

*Highworth***LINK**

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



December/January 2022

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A very special gift

When asked at a training event recently what my favourite toy as a child was, my answer was a full soldier's guardsman uniform.

Part of my memory was of receiving this as a gift at Christmas one year. My brother opened his first. It came in a flat box with tissue paper between the tunic and the trousers, and I was of course extremely jealous. Another reason for the memory is that it had been made by our Grandmother. I cannot imagine the hours it had taken to complete from top to bottom. The love that had clearly gone into the present has stayed with me all these years.

Two thoughts come to me from this memory. Firstly, as I look back over the last two years of Covid I am aware

that, for me, the expectation and jealousy about new toys, holidays the need for more, seem to have faded into the background. While at the same time I am reminded of the importance in life of things we can often take for granted: health, family, friends, food on the table and those who serve us in our community.

Secondly, the most memorable gifts tend to be those given with such care and love that demonstrate how special you are to the giver. Of course, that for me is the central truth of Christmas; that my creator was born and lived a life on earth because he regarded me as special and special enough to be my saviour and friend for life and into death.

Rev Geoff Sowden, St Michael's church

A note from our editor:

We moved to Highworth in December 2019 from London. We knew no one, but have family close by, and a quick drink in the Rose and Crown when we came to look at houses sealed the deal for us. You could feel the warmth and sense of community and we knew it would be a great place to live.

Of course, not long after we moved here the pandemic hit. We went into lockdown and meeting people became tricky. We were worried; would we feel isolated or lonely? But we needn't have been. There's a true community spirit which is rare and very special.

Community is at the heart of the Highworth Link too so we want to make sure this is your magazine. What is it you love to read about? Anything you'd like to see more of? What could we do better? We're launching a

(very short!) survey so you can let us know what you want from the magazine.

I'm very proud to live in Highworth and I want this magazine to reflect what a brilliant place it is. Please do share your opinions and help us do that. You can find the survey online here: shorturl.at/qJKS2 or you can hand your feedback on the Link to the lovely Lighthouse Bookshop who will be sure it gets to me.



There is no January issue of the Link so the team would like to wish you all a brilliant Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Amy Hegarty, Editor, Highworth Link

Cover: Seasonal Highworth by Nick Gardiner

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.

An update from the Old Golf Course Action Group



Since we last reported on the Old Golf Course, a lot has happened! A petition to Swindon Borough Council received 4,562 adult signatures; more than fifty percent of Highworth's entire population and, we understand, significantly more than any other petition ever presented to SBC. The Mayor of Swindon Borough, Councillor Gary Perkins, came into Council Offices on his day off to personally receive this petition; a key moment published for posterity by the Swindon Advertiser. He spoke of his passion for preserving Swindon Borough's public green spaces and of his personal support for saving Highworth's Old Golf Course.

A significant and heartening number of Highworth residents submitted personal consultation responses to SBC's Local Plan consultation, making their views on SBC's plan to cover one of Swindon's last remaining publicly-owned, publicly-accessible green spaces in high density housing very clear indeed. This was backed by 440 survey responses clearly highlighting the enduring value of the Old Golf Course to so many people as open, accessible green space to support physical and mental health and wellbeing and the preservation of flora and fauna.

In their official consultation response, our own fantastic Highworth Town Council also unanimously opposed SBC's plan to build any housing on the Old Golf Course land and they continue to earmark it as green space within the town's own Neighbourhood Plan; itself under consultation with Highworthians now.

The Action Group submitted an application for

the entirety of the Old Golf Course to become permanently designated formally as Local Green Space, in keeping with the Government's definition within the National Planning Policy Framework, in addition to it already being an SBC Asset of Community Value until at least 2024. Again, HTC supported this application unanimously.

And finally, of course, our very own Prime Minister and his Secretary Of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities have both recently highlighted former golf courses as specific examples of green space to be protected from development!

As a town, we now await the outcome of these many activities, but this will take some months to become clear. In the meantime, the Action Group plan to continue displaying more posters and banners, to talk once again with our MP Justin Tomlinson and are encouraging Highworthians to write to, and email, HTC and SBC Councillors to keep the issue in the forefront of their minds, with details of how to do so on the group's Facebook page and website.

The Old Golf Course has so much potential as a community asset for Highworth and neighbouring villages and towns, should we be successful in our efforts to get the site removed from the Local Plan. Here are the ideas put forward by the 440 people that responded to our survey during the summer. Some great ideas here. The full survey results can be found on our website.

<https://www.keepphighworthgreen.com/>

Idea	%	Idea	%
No change - leave it exactly as it is	30	Bandstand / outdoor theatre / Secret Cinema	0.75
Café	28	Big lake / Fishing	0.5
More benches	19	Wetland	0.5
Paths (some hard / all weather / mown)	12	Interactive things for kids	0.5
Child play area / Adventure playground	10	Education / Information Centre	0.5
Paths for people with limited mobility	7	Bee hives	0.25
Pond	7	Climbing facilities	0.25
Loos	6	Concerts / shows	0.25
Picnic area	6	Consult conservation specialist	0.25
Nature trail	6	Fence by road	0.25
Nature reserve / hides / wildlife area	5	Garden area	0.25
Trim trail	5	I-Spy Trails	0.25
Trees	4	Indoor training area	0.25
Cycle trail / path	4	Local events	0.25
Dog poo bins	4	Memory tree area	0.25
Improved drainage	4	Obstacle course	0.25
Information boards	3	Something for older kids	0.25
Wild flower meadow	3	Park Run	0.25
Litter bins	3	Path to Rec to avoid roads	0.25
Skate park	3	Properly maintained	0.25
Boardwalks / bridges	3	Recreation and nature attraction	0.25
Crazy golf / football golf / golf	3	Recreational activities	0.25
Sculptures	2	Reflection area	0.25
Signage	2	Rewilding	0.25
Outdoor gym	2	Scrape and Hide	0.25
Dog free areas / on lead	2	Somewhere for kids to hang out	0.25
Bird / Bat boxes	2	Specialist planting in boggy areas	0.25
Parking / car park	1	Treetop adventure play area	0.25
Football pitches / 4G facility /	1	Waterfall	0.25
improve HTJFC / S hub Wooded areas	1	Forest school	0.25
BBQ area	1	Youth club	0.25
Other pastimes / boules / rounders	1		

From the allotments

So the last month of 2021 is finally here. This month I've sown garlic it's really hard to find! Because of this I'm going with a soft neck variety this year. I've weeded and tidied my allotment for the last time and laid it to rest for the next couple of months. My only jobs will be to top up the bird feeders, with possibly a cheeky flask of tea and some peace and quiet.

January will be fees time so the council will be checking to see how we are all doing. I urge anyone who hasn't done much on their plot for a long while to really think what their plans will be next year. We have desperate wannabe growers on the waiting list. The old adage "use it or lose it" comes to mind. If we can show them a blossoming and active site, then this shows there is clearly a need to keep it.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas. I'm sure your home-grown sprouts, potatoes, cabbages and carrots will taste gorgeous!

Jobs to do in December (From 'Allotment Month by Month', by Alan Buckingham):

Harvest - Leeks, root vegetables autumn and winter brassicas.



Plant - Garlic, rhubarb and new bare-root fruit trees and bushes, avoid frozen or waterlogged soil.

Prune - Apple and pear trees and soft fruit bushes.

Dig - Over your plot, and use plenty of well-rotted organic material. Cover plots to protect the soil.

Check - Nets over brussel sprouts, cabbages and other brassica.

Samantha Daniels

Picture by Mike Floyd



"One person's junk can be up-cycled as another's treasure!"

As part of our fundraising towards a 'shed' in Highworth, we'd like the stuff you no longer need. We'll then give it a new lease of life, use it in our shed or sell it.

This might be something you either don't know how to dispose of or maybe you're going to throw it away. We could also help with shed or workshop clearance.

What could we take off your hands?

Drop us a line at highworthshed@outlook.com or phone Mike on 07725 562371.

Although we are affiliated with the UK Men's Shed Association (<https://menssheds.org.uk>) the Highworth Community Shed welcomes both men and women members, retired and working.

Lunch together

Would you like some company and a chance to make new friends? The Lunch Together group are delighted to be running again and have welcomed back many of our existing guests as well as new arrivals.


We meet on the first and third Wednesday every month and enjoy good company, a delicious two course meal and some entertainment. Oh, and always cake!

We can also provide transport to the venue from your home if needed.


We are run by the Evening WI and members of the community and aim to provide a light-hearted couple of hours.

If you would like more information or want to book a place, please give me a call.

Mary Swaffield, 01793 861173



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I have just started renting out a property. What do I need to do regarding tax?


If the rent is lower than the personal allowance of £12,570 - 2021/22 (and you have no other income), you will not pay income tax. But if the gross rental income exceeds £10,000, or the net rental income exceeds £2,500, then HMRC will still require a tax return.

If you make a loss on the rental, it is still a good idea to complete a Tax Return so that you can record the loss, carry it forward, and maybe reduce your tax in a later year.

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Embracing work with The Platform Project

19-year-old film maker Reuben Bell, from Highworth, has just completed a six-month internship with the Swindon-based social enterprise The Platform Project which helps 16 to 24 year olds become 'employer ready'. He's urging other young people who have found themselves struggling with their careers to consider an internship to build confidence and experience.

"It's been a fantastic experience and I've not regretted a moment. It's been a tough couple of years for me and many others. I gained a media production qualification and then we went into lockdown so there have been no opportunities for me to build up credible experience.

"I tried to start building my skills yet felt lost and it can sap your confidence. With The Platform Project I've been filming for them including a charity event. I've made a film for Wiltshire Community Foundation, made my own showreel, built my website, improved my CV and my confidence has grown."

Reuben, a former student at Highworth



Reuben Bell

Warneford School, has done all of this while working part-time.

Sadie Sharp, founder of The Platform Project, said: "Reuben has been such an asset to our team. As well as gaining skills and building his own confidence, he's learned to network with business owners and he's really gained an understanding of how he can move forward with his life."

Reuben is now hoping to move into film and tv production and has applied for various apprenticeships including one with the BBC.

The Platform Project, now in its fourth year, is a social enterprise that helps prepare young people for the work environment and take their next steps into a career, with 89% of the young people they work with moving on into paid work, further education or self-employment.

Any young person looking for help in launching their career or taking their next steps can contact The Platform Project on internships@platformproject.co.uk to find out about how their programme can help.

Don't really need your winter fuel allowance?

This year every state pensioner will be receiving £100 from the Department for Work and Pensions.

But not everyone really needs it and might be wondering how to donate their winter fuel allowance to others who could do with some help as fuel bills rise.

The Wiltshire Community Foundation runs a campaign every year called Surviving Winter. As part of their campaign, they offer grants to those who are vulnerable and in need of extra funds to heat their homes as well as assistance with

energy claims, boiler service or repairs, door-to-door hot meals and training to get online as well as activities to prevent them being lonely and isolated. They take donations from people who do not need their winter fuel allowance. To find out more about them and their Surviving Winter Campaign please open the link provided below:

<https://www.wiltshirecf.org.uk/about/surviving-winter/>

You can contact The Wiltshire Community Foundation on: 01380 729284, info@wiltshirecf.org.uk

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Forget-Me-Not Café goes from strength to strength

Building on the relaunch with bingo in September, the October memory café at the Community Centre returned to its musical roots and was a great success. We welcomed several newcomers to the café, which was marvellous to see.



of amazing volunteers for giving up their time to support those living with dementia and other conditions in our local communities.

We look forward to welcoming you to our next Café and we eagerly anticipate being joined by the

Brian Slade took us down a fantastic musical memory lane with so many songs and tunes, as well as on a Summer Holiday! Brian provided great vocals and interaction around the room and encouraged us to get up and dance, which was immensely enjoyed by both participants and spectators!

A lovely fun afternoon! Music and dance sparks great memories and it created so many smiles and brought renewed interaction among many in the room; a great joy bringer!

Autumn crafts of bookmark making, word searches and crosswords brought extra engagement and activity to the session too and provided a great take away memory of the day!

As well as huge thanks to Brian for providing a tremendous afternoon's entertainment, thanks also go to Rachel Jannaway from Home Instead for providing her fantastic ongoing support and it was also great to have Helen Saville along again, who is a Support Worker from the Swindon Alzheimer's Society; both providing invaluable support and information for our guests.

A big thank you to Dumbledart's Bakery for providing the awesome and delicious Autumn cupcakes, the Co-op for a grant to cover the rest of the refreshment and, of course, to our team

Highworth Silver Band in December for seasonal songs and carols in the run up to Christmas.

Our January Café will kick off a new year of many more great café sessions! After a fun session in September with Zurich, we hope you got the Bingo buzz!! We will start the year with our very own in-house Bingo session. 'Eyes Down' for 2022! More numbers, more line prizes, more full houses and definitely more fun in the room! Come and join us in the New Year.

As usual, there is no need to register if you want to come, but if you want any further information or have any questions please email forgetmenot.highworth@gmail.com or call Ruth on 07970 543423.

We will again be on Zoom for those who cannot make it person. Please email for details if you're not already on our distribution list (email addresses are never shared). Also check out our Facebook page and group: [Highworth Forget-Me-Not Café](#) for any updates.

Dates for your diary:

Wednesday 22nd December, 2-4 pm

Wednesday 26th January, 2-4pm

Both in the main hall at Highworth Community Centre in The Cullerns, SN6 7PQ.

Want to help make our town safer?

During October, with fewer daylight hours and less opportunity to get out before or after work for those volunteers with full time jobs, the Highworth Community Speed Watch team conducted 41 sessions.

719 vehicles were reported for speeding in the town. Of that total, 50 vehicles exceeded speed limits by 150%+. Over the last three months there has been a month-on-month reduction in the percentage of vehicles reported: 5.72% in August; 4.53% in September; 3.66% in October. This is seen as a very encouraging trend and the team would like to thank all those residents who are choosing to moderate their speed.

A few team members have had to leave the team for personal reasons and so new volunteers are required to help run sessions. The minimum commitment is one hour a month. If you are interested in helping make the town's roads safer for road users and pedestrians, please email highworthcsw@gmail.com. Team members must be over the age of 18, able to stand for the duration of a session and be able to read the licence plate of a passing vehicle.

CSW is a scheme run by Wiltshire Police. All volunteers are trained by Traffic Management Policing Officers and comply with a code of practice.

Dementia Friends sessions for Highworth social and leisure groups

It's two years since Highworth was designated as working towards Dementia Friendly status. Part of that process involved the running of a number Dementia Friends sessions in the Council Room.

A Dementia Friend is someone who learns a little bit about what it's like to live with dementia and understands the small ways we can all help to create dementia friendly communities. From telling friends about Dementia Friends, to visiting someone you know living with dementia, every action counts.

These sessions have not been run for some time now, but online sessions are available and it is important for the social and leisure groups in

Highworth to be more aware of the effect of dementia on those living in Highworth and what we can all do to help.

There is no time commitment to signing up as a Dementia Friend apart from the initial session. It is more about understanding and support rather than taking on any particular activity.

If you are interested in arranging a 45-minute online session for your members to learn more about dementia and how you can help those living with dementia in our community, please contact kevin_dfc@btinternet.com to schedule one or more sessions at mutually convenient times.



Is your child 2 or 3 in the next school year?

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Email: nursery@westrop.swindon.sch.uk

Website: www.westropprimaryschool.co.uk

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- Highly qualified staff team with a wealth of experience
- We offer dedicated early years wrap around care from 7.30am to 5.30pm
- Government Funding for 2, 3 and 4 year old

If you would like to know more about us or arrange a visit please contact us

Highworth Cadets: New beginnings and continuous improvement

New cadets

Recently, we have gained 14 new recruits at 878 (Highworth) Squadron, with several waiting over a year to join us due to Covid-19 restrictions. Since joining us, they have engaged in community events, including the Highworth Fireworks Display; been on a trip away to the RAF Museum Hendon; and officially been enrolled as Royal Air Force Air Cadets. They are also learning vital skills to sustain them throughout their cadet careers such as basic drill, the history of the RAF & ATC and sewing!

Continuing to improve

Over the last month, four of our cadets: Cpl Sam Brown, Cpl Alex Tilling, Cdt Katie Martin and Cdt Katie Revill, attended the Cadet Development Course held at MOD Lyneham. This consists of a training day and an assessment day. The course is designed for cadets to gain skills towards being an NCO such as leadership, knowledge of uniform and drill and a high standard of self-discipline. It is also designed to equip cadets with useful life skills such as interview techniques. All four cadets did themselves proud and can now continue to the next step in their cadet careers in due course.

We have also had three of our older cadets: Sgt Livia Foulds, Cpl Alex Tillings and Cpl Nile Austin begin the process to stay on past 18 years old; the age at which some cadets 'age out' and leave us. They have the choice to stay on but must put a case forward as to why they are an asset to the Air Cadets and have an interview with our Sector Commander, Squadron Leader Pascoe. They must also complete paperwork and safeguarding training prior to their 18th birthday. Once all of this is done, they can then stay until 20 years of age, if they choose to, and we are

pleased to keep all three on our Squadron, contributing to the Corps and being rôle models for our incoming new recruits.

New skills

In a welcome return to normality, one of our cadets, Cdt Katie



Cdt Katie Martin at Camp Joint Nova

Martin, attended Camp Joint Nova 2. This camp was a weeklong camp at Buckley Barracks, just outside Chippenham, where the cadets and staff slept under canvas, learned fieldcraft skills, first aid techniques and completed weapons handling tests on the L-98A2. Cdt Martin even got to do some live firing on the range! All in all an exciting, if tiring, week that hopefully marks a return to the activities cadets know and love.

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

FS Lucy Donald



Cadet Development Course completed!

Scouts go camping after a two-year break

15 Scouts from Highworth camped at Youlbury Scout Activity Centre in October. On arrival we walked down to the area in the woods where we would be camping for the weekend, unloaded the tents from the minibuses and set them up in the dark.

After setting up the tents, the Scouts and some of the leaders went on a familiarisation and exploratory walk around the site in the dark; this was where our torches came in very handy!

On our return to our site we had hot chocolate and a slice of homemade thick, gooey chocolate cake. The campfire was lit and we sat around it on the logs enjoying our sugary treats. Soon after, we were off to bed after brushing our teeth, of course!

The hot chocolate was the cause of a need for a wee in the early hours, thankfully only a short stroll from the tent to the toilet block with the moon as a guide.

We woke around 07.20, to the smell of bacon being cooked, mmmm! After breakfast the Scouts were split in to two groups the older Scouts went to experience archery for a couple of hours while the younger members started making a commando rope bridge between two trees. This bridge has two lines of thick rope, one directly above the other, for you to walk across one rope and hold on the rope above. An alternative method was to do a dead man's crawl along the single bottom strand of rope. The two groups switched over activities to complete the morning session.

Before the afternoon activities began, we were going to take the opportunity to invest our three newest Scouts. The leaders like to try and invest Scouts in special ways so what an opportunity we had and what a memory for the young people! All 15 Scouts climbed on to the commando bridge with the three to be

invested in the middle.

The Scouts worked in patrols during the afternoon doing a round-robin of activities:

- We had to follow a map and find the controls that were marked and the letters that were on trees or posts. This gave us a chance to explore more of the campsite in daylight.
- We learnt how to use a knife, axe and saw safely and made feather sticks to help us light the campfire.
- Our final activity was to prepare a sketch (a very short comic play). The leaders thought that some of these left a bit to be desired, but it is all about trying everything and not being afraid to perform in front of others.

After the three afternoon activities the patrols

had to prepare and cook their chilli whilst the leaders cooked the 'ton' of rice. Everybody tried the chilli although one or two Scouts didn't eat very much but at least everyone tried it! Thankfully, from the Scouts point of view, the campsite shop opened and the



sweet counter was raided.

We had a lot of wood to burn so the campfire was lit early. It was a nice big fire that kept us warm! The patrols performed their sketches that they practiced during the afternoon before venturing to bed after our cake and hot chocolate.

On Sunday morning, we took part in three problem-solving activities and took down our tents. All Scouts then helped with carrying the equipment back to the trailer ready for its return journey to Highworth. Before we drove home, we did a final check around our camp, making sure that we hadn't left any rubbish.

By Anna and Neeko



halo way **MORE** than just a gym...

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The perfect way to work out & wind down
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How GP practices are working now

Your GP practice has been open throughout the pandemic with everyone working hard to continue to provide services. The pandemic is not over and we still need to keep you and our staff safe from the risk of infection. That's why we are offering different types of appointments such as phone and video consultations, so you don't have to come into the surgery unless you need to.



I wanted to see my GP, why am I seeing someone else?

Not everyone needs to see a GP. Practices have a range of healthcare professionals, such as nurses, pharmacists, physios and mental health workers who are the experts in diagnosing and treating health conditions.

You'll see the right person for your condition as quickly as possible.



Why do receptionists ask personal questions?

Our trained GP reception staff are a vital part of the practice team. They need to ask questions to make sure you get the right support from the best person in the practice.

All the information you share with the receptionist is treated strictly confidentially.



Why can't I have a face-to-face appointment?

With infection control measures still in place in your surgery, phone and video consultations have helped us to treat more patients every day than we would be able to see safely face-to-face. We will give you the best type of appointment with the right health professional as quickly as possible.

You will always be seen face-to-face if you need to.



Where else can I get help?

Visit www.nhs.uk for advice on common symptoms and a list of local services or speak to your NHS community pharmacist for personal care and advice on minor illnesses.

If you need help with minor injuries at any time or urgent care when your GP practice or community pharmacy is closed visit 111.nhs.uk or dial 111 to speak to someone who can help.

Always dial 999 in a life-threatening emergency.

Your GP practice is open and ready to help – thanks for your patience at this extremely busy time

Highworth Library: business as usual!

We are delighted to welcome you back to our usual timetable of staffed hours with all our stock available for browsing and borrowing, plus seven public access computers and printing facilities available.

We're open:

Monday: 10am to 4pm

Tuesday: 9am to 5pm

Thursday: 9am to 4pm

Friday: 12 noon to 6pm

Saturday: 10am to 1pm

For your safety we have hand sanitiser stations throughout the building, a perspex screen at the main desk and are part of the Track & Trace system.

We would encourage the wearing of face coverings where possible.

Please note the library will close at 2pm on **Friday 24th December** and re open on **Tuesday 4th January** at 9am

We look forward to seeing you again and would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

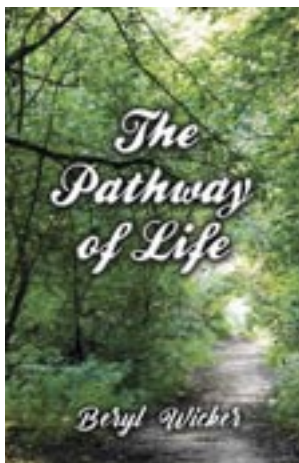
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Support a local author: the perfect Christmas gift

Local author Beryl Wicker, has released a new book of poetry just in time for Christmas. We've featured Beryl's beautiful poems before and her third book, 'The Pathway of Life', makes a great stocking filler or gift for family, friends and loved ones.

It's available now from Beryl (01793 764395), or The Lighthouse Bookshop, for £10.



The Pathway of Life

*Let me walk with you, on this pathway,
On this pathway of life.*

*I'll be by your side when the going gets tough
And carry you through, when the pathway is rough.
When the path is steep and the way is narrow
I'll walk ahead so that you can follow.
Just keep your eyes on me.*

*When the path is smooth and the way ahead clear,
And the songs of the birds fill the trees,
And the kiss of the sun opens the flowers
For the butterflies and bees;
When the sun shines brightly in the azure sky,
And soft breezes stroke the warm weather,
Let us sing with pure joy as we walk on life's path
And give thanks that we walk it together.*

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Thank you Elizabeth!

A huge thank you to Elizabeth Hunt, who recently made the decision to give up delivering the Link magazine after almost fifty years. Yes, you read that right! Elizabeth started delivering the Link when it was launched in the early 1970s.

Many thanks Elizabeth for all you have done over the years, from the Link team and all of our readers.



Elizabeth Hunt enjoys a well-earned cup of tea!

'Musings' by G R Umblar

Why are some gardens bordering Roundhills Mead and Wessex Way expanding on to community land with impunity? Can anyone join in this landgrab?

Why are people who pay for an allotment at the Park Avenue site allowed to let them go into disrepair despite their obligation to keep them in a proper state?

Why is the council allowing this to happen when there are reportedly people on a waiting list willing to work them? The fact that these unworked allotments have had rent paid for them is neither here nor there; the contract with the council states that they must be worked or if not they will be taken away from them.

Speaking of allotments, why do some people consider it okay to steal produce that they have not grown? This is an annual occurrence and very antisocial as well as disappointing for the people affected by these thefts.

Why do Highworth residents have to go to Steam in Swindon for their Flu jabs whilst Swindon residents get sent to Highworth for theirs?



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John Williams

Memorials

25th December

Bill and Sheila Bath

Missed dearly,

Always in our thoughts forever in our hearts.

Love from all of the family xxx

25th December

Hilda Jones

Missed dearly,

Always in our hearts forever in our thoughts.

Love from all of the family xxx

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Pets' Corner



Name: Bracken

Age: 4 and a half

Breed: Golden Labrador

A bit about me:

I love long walks and lunching out, especially in the summer when I can spend the entire time laying under a garden table! I also enjoy carrying sticks around (the bigger the better!).

Does your pet deserve to be a local celebrity? Send them to us for your chance to be featured in Pets Corner: editorathighworthlinkg13@gmail.com

Hedgehog-friendly Highworth tip of the month

Hedgehogs tend to hibernate between December and March, depending on weather and the hedgehog. Please continue to support them by leaving out water, meaty cat and dog food and cat biscuits, as they may wake for food or to gather more bedding materials if the weather changes.

(Photo: Hedgehog Preservation Society)



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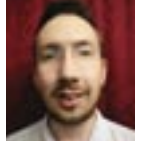
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'Streetwise' The Musical

This brand new show 'Streetwise' recently played to full houses in the Arts Centre theatre in Old Town, Swindon.

Addressing the tough topic of homelessness, 'Streetwise' told the story of a group of rough sleepers who came to the aid of a destitute middle class lady who had fallen for the charms of a financial fraudster. Clever humour, some sadness and even a little romance made a wonderfully entertaining musical.

The characters, created by local Highworthian Ant Stevens, were based on conversations with people from all walks of life now living on the streets, each telling their own story of how they became homeless.

The stunning music, composed by Isabelle Fisher-Michalakakis, was beautifully arranged with moving harmonies and a wide range of styles

appropriate for the characters whilst enhancing the storytelling. The performances were all of an extremely high standard.

Hoping to raise awareness of the homeless problem and in particular ex-servicemen with PTSD, collections were made at each performance for 'Combat Stress'. As a result, Ant and Isabelle were delighted that nearly £3,000 was donated to such an important charity. They would both like to thank everyone involved in the show: the amazing cast, crew and musicians, all the very helpful theatre staff, and also everyone who attended.

They were thrilled with the many complimentary reviews they received, the kind contributions of the advertisers and everyone's extremely generous support. One day they hope to see you all in the West End!

Vale & Downland Artist Exhibition



Local artist, John Sirrelle, is holding an exhibition of 26 of his animal paintings in The Vale & Downland Museum, Wantage.

His exhibition opens on **Tuesday 30th November** and runs until **Saturday 18th December** inclusive. The exhibition is open daily, except Sundays,



from 9.30-3.45 pm.

For further information please visit John's website www.sirrelleart.weebly.com

Entry to both the exhibition and museum is free.

Mirian Sirrelle

Highworth Choral Society Christmas Concert

Saturday 4th December 2.30pm

Highworth Choral Society are so excited to be back singing together again since our Spring concert of last year had to be cancelled. Our Christmas concert will be on Saturday 4th December at 2.30pm in St. Michael's Church.

We will be conducted by our new Musical Director, Leon James, who has been working us hard since we restarted in September and the music will involve composers from Henry VIII to modern day.

There will be carols for choir and familiar ones for you to join in and a mince pie and a drink will be available.

There are exciting events that we would like to put on in future so we will also have a raffle for food and drink hampers to raise funds to help us do this.

Tickets cost £10 but under 12s are free and will be available from Lighthouse Bookshop in the High Street, from

members or by contacting:
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Visit Highworth this Christmas!



December is a busy month for Visit Highworth! We have a Christmas Pastel workshop with Diane Haines on Tuesday the 7th December where you can create your own Christmas picture. Everything provided and no experience needed.

On **Saturday 11th December** there is a free Meet the Maker Session with Cathie Lowe from Dragonflies Therapy. Cathie has created the most beautiful hand and body cream using essential oils and organic ingredients. Cathie will be offering a free hand and arm massage on that day. Not to be missed!

Most importantly, Santa is coming to the Visit Highworth Centre on **Saturday 18th December**. He is taking time out of his busy schedule to come to his grotto with his helpful elf by his side. There's a small charge to visit Santa and, as with all the events, you would need to book in advance.

Also, on **Saturday 18th December** there is a free drop-in children's Christmas craft session taking place.

For details of all these events see our website www.visithighworth.co.uk, find us on our social media platforms or call in at 7 High Street, Highworth.

We also have lots of local handmade arts and crafts for sale. There's art, photography, jewellery, candles, textiles and so much more. Perfect for Christmas presents; not forgetting Highworth Calendars and Christmas cards.

Finally, we would like to say a big thank you to everyone who has supported us this year, has visited the centre and museum, attended events, purchased from our local artisans, or just popped in to say hello.

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from us all at Visit Highworth!

Helen Lacey,
Centre Manager



HAS welcomes your support

Highworth Artists Society send many, many thanks to you all for supporting our exhibition week. The numbers of visitors remained almost the same as in the past and it was good to see old friends and new.

We hope that our eyes welcomed you as much as our smiles would have done without the masks!

'Summer Roses with Blue Vase' an oil painting by Hilary Sinclair sold in the earlier part of the week. It is shown as a reminder of a successful week and as a sample of the lovely paintings



all our members exhibited.

Now it is time for us to start painting for our spring exhibition on the **23rd to 30th April 2022!** Our members recently enjoyed an interesting watercolour demonstration by Steve Hall. We will be able to be together to try out his techniques as we have returned to regular Tuesday

workshops.

It could be a challenge but it will certainly be stimulating!

Pam Hague, HAS Secretary

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Friends of Angel's Orphanage is a local charity - set up to help support their sponsored 'family' of homeless children in Nepal. All proceeds from our events goes directly to help finance the children's housing, educational and well-being needs.

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With houses prices at an all-time high and interest rates at an all-time low, a move may well be on the cards in the not so distant future, or perhaps, you're just curious?

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Lions' Den, from Highworth & District Lions Club

The last of the sparklers has fizzled out at the Fireworks, the last of the bacon rolls has been eaten at the Christmas Lights and the last of the Christmas Vouchers has been delivered so it is time to look at the Lions' main Christmas event. Santa's Sleigh.

At the time of writing of this article (end of October), the list of visits has not quite been completed, but we can say that Father Christmas will visit Blunsdon, North Swindon and Highworth during the week before Christmas week. He will tour Highworth on **Tuesday 14th December** and **Thursday 16th December** and will be at other locations during this period. As soon as we have the full programme it will be put on social media and displayed in the Lions' Charity Shop window.

Our new prospective Members attended their first Club Meeting in October and we hope to have two more attend in November. We are looking at new ways to increase the Lions' Club's involvement in Community events and many other things. Watch this space.

You will have noticed that the Lions' minibus is back on the road again so I thought that I would remind you that it is available for loan to 'non-profit making organisations for the use of

carriage of non-fare paying passengers' (Insurance conditions). If your Club or Association would like to borrow it, please contact me by telephone. It is kitted out with sanitiser, etc for your protection. There are other conditions, but they are not onerous.

The Lions' Charity Shop in Newburgh Place is still operating under Government advice regarding Covid precautions, but when things improve we hope to bring it back to normal working conditions. At the moment we are asking customers to wear a face covering and sanitise their hands for the protection of others.

The shop is open Tuesdays to Friday from 9am to 4.30pm and from 9am to 1pm on Saturdays. We have to restrict donations to two bags only owing to the lack of storage space.

President Norman Little, Members of the Highworth and District Lions and volunteer helpers would like to wish you all a Happy Christmas and prosperous New Year.

E: highworth@lions105sc.org

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*Rodney Davis, Secretary,
Highworth & District Lions Club*



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A well-deserved badge for Esme

When 7-year-old Esme Usher-Benwell from Edencroft wanted to do her Charities Badge at Brownies, there was only one charity that she wanted to support - the Prospect Hospice who have been providing support to her great-grandmother who has been diagnosed with lung cancer.



Esme, who is a Brownie with the 1st Highworth Brownies, made Christmas gift tags from old Christmas cards which she sold, raising the

Charities badge and the certificate of thanks from the Prospect Hospice.

Well done, Esme!

wonderful sum of £120. Tina Outlaw, who is the Events and Community Fundraiser at the Hospice, came along to a Brownie meeting and Esme told her and the pack everything she had been doing to raise the money and why before presenting Tina with a cheque.

Esme certainly earned her

Scout Fundraising

As we begin to get back to our normal fundraising events, we have the following events planned:

Christmas Post

Please do not forget to buy your stamps from the Lighthouse Bookshop and post your cards by 3pm on **Tuesday 14th December** (this is the correct date and time; apologies for the error in the November issue). Their opening hours are Monday to Thursday 9am until 3pm, and Friday to Saturday 9am to 1pm. They are closed on Sundays. The stamps are still only 30p.

Could you also please check carefully the delivery area, details of which are in the shop. We deliver to most villages in and around Swindon and Highworth. We are afraid that we do not deliver cards to Lechlade, Marlborough or Faringdon.

Scarecrow Trail

We are delighted that this will be back for 2022. It will run from **Saturday 9th April** until **Sunday 24th April**. The theme will be the same as for the 2020 postponed trail, albeit updated by two years, and that is 'Books published in the past 77 years'. We look forward to those who have made a scarecrow in the past doing so again (you may still have it from 2020) and welcome any newcomers. All you need to do is make one based on this theme. If you wish to have a scarecrow included or need any

information, please email scarecrow@highworthscouts.org.uk

Annual Quiz

We are hopeful this will be able to take place next year. If it does, it will be on **Friday 22nd April** so please save the date.



Highworth Historical Society – 50 years-old in January 2022

The inaugural meeting of the society was held on January 30th 1972 in the Library. (For those new to the town this was a pre-fab with a dodgy floor opposite Parsonage Court.)

There was a good attendance and a committee was formed:

Chairman: Mr E. Chick.
Vice Chairman: Mr R. Winning.
Secretary: Mr J. Twitchen.
Treasurer: Mrs M. Jelous.

Committee members were:

Mr. A.D. Dicks, Mrs C. Collett, Mr. J. Archer and Mr. Cole.

The aim of the society was to foster interest in local history and in the preservation of the town. There was to be no political affiliation and everyone was welcome.

The membership fee was set at 25p a year. This proved optimistic and it doubled to 50p at the first AGM. This was to be held in January each year but soon changed to September, that being the start of the winter programme. In fact we are now the only local history society not to have January.

By March, Mr Mike Stone had given the first talk to the society and had been co-opted on to the committee. At the following AGM, Dr. Bryan Lawton had also been elected. These two men were the driving forces behind several of the society projects. These included the recording of the church gravestones and the publishing of the 'History of Highworth' books. Two of these are now out of print with only a few copies left of number 3. It is hoped to start work soon on a new history of the town. This will be based on some of the material from the original three.

From early on, the aim was to have a town museum. Fund-raising was carried on with book sales and cheese and wine evenings being popular. The grand idea was never fulfilled as no suitable premises were found. We did come near as Wiltshire County Council (we used to belong to them) provided a history room in new libraries built. We were so near when that project ceased. Mere in the south of the county has a lovely one

in their library. We do now have a small one in Visit Highworth, curated by Paul and Ann Marie.

As the membership grew, the library proved too small and there were not enough chairs. At one stage people were asked to bring their own folding ones. I can just remember some of the meetings with chairs between the book shelves. No screen and projector, just the spoken word. Eventually the move was made to the Council Rooms where we met for a long time.

The society has always been busy collecting photos and other artifacts connected to Highworth. Reading the old minutes I realise that quite a few of these things seem to have vanished. The problem was that there was no central storage point. Items were farmed out to anyone with a spare room or cupboard. People moved or died and things were probably thrown out. We now have a storage room at the Community Centre. If you find any Highworth item, however small, please contact our archivist annmarie@annmariemurphy.co.uk or drop the item into Visit Highworth.

With a Jubilee celebration next year it was interesting to see the plan for the Silver Jubilee. The theme for the floats was for each one to show something for a year of the Queen's Reign. The Historical Society chose 1957 as this was the 700th anniversary of Highworth Market. The original plan seems to have been for a tractor and farm cart on which would have been the following: stocks, a crate of hens, a calf, hurdles and a wicker cage for cocks. I would have thought this was asking for trouble. The idea seems to have changed to a stagecoach and horses.

Next year, we are planning a few tweaks to the society, but the aim remains the same. We have a list of names for some of the early members. Please get in touch if you were one. Old memories and photos are always welcome. Paul will copy photos that you do not want to part with.

We are hoping for a special January meeting. Details are always on posters and our website.

*Christine Suter (01793 764811)
or chrissuter16@googlemail.com*

*Highworth
Historical Society
Members
celebrating the
Queen's Silver
Jubilee in 1977.*

*Standing, left to
right: John Bailey,
Edith Bailey, Janet
Boddy (formerly
Morley), Andrew
Morley.*

*On coach, left to
right: Michael
Stone, Nicolas
Morley, Bryan
Lawton, Eric Chick,
Mrs Tonge, Sarah
Lawton, Shuck
Chick, two
unknown, driver
and guard.*



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Highworth Running Club

HRC is finally back to regular running again and looking forward to our Christmas Hills night on **Wednesday 22nd December**; if you can look forward to running up hills!

Everyone who turns up on this club night wears something festive which in turn buys them out of doing the final run up the hill in favour of a mince pie and a natter. In the absence of the Vorda building we now meet at the bottom of Brewery Street in the car park by the double roundabouts every Wednesday at 6.30pm whereupon both beginner and regular sessions enjoy the best pavements the town can offer. Excess clothing can be left in cars and high visibility clothing pulled on before taking to the streets for 30 to 40 minutes, making sure everyone's back at the car park by 7.30pm.

The club also meets on Saturday mornings at 9am to run off-road (always at least two different distances available) and meet in a various locations advertised on the club's website.

For those who want to work on their speed, the club hire the running track next to Swindon's

County Ground at 6.30pm every Monday evening where approximately five kilometres are covered as part of structured interval training, led by our very own award winning coach Jason Campbell.

If you are interested in joining us either get in contact via the details on our website, find us on Facebook or simply just turn up and say hi.

W: www.highworthrunningclub.co.uk

Jason Daniels

Swindon Croquet Club

Although the early season was disrupted by Covid, Swindon Croquet Club's members and visitors still enjoyed a busy 2021 schedule. Both golf croquet teams competed well in league matches with the low handicap team securing top spot to retain the league championship. The golf croquet team also enjoyed a handsome 10-2 victory over Hamptworth Croquet Club in the annual Bustard Trophy doubles competition. The Association team was in good form, in particular against Broadwas Croquet Club when, having trailed at lunchtime, they staged an impressive comeback to win 5-2.



Christmas Class of 2016



Members of North Wilts Morris Minor Club visit Swindon Croquet Club

As always, the Club warmly welcomed guests with community groups such as North Wilts Morris Minor Owners Club, Fairford Classic Car Club and STFC Extra Time (ladies and men) attending regularly. The Open Day in early August, with the Mayor trying his hand with the mallet, was a roaring success.

One lawn remains open through the winter period so social play can continue when the weather permits and a Tinsel Tournament with Sausage Sizzle is being arranged for early December.

If you are interested in our club please do get in contact; details available on our website.

W: www.swindoncroquetclub.org.uk

Beverly Briggs

The Wrag Barn Birthday Bash

Whenever anyone asks me what it's like to own a golf course, I always reply that it's an honour and a privilege to be part of a community of members who support, challenge and accept each other warts and all, through thick and thin. Many of the friendships made in our Junior Section continue for years and people who join the club having moved to the area are very quickly embraced into the social life of the club.

The best parties are very often multi-generational so our Birthday Bash to celebrate 31 years at Wrag Barn was a Two Ball Texas

Scramble match open to all the sections. Husbands and wives played, fathers and sons, mothers and daughters, the combinations were endless and 112 people took part on Saturday 9th October with an early morning shotgun start.



L-R Ruben Chauhan-Drane, Brian Drane, Alan and Jake Kavanagh

The competition was organised by Alan Kavanagh and Brian Drane who organise the Junior Section. Funds were raised for the section through entry fees, a raffle and an auction.

The winners on the day were Wayne Fathers and Paul Step who picked up the prize of £50 each. Chris Martin and Peter Soane finished runners up 'putting' away £25 each ahead of Adrian and Clare Drew in third, themselves winning £20 each.

If you didn't win anything playing golf, there was an opportunity to win a prize in the raffle or bid for one in the auction. The wife of one of our members thinks he always wins, as he buys something in the auction and proudly displays it at home as a winning prize!

In the end, £1600 was raised for our Junior Section and [#ourjuniorsareawesome](#). With the prospect of 2021 drawing to a close, I would like to say Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to everyone at Wrag Barn and the wider community. Who knows what 2022 will bring, but we'll find a way to have fun and enjoy the ride. To find out more please visit us at our website.

W: www.wragbarn.com

Verity Manners

Highworth Town Football Club

The Town's 1st team lay 4th in the table at the end of October after five successive wins. The Town's prospects have also been improved by the transfer of former Swindon Town FC professional Toby Holland who moved from Evesham United to join the Worthians. 26 minutes into the young attacking midfielder's debut he scored the opening goal in a 5-1 thumping; which just happened to be against his former club!



Town Transfer Toby

A tough period was endured throughout November and continues throughout December so fan support could be crucial and would be welcome. There is no Boxing Day fixture this year but a huge local derby with promotion favourites Cirencester Town takes place at The Elms on New Year's Day at 3pm so why not wander over after lunch to give your support.

You can stay in touch with our fixtures, gossip and latest news via our website or on social media. We look forward to seeing you.

W: www.highworthtownfc.com

Facebook: [Highworth Town Football Club](#)

Derek Lloyd

Swindon & District Motorcycle Club

On a gloriously sunny October morning the Jack Croston Motorcycle Trials took place along the banks of the old Hannington railway line.

Unlike a year ago when the swollen brook lay

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Bikes back in Bydemill Brook

hidden beneath lakes, this time out water levels were low and spirits high as 77 riders hopped, skipped and jumped their bikes around 10 fiendish sections.

As bikes were loaded back into vans, it was Alicia Robinson, Christopher Wickham and Ben Lovelace who shared top honours in the premier A Class by only 'dabbing' five times over all four rounds which asked them to take the most difficult route between the flags. David Sherlock pipped Robert Scott in the supporting A/B Class by four penalty points to five as Ray Perkins clinched the B Class with only three dabs in his day.

Whilst Liam Wooster circulated impressively in the C Class to end his day with only three penalty points, he was narrowly bested by Thomas and Michael Maslin (nephew and uncle) who tied for the spoils with only two penalties apiece; Tom and Mike were cheered on by three other family members who themselves were also competing. In the age classes David Morris won the Over 60's with Isobel Coopey, Alfred Ovens and Louie Maytom-Yalland all winning their respective Youth Classes.

If you'd like to put fun, family and motorbikes in the same sentence then I'm sure the club would love to hear from you. All details of forthcoming events with contact information can be found on the club's website.

W: www.sdmcc.org.uk

Jason Daniels

New sponsor for Highworth Town Juniors

Darcica Logistics are the proud new sponsors of Highworth Town Juniors for the 2021/22 and 2022/23 seasons. Since launching the company a year ago, Darcica Logistics have grown considerably in the local area around Swindon and wanted to give something back to the community.

Anthony Tattersall, owner of the company, is passionate about football and development of young talent. Helping Highworth Town Juniors grow is something Anthony is keen to do after meeting with Mark and Paul at the club and seeing how passionate they are. Darcica Logistics believe development and investing in people is key to success both in football and in business. Darcica Logistics are a family-run business and keen to offer opportunities to anyone wanting to develop themselves. If you're interested in joining their team as a driver, visit

www.darcica.co.uk to find out more.

We wish Highworth Town Juniors all the success for the new season ahead, Darcica Logistics will be there cheering the teams on throughout the season.

Paul Clarke, Club Vice Chairman, would like to thank Anthony and his team for the support over the next two seasons and it is great to see that a local company support a local community football club such as Highworth Town Juniors FC. We look forward to many more seasons of support from Anthony and his team at Darcica. For more information about Highworth Town Juniors FC please visit us at www.highworthtownjuniorsfc.co.uk.

Paul Clarke

Vice Chairman, Highworth Town Juniors FC

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St Michael's Church

The Church is open daily for private prayer.

St Michael's recommends the continued wearing of face coverings in Church with social distancing continuing where possible. 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.

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

Other Services:

1st Sunday of the month at 8.45am
– Holy Communion.

2nd Sunday of the month at 3pm.
The 3 – Family Service.

Weekly Sunday Youth Worship at 7pm
(during term time).

Prayers

Tuesday Prayers are held every Tuesday morning at 9.30am.

Friday Blessings are held every Friday morning at 9.15am.

A Quiet Space is held at 12.30pm for half an hour on the 2nd Wednesday of each month in the Warneford Chapel.

Midweek Church

Midweek Church at St Michael's is a spoken Communion service and is held on the third Wednesday of each month at 11am with the next service being on **Wednesday 15th December 2021**. Coffee and cake served prior to the service from 10.15am.

Tuesday at St Michael's

Tuesday at St Michael's is usually held on the fourth Tuesday of each month and is a chance to

meet up for some conversation, activities and lunch from 10.30am. The next meet is being held a week early due to Christmas and will be on **Tuesday 21st December**. Booking lunch is essential for the December meet and the deadline to book is **Tuesday 14th December**.

Saturday Morning at St Michael's

As a family church of many generations, we come together on the first Saturday of each month from 10am to share time like any family.

We offer a variety of activities you can join in. Whether it's chilling out together over coffee and the morning newspapers, crafts, challenging others to board games or tucking into a bacon butty or pastries. All welcome.

We remember those who love and miss:

Anthony Grimley

We welcome in Holy Baptism

Jude Hall

Violet Drewett

Enzo Barker

We congratulate on their Marriage:

Matthew Watson and Charlotte Gardo

Praying for the roads in the town:

05-Dec-21	Wessex Way and Westhill Close
12-Dec-21	Westrop and The Willows
19-Dec-21	Windrush and Wrde Hill
02-Jan-22	The Archers and Arran Way
09-Jan-22	Barra Close and Beech Grove
16-Jan-22	Biddell Springs and Blandford Alley
23-Jan-22	Blandford Mews and Botany
30-Jan-22	Brewery Street and Brookfield

Christmas Services

St Michael's Church

All services will be subject to current Government and Church of England guidelines on the Covid pandemic at the time.

No Sunday services on 26th December.

Highworth

12th December: 3pm – Christingle

19th December: 6pm – Carol Service

24th December: 4pm – Crib Service

24th December: 11.30pm – Midnight Communion

25th December: 8.45am – Holy Communion (BCP)

25th December: 10.15am – All Age Holy Communion

Blunsdon

5th December: 4pm – Christingle

19th December: 6pm – Carol Service

24th December: 3pm – Crib Service

24th December: 11.30pm – Midnight Communion

25th December: 10am – Holy Communion

Hannington

19th December: 4pm – Carol Service

25th December: 11.30am – Holy Communion

9th January 2022: 11am – Plough Sunday

Meet the tractors at the triangle outside the Village Hall at

10.45am. Process behind them to the Church for service at 11am. Ploughman's lunch in the Village Hall at 12.30pm. Tickets from Margaret Horton on 01793 765526

Sevenhampton

16th December: 7pm – Carol Service

25th December: 9am – Holy Communion

United Reformed Church

Our service on Christmas Day will be at 10am and led by Revd Robert Jordan.

Our carol service will be at 6pm on **Sunday 19th December**. We hope to see you there!



Highworth Community Church

Wednesday 22nd December: 6pm Christmas Celebration at St Michael's Church

Christmas Day: 10.30am at The Community Centre

Highworth Methodist Church

Sunday 12th December: 10.30am Holy Communion. 6pm Carol Service

Sunday 19th December: 10.30am Nativity Service

December 25th: 10am Christmas Day Celebration

December 26th: No Service

Highworth Methodist Church

CHRISTMAS SERVICES



December 12th 10.30am Holy Communion
6pm Carol Service

December 19th 10.30am Nativity Service
December 25th 10am Christmas Day Celebration
December 26th - No service

Every Friday 9.30-11am



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Charity Coffee Morning & Table
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1st Tuesday 2pm
Afternoon Communion Service



Next one - December 7th

2nd Wednesday 2-4pm
Board Games



Next one - Wednesday, December 8th

3rd Tuesday 10am-1pm - Craft Group



Bring a craft you are working on and
make new friends.
Refreshments served.
Next one - Tuesday, December 21st

3rd Wednesday 2.30-4pm - 3Cs
(Coffee, Cake and Chat)



Next one - Wednesday, December 15th

For more information about any of these events, please email
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Methodist Church

Vicarage Lane SN6 7DG

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

Rev. Rachael Wilson: 01793 764330

St Michael's Parish Church

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Tuesdays at St Michael's

One huge advantage of the church re-ordering is the new flexibility it offers for varied activities, along with a modern, well equipped kitchen and easy (i.e. level!) access for wheel-chairs.

Of course, a major set-back for using the space imaginatively has been the pandemic! For well over 15 months many of us did not set foot inside the building, watching services remotely from home. Understandably, many people remained nervous of meeting together in the building so, during August we held three Tuesday mornings for coffee, activities and chat, followed by a delicious lunch. Yes, we still wore masks most of the time. But yes too, we chatted and laughed and confidence came back. It was friendly, relaxed and fun! We made new friends as well.

We now continue on the 4th Tuesday of the month, from 10.30am.



Activities have included card and collage making; painting; flower arranging; and Scrabble has been particularly popular!

Anyone is welcome; it is helpful to let the office know (01793 762702) so we have numbers for lunch.

This month it will be a week earlier on **21st December** to accommodate Christmas. Booking for lunch is essential and needs to be done by **Tuesday 14th December**.

Midweek Church

Join us at St Michael's for a quiet service of Holy Communion at 11.00am, followed by a simple lunch and time together.

Remaining date for 2021:
December 15th



Tuesday Meet

Join us at St Michael's from 10.30am for activities, conversation and time together with lunch

Remaining date for 2021:
December 21st for Christmas lunch





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



15/11/2021

*Dear Jane, 'Tis time again for your birthday to come and go, as always we still miss you.
Love Richard, Emma, Max and Oliver*

15/12/2021

*Twelve years have passed still the tears remain. Love you forever our beautiful son Michael Page.
Mum and Dad*

17/12/2021

Tom Greenwood. So dearly loved and sadly missed always, Phyll xxxx

19/12/2021

Dear Jonathan. It's been so long, God bless. Love Mum xx

24/12/2021

Remembering Graham Arrondelle. We love and miss you so much - Sylvia and Donna

24/12/2021

Remembering our lovely Mum and Dad - Tim and Joan Peapell

25/12/2021

*Geoff and Joyce Wright, thinking of you at this special time of year.
Peter, Denny, Geoffrey and Brenda*

25/12/2021

Tom Greenwood. So dearly loved and sadly missed always, Phyll xxxx

31/12/2021

*Gordon, Loving memories, Always in our hearts.
Sue, Liz, Hannah and Alex*

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

Church contacts:

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

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

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

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

Community Church Leader: Matt Ford T: 07712 521046



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From our MP

As readers will be aware, world leaders and various dignitaries arrived in Glasgow as part of the 26th United Nations Climate Change (COP26) conference. A Conference of the Parties (COP) brings together nations from across the globe to collaborate on tackling the urgent issue of climate change.

Constructive discussions, and some positive pledges, have been made during the conference. One such positive is the collaboration of more than 100 countries (which have 88% of the world's forests), to work together to halt and reverse the destruction of our forests, particularly rainforests, by 2030.

I have long campaigned in Parliament to protect the world's natural habitats and have worked closely with the World Wildlife Foundation to support protecting endangered species. The amount of forestation which has been destroyed in the last few decades has been devastating. Sadly, it isn't just the Amazon where forests are being destroyed, it is all across the planet.

As Sir David Attenborough recently explained to delegates at the conference; we must turn this tragedy into triumph. Forests and green spaces are the lungs of our planet. Reversing the loss of the earth's lungs could not happen sooner and I am glad that this commitment has been signed by all of the key countries.

Of course, it is important that we do our bit locally as well and I am delighted that Swindon Council is taking action to protect and enhance green spaces through the Swindon Forest Meadows Project. Being run in conjunction with Wiltshire Wildlife Trust (WWT), the project will support initiatives covering more than 170 hectares of land such as Sevenfields, Hreod Burna Urban Forest and other WWT reserves. In the case of Highworth, it is very

topical to seek to protect (and enhance) our green open spaces; this focuses minds further.

The UK is also keen to see more countries sign up to the commitment to reach net zero emissions. I often meet with local environmental groups in Swindon, including the well-researched Swindon Climate Action Network, making sure their ideas and challenges are fed in. I know just how important this is, especially to younger generations. We absolutely have no choice; those most affected by climate change will be the young people alive today, not some far off future generation. We must respond to this issue now and continue to do all we can to save and protect our precious planet.

As this is the last edition of the Link Magazine for 2021, I would like to wish everyone reading a very Happy Christmas and New Year. This Christmas, although the shadow cast by the pandemic will linger, we should be grateful for the opportunities we have and reflect on the year just gone.

I hope you all have a very enjoyable and restful Christmas!

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RELAUNCH
September 21



Highworth Memory Café

- Cake and a Cuppa**
- Fun & Friendship**
- Musical Entertainment**
- Games & Crafts**
- Mutual Support**
- Sharing & Caring**

The café is a friendly, free and comfortable space and is aimed mainly at those in our community living with Dementia or needing similar support, alongside their companions. We want to create a fun afternoon enjoying a variety of entertainment & activities, bringing smiles & creating happy memories together.

There will also be the opportunity to speak with or be signposted to support workers, health practitioners or advisors and to get to know others with similar experiences

Please join us

NEW TIME: 2.00pm - 4.00pm

NEW DAY: Fourth Wednesday of every Month

**NEW VENUE: Highworth Community Centre,
The Dormers, SN6 7PQ**

**22nd September
27th October**

**24th November
22nd December**

For further information please contact Ruth on 07790 543423
or email Kevin and the team on forgetmenot.highworth@gmail.com



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Highworth Town Council New Neighbourhood Plan (NP2)

Highworth Town Council Neighbourhood Plan Committee would like to thank all the residents who visited the workshops held over the last three months for their valuable feedback.

For those that missed any of the events who would like to comment, then it is not too late to have your say. We are running them as surveys which can be found on the Highworth Town Council Facebook page or you can pop in to the Visitor Centre in the High Street when you are doing your Christmas shopping as they have a supply of them there too.

As we are drawing nearer to Christmas and people are busy preparing for festivities, we will take a short break from the workshops but we will be back in the new year. The dates and times for future community engagement will be published on the Highworth Town Council Fb page, at the Saturday Market and posters will be

on show around the town and at the Council Offices.

Your feedback is important to us; it is your plan to take the Highworth Area forward to the future. Feedback from all the events will be available in the new year when we have collated your feedback from the different modes of engagement. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact us at the following address.

admin@highworthtowncouncil.gov.uk

On that note, thank you again and we look forward to seeing you in the new year. From the Neighbourhood Plan Committee we would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas.

Thank you.

*Highworth Town Council
Neighbourhood Plan Committee*

*A message
from Highworth
Town Council*

*Highworth Town Council
thanks all residents for their
continued support and we
would like to wish you all
a very Merry Christmas and
a Happy and Prosperous
New Year.*

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
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richard.williams@highworthtowncouncil.gov.uk

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Editor: Sarah Gardiner. If you have a story please email villageseditor@gmail.com

LECHLADE

Christmas Concert, Saturday 18th December

A short Christmas concert with the Lechlade Occasional Choir, is to be held at 7.45pm on 18th of December at St Lawrence Church, Lechlade, in aid of the St Lawrence Restoration and Maintenance Appeal. Tickets, £10 including mulled wine, will be available from the St Lawrence church website, <https://www.stlawrencelechlade.org.uk/>, from 17th of November. You can also call the Parish Office on T: 01367 358653.

Mike Keegan

Lechlade Community Library



From the 4th November the Library will open for an extra day each week. We are grateful to all the volunteers who make this possible. If you are able to spare three hours every fortnight, have a basic

knowledge of computers, are willing to learn the role of running a library and like working with our community and visitors please pop into the library during opening hours when one of the volunteers will talk you through what is expected and pass your details to our Volunteer Co-ordinator.

The Library will be closed from 4pm **24th December** and re-open at 1pm on **3rd January 2022**.

We wish you a very happy and healthy Christmas and hope to see you all in the New Year.

Our opening times are now:

Monday 1-4pm
Tuesday 10am-1pm
Wednesday 10am-1pm
Thursday 10am-1pm (NEW)
Friday 1-4pm
Saturday 10-1pm

Tim Yeoman, On behalf of the Directors and Volunteers of Lechlade Community Library

FARINGDON

Faringdon & District U3A



On **Thursday 9th December** at 2.30pm our talk will be 'Wartime and Romance' by Andy Smith. . Andy is a performance poet who will share real-live perspectives of two world wars gleaned from family and friends over several decades. He weaves romance and humour into an entertaining poignant presentation which stimulates a response from audiences.

This talk will take place both by Zoom and in the Corn Exchange, and will be followed by refreshments afterwards. The Zoom link will be sent out a few days in advance to all members.

Alison Thomson

Regents Cinema, Faringdon

The Regents Cinema in the Corn Exchange is very proud to announce that we are now seating 60 people per screening. This is still not full capacity so please do book early as only advance tickets will be accepted on the door.

Our offerings for December are as follows:

Wednesday 1st December: Emma (U)

(2020 - Comedy, Drama, Romance)

Emma is a self-proclaimed matchmaker who meddles in the love lives of her friends. Her



misguided matches and romantic missteps lead her to find love that has been there all along.

Stars: Anya Taylor-Joy, Johnny Flynn, Miranda Hart

Film duration: 2 hours 4 mins (no interval)

Matinee Club @ The Regent Cinema, Corn Exchange, Faringdon

Doors open 12.30pm, film starts at 1pm

ADVANCE TICKETS ONLY £4 from Faringdon Information Centre

Matinee Club Membership: Just £24 for 12 films



**Friday 17th
December: Last
Christmas (12A)**

(2019 - Comedy,
Drama, Fantasy)

Kate is a young woman given to making bad decisions. Working as an elf in a year-round Christmas shop is not good for the wannabe singer. However, she meets Tom

there. Her life takes a new turn. For Kate, it seems too good to be true.

Stars: Emilia Clarke, Henry Golding

Film duration: 1 hrs 43 mins plus 15 min interval

Blockbuster @ The Regent Cinema, Corn Exchange, Faringdon

Doors open 7pm, film starts at 7.30pm

ADVANCE TICKETS ONLY £3 U18s, £4 Adult, £10 Family from Faringdon Information Centre

For more info or to join the mailing list, please visit our website:

www.faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk/regent-cinema-2

*Billie Hayter, Cinema Supervisor,
Faringdon Regent Cinema*

ROYAL WOOTTON BASSETT

An evening of festive fun with the Royal Wootton Bassett Orchestra

Royal Wootton Bassett Orchestra are back and under the baton of their new conductor, Nicola Ashton, are excited to present their first concert since lockdown. Their Christmas Celebration Concert will be held on **Saturday 11th December** at 7.30pm in St. Bartholomew's and All Saints Church, Royal Wootton Bassett.

The concert will include a wide range of well-known Christmas music such as 'Sleigh Ride', 'Frosty the Snowman' and 'Winter Wonderland', together with singalong carols. There will also be some popular classical celebratory music such as 'Music from the Royal Fireworks' and Strauss waltzes.

Cantanti Community Choir, who are also based in Royal Wootton Bassett, will add to the festive cheer in front of the Christmas tree. Mulled wine and mince pies will be served at the interval. Tickets, £8, are available on the door or by emailing tickets@rwbo.org.uk. Free entrance for students and under 16's.



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VILLAGES

Royal Wootton Bassett Orchestra, founded in 1982, is a friendly, fully inclusive orchestra welcoming members from all walks of life, and all ages. The orchestra plays a range of music centred around at least three major concerts a year and an open rehearsal. The orchestra is excited to be celebrating its 40th Anniversary in 2022. If you would like to join the orchestra please email secretary@rwbo.org.uk or message via Facebook or our website: <http://www.rwbo.org.uk/>.

Cantanti has grown from a small chamber choir of five members in 2008 to up to twenty. Cantanti continued to meet online through lockdowns and are currently welcoming and recruiting new singers. We believe that music and singing are joyful activities open to all regardless of experience or ability. Cantanti's repertoire covers a wide range: from Bach to madrigals to songs from the shows. As well as concerts, Cantanti or a smaller group, can be booked for special events, especially weddings. For more info email : lisawilliamsmusic@gmail.com or visit Cantanti Choir Facebook page.

Susan Round, Publicity, RWBO

SHRIVENHAM

Shrivenham Park Golf Club

Seasonal greetings to all readers from our club. We do hope that if you have played our course in 2021 and that you have been pleased with how the course green-keeping staff have worked so tirelessly throughout the year. We have been busy making improvements and hopefully you have enjoyed yourselves and will be returning in 2022, bringing friends with you. Support is always appreciated. We have welcomed many new members throughout the year but there is still room for more so please do contact the club on T: 01793 783853.

Here are our recent successes in club competitions:

Reg Crouch medal: 1st was Tom Gristwood.

Jim Howe trophy: 1st was Bryan Hutchinson with an excellent score of 39 stableford points and 2nd Martin Boase with 35 points.

Final Medal in the Ladies section was won by Debbie Elbourne who also had the best score in



The Country Juniors. Amelia Seale is holding the trophy on the left.

any medal played over the Spring and Summer Season

At the County Juniors competition for the Nicola Sparks memorial trophy played on a perfect Burford course, in first place was Amelia Seale with 38 stableford points.

The County Captains held their AGM at Frilford and Petra Schlupp from the Defence Academy took over the helm as Captain of the captains. We wish her a successful year. The AGM for the whole County for ladies will have been taken in November. Christmas lunches and competitions will be happening in December.

The Social Putting group will aim to continue throughout the year, with a coffee and chat session 10am-12noon in the Cuckoo's nest room at the club. The dates for December will be the **3rd and 10th December**. You are very welcome to come and join us. There is no membership fee, just £2 each session to cover the hot drink of your choice and biscuits.

Parkies Pals join us for these meetings and also have their own monthly meetings on the first Monday of the month (**6th December**), 10am-12noon.

VILLAGES

On **Friday 10th December** we hope to be entertained by the Shrivenham recorder group who will play some Christmas melodies and possibly read some poems etc. This proved very popular about two years ago so come and join in the fun. Recorders come in all sizes! Everyone is welcome including non golfers.

Remember everyone is welcome always to call in at Shrivenham Park for refreshments. See you sometime!

Carole, cleefairways57@yahoo.co.uk

Shrivenham Cricket Club

Shrivenham Cricket Club have fulfilled their first season in the Wilshire Cricket League in Division 6, finishing just below mid table. The new pavilion is coming along nicely and the roof is now complete. It should have been completed in November but the completion date has been extended to January, 2022 thanks to difficulties in obtaining building materials. This is not a problem (yet) as it will still be available for our use in the 2022 cricket season and this will be a great improvement for the team.

The Autumn ground work on the cricket square has been completed and we are in the process of purchasing a new mower, servicing our roller and purchasing a new sight screen. All of these items are expensive but necessary.

Unfortunately, we felt it appropriate to cancel our scheduled annual Christmas Bingo session for December owing to the Covid situation but we did hold our Annual Awards Dinner at the Crown, Shrivenham on Saturday 23rd October which was very successful and well organised by Scott Winskill.

We have organised indoor net sessions for our players to prepare themselves for the forthcoming season. These will be held at St.

Joseph's School starting on **Wednesday 2nd March** through to **Wednesday 13th April 2022**. Anyone wishing to renew their acquaintance with cricket would be most welcome to join us.

We wish everyone a good and safe Christmas and a happier New Year than 2021.

Julian Stevens

SOUTH MARSTON

South Marston Gardening Club, Social Evening and Quiz, Monday 6th December

Join us at our last meeting of the year when we will be holding a fun quiz with prizes for winning team. This is a great chance to socialise with others whilst enjoying great food. Bring a dish to share (sweet or savoury). Tea and coffee will be served but feel free to bring something stronger.

Meeting at South Marston Village Hall, 7.30-9.30pm. £3 entry fee on the door or join the Gardening Club for £12 (annual membership). Parking is available on Old Vicarage Lane, next to the school. Our meetings always offer a warm welcome along with an optional raffle.

For more information, visit our Facebook page [@southmarstongardeningclub](https://www.facebook.com/southmarstongardeningclub) or contact Angela on: 07789 068340

STANTON FITZWARREN

Church Services at St Leonard Parish Church

Sunday 5th December: 9.30am Morning Praise

Saturday 11th December: 2pm Come and help decorate the Christmas Tree

Sunday 12th December: 11am Christingle Family Service

Saturday 18th December: 2pm Come and help



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decorate the Church

Sunday 19th December: No service at St Leonard. 11am we are welcome at the team service at Coleview Community Centre Stratton

Christmas Eve: 4pm Join the Nativity Activity and Procession down Church Lane to the Stable in the churchyard with short plays and Carol singing outdoors to keep us safe

Christmas Eve: 9pm EVENING Holy Communion

Christmas Day: No service at St Leonard. 10am we are welcome at the team service at St Margaret's Stratton

Sunday 2nd January: 9.30am Morning Praise

Sunday 9th January: 11am Family Service entitled 'Journey with Paul'

Sunday 16th January: No service at St Leonard. We are welcome at the team service when we join the Methodist congregation in Stratton (see website)

Sunday 23rd January: 9.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 30th January: No service at St Leonard. We are welcome at the team service (see website)

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 more normal times it is still not possible to be sure of all service times and details in advance. Please visit W: www.stantonchurch.info for updates.

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and discover unique hand-crafted gifts and works of art for sale. Feel the warmth of our mulled wine and tasty snacks every Saturday and Sunday commencing **Saturday 20th November**, 11am-3pm.

Christmas Wreath Workshop, **Saturday 11th December** 10am-12noon in the Barn: Join in the fun of making your own Christmas wreath with Jeni. Tuition, materials, tools and mince pies included in the workshop fee of £25. You are welcome to bring along greenery from your own garden / decorations if you wish.

PS. We advise you to wear warm clothing! Please book by text on 07796 530560



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Swindon Boro. Council	01793 463000
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Elm Tree Surgery, (Shrivenham)	01793 782207
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PRAYER PLACE

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

I would like to be known as: _____

I would like you to pray for: _____

(Optional) Name _____

Address _____

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

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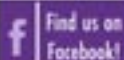
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