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March 2022

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A chance to start again with a 'clean slate'

The beginning of March is the start of Lent this year. Sometimes in Lent I choose to give up things like chocolate, alcohol or moaning (one is much harder than the others).

Whether or not I give something up, Shrove Tuesday is a much-loved tradition in my house. After all, who doesn't love pancakes, especially with a generous helping of lemon and sugar, honey or Nutella and banana; are you salivating yet?

The observation of Ash Wednesday is less widespread. Ash Wednesday is a day that is specifically put aside to ask God for forgiveness for all the things we have done wrong, all the ways we have hurt ourselves or others and sincerely to seek to change.

Doing that is not something most people feel comfortable with. It's not easy to admit we are wrong, even with the person or people we are closest to. Although it can feel hard or difficult, saying sorry and receiving forgiveness is wonderful and freeing. The chance to start again with a 'clean slate' and being given the opportunity to do better next time is a real gift.

Maybe you are being reminded now of someone you have hurt or something you have done wrong. I urge you to use those prompts to make amends, to ask forgiveness and to start afresh. Don't give up something this Lent; take up saying sorry.

*Rev Emily Swinerd,
Curate-in-charge, St Michael's Church*

Cover picture: A poem by Suzanne Collins has provided the basis of a charming art installation on the recently reprieved Old Golf Course. (see page 16)

LINKmagazine

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Publishers: The Leadership of Highworth Churches Together

Editor: Amy Hegarty
E: editor@highworthlink.co.uk

Production: Stables Studio
T: 01793 764768
E: graphics@stables.co.uk

Advertising: Debbie Hodgson
T: 01793 764768
E: advertising@highworthlink.co.uk

Highworth Distribution:
Clive Hall T: 07801 365282
E: clive7045@btinternet.com

Peter Croton T: 01793 762025
Villages Distribution: Keith Ratcliffe
T: 01793 861122

Treasurer: Terry Williams

Highworth Link, c/o Lighthouse Bookshop,
40 High Street, Highworth,
Swindon SN6 7AQ
Tel: 01793 764768

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

Contributions:

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

Email is preferred; otherwise deliver to The Lighthouse Bookshop.

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

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

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

Deadlines:

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

Forget Me Not Café pushes forwards in 2022

The first Forget Me Not Café of this new year saw nearly 30 people gathering together on Zoom for bingo games and a quiz, as well as enjoying bespoke heart-shaped biscuits. We had two games of bingo with prizes for one line, two lines and full house. The first game used almost all the balls so several people must have been really close to winning!

We also spent time talking about an activity on being grateful for the people and things around us; our friends, family, pets, gardens, countryside and favourite places.

We had distributed activity and treat packs to every one of our café friends both, old and new, which included the bingo cards, dabbers, some puzzles, some valentines craft and colouring activities along with some delicious cookies especially baked by Dumbledarts Bakery; thank you Helen! All were totally unique and very enjoyable. Kevin also ran a quiz towards the end of the café which as usual was well received.

We saw some old friends and new on the Zoom and we are hoping to meet back again in person at our February café in the Highworth Community Centre; a musical session with our guests from the Kencot Ukulele Group.

Our March café will hopefully be on a musical theme too and will be confirmed soon, so do keep a look out for updates on our Facebook page and group and on our café posters.

This year's 2022 calendar will include a mix of music sessions, seated exercises and of course quizzes and games and lots of cake!

If you want to be added to our email distribution list to get all the latest information, please let us



Cookies by Helen from Dumbledart's Bakery

know at E: forgetmenot.highworth@gmail.com. Email addresses are always treated in confidence and only shared with Café Trustees. If you can't email, please call Ruth on 07970 543423 and we'll add you in.

The Highworth & District Lions Charity made a fantastic donation again to the café, which was a great help in funding some of the January café bingo prizes and the activity packs. They are also kindly making available to us the use of their minibus and a volunteer driver, to help us get some of our café-goers who need transport to the café, so if you do need transport please let us know.



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Highworth May Day Charter Market 2022

Saturday 30th April 10am-5pm

This year's theme: 'A Cleaner, Greener Highw-Earth'

Mayday, 30th April is getting closer and we look forward to seeing you all.

Remember to help your child(ren) make a costume, suit or dress for the fancy-dress competition out of anything that can be recycled such as newspapers, cardboard or plastic bottles. If you don't fancy dressing up, wear something green or appropriate to saving the planet!

We will update you via Facebook of bands and entertainment that have been booked.

Brochures will also be available from mid-March in shops on the High Street.

This is a **FREE** event run by a handful of volunteers. Donations via one of our May Day

buckets would be much appreciated.

May Day has grown considerably over the last 11 years and to ensure that it continues we are looking for people to join our small committee. All you need to do is attend approximately 6 meetings a year, have lots of ideas and help on the day!

Facebook page: [Highworth May Day](#)

T: 01793 762197 or E: sandra.rendall1@gmail.com



Highworth Memory Cafe

4TH WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH 2-4 PM

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or call Ruth 07970 543423

Logos: Home Instead, United Against Dementia, Swindon Borough Council, Dementia Friendly, Highworth Community Centre, Highworth Lions, Highworth Memory Cafe, Highworth Pre-Not Cafe.

Ask AMS

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Becoming a Director does include legal responsibilities. For example, Directors must act in the best interests of their Company, and not allow it to trade if they believe it will be unable to pay its debts. They must also ensure that it complies with employment laws, health and safety regulations and keep proper accounting records. All Limited Companies must appoint at least one Director. No Director should be 'barred', bankrupt, or under 16.

So long as you are sensible, the advantages of a Limited Company – such as tax savings and limited liability - are very often worth the extra legal responsibility. I suggest you speak to an accountant for further advice.

01793 818400
www.ams-accountancy.co.uk

Logos: ICAEW Chartered Accountants, AMS.

Update on the Old Golf Course

Whatever one's personal views on the Old Golf Course, the 20th January was undoubtedly a significant date.

Following a sustained and incredibly well-supported campaign and with the full backing of Highworth Town Council, the (almost unanimous) backing of Swindon Borough Councillors of all political persuasions and of our MP Justin Tomlinson, Swindon Borough Council voted overwhelmingly to remove Highworth's Old Golf Course from the Local Plan. Councillor Steve Weisinger's amendment was passed to no small amount of applause from the large number of Highworth residents who attended the event in person.

This result surprised many who said that it could never be achieved and means that, in the lifetime of the latest Local Plan, no houses will be built on Highworth's Old Golf Course. Reassurances from our MP and Highworth's three Borough Council representatives, delivered through all of our letterboxes the day afterwards, was a firm and public promise to that effect with which the Action Group is delighted.

However, this was only the first step in securing the long-term future of the Old Golf Course. In voting away the opportunity to sell the land for housing development, SBC have removed a much-needed source of income and will,

naturally, now seek other ways to raise revenue from the Old Golf Course land; it will not pay for its own upkeep. The Action Group recognise this need and are now working hard to set up a collaborative working group with both HTC and SBC to help with the formation and delivery of coherent plans to sustainably maintain the Old Golf Course as accessible, open green space that remains unbuilt upon.

This will be a difficult task and will require the input and efforts of Highworth's residents. Having strongly voiced our views about how much the Old Golf Course means to us (surprising many with the success we have collectively achieved) we now all need to work together to ensure that our success to date is not lost. The support needed from us all will take many forms: expertise and knowledge, volunteering, fundraising, donating, leaflet dropping, etc.

The Action Group now looks to all of those 4,655 individuals who have supported the cause so magnificently to date, and achieved the great success of 20th January, to rally together to make our vision of a sustainable, manageable and maintainable open, green space a reality for current and future generations of Highworth and Swindon Borough residents.

Old Golf Course Action Group

Supporting Highworth's hedgehogs!

Please come along to 'Hedgehog Fest' on **Saturday 5th March** at 1.30 - 4pm at the Highworth Community Centre.

There will be vegan friendly refreshments, a raffle and stalls. Oak and Furrows will give a talk

on how to help hedgehogs which will begin at 2.15pm. The event is free but a donation of a tin of cat or dog food would be welcome. Please bring lots of change for the stalls!

(see our poster on p 21)

Link Deliverers sought

Due to retirement and house moves we have vacancies for deliverers:

If you have some spare time and would like to be

a part of the big team that brings the Link to your door, email me at: clive7045@btinternet.com

Clive Hall

From the allotments

Spring is finally here! I bet all your windowsills, greenhouses and conservatories are filled with seed trays, old yoghurt pots and toilet rolls; all in anticipation to see the first green shoots to appear.

I see the allotments have come alive. Lots of freshly dug soil, people hard at work and a lovely buzz of excitement in the air. Although the weather can still be surprising, March is such a lovely month. Pops of colour in the darkest of corners.

Jobs to do this month, from the book 'Month by Month' by Alan Buckingham.

Harvest - First Rhubarb of the year, plus any last and any remaining Brussels Sprouts, Celeriac, Parsnips and Swedes.

Sow Outdoors – Broad Beans, Cabbages, Calabrese, Leeks, Lettuces, Onions, Parsnips, Peas, Spinach, Spring Onions, Sprouting Broccoli, Asparagus, Cauliflower, Chinese Artichokes, Garlic, Jerusalem Artichokes, Potatoes and Rhubarb sets.

Sow Fruit – Apple and Pear trees, Gooseberries and Currants, Grape Vines Raspberries, Strawberries, Cranberries and Blackberries.

Sow Indoors – Aubergines, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbages, Celeriac, Celery, Chillis and Peppers, Cucumbers, Florence Fennel, Globe Artichokes, Kohl Rabi, Lettuces, Sprouting Broccoli and Tomatoes.

Happy Gardening!

Samantha Daniels





The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

Two weeks prior to the weekend of celebrations there will be a Scarecrow Trial within the town.

Thursday 2nd June 2022
Lighting of the Beacon - Details to be confirmed.

Saturday 4th June 2022 - High Street
Live music, Entertainment, Craft Stalls, Food Vendors, Portrait Competition, Face Painting, Parade to include Local Community Groups and Schools, Music through Her Majesty's Reign, Poetry Competition.

Sunday 5th June 2022
Upper Rec, Highworth
Large Screen to display the Platinum Jubilee Pageant, Falconry Display, Bowls, Inflatable Games, Classic Cars, Bake-off Competition, Archery, Treasure Trail, Fair Rides, Food Vendors, Animal Petting, Games through the ages, Arts & Crafts, Live Music and much, much more.



Highworth Community Cinema

The penultimate film for our current season, 'Summerland', with Gemma Arterton and Penelope Wilton is to be shown on Friday 25th March.

During World War II, an Englishwoman opens her heart to an evacuee, after initially resolving to be rid of him, in this moving journey of womanhood, love and friendship. Alice is a fiercely independent folklore investigator who secludes herself in her cliff-top study, debunking myths using science to disprove the existence of other-worldly forces and magic.

Gemma Arterton plays Alice Lamb, a loner living in a coastal cottage surrounded by a village of gossips, whose



solitude is shattered by the arrival of boisterous London evacuee Frank (Lucas Bond). The supporting cast includes a note-perfect Tom Courtenay as the local schoolteacher, a swearsy Penelope Wilton as an older version of Alice and young Dixie Egerickx as Edie, a sour-faced tomboy classmate of Frank's.

Films start at 7.45pm.
Doors open 7.15pm
(Cert 12A, 100 mins)

There is no membership fee.
Admission £5 on the door which includes tea / coffee and biscuits.

T: 01793 763907

E: info@highworthfilms.org.uk
www.highworthfilms.org.uk

Scouts' Annual Quiz

As I write this, it looks more likely we will be able to run the Scouts' Annual Quiz on Friday 22nd April. We are still undecided about the venue, but will have made a decision by the time you read this. Details will be in the April issue.

If you wish to enter a team, or need any more information, please contact me on david0410@btinternet.co.uk or 01793 763720. The cost is £24 for a team of four and the start

time will be 7:30pm.

We look forward to welcoming back all our regular teams (Zoom quizzes are just not the same) but we would love to see some new teams as well. What better way to celebrate the return after three years with a full house, wherever that may be.

David Roblin

Highworth Library: Business as usual

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.

T: 01793 463500

E: highworth.library@swindon.gov.uk
www.swindon.gov.uk/libraries

We look forward to seeing you!

Highworth Library Team

Thames Water pipeline progresses



It has been fascinating watching the large water pipe being laid through Pentylands Country Park. First a forty-metre-wide strip was fenced off from the lane towards Hannington and curving around the wetland area.

Then the diggers arrived scraping back the topsoil into neat piles. The next thing was to 'build' a temporary road with lorry loads of stone to stop vehicles getting bogged down in the clay.

Next came the one metre diameter pipes. These got welded together into long sections lying on rollers. These then went into three metre trenches lined with stones.

Where the pipeline came into and exited the park there is a ten-inch diameter pipe bringing



water to us in Highworth. The new pipe had to be very carefully pulled under this pipe. A Thames Water Man told me that they had diverted the water while this was being done "just in case"!

Berit Aherne

Scarecrow Trail - 'Books Published in the Past 77 Years'

The deadline for having a scarecrow in the trail is **19th March**. You can get involved by emailing scarecrow@highworthscouts.org.uk

Details of where you can buy the trails and any other information will be in next month's Link.

Love a board game?

Please note that the Board Games afternoon, held at Highworth Methodist Church, is moving

to the second Monday of each month from 2pm-4pm.

Struggling to find the right job for you? Looking for a career change?

***Come and chat with us at our Open Morning
on Saturday 12th March from 10am-noon***

Jackie Kerr and her experienced team are opening their offices, welcoming job seekers to pop in for a chat, coffee and breakfast. The Open Morning is to talk about ALL areas of recruitment and careers, so please do come along.

Do you need help with:

Careers advice?

Finding a job with training?

Helping you find and apply for your dream job?

*Finding work that's right for you?
(we have many vacancies)*

*Changing career?
(we can help you make it happen)*

Your CV?

*Or simply having a chat and a
confidence boost to reassure you
there is a job out there for you?*

We can help!

Our team has over 20 years of recruitment experience and can offer you a wealth of advice and support.

We have many vacancies in all sorts of fields where full training can be given.

We even have vacancies to join the Jackie Kerr team itself.

Maybe ask yourself if what you are doing today is getting you closer to where you want to be tomorrow.

***We would love to meet you;
you have nothing to lose and
everything to gain, so why not
come along and meet us.***

Where:

Jackie Kerr Recruitment, 8a Sheep Street,
Highworth, SN6 7AA

If you can't make Saturday, please feel free to call us on 01793 762026

or email us on: Fraser@jackiekerrrecruitment.com

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The next CAP Job Club course starts on 15th March

Members of Highworth Churches Together wanted to help equip their local community to find employment in tough economic times so underwent specialised training from UK charity Christians Against Poverty. They are just about to start their sixth course with many from previous courses having been greatly helped into work.

If you are out of work and would like some encouragement, motivation, direction, CV support, interview practice and more, come along and join our 7-week course held on Tuesdays 1-3pm at The Bridge Centre,

8 Sheep Street, Highworth, SN6 7AA
(including free lunch).

You will be part of a friendly group with a sense of community and mutual support. One-to-one coaching is included and you will receive a certificate at the end. The course can form part of your work-searching for Universal Credit if needed and is run by Jackie Kerr, Kathryn Ford and the team.

Don't miss out, book your free place by texting Kathryn 07885 579876 or email kathrynford@capuk.org



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From Highworth to Toowoomba, Australia

In the 1870s the Swindon Advertiser was showing adverts for emigration to Queensland. Free passage was offered to agricultural workers along with other trades. A single man could earn £35 a year plus food. One of the people who took up this offer was the 14-year-old Thomas Ackling from Highworth.

He was the son of another Thomas who received a letter from him in 1876, two years after his son had emigrated. This letter was published in the Swindon paper.

'At present, unusual facilities are being offered to emigrate to Queensland and that all persons wanting to emigrate should make immediate application to do so at the office of this paper'.

The Letter:

Dear Father,

I have taken the trouble to write a few lines to you hoping to find you quite well as it leaves me at present. We had a pleasant voyage but so long; we were 4 months on the water. We stayed in Brisbane about 3 or 4 days and then went up country about 100 miles where I got a place, and a very good place, to look after 2 horses and do any work, and I get 10/- a week and tucker and lodgings.

I have to do my own washing but my master will let me have an hour or two to do it in, so that is no trouble to me. I like my place very well and I

like the country too very well but I think I can do better up the bush. My master is about taking a large farm up the bush, I have been and looked at it and I like it very much, and so do he like me.

I have a horse to ride when I like and I take a ride around the country. Tell any man that if he can milk he can do well out here, I am not afraid but what I can get a good living and save plenty of money. I liked the water very much and was always at the top of the mast.

Anyone that will work can do well out here, but without work you cannot get a living out here. One week's work will keep you a fortnight at the least. Clothes are cheaper than in England because they want no linings. I bought 2 hats for 1/-, a pair of trousers for 5/- and a pair of strong boots for 8/-

*Thomas Ackling at Mr. John Little's,
Bell Street, Toowoomba.*

Several members of the Ackling families emigrated to Australia. A Henry Ackling married a Winifred Batt, also from Highworth. After their marriage they lived at Jane Street, Randwick, Sydney, naming their house, 'Highworth Cottage'. Thomas also ended up in Sydney.

There is a town called Highworth in Queensland, named by settlers who arrived there.

*Christine Suter, Highworth and Renee McLean,
Sydney. (Descendent of Thomas Ackling)*

Highworth Historical Society event:

Our March talk is 'Hill Forts to Pill Boxes by Nick Baxter. This tells the story of Invasions, Civil War, the army and Salisbury Plain and early Airfields.

So come along on **Wednesday 23rd March** and join us at St. Michael's Hall, Lechlade Road. The doors open at 7pm for a 7.30 start. Visitors pay £3 at the door.

For more information contact Chris Suter T: 01793 764811.

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deb.hodgson@tiscali.co.uk

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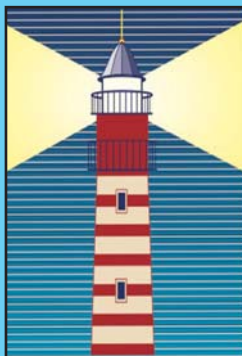
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Dear Editor,

On a cold and frosty morning in early January something magical happened on the Old Golf Course. Here, in the corner adjoining the top Rec, artificial leaves, glistening in the sunshine were hanging from the trees. Why not stop, have a look and read the words used to decorate them? The poem below by Suzanne Collins forms the basis and reason for the installation:

*Deep in the meadow, under the willow
a bed of grass, a soft green pillow
lay down your head, and close your sleepy eyes
and when again they open, the sun will rise.
Here it's safe, here it's warm
here the daisies guard you from every harm
here your dreams are sweet and tomorrow brings them true
here is the place where I love you.*

*Deep in the meadow, hidden far away
a clock of leaves, a moonbeam ray
forget your woes and let your troubles lay
and when again it's morning, they'll wash away.
Here it's safe, here it's warm
here the daisies guard you from every harm
Here your dreams are sweet and tomorrow bring them true
here is the place where I love you.*

The artificial leaves each carry a line from this poem and are given more meaning by this particular siting. Highworth's own Banksy had been busy again.

Here in this tiny corner here is a feeling of peace. It's a place to contemplate, to appreciate, to meditate, to deliberate... and perhaps to speculate on the future of the view in front of you.



'Musings' by G R Umbler

Why not have some lighting installed at the new Highworth skate park? It has already proved to be a well-used feature, and lighting would increase its availability and safety for Highworth's children.

Now that the future of the Old Golf Course is secure, why not have a picnic in the summer when all residents can join to celebrate the victory of the campaigners in keeping it safe from encroaching housebuilders and to mark The Queen's Platinum Jubilee. This would certainly foster community spirit.

Pets' Corner



Name: Molly

Age: 6 months

Breed: Cocker Spaniel

A bit about me:

I love my walks in the fields and going scatty!

I wasn't ever going to be allowed on the sofa but I soon sorted that one out!

I'm a good girl though and loved very much by the whole family.

What a cutie!





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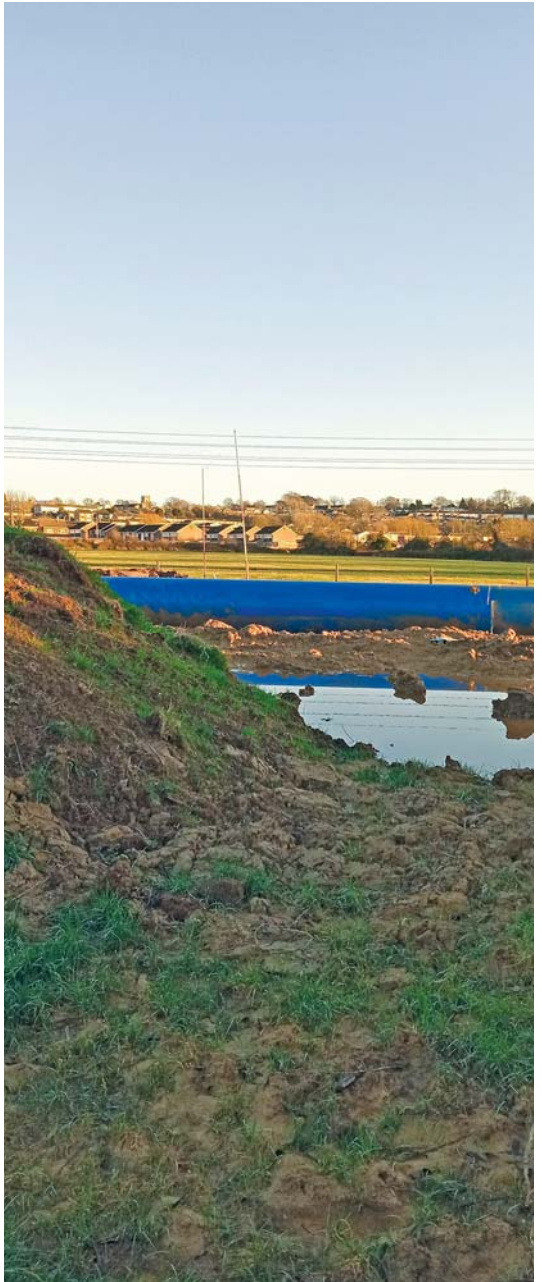
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Dear Editor,,

I took this the other day from the far side of the water pipe works in Pentylands Country Park and thought it was worth sharing!

Alice Williams



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Arts Section *Compiled by Iain Barnwell*

Contact: HighworthLinkArts@gmail.com



Visit Highworth looking forward to Spring

Here at Visit Highworth we are really looking forward to Spring! We have an Easter Craft Fair on Saturday 9th April in the beautiful St. Michael's Church. Our Christmas Fair was a great success with over 900 visitors through the door so we can't wait to do it all again. We have original handmade Arts and Crafts from the local area with some very familiar faces and some new ones too. A date for the diary.

Spring is also when we recommence our guided Highworth Town Tours. Enjoy an hour's stroll around our amazing town to discover so much about its rich and varied history. We can cater for individuals or groups so if you would like to find out more email us at info@visithighworth.co.uk, call 01793 764440 or pop into the centre. You never know what you might find out!

We had our first meet the Meet the Maker Session last month which was great fun. We will have more of these coming up as well as

workshops and children's activities. As always, we have local arts and crafts with new items arriving all the time so if you are looking for an original gift do call in.

It's all change in the museum. There is a new exhibition in conjunction with Swindon Museums and Art gallery 'Art on Tour' and the Highworth Historical Society. 'Local Legacies: Ceramics from the Swindon Collection' features ceramics and pottery with links to the local area. Definitely worth a visit!

We are delighted to be involved with this year's May Day taking place on **Saturday 30th April**. This year's theme is 'A Cleaner, Greener Highworth'. It is great to have it back after a two-year absence. We are also taking part in the celebrations for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee this June. It's going to be an exciting time!

Helen Lacey, 'Visit Highworth' Centre Manager

'Tadcu'

(Grandfather)

I see him now, my Tadcu.

*Sitting in the old armchair. Pipe, waistcoat
and gnarled hands.*

A wonderful smile on his time-worn face.

*He taught me Welsh words, loitering still in
my old head.*

*Gentle and caring in his ways - a feature
my mother inherited.*

*I play a game of dressing him up as he sleeps
Hat, scarf, stick and a cushion placed in position.*

*I gaze at my created character, waiting for his
waking - knowing that he will smile.*

*The allotment he tends, after working day
after day in the pit,*

Provides us with vegetables and fruit.

I glimpse him sitting on an old chair,

Pipe and hat, admiring his achievements.

*Our holiday to Llandudno started one
Saturday in 1955.*

The coach rattled along the country roads

Stopping halfway for a break.

*Tadcu was now very unsteady as he walked
towards the café.*

*Arriving at St Kilda Hotel his chest rasping
and rattling.*

Sunday night we heard a thud...

He had fallen out of bed.

By Monday morning he was dead.

Pneumonia had taken him away from us.

John Williams, 2019



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A fund raising quiz organised jointly by the Rotary Club of Swindon North & Thamesdown and the Inner Wheel Club of North Wiltshire. The funds raised will go to the Swindon Carers Centre, marked especially for the Young Carers support team. Young carers are children aged 5 and above who look after someone within their family home taking on practical and/or emotional caring responsibilities that would normally be expected of an adult. Swindon Carers Centre, Sanford House, Swindon, SN1 1HE
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Second skip

*The second skip appeared today
Resting on the path.
Articles of their existence.
Pairs of slippers soothing the feet
Pillows plumped to rest the head
Box set of Tchaikovsky, whiling away the time
Broken bookcases once full of knowledge and light romance.
Saucepans to prepare and savour the meals.
Silver paper to wrap and preserve.
We leave behind material baggage
Others decide how to dispose
The final bond broken.
Recollections remain in the minds
Of those close, and of friends
Circle of essence to nothing.
Somebody to something.*

John Williams, 2019

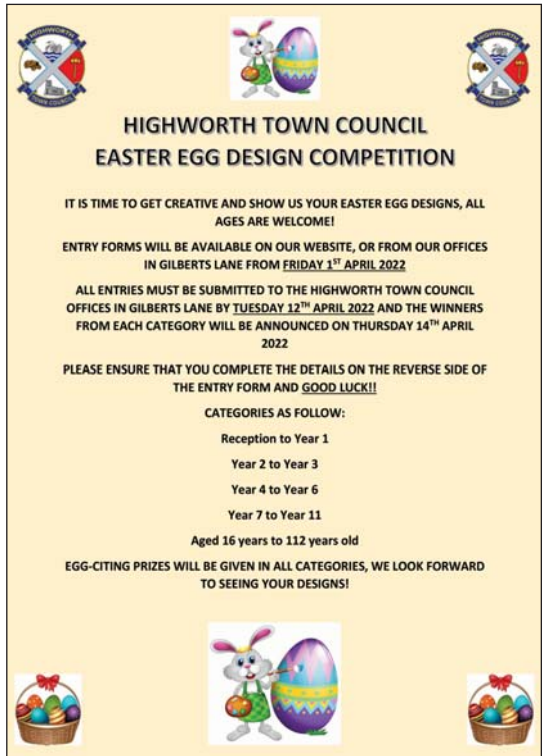


Highworth Easter Craft Fair

Join Visit Highworth
in St. Michael's Church for our
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Featuring Local independent Artists and
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10am – 4pm
Saturday 9th April 2022
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TO SEEING YOUR DESIGNS!



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Getting to know: Swindon Memorials



We interviewed Matt Finnegan, the owner.



What services do you offer at Swindon Memorials?

At Swindon Memorials we offer a personalised service offering creative and beautiful memorials that reflect the uniqueness of your loved one. We help every step of the way. We also offer a grave tending service, which gives peace of mind that your loved one's graves remain maintained, respectable and dignified in your absence.

At Swindon Memorials we supply, clean, fix and repair memorials from simple tablets to large monuments.

What is your rôle, Matt?

I'm the owner. Swindon Memorials are a family-run stonemasons who enjoy an excellent reputation serving Swindon, Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, Oxfordshire, Hampshire and Berkshire. Swindon Memorials works in partnership with Hillier Funeral Service and I'm part of the Hillier family.

How did you get in to the industry?

I was originally a Design Technology Teacher but have always been interested in stone masonry and the craft. Being married into the Hillier family we thought it would be a good idea to be able to provide a stone masonry service for our customers.

What is the best part of your job?

Customer satisfaction. Knowing that our customers are happy with the memorial and the service that we have provided. Also, working with an excellent team of both my own staff and the

extended Hillier staff. I could not do it without them.

And the difficult parts?

Seeing the upset and the grief families go through having lost a loved one, but it gives me great job satisfaction that I'm able to bring comfort to families by creating a lasting memorial.

What differentiates your business?

We are very competitive on price compared to other stone masons and we keep many items in stock so we can offer a quick turnaround. Unlike a lot of other stone masons, we do the work here in Highworth which enables us to show our customers our work and craftsmanship. I'm able to offer home visits and weekend appointments as we understand everyone has busy lives.

Where are you based/what areas do you cover?

We are based in Highworth at Blackworth Industrial Estate and we cover Wiltshire, Oxfordshire, Gloucestershire, Hampshire and Berkshire

We have been extremely busy since the closure of Highworth Memorials so we advise all our customers to book an appointment before visiting.

Can we see some of your work?

Supporting our local community is really important to us.



We recently produced and donated the following memorial to St Michael's Church in Highworth in memory of all the people who lost their lives due to Covid.



Last year we also produced a remembrance memorial at Tadpole Garden Village.

Another project we were involved in last year was renovating an old grave at Radnor Street cemetery in Swindon. Swindon Town football fans



helped pay for the renovation of James Munro's grave, who was Swindon's first paid Captain and passed away quite tragically in 1899. Only days earlier he had played in a 4-3 victory over Tottenham on New Year's Eve 1898



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Lions' Den

In January we were sad to learn of the death of former Lion Jack Henrick. Jack joined the Highworth and District Lions Club in June, 1977; he was President in 1983/84 and later Zone Chairman. Although he had retired from the Lions Club he will be remembered with fondness and will be sorely missed.

It's March already, Spring is in the air and the Highworth and District Lions Club is gearing up for the coming year. The Charity Shop remains closed on Mondays, but we hope return to normal operations as soon as possible.

Members have been instrumental in organising the Community Litter Pick, instigated by BBC Radio Wiltshire, at the end of January. Unfortunately, BBC Radio Wiltshire pulled out due to Covid-19. As 'Service' is the Lion's motto we carried on. We're thankful and appreciate all those who came and got involved.

One of our new members, Alison, is organising a Mother's Day & Easter Craft Fair in St Michael's Church on **Saturday, 12th March**. The Lions Club will be having two fundraising stalls. One will be an adult tombola with alcohol and chocolates and the other a child's tombola with sweets. We look forward to seeing you there. This isn't a Lion's organised event. However, the proceeds of the event are generously being donated to the Highworth and District Lions Club Charity fund.

Our delayed District Convention is taking place in Swindon in March. Previous year's Conventions have been held on Zoom, but it's not the same as meeting old acquaintances from other clubs face



to face. These occasions are an opportunity for us to learn about the exciting work of other Lions Clubs and an opportunity to gain new ideas.

New members of the club are involving themselves in various activities including driving the minibus on a regular basis for the Forget Me Not Café and on regular outings for people in residential homes with possibilities for other things in the future. Our Shop Van has not weathered the Covid 19 break very well and another new member, Steve, has it up and running again.

Donations for January were:

- Prospect Hospice - £160.00
- Kid's Cancer Charity - £550.00
- Forget Me Not Café - £100.00

During 2021 the Highworth and District Lions Club donated £16,080.69 to various charities and organisations. These ranged from donations to the Lions Clubs International Foundation's Haiti Disaster Appeal as well as Lions Clubs International supported charities, such as Water Aid. We also supported local organisations like the White Cross Club and NSPCC, Swindon.

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

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Helen Browning

A quick and easy recipe for a family feast for 4

For a twist, instead of cannelloni beans use a can of mixed beans, red kidney beans in a chilli sauce (don't drain the sauce away) or even butter beans – mix it up to suit your taste!



Ingredients

- 1 pack of Helen Browning's Speedy Sausages
- 1 tbs olive oil
- 2 crushed garlic cloves
- 1 celery stick diced
- 2 carrots diced
- 1 tin of cannelloni beans, drained & rinsed
- 2 x 400g chopped tomatoes
- 1 tsp smoked paprika
- 2 bay leaves
- 1 tsp dried oregano
- 300ml chicken stock made with ½ stock cube

Method

Step 1. Preheat the oven to 180°C/gas mark 6

Step 2. Heat the oil in a large casserole pot. Gently brown the sausages for 5 minutes. Remove from the pan, then add the diced onion, celery and carrot and cook for 10 minutes until softened and golden. Add the garlic, chopped tomatoes, beans, paprika, oregano, bay leaves and chicken stock. Simmer for 30 minutes, then add back in the speedy sausages for 15 minutes until thickened.

Serve with a jacket potato and grated cheese or with grilled streaky bacon on top for a luxurious twist. Crusty bread on the side is all you need.

Running for Starlight



My name is Lauren, I am a Nurse Practitioner working at the Urgent Treatment centre at GWH.

I'm proud and excited to have become an ambassador for the Starlight charity, a really inspiring organisation that takes their passion to the bedside of some of the most poorly children

in hospital. Their mission is to 'use the power of play to make the experience of illness and treatment better for children and their families'.

Starlight have provided much support to the Urgent Treatment Centre (UTC) providing toys and distraction boxes which helps the children to relax, play, distract them from their reality and gain a positive experience of being in hospital.

Recently, we were thrilled that Starlight provided a Nintendo Switch for the UTC. Unfortunately, we still desperately need to raise money for a Rockin R's gaming cart to ensure safety of both the console and the children while they use the console in our department.

To help fundraise for this, I have signed up for this Tough Mudder. A 10k race with a lot of mud and difficult obstacles along the way.

Anyone who knows me will understand that I hate to run. Absolutely HATE it!

Please could you to sponsor me with as little or much as you can to reach the target of £2,421.02. If possible, I would love to exceed this so that I can also give back to the charity as much as possible for their incredible work.



Lauren Watts

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/lauren-watts7>



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We're here to help

After a two-year break due to Covid, our Annual Charity Swimathon is coming back

Sunday 22nd May 2022, 10am - 2pm Highworth Recreation Centre, The Elms, Highworth, SN6 7DD

Our Swimathon is an opportunity for people to raise funds for a charity of their own choice. It's a fun event for swimmers of all ages and abilities. We organise and run it and it's totally free to enter. No-one has to complete a certain distance or swim at a certain speed. All they have to do is make up a small team of friends or family, each one collecting sponsorship for themselves and on the day swim in relay for 55 minutes.

Each team member should collect as much sponsorship as possible. We will give a cash voucher to the three with the most. Sponsorship can be collected online. All swimmers will be given a medal and a certificate showing how many lengths they swam.

The Swimathon will also be raising funds for the Swindon Food Collective: Swindon's independent

food bank which is currently feeding over 6,000 adults and children a year from its seven distribution centres in the area.

www.swindonfoodcollective.org/

Swimathon entries can be submitted online or by post. For both options go to the Swimathon 2022 page on our website

www.rotaryswindonnorth.org.uk

Sponsorship forms can be downloaded from our Swimathon 2022 webpage and also on that page is the online sponsorship collection facility for entrants.

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Sport *Compiled by Jason Daniels*

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



Wrag Barn Golf Club



Supporting the Swindon Domestic Abuse Support Services

A New Year donation for Swindon Domestic Abuse Support Services from Wrag Barn.

Under blue skies and brilliant sunshine, Wrag Barn's Lady Captain Margo Campbell was proud to present a cheque to Charlotte Gibbon from Swindon Domestic Abuse Support Services for the sum of £3,000. Margo has been an inspirational Captain throughout her year and has encouraged the ladies to dress up in tutus, tiaras and Christmas jumpers while playing golf, having fun and making donations to her charity. Every charity is worthwhile, but Margo wanted to support a local organisation to see how the money raised would be used.

There is a well-known quote which states that "the value of money isn't what it can buy, but how many it can help" and Charlotte's comment as she took the cheque was that this money will make a difference to so many people.

Donations won't end now that the cheque has been presented, the Survivor Shop in Swindon is run by a team of dedicated volunteers and will accept donations of good quality items to sell in aid of the charity and no doubt Wrag Barn Ladies will continue to contribute in the future.

Unfortunately, not every relationship ends 'happily ever after' and domestic abuse can happen to anyone at any time of year. If you need help, or know anyone who needs help, the 24/7 telephone line is always answered; phone 01793 610610 for confidential advice or visit their website: www.swadomesticabuse.org for more information.

Verity Manners

Swindon & District Motorcycle Club

After a week of scraping the car each morning the third Sunday of January did treat the motorcyclists at the Klindt Motorcycle Trials to a warmer start, but the price was paid with thawing and slippery sections along Hannington's old railway station.

Over 60 barons and baronesses of balance skilfully navigated the ten fiendish sections laid out to suit their respective abilities. With a perfect mix of young and not-so-young, novices and masters riding bikes from BETA's to BSA's, the railway embankment proved a challenging foe with its crumbling brickwork, exposed tree roots and rock-laden brook. But despite the Goliath challenge it was David Maslin who slew the A



B Class runner up, Thatcham's Mark Elms

Class leaderboard with the lowest number of penalty points incurred after four rounds of each section. Stephen Oram bested the supporting A/B Class with Martyn Wilmore and Martyn Goodall winning their respective B and C Classes.

In the introductory G 'Green' Class the spoils were shared by Julia Watson and Shaun Beckhelling, neither separated by their one and only penalty point of the day. Circulating in their youth Classes both Isobel Coopey and Aaron Watson finished the day unchallenged.

The bikes are scheduled to be back at Hannington in February and have a good number of events throughout the year so please do check them out on their website and get in touch if it's something you'd like to know more about.

Jason Daniels, www.sdmcc.org.uk

Photograph by Kelly Daniels

Swindon Croquet Club



If you would like to try something new this year then why not give croquet a go? For the 2022 season, Swindon Croquet Club has prepared a wide range of social play and competitive matches suitable for all ages and abilities. In addition to organising tournaments and entering teams into competitive leagues, the Club organises weekly social sessions of both Association croquet and Golf croquet. Prospective and new members are always given a very warm welcome. Free taster sessions, with friendly tuition and equipment provided are

available so please email us for further details if you wish to give this fascinating game a try. Further information can also be found on the Club's Facebook page.

Beverly Briggs

E: swindoncroquet@outlook.com

Highworth Running Club

With our first race in three years now only a month away, the club are busy backstage filling up the tea urn, blowing the cobwebs from the course signs and polishing the trophies.

On **Sunday 10th April 2022** the town's running club will be holding its springtime race, again over five miles. With a course that starts at 11am on Shrivenham Road (outside Warneford School), turns runners down Fresden Lane and then again back to Highworth, the first four miles allow you to work on the run up you might need to get up Eastrop Hill! Once at the summit only Brewery Street and a short run back down Shrivenham Road await before cheers and glory greet you on the sports field.

Entries are open to anyone over the age of 15 and a link to enter can be found on our website. Every finisher receives a race memento and the chance to refuel with homemade cakes.

The club host its training night in the town on Wednesday's from 6.30pm to 7.30pm, meeting at Brewery Street car park so if you want to join us and just top up your preparations then we'd love to see you.

Jason Daniels

W: www.highworthrunningclub.co.uk

Highworth Town Football Club

A tough period for the 1st team over the Christmas and New Year period saw defeats outnumber wins. We were still mid-table after 20 matches with 29 points and with 16 games left have plenty of opportunities to move up further.

In reality our young team are performing admirably against clubs with more experienced



players and the future looks good.

All support is welcomed, both home and away, so follow us on Facebook/Twitter and of course our website if you are interested.

Derek Lloyd

W: www.highworthtownfc.com

Badminton Coaching

Professional weekly group coaching session on Saturdays at Dorcan Recreation Complex, Swindon.

Register online with a two week free pass!

Community Badminton cater for all ages starting from Tots (age 3-5), Minis (age 5-7), Rookies (age 7-11), Juniors (age 11+) Teens (age 14+) and adults. Coaches are hugely committed to engaging and helping players get the most from their badminton experience, whether through energetic fun sessions or recognising and mentoring talented players through a development programme.

Community Badminton is recognised by Badminton England, Swindon & District Badminton Association and Wiltshire County Badminton Association.

Register today - wiltshire.communitybadminton.org



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**SHRIVENHAM
Cricket Club**



SHRIVENHAM CRICKET CLUB

Shrivenham Cricket Club is one of the longest established in the area stretching back to 1854.

Since this date cricket has been played on the Recreation Ground courtesy of the Barrington Estate. Since the advent of League Cricket in the 1980's Shrivenham Cricket has been very successful competing for many years in the OCA, achieving promotion to the top Division and consistently finishing in the top half of the table. The Club's 2nd X1 was also successful competing in the lower Divisions.

In 2020 the Club took the bold decision to switch from the OCA to the Wilts League and are currently fielding one team in Division 6 of the Wilts League. Now with a brand new Pavilion the club is looking to expand once more and is looking for new players to reinvigorate friendly cricket and ultimately return the Club to fielding two Saturday League Teams.

The new Pavilion secures the Club's long term future and is a great new asset for the whole community.

If you are interested in playing cricket please contact Club Captain Martin Hammond on: (M) 07890 626912.

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 or on YouTube by searching [St Michaels Church Highworth](#)

Other Services:

1st Sunday of the month at 8.45am:
Holy Communion

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

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 is a spoken Communion service and is held on the third Wednesday of each month at 11am with the next service being on **Wednesday 16th March 2022**.

Coffee and cake served prior to the service from 10.15am.

Tuesday at St Michael's

Tuesday at St Michael's is held on the fourth Tuesday of each month and is a chance to meet up for conversation, craft activities, board games and lunch from 10.30am. The next meet is on **Tuesday 22nd March**.

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.

Saturday Coffee Morning

Our coffee morning runs every Saturday (excluding the 1st Saturday of each month) from 10am until 12pm in the Church Room. All welcome.

We remember those who love and miss:

Ian Miller

Marjorie Grabianska

Praying for the roads in the town:

06-Mar-22 Cricklade Road and The Cullerns
13-Mar-22 The Dormers and Downs View
20-Mar-22 Eastrop and Edencroft
27-Mar-22 The Elms and Fair View

Church contacts:

St Michael's and All Angels Vicar: Curate-in-charge Rev Emily Swinerd T: 01793 764488
(St Michael's Church Office: T: 01793 762702)

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



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



05/03/2022

God Bless Richard. Love Marie, Nic, Lou, Rachel and Paul x

10/03/2022

*Eric Ryder. Missing a dearly loved Dad, Bamp and Great Grandad. Forever in our hearts.
Love from Janice and Pas, Louisa and Chris, Pep, Amy and Carina xxx*

20/03/2022

Ann Berry. Time cannot stop the heartache nor can it stop the tears. John and Family

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

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

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bryanellk90@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

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. Emily Swinerd: 01793 764488

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 United Reformed Church – Accounting to the town from our Trust Fund

The United Reformed Church fellowship in Highworth is a faithful, thoughtful, tenacious small community, welcoming to all and worshipping in our lovely 1825 chapel on the High Street. Passing, you will perhaps best know it for the church garden which, thanks to the green fingers of Adrian, our talented gardener, offers during most of the year a pageant of ever-changing beauty to make the day go better for everyone.



Thankful to be back together again after the Covid lockdowns and under the leadership of our minister the Rev. Robert Jordan, who we share with our larger fellow church Immanuel URC in Swindon, at the moment we meet twice a month for worship on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month at 10.45am.

Thanks also to the dividend income from trust fund monies which derive from generous Victorian benefactors. After meeting our own needs we are also able to make significant charitable donations as an integral and fortunate part of our ministry.

This is our periodic report to the town on our stewardship. The gifts help the URC nationally to pay for our ministers (about 40% of the total) and are sometimes for sister churches with capital projects, but to a great degree they also fund Highworth projects and local and national charities.

'Christians Against Poverty' (CAP) has a major impact locally in helping people out of debt. It is a cooperative Highworth project among our churches with its professional team supported by

many volunteers and is often mentioned in LINK. We are the principal financial providers, without which this valuable work could not continue on its present scale.

We also offer major support to sustain the much-appreciated Lighthouse Bookshop. We support the dedicated work of Gloucester House and also church youth work in the town and in Swindon. We backed the opening of the Heritage Centre. We help the Prospect Hospice.

A range of smaller grants are given to Swindon charities, such as food bank and the women's refuge, helping people in various forms of need and to national charities. Frequently, we are able to respond to major national appeals, such as the recent cry from the Disasters Emergency Committee to fight famine in Afghanistan.

Since 2001, the total of all this giving to church and society amounts to a staggering £675,000, all of it acknowledged and appreciated and a real expression of our faith.

Keith Salway, Treasurer

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Alan Wicker, LRAM, LRCM, LTCL, ATCL, LLCM

Highworth Pianist, Organist & Piano Teacher, Alan Wicker, died last December aged 95.

He studied at the Royal College of Music in the 1940s and broadcast on BBC radio in the 1950s. He played many piano concertos including with the The Military College Orchestra, Swindon Symphony Orchestra and the Wiltshire Youth Orchestra.

Alan taught advanced piano pupils in Swindon College, New College and also from his home. He accompanied many performers in examinations and recitals, and most recently played for Highworth Choral Society's performance of Faure's Requiem.

Alan was married to Beryl for 71 years and had two daughters, six grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

He was a quiet, unassuming man who was always immaculately dressed. A suit with shirt and tie was his normal wear and he even possessed a gardening suit. (Well, he sometimes cut the lawn!)

The family is very grateful to all the staff at Fitzwarren House who took such great care of him over the last four years.

Mirian Sirrelle (Daughter)



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From our MP

Phew!... (that understates it!); I am absolutely thrilled for the local community that the 'Save Highworth's Old Golf Course' campaign has been a success!

The 'Save Highworth's Old Golf Course' campaign has been a fantastic, constructive and very visible campaign.

As your MP and Councillors, we met with and supported the efforts of residents and the brilliant campaign group and each and every member who helped can be rightly proud of this success.

The 4,500+ strong petition, the campaign posters proudly displayed across Highworth and the work of the campaign group showed very clearly the scale of opposition to the proposed houses and new primary school.

Whilst the vast majority of Swindon's Local Plan was not contentious, Highworth has and continues to deliver more than its fair share of development in Swindon. All of this was crucial to help us focus minds. The whole principle of the Local Plan is to set out fair, sustainable and reasonable development. The additional housing at Highworth's old golf course was simply too much, an argument that thankfully won the day.

Cllrs Steve Weisinger, Vijay Manro and Alan Bishop successfully put forward an amendment to the Local Plan to remove the site. This was passed at Full Council. So the old golf course will

now not be considered for housing and a new primary school.

The site will remain solely for leisure use. There is now time to work on a long-term, sustainable plan that protects the site both now and in the future. Swindon Borough Council, Highworth Town Council, the Action Group and your Councillors will work together to explore future options. I will continue to offer my support and advice to this work.

Thank you to everyone who supported the campaign!

*Justin Tomlinson,
North Swindon Conservative MP*

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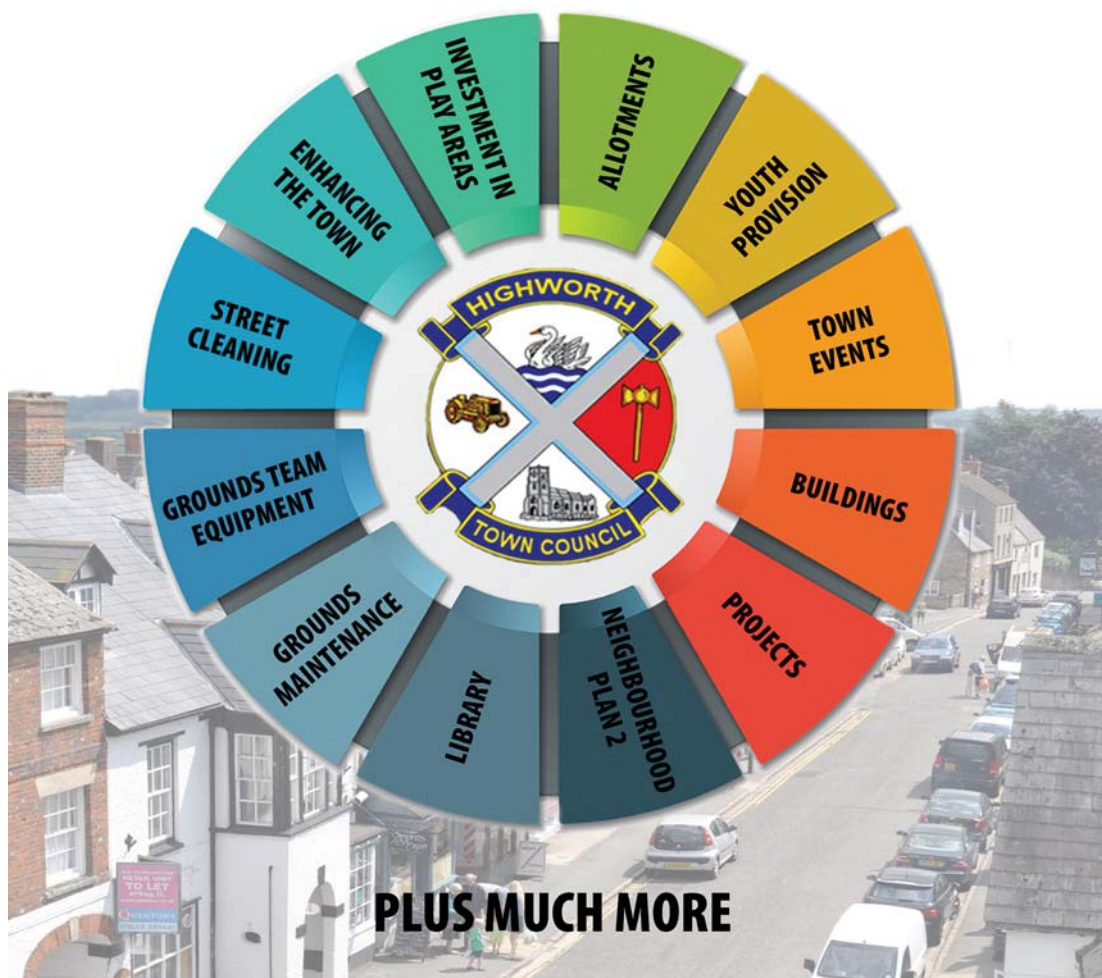


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Highworth Town Council New Neighbourhood Plan (NP2)

After a short break over the Christmas period the Neighbourhood Plan Committee have been busy planning the next stage of Workshops and Events.

Your input to this process is invaluable and we want to thank everyone again for attending Workshops and completing Surveys both online and at the Visitor Centre. We want to obtain as much feedback as possible and will provide the results of the different themed Workshops once they have been collated.

If you haven't had the opportunity to participate in Workshops 1, 2 & 3 then it's not too late; either pop into the Visitor Centre or visit Highworth Town Council's Website at the following address to complete the short Surveys online.

<https://highworthtowncouncil.gov.uk/neighbourhood-plan/>

The next Workshop is **Saturday 19th March 2022** in the Community Room, Highworth Town Council Offices. More information on this is available on the Council Website.

To be kept up to date on progress and future events you can visit the Highworth Town Council Website, Facebook, Instagram or Twitter.

Information boards will also be displayed at the Saturday Market.

We look forward to seeing you at our next Workshop.

*Highworth Town Council
Neighbourhood Plan Committee*

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TOWN MAYOR & CHAIRMAN

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

DEPUTY MAYOR & VICE-CHAIRMAN

Julie Murphy, Rosedene, Inglesham SN6 7RA
Mob: 07803 602568 Mob: 07803 602568
julie.murphy@highworthtowncouncil.gov.uk

Kim Barber, Stable House, Eastrop, Highworth SN6 7AT
Mob: 07881 922861 kim.barber@highworthtowncouncil.gov.uk

Julia Hazel Bishop, Sandstone, 37 Fitzgerold Avenue SN6 7JJ
01793 762807 Mob: 07773 045270 alanandjuliab@outlook.com

Alan John Bishop, Sandstone, 37 Fitzgerold Avenue SN6 7JJ
01793 762807 Mob: 07773 045270
alanandjuliab@outlook.com

Gerry Evans, 1 St Michaels Avenue, SN6 7JZ
01793 764236 gerry.evans@highworthtowncouncil.gov.uk

Nick Gardiner, 12 Coffin Close, Westrop SN6 7HA
01793 226337 Mob: 07392 871243
nick.gardiner@highworthtowncouncil.gov.uk

Paul Newton-Smith, 41 The Dormers SN6 7NZ
01793 764575 Mob: 07939 467907
paul.newton-smith@highworthtowncouncil.gov.uk

Graeme Olley, 97 Eastrop SN6 7PP
Work: 01793 763700 graeme.olley@highworthtowncouncil.gov.uk

Maureen Penny, Squires Court SN6 7FH
07787 977884 maureen.penny@highworthtowncouncil.gov.uk

Keith Smith, Flat 35, High Street SN6 7AQ
07836 382827 keith.smith@highworthtowncouncil.gov.uk

Kenneth Saunders, 343 Windrush SN6 7EF
01793 763071 Mob: 07968 640136
ken.saunders@highworthtowncouncil.gov.uk

Lynn Vardy, Old School House, Shrivensham Road SN6 7AT
01793 762521

Steve Weisinger, 8 Barra Close, SN6 7HX
01793 764668 Mob: 07791 122843
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 Fitzgerold Avenue SN6 7JJ
01793 762807 Mob: 07773 045270

Vijay Manro, 38 The Dormers, SN6 7NZ
07545 429367 vmanro3@swindon.gov.uk

Steve Weisinger, 8 Barra Close, SN6 7HX
01793 764668 Mob: 07791 122843
sweisinger@swindon.gov.uk

FARINGDON

Faringdon & District U3A meeting: 10th March

Our January Japes had to be cancelled due to government restrictions and our concern for the health of our members. The overwhelming response to an e-mail requesting names of people wishing to attend the lunch told us how keen people were for life to return to normal. We are therefore delighted to announce that we are holding the lunch as March Merriments on **Thursday 10th March** at 12 noon for 12.30pm. People who have already booked will have been contacted and numbers have been made up to a safe figure.

The afternoon talk will proceed as usual with the talk taking place in the Corn Exchange at 2.30pm. Members are welcome to come to listen to the talk if they have not been to the meal. The speaker is Phil Holt, a retired air Traffic Controller; his talk is entitled 'Keep calm – I am an Air Traffic Controller'. He covers the history and development then talks about present day flying. This humorous, yet factual, presentation will fascinate everyone so, prepare for take-off! Refreshments will follow as usual.

Faringdon Regent Cinema

Weds 2nd March: 23 Walks (12A)
(2021 - Comedy, Drama, Romance)

A gentle, sweet, funny, romantic story of love in later life following a couple in their sixties. Dave and Fern, who get to know one another over the course of 23 dog walks.

Stars: Alison Steadman, Dave Johns

Film duration: 1 hours 42 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

Fri 25th March: King Richard (12A)
(2021 - Biography, Drama, Sport)

A look at how tennis superstars, Venus and Serena Williams, became who they are after the coaching from their father, Richard Williams

Stars: Will Smith

Film duration: 2 hrs 24 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

LECHLADE

Lechlade Scottish Country Dancing Club

We are pleased to let you know that we have now changed the day and time of our two-hour dancing sessions.

If you would like to come along and see what we do, then we would be delighted to show you all the fun we have Scottish country dancing. It keeps us fit and exercises our brains too! You do not need a partner, just soft shoes and the willingness to learn a new skill.

Three Wednesday afternoons of each month until May, 2.20-4.30pm at Lechlade Memorial Hall Oak Street Lechlade GL7 3AY. Contact Margaret for more information: T: 01367 252581

Lechlade Community Library

This year 2022 we have started on a very firm footing with 6 days a week opening for 3 hrs a day thanks to our brilliant volunteers. We have also been able to help some of our younger community achieve their community service section of their DofE award and when possible will always give others that opportunity.

2022 is going to be an historic year with the Platinum Jubilee. The library, being a focal point for the Lechlade area, will be participating with bunting inside, a window display by the Jubilee Committee, stories to pre-school children about queens, a timeline about the Queen's reign and St Lawrence School have been asked to participate by the children displaying anything regal. We hope this will happen. If you have other ideas don't hesitate to let us know.

With the help of Nick Brown (Paramedic), Stephen Andrews and Mike Read (First Responders), 19 of our enthusiastic volunteers were shown the workings of a defibrillator and basic CPR at the beginning of January. Bearing in

mind that a defibrillator is immediately outside the library it was considered that the library might be the first place a person seeking help may come.

We have been contacted by the Flag Committee about creating a new flag for the library to be displayed for the Flag celebration during the Jubilee. Flags have not been flown in Lechlade now for several years so it will be nice to see them flown again. This gives the community an opportunity to come up with a design for the library. Please pop in your ideas which will be considered by the library. Ideas need to be considered in the next few months giving time for its creation.

This year represents the 10th Anniversary of Lechlade Community Library becoming a Community Library. The Directors will be considering how we can recognise this, especially as this happens in the Platinum Jubilee year.

We always look forward to seeing our users of the library and are always open to new ideas or those interested in volunteering in the library.

Tim Yeoman, Lechlade Community Library

SHRIVENHAM

Shrivenham Cricket Club

Shrivenham Cricket Club is one of the longest established in the area stretching back to 1854.

Since this date cricket has been played on the Recreation Ground courtesy of the Barrington Estate. Since the advent of League Cricket in the 1980s Shrivenham Cricket has been very successful competing for many years in the OCA, achieving promotion to the top Division and consistently finishing in the top half of the table. The Club's 2nd X1 was also successful competing in the lower Divisions.

In 2020 the Club took the bold decision to switch from the OCA to the Wilts League and are currently fielding one team in Division 6 of the Wilts League. Now with a brand-new Pavilion the club is looking to expand once more and is looking for new players to reinvigorate friendly cricket and ultimately return the Club to fielding two Saturday League Teams.

The new Pavilion secures the Club's long-term future and is a great new asset for the whole

community.

- Wiltshire League Div 6. Saturday cricket
- Brand new pavilion open for 2022 season. Superb facilities.
- Looking to recruit new players for Saturday league and Sunday friendly cricket
- All Stars Junior cricket
- Access to indoor nets March/April 2022
- Long-established, friendly and successful club
- Low-cost playing subscription (£40 for the season and weekly match fee)

If you are interested in playing cricket please contact Club Captain Martin Hammond on 07890 626912.

Shrivenham Park Golf Club report

March is here! Life in golf is returning after a cold and wet winter! The green keepers have been working hard in the background preparing the course for the Spring and Summer golf. They deserve our praise and thanks. Green fees have risen slightly since the end of January but remain a good way to spend time buying a round of golf. The end of March is the start of the club year but good rates of subscription for the year are available now. Contact the club on 01793 783853 and see if there is one to suit you. The new lady captain and gentleman captains will be driving in at the end of March, followed by a round of golf. Denise Shurmer is the new ladies captain and Andy Betterton is the men's captain.

At the beginning of January, a new junior initiative was launched. Richard Jefferies, the club pro, began free coaching sessions supported by Paul Shurmer our health and safety officer, Carole Lee and backed by the club manager. One for each of the first four months of the year. There had been excellent publicity in and around the schools and the local villages and 16 juniors, boys and girls aged 5 upwards, came on the first morning. A wonderful turnout. More were expected in February.

There are two more:

March 5th and April 9th, from 11.30 - 12.30am. Anyone still interested should let the club know

VILLAGES

or text Carole on 07774 348614.

One of the earliest competitions to be staged countrywide is the Daily Mail foursomes which is held for men and ladies. This year Molly Garrett and Carole will be representing the ladies' section. We will chart their success as they play their match rounds.

The Oxfordshire Lady Captains met at Kirtlington at the end of January for their Winter meal and Carole represented Shrivenham and Petra from the Defence Academy attended. Petra is the Captain of the Captains this year. The next lunch is in March and will be at Hadden Hill. After that the golfing season with matches and competitions will begin in the county for OLCA and for the Oxfordshire County itself.

Parkies pals will be meeting at Shrivenham on **7th March and 4th April**. Shrivenham are delighted to be hosting all their meetings.

The Social coffee and chat group will be meeting on **11th and 25th of March**, from 10am to 12 noon and **1st and 22nd April** when it will be the social putting group and meets between 2 and 4pm. Anyone and everyone is welcome to attend.

Carole Lee

W: cleefairways57@yahoo.co.uk

STANTON FITZWARREN

Signs of a Spring in our Step; news from Every Cloud at Stanton Country Park.

The volunteer-led 'Kiosk in the Courtyard' has now re-opened to serve take away drinks and sweet treats to visitors to the park on Saturdays and Sundays between 10am-3pm. Seating can always be found in the courtyard picnic area and the Farmhouse Garden where spring flowers are blooming.



In case of bad weather, please refer to our Facebook page regarding opening. We know we have hardy customers!

On **Saturday March 19th**, we are delighted to start our 2022 workshop programme with a lovely opportunity to relax and enjoy making a happy, needle-felting landscape with Lisa. Why not bring a friend or a family member with you? £20 per person includes tuition, all materials and light refreshments; 10am-12noon.

A children's drop-in arts & crafts session is being held in the Barn on **Saturday 26th March** 1-3pm to make a card or other small gift for Mother's Day. £1 per child.

In addition, the Farmhouse Tea-room is opening to celebrate all 'Mums' on the afternoons of **Sat 26th & Sunday 27th March** with a strawberry jam cream tea 1-4pm, £4 per head.

Bookings only accepted via:

W: anne.billingham2@btinternet.com.



South Marston Chess Club

Meet **EVERY THURSDAY** evening
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Tel: 07545 923021
email: southmarstonchessclub@gmail.com



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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

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

OTHER SERVICES

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

PRAYER PLACE

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

I would like to be known as: _____

I would like you to pray for: _____

(Optional) Name _____

Address _____

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

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