saturday 24th we were again away in a 'friendly' (as opposed to a league match) at Lechlade. This time we won the toss and chose to bat posting a total of 153 despite losing our opener (who shall not be named!) first ball of the game. Despite losing two early wickets, Lechlade powered to 154 for 4 and so another loss, this time by 6 wickets.

Next, we have our first match ever in the Wiltshire Cricket League Division 6 on Saturday 1st May, away to Bathford.

Those of you who venture out and about in the village will no doubt have noticed that work has commenced on the building of the new and much-needed Sports Pavilion after we (the cricket club) removed the cricket nets to facilitate the work.

Julian Stevens

SOUTH MARSTON

South Marston Gardening Club

Our next meeting will be at 7.30pm on **Monday 5th July** with Medical Herbalist Lyn Blythe.

Medical herbalists use plant medicines such as sage, thyme, rosemary, echinacea and St. John's wort to address a wide range of illnesses, including long-term complaints. This traditional use is increasingly supported by scientific research. Herbalists carefully select a combination of herbs tailored to the individual. These herbal medicines can be used safely in all age groups, and are often used alongside medication from the GP.

There are times when orthodox medications or surgery are essential. However, at other times,



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there is often another way. By careful consideration of the cause of symptoms and illness, it is frequently possible to improve health. The use of herbs, many of which have been part of our diet for generations, offers a well-tolerated and safe alternative or addition to more modern treatment strategies.



Herbalist Lyn Blythe

Come along and learn about these medicinal uses from the plants in your garden. Many well-known plants just outside our back door have

been used for generations as remedies for a multitude of ailments and which have been used to aid memory, settle an upset stomach, fight infection, heal wounds, calm "nerves", help a headache or promote sleep. There will be time for questions too!

Lyn is a qualified Medical Herbalist with clinics in Swindon and Melksham, Wiltshire. She is a member of the National Institute of Medical Herbalists (NIMH) and the College of Practitioners of Phytotherapy (CPP).

A warm welcome awaits you along with a cup of tea or coffee and always a slice of cake as well as an optional raffle. We meet in South Marston Village Hall from 7.30-9.30pm. Parking is available on Old Vicarage Lane, next to the school. £3 entry fee on the door or join the Gardening Club for £12 (annual membership).

For more information please visit the website: <https://southmarston.org.uk/clubs-activities/gardening-club/> or contact Angela on: 07789 068340.

**DO YOU HAVE A BICYCLE
YOU NO LONGER WANT?
WOULD YOU CONSIDER
DONATING IT?**



For four years we have been collecting unwanted adult bikes, no matter their condition, to fix up and distribute to asylum seekers at 'The Harbour Project' in Swindon.
www.harbourproject.org.uk

If you have a bicycle collecting dust, even if it is in a poor state, we will be happy to arrange to collect it from you at your convenience. If it cannot be repaired, we will use it for spare parts.

The men and women who have already received bicycles have been incredibly grateful, but there are many more we would like to help.

**Please ring Richard on
01367 850233
to arrange a collection. Thank you**



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STANTON FITZWARREN

St Leonard's Parish Church Services

Sunday 6th June: 9.30am Morning Praise.

Sunday 13th June: 11am Family service 'The road to Damascus' in the churchyard if weather allows or on Zoom. Please check the website or contact Liz Hillman 01793 762935 for details.

Sunday 20th June: 9.30am Holy Communion.

Sunday 27th June: 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 from time to time.

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

Even in these now less difficult times it is still not possible to be sure of all service times and details in advance. Please go to www.stantonchurch.info for updates.

Liz Hillman

Every Cloud at Stanton Park Farmhouse

Every Cloud is delighted to be planning the re-commencement of our public programme of art and craft workshops and activities from the 21st June onwards, if the Government's road map remains on schedule. We will warmly welcome people to come and be creative in a relaxing and tranquil space, surrounded by

nature, working in small sociable, well-tutored groups and in this way we hope to help boost people's well-being post-pandemic.

Children's Hour: Fairies and Flowers Trails. On **Saturday 26th June** we will be running another children's trail around the theme of fairies and flowers. The trail will be followed by a drink and sweet snack from the kiosk in the courtyard and will include a craft bag to take home. Booking in advance is essential and all enquiries can be made on everycloudstanton@outlook.com from the middle of June. £3 per child for the first two children, additional siblings free.

The Tea Rooms: The Farmhouse Tea Room will be open on Sundays throughout June from 12noon-4pm as a table service. The Kiosk in the Courtyard will also remain open for the foreseeable future on Saturdays & Sundays also from 12noon-4pm as a take-away service. We hope you will enjoy our new style Tea room

designed to maintain a safe, pleasant environment for customers and volunteers alike as we emerge from lockdown. If you are an art lover you can be served in the Tea room 'gallery' or you can enjoy the flowers in the garden over a relaxing cuppa and slice of cake

PLEASE NOTE: seating may be restricted on occasion by a combination of the space available to us and demand.



Arts & Crafts at Every Cloud

Please visit our Face book page or our website, www.everycloudartscrafts.com for updates from the beginning of June.

Meet Jo Mitchell, your Community Funeral Director

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please email: jo.mitchell2@midcounties.coop

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branch today:

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(Incorporating A. E. Baker & Son)

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



LOCAL CONTACTS

Police, Fire, Ambulance	Emergency	999
Police	Non-Emergency	101
NHS	Non-Emergency	111
COVID-19 Test Line	Non-Emergency	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)



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

Looking for a church in Highworth?

Highworth United Reformed Church

High Street SN6 7AG

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

Meets Sundays, 10:45am

bryanelk90@gmail.com
www.highworthurc.org.uk

Highworth Methodist Church

Vicarage Lane SN6 7DG

'Our mission is to love, worship and serve God, whilst individually we aim to know Him and make Him known.'

Meets Sundays, 10:30am and 6pm

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

St Michael's Parish Church

Vicarage Lane SN6 7DG

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

Meets Sundays, 8am and 10:15am

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

Highworth Community Church

Warneford School, Shrivenham Road
SN6 7BZ

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

Meets Sundays, 10:15am

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

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