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July/August 2021

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Fledging

This year we have had some families of birds nesting in boxes in our garden. Over the last few weeks we have watched the frantic activity as first of all, the parents have gone to and fro with a variety of pieces of nesting material, followed eventually by the same backwards and forwards with little caterpillars and grubs. The noise from inside the boxes has got louder and louder and eventually we saw little beaks appearing at the hole in the boxes. At some point since actually seeing signs of them, when I wasn't looking, the young birds seem to have flown the nest. After the excitement of watching them for several weeks I feel a bit deflated. I feel a bit sad that the birds have gone, even though I know I should probably be pleased that another group of sparrows and blue tits have gone off into the big wide world.

At this time of year many families are preparing for changes ahead. Students have finished exams and wait for results, and perhaps make plans for moving out of home to go and start a new chapter of life on their own. Parents perhaps have mixed feelings about letting them go. Other people are preparing for more of a change of scene than a change of life;



Image: Shutterstock

getting ready for holidays. Some of you may have things planned, others may be waiting to see what is happening with the Covid situation before committing to anything and others may feel thwarted that what we really want to do isn't possible just yet. This is a time of year when usually there is a lot of coming and going, sadness and excitement, endings and beginnings.

One of the earliest prayers, written about 3000 years ago, ends by asking God to keep watch

over our comings and goings from this time on and for ever. Later on, Jesus promised that he would always be with us in Spirit. His love and care for us is endless and whether we are excited or sad, anxious or confident, thriving or struggling, he is with us.

Whatever this summer holds for you, I hope that you might know that there is someone who loves you, who knows what you are feeling, who laughs and cries with you wherever you are and whatever your hopes and dreams might be. I hope that you might know God's love and blessing in your life in the weeks ahead.

*Rev Rachael Wilson
Highworth Methodist Church*

LINK magazine

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

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

Contributions:

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

Email is preferred; otherwise deliver to The Lighthouse Bookshop.

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

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

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

Deadlines:

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

The Patchwork of Life

A remarkable book of poetry by Highworth's very own Beryl Wicker

92-year-old Beryl Wicker is a force to be reckoned with. A great-grandmother, a published poet and an active member of her church community. We met at her home in Highworth to discuss her latest book of poetry, *The Patchwork of Life*. It features poems on a variety of topics including Highworth, history, religion and day-to-day life. Some aim to make you laugh, while others will make you reminisce about times gone by. It's a true delight.



glowing reviews and she's been particularly touched by letters from people she's never met.

Beryl said: "The book makes a great gift, particularly for people who are difficult to buy for! Thank you so much for your support."

Beryl believes poetry should be read aloud, and while with her, I was treated to a couple of verses. I left with tears of laughter running down my face and a spring in my step, heading straight to the High Street to buy myself a copy.

Beryl was always interested in writing, but it wasn't until she left her career in nursing that she properly turned her hand to poetry. She had never even thought about publishing a book until a friend suggested that she'd like to read one. So, she decided to take the plunge. What started as scraps of paper all over the house was written up by her close friend Val McAuley and proof-read by her daughter Mirian to become the book on shelves today.

Her books have been sent all over the world, from Canada to Hong Kong, Japan and Australia. Many of her fans have been in touch with

You can buy both of Beryl's books at Visit Highworth and the Lighthouse Bookshop or you can contact her directly on 01793 764395. Alternatively, if you'd like one posted please do get in touch and we'll organise that. Second class postage will cost £1.40.

Here's a preview of one of the poems in *The Patchwork of Life*. Many of her poems are inspired by Highworth and this is no exception. Imagine you're standing on the High Street, walking away from The Highworth Emporium and you'll have a pretty vivid picture of the man's journey!

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A bit of nonsense ***(Let's have a laugh!)***

*He was in a rage of discontent;
His wife could do no right!
The meat was tough, he'd had enough
Of carrots and peas and that kind of stuff.*

*He slammed through the door
In a terrible huff
And went down the road to the barber's.*

*When he got there, the shop it was shut.
Of course, his hair couldn't be cut
So, he went on down the road for a paper.*

*The paper he wanted had all been sold out,
So, he blamed the girl at the till.
The manager came when he heard the man
shout.*

*'What is this noise all about?
Go home to your wife, you're banned here
for life.'*

The girl at the till was crying!

*He went to the betting shop, further
on down'*

*Placed a bet on the favourite horse.
He waited there with bated breath –
The jockey fell off, of course!*

*He dropped to the floor in a tantrum.
He kicked and he screamed and he swore.*

*The betting shop man took hold of
his legs*

And slung him out through the door!

*A crowd gathered round from nowhere
And started to fight with each other.*

*A man arrived in a squad car,
Then some of them ran for cover.*

*'What is the meaning of this?', he asked
the man on the ground.*

*'My meat was tough, the barber's shut,
I'm banned from the paper shop;*

*I put my money on a favourite horse
And watched it come in first,*

*But the jockey, he got left behind.
I'm sure that I am cursed!'*

*So now I'm lying on the ground instead of
in my bed.'*

*The policeman took his handcuffs out
And wisely nodded his head.*

*He went next door to the butcher's shop
And arrested him instead!*



Forget-Me-Not Café returns

The Highworth Forget-Me-Not Café has now been running virtually on Zoom for six months and we are hoping that the June Café will be the last online meeting.

We have had singalongs, music and movement sessions and musical performances for virtually all these sessions. These have been really popular with our attendees and will certainly be part of our activities when we physically get back together. So far we have welcomed Aven Melling from Clubbercise, Alyson Jabelman of Kiddleydivey, the Wantage Silver Band and several Singing For The Brain sessions with Karen Owen and Rachel Jannaway. We have also hosted picture quizzes, games and a slideshow of one of our attendee's National Service experience, as well as providing an opportunity for socialising and conversation.

We have enjoyed seeing some attendees from outside the Highworth area as well as family members living some distance away joining in the sessions. This is the real advantage of providing an online service; that distance is no object to joining in.



In addition to the individuals attending with supporters, we are really pleased to have been joined by a Wantage Community Support Service day centre and it has been great to see a number of their attendees joining in with the activities.

The next big step is to return to face-to-face meetings which we hope to be able to do in July. Given the popularity of the cafés last year, we are looking at larger venues that will allow more social distancing than was previously possible.

We can't announce a venue at the time of writing this, but information will be available online (the Link website and on Facebook) and there will be a poster campaign covering the High Street and other locations as soon as we can. We will of course be adhering to all Government guidelines, and we look forward to having some awesome cakes again!

For more information:
E: forgetmenot.highworth@gmail.com or call Ruth on 07970 542243

Kevin O'Donoghue

Highworth Community Shed is homeless

Supporting physical and mental health through creativity and friendship

Formed in June, after a long wait for Covid to lift, the Highworth Community Shed is functioning as a 'virtual' shed. But we're looking for a small building, a room in a building or a small plot of land where we could erect a demountable building. The nearer to Highworth town centre, the better. Ideally, there will be electricity, water and drainage connected or able to be connected. Access to a toilet would be a bonus.

Do you know somewhere that might suit us? Please get in touch with Adrian Young
T: 07966 504084, E: highworthshed@outlook.com.
Membership enquiries also welcome.

Based on the principles of the Men's Shed Association, our shed welcomes men and women.

Sheds are spaces to connect, converse and create. The activities are often similar to those of garden sheds but for groups to enjoy together. They help reduce loneliness and isolation but, most importantly, they're fun.

We post our news on Facebook. Look for 'Highworth community shed'.

Adrian Young



#GrowYourOwnSunshine

As part of the Home Instead Easter Envelope scheme, schools and local businesses donated sunflower seeds along with spring poems, letters and pictures. The idea was to fill the gardens of Wiltshire and Oxfordshire with sunflowers this year and bring some much-needed cheer and colour.

Hundreds of seeds have been distributed. Our friends at Dementia Oxfordshire are running a tallest sunflower competition: go to <https://www.dementiaoxfordshire.org.uk/ray-of-sunshine/> to find out more.

(Pictures from St Katharines Care Home in Wantage who have benefited from the project)



Highworth Forget-Me-Not Café

WATCH THIS SPACE!

For future events see our Facebook group and page or look out for posters around the town – hoping to be back live soon for tea, cakes and lots more!

Bringing 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

Find us on Facebook

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You need to submit a Tax return (for 2020/21) if HMRC send you a Tax Return to complete or, if you know that you have income tax or capital gains tax to pay. However, HMRC have a list of further circumstances where a Tax Return should be prepared, including:

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- Your taxable income exceeds £100,000.

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Pastures anew for the Highworth Produce and Craft Show



After a huge commitment of over 10 years, Sue Hooper has stepped down from her position of Chair of the show. Sue has been involved in one form or another for the past 14 years and her commitment is to be applauded on

a gigantic scale. Sadly, Covid has limited our ability to show her our appreciation. It also prevented the show going ahead last year and it's cancelled for September 2021.

Not wanting to see the show stop for good, I have taken on the rôle of Chair! It wasn't just a moment of madness (I'm a full-time, working mum!) but a strong sense of duty. I have been a participant of the show for over nine years and I am probably better known as the daughter of Angie Thrush.

A little about me: born and bred in Highworth, I went to Westrop and then Warneford. I seem to have spent my entire childhood at the Rec. I

moved away in my teens and then during lockdown have moved back to settle in a house for life with an annexe for mum and dad and a new lockdown allotment to get practising for the next show!

For nearly a decade, I have enjoyed the excitement, preparation and build up to the show. I have witnessed how much it means to my parents and neighbours each year and then to my own child, Oliver. I definitely need to keep his produce show trophy cupboard full.

Sue's shoes are hard to fill; not because they are more likely to be wellies than shoes(!) but because of how much she is admired. Her trusty and devoted crew will also find new ventures of their own and the next stage of the show's cycle will emerge.

If you have enjoyed the show and would like to be a part of it in 2022 then please get in touch. Whatever commitment you can give would be superb.

Covid might have put a pause on the show but I will do everything I possibly can to make sure it can go ahead in 2022!

April Thrush

E: aprilthrush@hotmail.com

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Bosom Friends: Breast Cancer support

At the beginning of 2020, no-one knew just what the year would have in store. The coronavirus pandemic has meant that the last 15 months have been challenging and difficult for just about everyone.

Hearing the news that you have cancer is devastating; receiving such a diagnosis during these uncertain Covid times can be even more frightening. As well as the obvious physical effects, such a diagnosis is emotionally overwhelming and ultimately life-changing; it's common to feel alone, fearful and anxious.

Breast cancer is the most common cancer in the UK, with one in eight women being diagnosed in their lifetime. Men can also be diagnosed with breast cancer. Each year around 12,000 people will die from the disease. Although survival rates have improved dramatically, with more people now surviving breast cancer than ever before, there is still a long way to go.

Bosom Friends is a small, local support group run entirely by volunteers and offers a listening ear as well as practical, confidential support to those who have been affected by breast cancer. The group was formed several years ago by two

women who wanted to ensure that others in Oxfordshire and environs would not feel the same isolation that they had experienced following their diagnosis.

Members of Bosom Friends would usually meet once a month, often in the home of one of the members with a chat, cuppa and cake. Although currently unable to hold normal group meetings due to coronavirus, Bosom Friends continues to hold monthly meetings online via Zoom.

Whether you have just been diagnosed, are currently undergoing treatment or completed your active treatment a while ago, the group offers emotional support and practical, up-to-date information. Above all, we can offer an understanding voice at the end of the phone should you ever need it.

If you or someone you care about has been affected by breast cancer, please do take a look at W: www.bosomfriends.org.uk or call Jan in confidence on T: 01844 290362.

 **BOSOM FRIENDS**
Oxfordshire Breast Cancer Support Group


To ex-service personnel (born or normally resident within 100 miles of Shrivenham)

Applications are invited for the tenancy of an unfurnished 2 bedroom semi-detached property in Shrivenham, currently under major refurbishment, to be available shortly. This property has a large garden and backs onto the Recreation Ground. Applications are also invited for the tenancy of flats which will become available later in the year.

For further information, please contact: Graham Vizor, Clerk to Viscountess Barrington's Homes for disabled ex-service men and women (Charity 205219)

W: geevizor@gmail.com T: 01793-783684

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Returning to the stage: Wessex Male Choir

At the time of writing, the men of The Wessex Male Choir are eagerly looking forward to resuming rehearsals in June.

Wessex have not been idle in the last year or so. They released no fewer than four videos during lockdown; 'Consider Ourselves at Home', 'Life on Mars', 'Over the Rainbow' (from our Chamber Group) and a Christmas message. A fifth video 'What would I Do Without My Music' is out soon. All can be viewed via the Wessex Male Choir Website or Facebook page. They also compiled a 'Tracks of their Years' playlist; two tracks each with brief reasons why they were chosen. This is a surprisingly diverse and eclectic mix available on Spotify.

In April, the Wessex won the Wiltshire Life Arts Culture and Music (groups) Award with another splendid trophy to squeeze into the cabinet.

The Choir's chairman, Andy Entwistle said: "We are honoured to win this award and it is testament to the choir's commitment to performing at the very highest level and of the enormous effort the choristers have put in, singing together over the last few years; something they have missed so much over the



Singing in the Wieliczka salt mine in Poland, 160 metres underground, while taking in a tour of this world heritage site.

last 18 months."

The Choir was founded in September 2001 and 2021 brings the Choir's 20th Anniversary year and they have special concerts planned for Christmas '21 as well as a Spectacular summer concert for July '22. The choir will be headlining at the 'Open to the Skies'

event at Bowood House in July 2022 as part of a gala evening with a military band along with numerous other performers.

The choir plan to return to rehearsals in June and, once they've had a couple of rehearsals to dust off the voices and get back into the swing, they will be holding an open evening for new members at 7.30pm on **Tuesday 13th July 2021** at Royal Wootton Bassett Rugby Club. They would love to hear from any men out there who, during lockdown, may have decided that singing with a bunch of other blokes is what is missing from their lives.

If you are interested in joining them, but not yet sure, look out on their website and social media channels for a series of 'personas' describing the sort of people they are looking for; it could be you!

W: www.wessexmalechoir.co.uk



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The Arts Society Upper Thames

Are you interested in all aspects of the arts and culture? The Arts Society Upper Thames (formerly known as NADFAS) is preparing to return to its normal format from this coming September having continued serving members online for the past 18 months.

Ten one hour, fully illustrated lectures each year are held in the Lechlade Memorial Hall.

We meet between September and June in the afternoon of the second Thursday of the month, listening to the lecture and making friends over a cup of tea. Our programme secretary will have commissioned one of 380 accredited lecturers to give us our talk from one of his or her specialist subjects. The quality of the lecturers and the wide range of subjects always captivates our members.



Past and future lectures are there for you to see on our website as are past day visits and our longer holidays. If you are interested in joining, all you need to know can be seen at:

W: <http://tasupperthames.org.uk> or
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Eastrop Infant School go global

As part of our 'Diversity Week' at Eastrop Infant School, we looked at four different countries on four different days in order to learn more about different places and people.

The countries we looked at also had a family link to a child in our school. We found the countries Poland, China, India and Ghana on a world map. We learnt a greeting to use on our morning register, we identified a native animal or plant, we found out what the flag looks like, what the capital city is and the continent that the country is in.

The children really enjoyed gaining this new knowledge and were challenged throughout the week to recall their facts learnt!



Katie Mundy, Reception teacher

Our reception classroom

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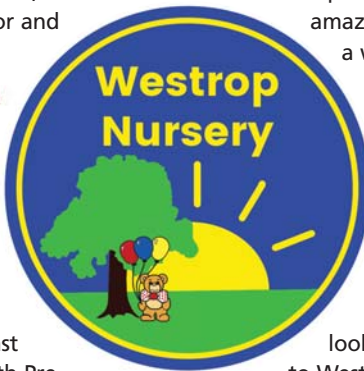
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Coming together for the children of Highworth

We can finally share the exciting news that Highworth Pre-School and Westrop Nursery have been working collaboratively to move forward together to create and strengthen Westrop Nursery, focusing on the local and school community. With both schools having served the families of Highworth for over 50 years, it is one strong team coming together.

From September 2021, we will have sessions available for children from two years old in dedicated playrooms for two year olds and three and four year olds. Our wrap-around care will be within the early years unit and we will have four dedicated early years outside learning environments. There is a woodland area and access to Forest School. There are PE facilities, a special education needs co-ordinator and teacher support. We will also be looking at developing toddler groups and toddler Forest School for our very youngest in the community.

Highworth Pre-School



We are delighted to say that the vast majority of the staff from Highworth Pre-School will be working in Westrop Nursery. The overall nursery will be led by Helen Hopwood who will also be responsible for the three and four year old provision alongside Tally Carr. Rachel Uzzell will lead the two year old provision sharing the responsibility with Tova Rowe. In addition, several staff are moving into Westrop School to further enhance the collaboration of two long-serving schools.

The children of Westrop Nursery will learn through play and curiosity and will become confident and self-motivated to learn. The learning environment will be full of meaningful and mindful spaces that put the children at the centre of every activity supported and encouraged by the highly qualified team.

Our new logo being designed for Westrop Nursery will bring together the Highworth Pre-School Teddy Bear to rest under the tree of the Westrop Primary School Logo. Westrop Primary School's vision and values are at the heart of the new provision.

Helen Simpson, manager, Highworth Pre-School said: "Sadly, for Highworth Pre-School, this is the end of an era, with both staff and families calling Highworth Pre-School a second family for over 50 years. We would like to thank the community and our families for their ongoing support. The staff team and I are really looking forward to this new opportunity offered by Westrop. We hope that families will see the benefits of a community ethos and our pre-school values blended now within

Westrop Nursery. Together, we have an amazing team with vast knowledge and a wealth of experience".

Cindy Acres, Head Teacher, Westrop Nursery and Primary School said: "We are very excited and we

look forward to welcoming everyone to Westrop, our school home. We are like a family here, a place where we belong, each and every one of us. Our school is full of happy people, thriving and resilient learners who are nurtured to be the very best they can possibly be.

We need to ensure that the values we have chosen will encourage our children to succeed and foster kindness in our diverse community."

Are you interested in future places for your children turning two or three years old in the next year?

Contact Westrop Nursery on T: 01793 762897 or E: nursery@westrop.swindon.sch.uk



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?

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

Rev. Robert Jordan: 01793 513039

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

Rev. Rachael Wilson: 01793 764330

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

Rev. Geoff Sowden: 01793 765554

Community Church

Office: 8 Sheep Street, SN6 7AA

'We love to be together, laugh, learn, 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
Find us on YouTube 'HighworthCommunityChurch'

Matt Ford: 07712 521046

Highworth Cycle Speedway

It was in 1949 that a cycle speedway team was formed by Betty and Bert Tremblin with the help of Maurice Haddock and Dixie Dean, who was a local policeman. They had become friendly with a number of local boys, some of them relatives, who were in need of something to do. Named 'The Highworth Wolves' they were given permission to use the Welcome Home field (now Glebe Place) to hold their races on.

Their first race was held on 11th August 1949, when they defeated Stratton. Organised by Speedway Star Roger Wise, they went on to reach the county semi-finals in their first season. During the interval of their first two home matches, the club received £29 in their collection boxes, this on top of the profit of selling programmes at 6d each.

Other teams they raced against, such as the Purton Panthers, Broadtown Bulldogs and the



Cycle speedway in action

travel to away competitions, so Roger Wise generously loaned them a large van.

The club continued to expand and a sign of its continuing success is a story told in the club newsletter 'Wolves News' of October 1950. It



Highworth's cycle speedway team, The Wolves. Back row: Bert Tremblin, Pete Webb, Brian Smith, Keith Whitaker, Hedley Gorton, Terry Dean. Front row: Ray Alexander, Ralph Coombes and Mike Haddock

Minster Lovell Pirates, provided great entertainment, and their spectator numbers grew until they were drawing a crowd of 1000. In fact, they were so successful that Betty's sister Grace was called upon to run the newly formed spectators' club.

Other teams were formed and they found the need to

describes the installation of an electric starting gate and lights, which was quite an achievement as the Highworth Wolves were the first club in the area to have this. The opposition often found this starting procedure rather confusing, as they were used to the pull-across starting gate.

Interest in the sport continued

to grow and, in November 1950, the Four Counties Speedway league was formed. This was made up of Minster Lovell, Longcot, Langford, Filkins and Highworth. Cricklade and Witney also expressed an interest.

In December 1950, through the continuing kindness of Roger Wise, a larger and more adequate club room was officially opened. This was greatly needed due to the increased membership numbers and was a great asset through the cold winter months. The club house was well used by the boys and a new innovation was a regular cinema show to members, which was a great attraction. Boys over 11 were allowed to use the club providing they were members of the supporters' club, which cost only 9d (4½ p).

The first speaker at the club was Detective Hares of the Wiltshire Police,

giving a very thrilling account of the work of the police and the detection of crime. The talk proved that crime does not pay!

In 1951, bad weather hit the start of the Speedway season which had a detrimental effect on the meetings, but great support was given by their supporters. The boys were practicing riding in the evenings, which showed the good riding of the junior team. This was most important as the following year some of their senior riders would be lost to the call of Military Service.

Although essentially a cycle speedway team, The Wolves activities were not only confined to cycle riding. There was the Cricket Eleven and they also played football matches. They had a successful football match against Faringdon Youth Club at Faringdon which they won 5 nil.

Ralph Coombs scored 2 goals and Roy Adams scored 2 more and John Peapell scored 1. Afterwards there were team games in the Youth Club.

They also held a wide variety of events at the clubhouse to raise much-needed funds. It was reported in the Wolves News in February 1951, that suggestions were made that the club house could be used by the ladies for afternoon meetings to have games, sew, knit, gossip and have a cup of tea. A Rummage Sale took place on 24th February that year, resulting in £9 profit for the club. Other activities included a Snooker Tournament which was won by Roy Whitaker.



*Highworth Cycle Speedway Team with some trophies.
Left to right: Ralph Coombs, John Jefferies, Mike Haddock, Bert Tremblin, Pete Webb, Hedley Gorton, John Edwards, Ray Edwards, Ray Alexander and John Tomlinson*

This was more than a Speedway club, it was a social club too. For instance, visiting Faringdon Youth Club on 10th March 1951, playing billiards, table tennis, darts Inter-

Club Quiz. Other non-cycling events also took place. On Friday 16th February 1951 they visited Purton Stoke for a Social Evening. Minster Lovell held a dance on 24th February that year, which raised money for the Four-Counties League funds, at which £10 was raised. Another time, a whist drive was held raising £1.15.0 (£1.75)

In 1951, the Festival of Britain Celebrations took place from 1st to 10th June, and a match was held during the festivities on Thursday 7th June, meeting the Bath team 'Norton Knights'. The teams paraded in the Market Square, headed by the Shrivenham Army Cadet Drum and Bugle Band and then marched to the field.

As well as the Festival of Britain celebrations, The Wolves got involved in other town events such as the Highworth Festival, Betty Tremblin recalled:

"Highworth Festival is now an annual event. Bert was on the committee of the first one and we thought it would be a good idea to visit the villages around, advertising and selling programmes the week before. What a week that was! Bert arranged to hire a barrel organ. Roger Wise again



Festival of Britain celebrations, Highworth, 1951. Left to right: Maurice Haddock, Bert Tremblin, Betty Tremblin, June Whitaker, Ted Stranks, Grace Eeles, and Mrs Jefferies in the doorway

helped by loaning us a van to transport it. We were a group of five: Bert and Maurice Haddock dressed as Pearly King and Queen, my sister Grace, cousin June and myself dressed as Gypsies. Later in the week, Ted Stranks joined us in evening dress. We had a lot of fun and a lot of drink and even got an AA man dancing in the street! At the end of the week we were very tired but managed to pull the organ round Highworth in the Carnival Parade. The week ended with a firework display, though not in the way it should have done. Bert and Billy Nichols, whose fair had been engaged for the weekend, were in charge. The first few fireworks were fine then all hell was let loose. Somehow a lighted

firework fell amongst the rest. It certainly was a display!"

One year, Bert and Betty Tremblin had the idea of carol singing around the town with a Christmas tree pulled on a trolley to raise funds. Bert wanted lights on the tree, so he arranged with people in various areas to allow us to plug into their electricity supply. All went well until they plugged into a row of council-owned prefab bungalows; one flash and everyone was in darkness!

*Ann Marie Murphy,
Highworth Historical Society*

W: www.highworthhistoricalsociety.org.uk

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normanlittle1955@gmail.com

From the Lion's Den

The Highworth and District Lions are sad to report that one of our long-standing Lions passed away in May. Lion Ian Bowie joined the Club in September 2000 and, although he did not aspire to being a Club Officer, he participated in many Club activities, especially in the Charity Shop. In addition to being involved in Collections, he will be remembered by many customers for his regular Tuesday morning sessions in the shop. Our condolences go to his daughters Lis and Katherine and his wider family.

The charity shop continues to open from Tuesdays to Fridays and on Saturday mornings. We are delighted to announce that have been joined in the Shop by Ruth who is proving to be a useful and welcome addition to our group of volunteers. We still cannot receive donations during normal shop opening hours, but we will receive two bags or boxes per household at the garage at the rear of the shop on Mondays between 9am and 12pm for the foreseeable future. We have only limited storage and have had to take this action because of restricted shop opening and a higher than usual level of donations.

Life is slowly getting back to normal and we are looking forward to meeting some of our new fellow Lions from our re-structured District at a training and social event at the Double Trees Hilton Hotel in Swindon later on in the month.

Club events for the coming Lion's year which starts in July are being planned. Come and join us: give me a call on 0345 833 9831.

Donations for May were:

£500.00 for 'Hope for Tomorrow.'

This is a Charity supported by Lions in the West of England which supplies mobile Chemotherapy units to bring cancer treatment to locations which are not near to a main treatment centre.

£105.00 to 'Dressability.'

This is a Swindon Charity which makes and alters clothes and accessories for disabled people to improve their everyday lives.

£250.00 each to 'Water Aid' and 'Sight Savers.'

Two Charities supported by Lions International to remedy sight problems and improve water supplies in developing Nations.

Rodney Davis, Highworth and District Lions Club

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Sport Compiled by Jason Daniels

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Highworth Tennis Club



L to R: Henry Shortland, Diane Turner, Ralph Coombs, Simon Hennell and Riley Hicks

HTC is delighted to be back playing on our newly refurbished courts at the Highworth REC. The courts are available for both tennis and netball, with some thriving netball clubs playing in the evenings.

One of the highlights of our return to playing has been a very successful junior/senior competition. In this, a junior player was partnered with a senior member of the Club, ideally one that they have never played with before. We had twelve pairs playing and all the teams got to play at least ten short matches.

Despite some blustery weather, we also managed to have a barbeque with burgers and hot dogs for all competitors. In the end, the winners were Riley Hicks and Simon Hennell, with Henry Shortland and Diane Turner winning the Plate Competition, but all teams went away having won at least one match. Prizes were awarded by Club President Ralph Coombs and we look forward to more events over the summer. The Club is open for new members or those who simply want to book a court and play. We can lend equipment and coaching is also available for both juniors and seniors. For more information and contact details, please see our website.

Andrew Shortland, Chairman
W: www.htc.org.uk

Swindon Croquet Club

Having reopened for social play in May, competitive croquet started at the beginning of June with the Association and the Golf teams playing several league fixtures, both at home and away. In addition, visits by local community groups, such as Swindon Town Football Club in the 'Community Extra Time' for men's and ladies groups, recommenced with equipment and guidance provided by Club members.

The Club's Open Day was held in June when invited guests and visitors were warmly welcomed and enjoyed trying out the sport as well as being served with refreshments. If you missed the Open Day, just come along to any of the social sessions which are held every Tuesday afternoon and Thursday morning.



Extra Timers concentrating on securing a hoop score!

The Club is based at Moredon playing fields in Cheney Manor. Trials are free of charge and equipment and tuition are provided. For further details please visit our website or contact John Airey on 01793 873026.

Beverly Briggs

W: www.swindoncroquetclub.org.uk

North Wiltshire Orienteers

Flags will be out for the Highworth Orienteering Event! Find your way around the streets of Highworth looking for red-and-white flags on **Saturday 17th July**.

North Wiltshire Orienteers (NWO) are organising an event with something for everyone. Equipped with a course map and a swipe card you can run,



Fitness & Fun Finding Flags

jog or walk around a course with several checkpoints. There will be special courses for juniors, family groups and novices; something similar to 'Beat the Street' that came to Highworth a couple of years ago. For runners and others wanting a challenge there will be courses of different lengths to choose from. It's great fun and you may go to corners of the town you have never seen before. Information is available on our website as well as links to enter.

Ken Stimpson

W: www.northwilts.org.uk

Highworth Bowls Club

HBC held the first of their two Open Days on Saturday 22nd May and, with a welcome break in the rainy weather, a fine day was had by all visitors and members alike.



May's Open Day at Highworth Bowls Club

Our coaching staff were on hand to help out the young and old in the art of lawn bowls and we look forward to opening our doors again on **Saturday 31st July from 11am to 4pm** so come along and give bowls a try. For more information, please get in touch.

Kevin Brown, Membership Secretary

E: hbcmembershipsecretary@gmail.com

Highworth Town Football Club

The Clubhouse has re-opened in the all too familiar Covid-friendly way and even sports a new paint job. With a renovated pitch we're ready for the new season ahead. Friendlies start on **Saturday 3rd July** and an annual Six-a-Side tournament takes place over the weekend of **17th & 18th July** before the league starts up on the **14th August**.

Please take a look at our fixture list and pop along to support us if you can. If you are interested in supporting us in other ways sponsorship packages are still available. Contact Fraser Haines on 07939 032451.

Derek Lloyd

W: www.highworthtownfc.com

Wrag Barn Golf Club

Wrag Barn is proud to host 'Girls Golf Rocks' again this year. Girls Golf Rocks is back for 2021 and the sign-up process for beginner girls is now live and Wrag Barn is proud to part of the initiative.

The participation programme, run by England Golf and the Golf Foundation led by PGA-qualified coaches, is specifically designed to promote the game as a fun and friendly experience for young girls new to the sport.

Although primarily aimed at participants in the 7-14 age bracket, Girls Golf Rocks is open to all girls aged 5-18. With nearly 200 clubs spread over 35 counties taking part in 2021, there is a wide range of Girls Golf Rocks venues to choose from and sign-up couldn't be easier. Coaching will take place in two six-week blocks at various times between June and October at a cost of £35 per block. After COVID-19 restrictions forced the cancellation of the 2020 programme, the initiative is back with renewed energy and optimism for 2021. All golf clubs and facilities

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Option 2:
Monday 6 September 16:00 - 17:00

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taking part this year have achieved the England Golf 'Safe Golf' accreditation, giving parents and guardians added peace of mind and allowing new recruits to enjoy themselves in a fun and secure environment.

The aim of Girls Golf Rocks is to boost participation numbers and address for the long-term the disparity in numbers between girls and boys playing the game. While qualified PGA professionals will lead the sessions, Girls Golf Rocks will also encourage current girl golf club members to act as peer rôle-models and assist in the delivery at each club by becoming programme ambassadors. In 2019, 166 girl ambassadors helped support the sessions and ensured it was the most successful campaign to date.

To join the fun at Wrag Barn, visit: <https://girlsgolfrocks.played.co/venues/wrag-barn-golf-club> and follow the registration instructions or call our Pro Shop for more information. In terms of club competitions there's a new Men's Champion at Wrag Barn Golf Club for 2021 and nobody will be surprised to hear that it's Tony Keyes who came in with a score of 147 after 36 holes of golf played over the May Bank Holiday weekend. At three shots over par, Tony kept Max

Drayton at bay in second place who shot an impressive 150, himself one shot ahead of Jamie Richards in third. Whilst third overall, Jamie Richards won the nett prize, calculated when a players handicap is subtracted from his overall score, and recorded a staggering 135. Jamie no doubt now has a new handicap to reflect such a great performance. But the warmer weather and joy of being able to get out on the course and socialise in the bar afterwards meant that everyone was smiling whatever their score.

Thank you to the staff and volunteers who worked so hard to prepare the course and run the competition; it was a wonderful weekend.

Verity Manners

T: 01793 766027 / 861327 (Pro Shop)

W: www.wragbarn.com

Highworth Town Walking FC

HTWFC Wants to become stronger. Most ex-players have a very strange impression of Walking Football, until they try it!



Golden not Olden

Sure, we cannot run without conceding a free-kick, but we can move the ball around fast and 'played to feet' the pass to move aspect is vital. Tactically, it is a challenge. Maybe it is the name; it should be called 'Slow Football' for those who just cannot manage a full eleven-a-side game but refuse to give up. Why should we, just because we have reached a certain age. We still have a strong competitive spirit and a desire to win and be the best. We are one of the most successful Walking Football clubs in the South of England.

All our players in the Over-50's, Over-60's and Over-65's squads have played the more traditional game at a good level, retired and then come back to football wondering why they wasted so many years becoming a couch potato. Sound familiar? You will be surprised how many of your ex-team-mates you will come across. We play in two County FA Leagues and various cups and tournaments throughout the year and are looking to strengthen our squads. We run a weekly team session for our various squads officiated by a Wiltshire FA qualified referee as well as a couple of more relaxed open sessions on Thursdays (11am to 12pm) and Sundays (10am to 11am Ladies and 11am to 12pm Men/Mixed). We use 'state-of-the art' 3G facilities and play at some fantastic venues including the new Wiltshire FA HQ in Devizes. Come and join one of the fastest growing team sports around. If you are interested in playing please do get in contact with me.

Kevin Turner

E: highworthwfc@gmail.com. T: 07748 366979

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For more information: phone: Irene - 01793 764890
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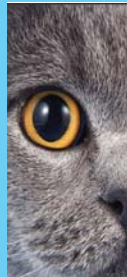
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Dear Editor,

At a virtual exhibition of 122 paintings I was told a 'Walter Bodmer' had bought a mythological painting of a Dragon, Dragon Hill and the White Horse on the Ridgeway.

My daughter, Dr Deena Gibbons, told me he is famous. When I looked him up, he is a member of the Royal Society, past Master of Hertford College and a Knight plus many other honours. As a young boy he was brought by his Jewish father from Germany to Britain to avoid Nazi persecution. From there he progressed as a brilliant scholar in a new language.

To myself, my wife and my neighbour who took the photo, he was a charming and erudite scholar with a fascinating history and I am delighted he bought one of my paintings.



David (right) and Walter Bodmer (left)

Regards, David Gibbons, davidgibbons.weebly.com



Hedgehog Friendly Highworth's Tip of the month

Please reduce grass cutting and leave a patch of garden to grow wild and messy. This will give hedgehogs some cover and foraging opportunities.

You may get some beautiful wildflowers too!

Photo courtesy of the British Hedgehog Preservation Society

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St Michael's Church

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.

1st, 3rd and 5th Morning Worship, 2nd and 4th Holy Communion.

Please contact the Church office to book a seat at the service.

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

Other Services

1st Sunday of the month at 8.45am.

Holy Communion Common Worship followed by breakfast.

2nd Sunday of the month at 3pm.

The 3 – Family 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.

Midweek Church

Midweek Church at St Michael's continues on the third Wednesday of each month. It is a spoken Communion service in the Church with the next service being on Wednesday 21st July at 11.00am.

Please contact the Church office to book a seat at the service.

We remember those who love and miss:

David Howard

Linda Drayton

Deryck Spindler

Anthony Mason

We welcome in Holy Baptism:

Luca Hull

Praying for the roads in the town:

04-Jul-21 Knowlands and Lechlade Road

11-Jul-21 Lismore Road and The Mews

18-Jul-21 Middi Haines Court and Newburgh House

25-Jul-21 Newburgh Place and North View

01-Aug-21 Our Church family who live out of Highworth

08-Aug-21 Oak Drive and Orange Close

15-Aug-21 The Paddock and Park Avenue

22-Aug-21 Parsonage Court and Pentylands Close

29-Aug-21 Pentylands Lane and Pound Road

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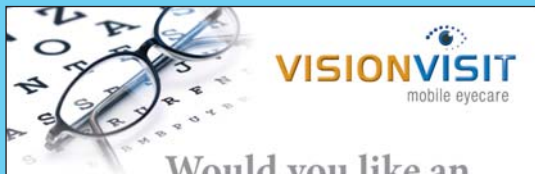


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Would you like to see your artwork displayed for all to see?

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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
Closing date July 31st 2021.

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1 - 5 Years



200 Years



450 Years



1 Million Years



1000's of Years



450 Years



5 Years

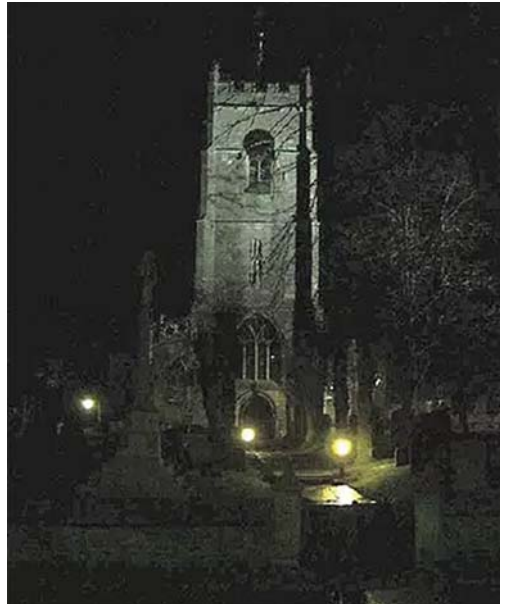


St Michael's Church Floodlighting

It is possible to sponsor the floodlighting at St Michael's Church for a special occasion or an event, such as in memory of a loved one, to celebrate a wedding or baptism or for a community event happening in Highworth.

The sponsorship dedication will appear in the Highworth Link Magazine for the month of the event.

To sponsor the floodlighting, please complete the form which is available from the Lighthouse Bookshop or the church website: <https://www.stmichaelshighworth.co.uk/floodlighting> and return it to St Michael's Church Office, Vicarage Lane, Highworth, SN6 7AD.



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



- 2-4/7/2021 14 years have passed. We miss you every day. Lindsay, Mark, Ben, Lucy, Helen, Alex and Ross xxxxxxx
- 01/08/2021 Elizabeth Shurmer – A year has passed since you left us heartbroken with a big hole in our hearts. Love and miss you. Alf, Heather and families
- 05/08/2021 Shirley West – A year since you passed away. We miss you and think of you every day. Lots of Love from Ted, Haley, Stephen and families – Love is for ever xxx
- 10/08/2021 Frank Miles - Missed but not forgotten xx
- 20/08/2021 Sally Shurmer – A year has passed since you left us heartbroken with a big hole in our hearts. Love and miss you Sal. Dad, Josh, Heather and families
- 28/08/2021 Sally Shurmer – wishing you a big happy birthday on your '50th' we will have a drink for you. You have one with Mum. Love and miss you. Dad, Josh, Heather and families

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.

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 Reformed Church

We are now holding live services at 10.45 am on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month.

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 Churches Contacts

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

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

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

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

Community Church Leader: Matt Ford T: 07712 521046

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

Goodbye from TS Tech

This July, TS Tech will cease operations at its Highworth plant after almost 22 years



The company was formed in 1999 specifically to supply car seats to Honda of the UK Manufacturing or HUM in Stratton. Over the years the company has grown from a handful of 'associates' to over 900 employees making up to 1,200 car sets per day (237,000 seat sets per year). TS Tech has made car seats for Civic, CRV and Jazz over the years and made many, many additions and alterations to the plant.

Starting as one large production hall in 1999, various extensions were built and neighbouring companies' buildings purchased to make up the 16,000 square metres it is today. We have had various different satellite operation units and warehouses across Swindon over the years including sites at Elgin, West Swindon and Groundwell.

Associates have already started leaving TS Tech following collective and individual redundancy consultation. The majority of associates leave at the end of July 21, with a handful remaining until spring next year to decommission the plant and manage the voluntary liquidation process that will mean the end of TS Tech in the UK.

TS Tech will continue making car seats in Europe and the rest of the world, but with Honda leaving Stratton there is no future for the company in the UK.

The Company and its associates wanted to thank

the Highworth Community for hosting TS Tech for over 20 years and regrets it will no longer be part of the Highworth landscape. Many of its employees are Highworth residents and have worked at TS Tech since its inception and seen it grow in size and complexity over the years.

We have built relationships with many local business and especially want to thank partners such as Andrew's the butchers, Outsauce and Bloomfields who for years have catered to our seasonal 'Hog Roasts', and all the local organisations and charities who have allowed us to support their causes for our CSR activities such as Highworth Council (Christmas Lights), the local schools and pre-schools and others.

We would also like to thank our long-term partners and providers such as Acorn Electrics, Snack & Sandwich and Tim Crewe Facilities. Also, Omega and Blue Arrow Recruitment Services who have provided us with temporary associates for many years.

It is with a heavy heart that TS Tech and all its associates say goodbye to Highworth and move on to pastures new. Thank you Highworth residents for putting up with us and we hope we are replaced by a great new company that provides new opportunities for work for residents and growth for local businesses.

We are now focusing our attention on helping

our associates to get new jobs and we are running workshops and support activities to help them on their way. We would like to thank Swindon Borough Council and the Honda Task Force for supporting us and our associates and to Lee Hecht Harrison (our career transition support providers) with various initiatives to help our people move on.

Finally, if you are a local business looking for new employees please contact HR@tstech.co.uk and we can advertise your open vacancies to our people.

Thank you.



TS Tech staff say 'goodbye'

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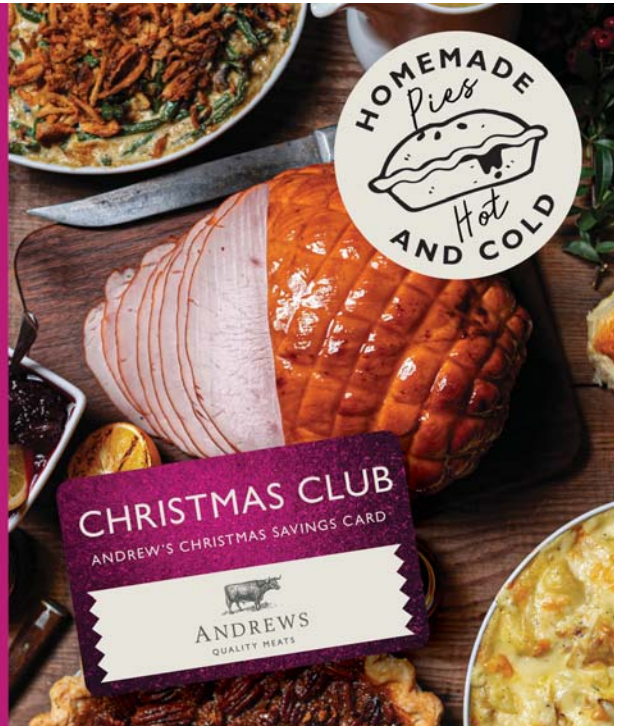
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Electric Car Experience Day

Have you been thinking about an electric car?

Where: Simpsons Subaru, Highworth, SN6 7NA

When: Sunday 11th July 2021 Cost: FREE

Simpsons Subaru are proud to host our first Electric Car Experience Day this July. We welcome you to view and test drive our wide selection of electric cars. We want to show you the benefit of driving an electric car and the wide selection of EVs available to you now.

If you have been considering an electric car, our event is a must. We have gratefully supported our local customers as a



Subaru dealership for many years. Simpsons Cars have now taken the opportunity to partner with JustEVs to offer all makes and models of electric cars. We believe that electric is the future of motoring and we look forward to sharing our passion with you.

“We still see that people don’t really realise that electric cars are here right now. When we show them an actual EV and they see and feel the way it drives and calculate the cost savings; it’s still kind of a jaw-dropping moment for a lot of people.”

Andy Farmer (JustEVs)

Our team will be happy to answer your electric car questions and book you in for a test drive in any of our cars. We will also have one of the JustEVs electric car experts on site to help with any more difficult questions.

We will have dancing Teslas, plenty of great EV information and some JustEVs giveaways for the family to take home.

We look forward to seeing you on 11th July between 10am and 3pm. The event is completely free and there is no need to book.

If you would like to get in touch, please call our team on 01793 767000.



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Sunday 11th July
10AM - 3PM

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Paul said: "I'm contactable by phone seven days a week should you need any mechanical advice. You can always speak to me directly, and I'll personally be the one working on your vehicle."

I offer a collection and delivery service as well as an option of a loan car, so you really don't need to worry about time off work or even leaving the comfort of your home."

Paul's services may not be the cheapest around, but his prices are fair and reasonable, and, because Paul prides himself on his honesty, he'll only complete work that the vehicle requires.

Paul's summer safety vehicle advice? "Check your coolant and oil levels and pay attention to the tread on your tyres. Don't forget to check the tyre pressures too."

Find out more: www.paulgannonmechanic.co.uk

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The perfect team: Dumbledart's Bakery



Dumbledart's Bakery is a friendly family-run business based in Highworth. Although a name that may be relatively new to you all, we have actually been producing homemade celebration cakes since 2013.

Having first ventured into baking for a charity event while at work one day, everything began to snowball from there. Family and friends started setting more challenging creations and my love for baking grew with each task. I'm happy to say that we have grown to having a great customer base here in Highworth, where we now call home.

The team behind Dumbledart's is me, Helen. I'm the baker. The one responsible for the cakes we produce. From the designing to the baking and decorating, it's my full-on passion. I work alongside my partner in everything, James. He's the man with the ideas, the one in charge of making things run smoothly and is in charge of operations for the website, as well as being the self-appointed chief cake tester.

Together, we feel we make the perfect team. We have the same motto in life as we do for the business, quality above anything else.

Dumbledart's has become very special to us both with a lot of heart, time and passion going into every aspect of making our business what it is today. As with many, this past year has been an extremely challenging time, being an industry that relies on parties and get-togethers. But we are now very happy to be coming out the other side.

Thank you for taking the time to read about us, please feel free to have a look at our website, drop us a line, or give us your thoughts. We always love to hear from customers, www.dumbledartsbakery.co.uk

Helen, Dumbledart's Bakery

Tasty facts!

- Dumbledart's Bakery used roughly 1,590 eggs in 2020.
- One of their cakes travelled all the way to Germany!
- Their two most popular flavours? Chocolate and good, old-fashioned Victoria Sponge.



Fairford & Lechlade Business Club (FLBC)

How amazing it is to start getting back to live face-to-face business events as well as meeting up with family and friends!

FLBC held their first 'live' business breakfast event at the end of May kindly hosted by Penny and Liz at The Trout Inn, Lechlade. Over 20 businesses with regular, new and potential members got a chance to catch up and share stories, both successes and challenges, from the past year whilst taking in the spectacular view of the Thames.

Our in-person meetings continued on Thursday 24th June in Coleshill with a talk from Rory Souter of the Cotswold Cider Co. about how the company developed and the industry, whilst tasting a variety of ciders!

Our next meeting is our summer social on



FLBC Members gather in The Trout gardens for networking and boat trips by Cotswold Boat Hire

Thursday 29th July at Lechlade Marina, thanks to Ian and Jules, with a car rally preceding this.

Our September meeting will be kindly hosted by Richard and Trish at Cotswold Woollen Weavers and we will hear from some of our award winners in a panel session.

FLBC covers not only Fairford and Lechlade but the areas of Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and Oxfordshire.

Our members currently hail from Swindon and South Cerney to Cirencester, Highworth, Faringdon, Witney and The Cotswolds!

Information on joining FLBC and club events can be found on our website at www.flbc.org.uk.

Any questions contact our Admin Team on: T: 07947 993794 or E: admin@flbc.org.uk



FLBC Chair, Helen Webb presents Penny Warren of The Trout Inn with the Howard Dowler Award for Service to the Community.



FLBC Chair, Helen Webb presents Ian Lindsay of Lechlade Marina with the New Business of The Year Award.



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From our MP

As we move closer to normality, we are very conscious that young people have been among those most affected by the COVID pandemic, with under-25s making up 54 per cent of jobs lost during the pandemic. In addition to this, the education and training of many young people has been severely disrupted during the pandemic, thereby potentially having an impact on their future prospects.

Therefore I very much welcome that the Government has announced a fresh and innovative package of support which focuses specifically on young people.

We know that a lack of experience can often be a barrier for young people looking for their first job. Apprenticeships can be a fantastic way for young people to gain skills and experience – while also earning at the same time. As well as benefitting young people, apprenticeships also allow businesses to invest in the skilled workforce they need for the future. To encourage more apprenticeship opportunities, the Government announced recently that businesses can now claim £3000 for every apprentice they employ as a new employee.

The Government's £2 billion Kickstart programme is another scheme that aims to help young people develop the skills and experience they need to start their careers. The scheme offers fully-funded 6-month placements to 16-24 year olds who are claiming Universal Credit and are at risk of long term unemployment. Employers of all sizes are taking part and already nearly 200,000 Kickstart placements have been created.

In addition to the Kickstart Scheme, the Government is investing in T-Levels, offering employers £1000 for every T Level Student they take on. The T-Level courses have been developed in collaboration with employers and businesses so that the content meets the needs of industry and prepares students for work, further training or study.

The Government has also created the National Skills Fund; a scheme that aims to support the Government's pledge that every young person has access to an offer of work-based training, work experience or a training programme. The fund will be backed up by £2.5 billion of Government funding, including £375 million being invested in 2021-22. The Skills Fund will see £95 million of additional funding made available to give adults free access to level 3 qualifications. Hundreds of courses have been carefully selected to support adults to gain skills leading to jobs in sectors such as construction, healthcare and digital.

Finally, I am looking forward to welcoming back students to my summer work-experience programme. I offer any interested students involved, the opportunity to shadow my Parliamentary team and I in North Swindon in order for them to see first-hand what I do to represent them. Interns get to see how my office functions day-to-day and how I represent constituents across North Swindon on a huge variety of issues, as well as working in groups on team exercises to understand the workings of Parliament, debates and campaigns. Any interested student can drop me an email if they would like to join this Summer.

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

W: www.justintomlinson.com

E: Justin.tomlinson.mp@parliament.uk

[Facebook.com/justintomlinsonofficial](https://www.facebook.com/justintomlinsonofficial)

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



A message from our new Borough Councillor, Vijay Manro



Thank you to all the residents who had faith in me and voted for me to represent them at Swindon Borough Council. I also promise to all the other residents I will listen to your views and, over the next three years, will try my best to win your support.

I moved to Highworth with my family in 2002 so that my two daughters could attend Warneford School which was the best school in Swindon. Both daughters have graduated and are now married. We like and enjoy living in Highworth which is why my wife and I are still here.

My work as a civil engineer has taken me to Buckinghamshire, Southampton, East Sussex and the Isle of Wight. Highworth has always been where I am most comfortable to live. I will always be a strong voice in the Council Chamber for the benefit of residents I represent in the ward and will always support local schools and businesses.

My plea to all residents is to shop local and support small businesses. This will benefit the residents in the long run by making local businesses thrive and reducing the need to travel, which will reduce congestion and pollution. Local businesses have to make profits which can be used to improve the business and this indirectly improves the shopping experience of the local residents.

As a qualified civil engineer with substantial experience in public services and in my

employment with Local Authorities I have managed development projects such as shopping malls, IKEA, Costco store, student accommodation and housing, bus priority schemes and reduction of carbon emission. I have also managed planned maintenance of highways networks and major highway improvement schemes. I have always ensured that any new developments benefit the local residents and improve the infrastructure for use of the residents.

I have experience of traffic management/ traffic orders for residential zones/residents parking and speed management. I will, in the Council chamber, strongly support investment in the local highway infrastructure and public transport. I will support installation of electric vehicle points at various locations on the public highway and also support local business to provide electric charging points in the car parks.

The best way to reduce traffic congestion is to have a real model shift from travelling in cars to walking and cycling for short trips. Support for improvement of cycling routes and well-maintained footways subject to available budget for highway maintenance.

Please contact me either via email: vmanro3@swindon.gov.uk or my mobile: 07545 429367

*Cllr Vijay Manro,
Swindon Borough Councillor*

HIGHWORTH TOWN COUNCILLORS

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

TOWN MAYOR & CHAIRMAN

Richard Williams, 7 Park Avenue SN6 7AW
01793 763514 Mob: 07789 781151
richard.williams@highworthtowncouncil.gov.uk

DEPUTY MAYOR & VICE-CHAIRMAN

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julie.murphy@highworthtowncouncil.gov.uk

Kim Barber, Stable House, Eastrop, Highworth SN6 7AT
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Graeme Olley, 97 Eastrop SN6 7PP
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Maureen Penny, Squires Court SN6 7FH
07787 977884 maureen.penny@highworthtowncouncil.gov.uk

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Kenneth Saunders, 343 Windrush SN6 7EF
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ken.saunders@highworthtowncouncil.gov.uk

Lynn Vardy, Old School House, Eastrop SN6 7AT 01793 762521

Steve Weisinger, 8 Barra Close, SN6 7HX
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steve.weisinger@highworthtowncouncil.gov.uk

Simon Wolfensohn, 34 Shrivensham Road SN6 7QQ
01793 763279 Mob: 07736 082552 Work: 01793 765335
simon.wolfensohn@highworthtowncouncil.gov.uk

SWINDON BOROUGH COUNCILLORS

Alan John Bishop, Sandstone, 37 Fitzgerald Avenue SN6 7JJ
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Vijay Manro, 38 The Dormers, SN6 7NZ
07545 429367 vmanro3@swindon.gov.uk

Steve Weisinger, 8 Barra Close, SN6 7HX
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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**

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

FARINGDON

Farcycles receives the Queens Award for Voluntary Services



Farcycles is a charity that connects people on bicycles to cycle together in the stunning countryside around Faringdon. They also lobby for cycling infrastructure improvements and try to influence policymakers on cycling investment.

The Queen's Award for Voluntary Services was awarded to the group in recognition for the charity's response to the pandemic by providing impactful support to the community.

Farcycles hold weekly family friendly cycle meetings which leave from the Market Square. Their cycle park is always open and they hold regular cycle lessons for kids. They are also organising a 'Tour de Farcycles' event on **Saturday 17th July** with routes of 30, 50 and 80 miles. You can find out more at FARCYCLES - Home (weebly.com)

GREAT COXWELL

Land near Chowle Farm Industrial Estate has always been used as a dumping ground. So when it became available for sale, local residents formed a 'Great Coxwell Sustainability Group' with the hopes of raising enough money to buy the 6.78 acres and transform the scrubland into a wildlife refuge by creating a woodland and wetland walkway. They managed to raise just over £20,000 but the land sold for £116,000. The group are now in talks with the new owner.

LECHLADE

Pub evacuated after grenade found

At the end of April the Riverside Pub had to be evacuated after an unexploded grenade was fished out of the River Thames with a magnet. The discovery led to the closure of Halfpenny Bridge and the A361 for over three hours. The bomb disposal team destroyed the suspected grenade in a controlled explosion.

Lechlade Community Library

From **Monday 21st June 2021** the Library will open a further day but some of the times have changed. The further day is due to new volunteers coming forward and we are grateful to them. We also see the return of previous volunteers who withdrew due to Covid restrictions.

If you are able to spare three hours every fortnight, have a basic knowledge of computers, are willing to learn the rôle of running a library and like working with our community and visitors please pop into the library during

A promotional poster for Regent Cinema. At the top is a golden crown. Below it is a film strip graphic with the text 'REGENT CINEMA' in yellow. The main text reads 'Doors opening September!' in large black letters, followed by 'THE CORN EXCHANGE FARINGDON' in smaller black letters. Below that is 'See you all soon!' and contact information: 'www.faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk', 'T: 01367 240281', and 'E: regentcinema@faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk'. At the bottom are two film reels and the Faringdon Town Council logo.



opening hours when one of the volunteers will talk you through what is expected and pass your details to our Volunteer Co-ordinator.

Monday 1300 - 1600 (New Time)

Tuesday 1000 - 1300 (New Day)

Wednesday 1000 - 1300 (New Time)

Saturday 1000 - 1300

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

SEVENHAMPTON

New Purpose for Telephone Box

The Sevenhampton telephone box has become a book exchange. A handyman in the village made bespoke wooden shelves, (a great improvement



Sevenhampton telephone box

on the stacked bags and boxes of books), to fit neatly around the original metal telephone shelf and beneath a village information poster with photographs over the decades.

The telephone box is of the type originally designed from 1926 by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott.

SHRIVENHAM

Shrivenham Golf Club

Shrivenham junior Amelia Seal won the Oxfordshire County Girls Nett Championship at Henley Golf Club. A very exciting day's play brought a trophy home to Shrivenham and reduced a player's handicap index to 15.1 Another of Shrivenham's players, Lillie Chowns, also was among the prize winners in the Stableford competition for higher handicaps and a third member, Rachael, showed just how much her game had improved. A month ago Amelia had played at Badgemore in the Bucks, Berks and Oxfordshire tournament. The junior girls club organizer was delighted with the results at Henley. The Ladies of Oxfordshire have also recently played at Drayton Park in the Bronze division championship but, unfortunately, on that occasion two small storms arrived and the competition had to be curtailed to 14 holes. The winner then was Ruth Mackay from Drayton Park, formerly a Carswell player.

At Shrivenham, the ladies have taken part in the qualifying round of the Coronation foursomes and Sue McGuire and Pam Bannister now sit back



Amelia Seal, winner of Oxfordshire County Girls Nett Championship

to see if they will be in the top 100 entries to qualify to play in the next round at Chippenham.

The Ladies May medals this month on the Thursday and the Sunday at the beginning and end of the month were won by our club single figure handicapped player, Debbie Elbourn.

On bank holiday Monday Shrevenham hosted the yellow ball competition and were pleased to welcome some visitors to play in it on that day. The Spicers were the winning team, in second place the Marshall team and in third place a team of former 12 Oaks members. Social distancing was very evident and a shotgun start helped this as everyone began their round on a different tee.

There are various club and county events coming up in this month of June to be reported on in the next issue of the magazine and will include the Oxfordshire Lady Captains Ponting pheasants trophy to be played at North Oxford. The three ball alliance is also being staged at that course and Shrevenham and the Defence Academy are entering a joint team. Other matches are planned for Shrevenham ladies and accounts will follow.

The gentlemen are being invited by the ladies of

Shrevenham to play in the annual club trophy competition at the start of June.

Limited food is available at the club with both indoor and outdoor table service. Masks must be worn indoors and furniture is not to be moved around. At the time of writing the club is looking to take on extra staff in many areas so phone 01693 783853 if you are interested or look on the Shrevenham website.

Social putting has begun and there will be a book sale for cash donations in the club on **Saturday 3rd July** between 10 and 12 noon. Come and browse and have a socially distanced cuppa.

Carole (cleefairways57@yahoo.co.uk)

Shrevenham Cricket Club

Our first scheduled match in the Wiltshire Cricket League(s) against Bathford (away) resulted in us winning the toss and inviting our hosts to bat first. Not losing a wicket until they had reached 55, they then progressed to 237 for 7 in their allotted 45 overs with Shrevenham using six bowlers. We lost our first wicket when on 29 and our second on 49 and were restricted to 200 for 6 and so on our debut in the Wilts. League, we suffered a defeat. (Matt Haywood 75).

On the 8th May we were scheduled at home against Burbage and Easton Royal 3 but the weather dictated that this should not be so. On Saturday 15th May we journeyed to Christian Malford where, winning the toss, they invited us to wield the willow. We could only manage a pitiful 77 all out in the 30th over. They eased past this target in the 19th over having lost three wickets to gain a comfortable win. On Saturday 25th we hosted Chippenham 4; well, that is what should have happened but again the weather thought otherwise!

On 29th we travelled to Avebury where they chose to bat. Losing their first wicket on 61 they powered on to 201 for 8. (N. Savaraman 3 for 43). Shrevenham were well ahead of the asking rate after 20 overs and this continued to the 40th over but by which time we only had two wickets remaining. We closed our innings on 193 all out in the 43rd over and so lost by 8 runs. (Manoj Perera 67).

So there we have it, an ignominious start to our Wiltshire League efforts: 3 defeats,

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2 cancelled and 0 wins to date.

June 5th, all being well, should see our first home match actually take place when we host Swindon NALGO 2 and then Blunsdon (away) followed by Allington at home. Malmesbury (away) will be our last June fixture in the 2021 season.

I say again, if there is anyone living in or around Highworth who fancies a game of adult cricket then contact us on 01793 435453 / 07890 626912.

Julian Stevens

SOUTH MARSTON

South Marston Gardening Club

On **Monday 5th July** at 7.30pm our talk by Medical Herbalist Lyn Blythe will explore the use of various plants as medicine.

Our Flower and Produce Show will take place on **Saturday 21st August**. Doors open at 5pm for viewing. Admission is 20p with refreshments and raffle available. The auction of produce will be held at 5.30pm. Pop along and grab yourself a bargain!

On **Monday 6th September** our talk 'Plants for Enthusiasts' by Keith Ferguson will take place from 7.30pm-9.30pm. Keith will talk about a wide range of more unusual and some well-known perennials, shrubs and climbers. Keith trained as a professional botanist and worked for nearly 30 years at the Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew. He is a keen plantsman and has been a member of the Royal Horticultural Society for more than 45 years and the Hardy Plant Society some 40 years. Keith is widely travelled, writes regularly for The Hardy Plant and has had articles published in The Plantsman, The Bulletin of the Hardy Plant Society of Oregon and in Plant Heritage.

Entry to our talks costs £3 for visitors on the door or £12 for membership to the Gardening Club. We meet in South Marston Village Hall with parking available on Old Vicarage Lane (next to the school). You are welcome to pop along for a chat with Gardening Club members whilst enjoying a cup of tea and a slice of cake.

For more information please visit the website: <https://southmarston.org.uk/clubs-activities/gardening-club/> or contact Angela on 077890 683402

STANTON FITZWARREN

St Leonard Parish Church Services:

Sunday 4th July: 9.30am Morning Praise

Sunday 11th July: 11am Family Service; God Parents Sunday. Philip baptises the Ethiopian official in the churchyard if weather allows or on Zoom.

Please check the website or contact Liz Hillman T: 01793 762935 for details

Sunday 18th July: 9.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 25th July: 9.30am Morning Praise

Sunday 1st August: 9.30am Morning Praise

Sunday 8th August: 11am Family Service. In the churchyard if weather allows or on Zoom. Check the website or contact Liz Hillman T: 01793 762935 for details

Sunday 15th August: Team Service. No service at St Leonard (see website for details)

Sunday 22nd August: 9.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 29th August: Team Service. No service at St Leonard (see website for details)

Our vicar Rev. Elveen Mead ev.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 T: 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 W: www.stantonchurch.info for updates.

Liz Hillman

Every Cloud at Stanton Park Farmhouse

Tea-Rooms: The tea rooms are open every Sunday from 12noon-4pm as table service. The kiosk in the courtyard is also open on Saturdays and Sundays 12noon-4pm for take-aways. We are in need of volunteers if anyone has some spare time.

Children's Hour: Saturday 31st July we will have an 'Animal Trail' in the park followed by a drink

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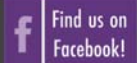
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For more information please call 01793 692596 or text 07796 530560 or e:anne.billingham2@btinternet.com

and sweet snack and crafts in the garden. Booking in advance is essential and enquiries can be made to everycloudstanton@outlook.com. The cost is £3 per child for the first two children, additional siblings free.

FURTHER AFIELD:



Fancy a different day out? Why not visit Combe Mill?

Combe Mill, a grade II listed building on the Blenheim Palace estate, is a Victorian steam and water-powered sawmill now operating as a working museum. It gives a good insight into what work was like in Victorian times on a rural estate. It is run entirely by unpaid volunteers, many of whom are retired engineers and craftsmen who love to reminisce. One visitor called it a 'true black fingernail museum' with plenty of hands-on activities to challenge and entertain all age groups.

Adults £8.50; children/concessions £7; under 5s free; family discount available. 'In Steam' events take place on the 3rd Sunday of the Month from July 2021 to October 2021.

Other open days, not 'in steam', take place every Wednesday from 19th May - 27th October 2021. Admission charges on these days are: Adults £5; concessions and children £4; under 5s free.

See the website for details: www.combemill.org or telephone 01993 358694.

Combe Mill Society, Blenheim Estate Sawmills, Long Hanborough, Oxon OX29 8ET

COESWOOD ARCADIAN'S
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Highworth Gardens Open: Sunday 22nd August



You may remember that last year we had hoped to have opened our Highworth Gardens for what would have been the Festival Year. Well that never happened but this year we hope (at the time of writing in May) to open on Sunday 22nd August.

We hope most gardens will be open from 11am to 5pm, with refreshments available, if Government Guidelines permit. We shall be raising money for 'Highworth in Bloom'.

So put this date in your diaries. More details will be given nearer the time on posters and Highworth Online. A single ticket and map will get you into all the gardens. These will be

available from the Lighthouse Bookshop and Visit Highworth (in the old Lloyds Bank building)

Let's hope at last for some summer cheer this year wandering around other people's gardens in Highworth.

We are also hoping to open a larger number of gardens over a weekend in summer 2022 (probably June or early July). If you are interested in opening yours next year we would love to hear from you.

We hope to see you this year on 22nd August.

Ken and Sue Hooper T: 01793 764234

NEW DATE: Four Phenomenal Women present a lighthearted evening of drama and poetry on Saturday 21st August

7.30pm, Highworth St Michael and All Angels Church

Tickets are £10 (including a drink) and are available from the Lighthouse Bookshop or telephone 01793 763337

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

The four phenomenal women: Helen Barter, Judy Bratt, Denise Arnell and Mary Swaffield



Leisure Badminton, Thursdays

Thursdays 8-10pm at the Grange Leisure and Community Centre. £5. All levels, all ages. Focus on fitness and fun.

Just turn up or for more details call Graham Seeley on 07769 703702 or Paul Moore on 07970 709929.

Faringdon and District U3A: Zoom meeting, Thursday 8th July

Speaker Ian Gunn talking on 'Here Comes the Failed Bank Manager!' on Thursday 8th July at 2.30pm. Ian is a former senior banker and prisoner governor. Living in Dunblane, using technology, he present his talks to many groups including cruises; his speciality is prisons and crime.

In his second career he was a Governor-in-Charge of four contrasting prisons in Scotland. Ian will take you 'behind bars' and tell you about the intriguing culture of prisons, introduce you to some of the very interesting characters he met, his biggest mistakes and why he had to ban his mother-in-law from visiting one of his prisons!

Government and Covid permitting, we are

hoping to hold our Summer Lunch at the Braithwaites on **Thursday 12th August**. This may be subject to any restrictions imposed and numbers are likely to be restricted so respond quickly to any email sent out in July about this event.

For details contact membership secretary Liz Cunningham:
membershipsecretary@faringdonu3a.org.uk

Garden display at The Old Rectory, Quenington, Sunday 11th July

The Old Rectory at Quenington will have its lovely garden on display on Sunday 11th July, 2-5pm with the National Gardens Scheme.

Teas, coffees and homemade cakes will be provided by Friends of Fairford and Lechlade Communities.

On the banks of the mill race and the River Coln, this is an organic garden of great variety. Mature trees, a large vegetable garden, herbaceous borders, a shade garden, pool and bog gardens. Home grown plants for sale. Permanent sculpture collection in the gardens.

Quenington Old Rectory, Cirencester, GL7 5BN



Three fountains in the river at Quenington Rectory garden display

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

PRESCHOOL/NURSERY

Westrop Nursery	01793 762897
Westgate Nursery	
School & Crèche	01793 861268
South Marston Pre-school	01793 823379

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

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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)*

Meet Jo Mitchell, your Community Funeral Director

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- We can meet you in the comfort of your own home, at a time that suits you.

To find out more or to contact Jo directly
please email: jo.mitchell2@midcounties.coop

Alternatively, please visit
your local Midcounties
Co-operative Funeralcare
branch today:

Highworth Funeralcare
(Incorporating A. E. Baker & Son)

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



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