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July/August 2022

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"All they asked was that we continue to remember the poor".

I don't know what your bottom line is, what the one thing is you will do, irrespective of energy, finance, difficulty or opposition. Maybe it's your family or your studies. Maybe it's getting a holiday or a takeout on Fridays. Maybe it's your political position or your fitness level. For the church, it's supposed to be the poor.

The line I opened with is from the Bible. At a time when the church was expanding greatly and there was a clash of cultures, vision and ideas, they agreed that, whatever they did, the poor would always be front and centre.

In June 2014, the churches of Highworth made the same stand. We launched Christians Against Poverty (CAP) here in our town, taking the brave, but biblical, step to love the poor without



judgement and irrespective of their beliefs. To take a stand with those who are facing crippling debt and, not only provide a professional debt service through CAP nationally, but be a friend and be there through the ups and downs of life.

To date, we have seen 64 households go debt free, over 50 households helped through our Lifeskills courses and, since we started our Job Club in 2020, had 35 people attend courses, with nearly half already having found work.

You can read more about the work of CAP and their upcoming event on page 4.

Matt Ford

Leader of Highworth Community Church

Cover picture by Paul Newton-Smith: Highworth comes out to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. See page 24

LINKmagazine

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

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Contributions:

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

Email is preferred; otherwise deliver to The Lighthouse Bookshop.

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

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

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

Deadlines:

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

CAP Fundraising Challenge 2022 – Swimming Against Poverty

When I started this rôle eight years ago, I was shocked to see how much need there was in our area. But now in 2022, as the cost of living climbs and we still are reeling from the fallout of restrictions, we know that many more are living below the poverty line. Our team of volunteers is amazing and we regularly help with practical needs, food shopping and gas/electric top-up. We hold social events, and we see hope restored.

This year we are holding our fundraising Challenge 2022 which is Swimming Against Poverty on **Sunday 21 August** from 10.20am to 2pm at the Highworth Rec.

We are aiming to see over 200 local people commit to swim two+ lengths and raise sponsorship. It's about mass participation, a

collective stand (or swim) for those less fortunate than us.

If you would like to take part, we welcome anyone of any age and any swimming ability (almost) to sign up for a 20-minute slot and help us continue to make a big difference in our community and beyond. Click on the QR code below or email caphighworth@gmail.com.

A massive thank you to the Halo Recreation Centre for kindly agreeing to allow us the use of their lovely pool for this event.

Kathryn Ford
CAP Centre Manager



All Things Forget Me Not!

The Forget Me Not Café on 25 May saw us again hosting about 50 customers! There was a fantastic vibe in the room as we enjoyed fantastic musical entertainment and table quizzes.

Coming up on **Wednesday 27 July**, we have the fantastic Highworth Silver Band and we hugely look forward to hosting our local band at last!

The **Wednesday 24 August** café will be a classical afternoon of Music and Magic! with guitarist, David Jefferies and magician, John Williams, working around the tables with a bit of magic and tricks to fascinate our customers!

Our cafés are held at Highworth Community Centre, The Dormers 2pm to 4pm on the fourth Wednesday of each month. Please email forgetmenot.highworth@gmail.com if you would like a lift from our fantastic Lions minibus driver, Steve. The café is open to all living with dementia and other conditions along with their



companions.

Our new 'Love to Move' seated exercise sessions, meet on the second Wednesday of every month 1.45pm to 3.15pm, also at the Community Centre. Come along and join us, and let's keep moving. Email lovetomove.highworth@gmail.com

Lastly, in June we launched our New

'Forget Me Not Fridays' drop-in sessions at the Council Room. We're open 10am to 11.30am every Friday. If you haven't dropped in yet, please do come along as there's lots of different ways to enjoy some lovely time out in Highworth!

If you'd like to volunteer at any of our sessions or collaborate as a local music group, club or artist to entertain us, or want to be added to our café distribution list, drop us an email or call Ruth on 07970 543423 for more details on any of our sessions and we can keep you up to date with all things 'Forget Me Not'!

Westrop School Erasmus+ project

Westrop School welcomed teachers from four different countries as part of The Erasmus+ Project which enables schools to work together to improve their provision for learners and share innovative practices.

Teachers from Finland, Spain, Italy and Wales joined in a variety of activities throughout the week, with the main focus on children's wellbeing. Pupils had the opportunity to meet the teachers and ask questions about their country and school and the teachers joined in with forest school, yoga, PSHE lessons and experienced OPAL (Outdoor Play And Learning)

at lunchtime. Year 4 and 5 pupils also enjoyed being taught some traditional playground games

from each country. The teachers commented on how evident Westrop's whole school values are and how hard the Westrop team works to promote wellbeing for all children. The visitors also enjoyed a guided tour of Highworth and were treated to a Westrop barbecue!

Fiona Christopherson, the project co-ordinator said, "The Erasmus teachers were blown

away by our school and nursery. They were inspired on many levels by the staff and, of course, our lovely children."



Students try a Finnish Playground Game



Ask AMS

Can I claim expenses for working from home for my business?

Business owners can claim the expense of using their home as an office, based on the portion of rent, mortgage interest, council tax, water, fuel etc. used while working on the business at home.

There are 2 ways to calculate this:

Weekly Claim: Business owners spending small amounts of time, say, invoicing or doing minimal work relating to the business can claim £6 per week (or £26/month) without calculating the actual home expenses used.

Actual Expenses: If the owner spends, say, a few hours each day at home running the business, they can claim a proportion of actual home expenses. (Rent, rates etc. as above)

If you want to use the 2nd method; HMRC provide examples online – but they are complex. I recommend that you ask your accountant to do the calculation.

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Westrop School Raffle Winners!

Westrop School were lucky winners of a ChromeBook and Kindle tablet after taking part in an online raffle run by The Agency UK.

Dominic Randell, a partner in The Agency UK based in Stratton, hand-delivered the prizes to the excited children. Clare Bridge, the teacher who entered the raffle said, "New technology is always needed so it was a fantastic surprise! The prizes will be put to good use in the classroom."



Bumps to Babies Gets off to a Great Start!

Wednesday 04 May was a good day, the day when our new community group started. Much to our delight, four mums and their babies arrived. As well as discussing how the groups will run, we introduced parents to Mindfulness and Craft, with their first craft being a journal of their babies' lives. As well as this, there was time to socialise and get to know each other and the babies in the group.

At the end of each session, we have Music Time; introducing nursery rhymes and small action songs. We have also found that the babies (and the mums!) enjoy Bubble Time and the sound and feel of musical instruments. This is good for developing babies' hand/eye coordination; a skill that is developed from birth.

As a brand new group, we really appreciate the support we have received from the community of Highworth who came to our Podium Sale, Coffee Morning and Quiz Night which, in total, raised just over £500. This, along with a grant of £400 from Highworth Lions, has enabled us to cover the essential costs of running the group (rent, insurance, DBS checks, etc.), and also gradually

purchase more equipment such as mats, baby chairs, toys, musical instruments, and books.

We would like to say a very big special thank you to several people and groups including: St. Michael's Church, Highworth Lions Club, Val, for her amazing cakes, WH Smith, Keith for his valuable technical support, Lily and Lauren for much welcomed assistance at Coffee Mornings, Lyndsay and Kelsey in TT Linnets for a steady supply of coffee and cakes and the use of their big table for our meetings.

Future fundraising events include another coffee morning at the Methodist Church on **Saturday 15 October**, 10.30am to 12noon, plus a stall at St. Michael's Church Christmas Craft Fayre.

We may need to introduce a waiting list due to the growing popularity of the group so if you've been thinking of joining us, do it sooner rather than later!

You can contact us via e-mail at ask@bumpstobabies.club or join us via our Facebook group, [Bumps to Babies](#).

Jan Davidson

Mayor Volunteers with Community Speed Watch Team

The Mayor of Highworth, Cllr Julie Murphy, joined two members of the town's Community Speed Watch team during a session in Volunteers' Week to say thank you for all the time the members spend volunteering to reduce speeding in the town.

The session, observed by the Mayor on Thursday afternoon, checked traffic speeds within the 30 mph limit on Shrivenham Road. In the course of the short half-hour taster session, the Mayor witnessed the team catch seven vehicles for speeding, the fastest of which was doing 48 mph.

The Mayor said, "In recognition of Volunteers' Week, I would like to thank the members of Highworth CSW who give up their time to assist in making our town a safer place for everyone. It is good to hear from local residents about the difference the team is making."

In the last twelve months, the team members volunteered approximately 700 hours of their time on the roads of Highworth and reported over 11000 vehicles for speeding. The team has over 30 members, all of whom are local residents.

The Highworth team leader said, "I am so appreciative of our team members and every

hour of their time they give to reduce speeding in Highworth. Volunteers' Week gives us the opportunity to say thank you to each and every one of them. Every hour they spend on the roadside makes a difference in improving the quality of life and the safety of other residents."



"We are grateful for the messages of support we receive from the community. We hear it in person from pedestrians, online and even from drivers who take the time to pull over and say thank you. A small minority will always be derisory about what we do, but these opinions are predominantly

expressed by drivers trying to downplay their own speeding offences."

The Highworth team is one of over a hundred CSW teams of Police Community Volunteers throughout Wiltshire and Swindon. Teams are closely supported by officers from their local Community Policing Teams, the Road Policing Unit and Wiltshire Specials. During Volunteers' Week, Wiltshire Police provided increased enforcement support to teams throughout the county.

Anyone interested in joining the team should email highworthcsw@gmail.com for more info.

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Cleaner and Greener at Westrop Primary and Nursery School

Swindon Borough Council's carbon neutrality target is 2030, so at Westrop Primary and Nursery School we are applying for grants and looking at ways that we can start contributing to a carbon neutral school environment.

This year so far, we have had all new LED lighting which is extremely energy efficient. By replacing the lighting in the school, we have reduced Co2 emissions by 14,000kg! The school is currently having a new roof installed. This is a very important energy-saving project.

Not only are we saving energy, we are again reducing our emissions.

As we continue to improve our school site, we are reducing the amount of energy we consume to have a big effect on the environment.

Enabling Hearts, Equipping Minds and working towards a greener school

Nick Parker-Ellis, Site Manager

Westrop Primary and Nursery School



**carbon
footprint**

Highworth Poppy Project

We are hearing of so many groups and individuals who are making poppies for us to display in St. Michael's Church in November; thank you all so much. Please encourage your friends to start knitting or crocheting too. We are hoping to collect over 1000 poppies by the middle of October for us to prepare for display.

There will be a box inside St. Michael's Church

from late July onwards where you can leave completed poppies or we can collect from you if requested. Highworth Information Centre has also offered to act as a collection point, which is very kind of them.

Please let us know if you would like any further information. E: highworthpoppies@gmail.com

St. Michael's Flower Guild



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An advance message from the Highworth Twinning Association

Our French friends in Pontorson are proposing to visit Highworth on the first weekend of December, probably arriving on 02 December and leaving 05 December. They wish to do their Christmas shopping so we would spend a day in one of our local shopping areas like Bath or Oxford.

I know it is a long time away but nearer the time we will be looking for hosts for our French friends. If you would be interested in helping with hosting or entertaining, please bear the dates in mind.

If you would like to know more, please contact Richard Pearce on 07513 009044.



1st Highworth Scouts Scarecrow Trail – Thank you!

The Easter Holidays saw the return of the 1st Highworth Scouts Scarecrow Trail after an absence of two years on the theme 'Books of the Last 77 Years'. We had some spectacular scarecrows. Thank you to everyone who created a scarecrow; we had over 40 around the town.

Thank you also to Visit Highworth, The Saracens Head, Lighthouse Bookshop and Allen and Harris, for selling the trail maps.

In addition, the Scouts would like to particularly thank Andrews Quality Meats, Highworth Emporium and TT Linnets for providing the prizes. We managed to raise over £550.

Finally, thank you to everyone who bought a trail map; we hope you enjoyed it and we will be back next Easter when the theme will be, 'A Moment in Time'.

Wheelchair Hire Service

British Red Cross has been lending wheelchairs since the First World War and is the largest national charity running a wheelchair hire service in the United Kingdom.

British Red Cross Mobility Aids hire out wheelchairs for people aged five and over as well as commodes and other toileting aids. They also keep a stock of second-hand mobility and assistance aids for sale to the public. These include a range of wheelchairs and their accessories, Zimmer frames, rollators, crutches and walking sticks, perching stools, shower seats, blanket raisers and overbed tables.

Your local collection point is at Greenbridge, Swindon. Deliveries can be arranged to most SN postcodes including Highworth.

Equipment can also be booked online <https://www.redcross.org.uk/get-help/hire-a-wheelchair>

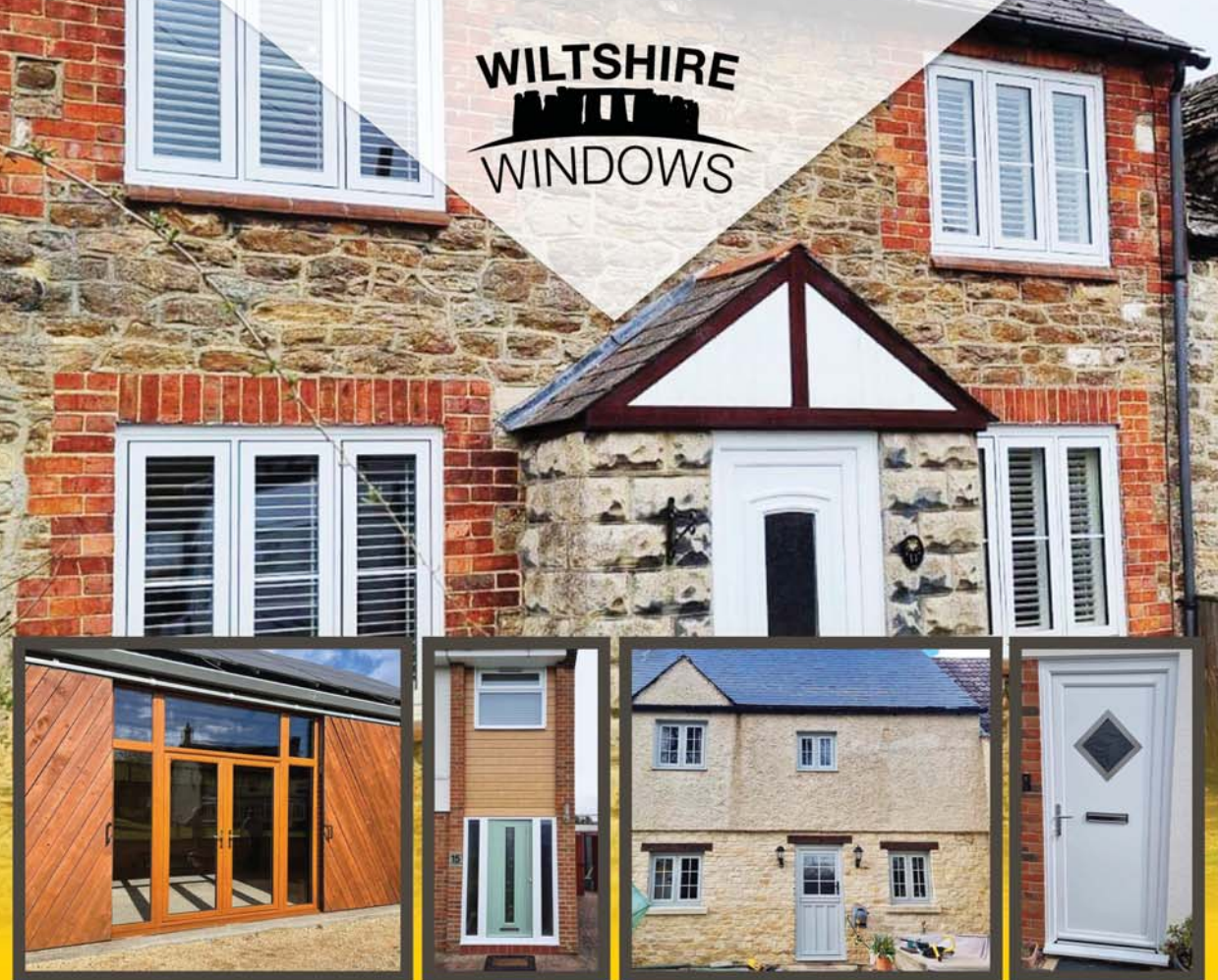
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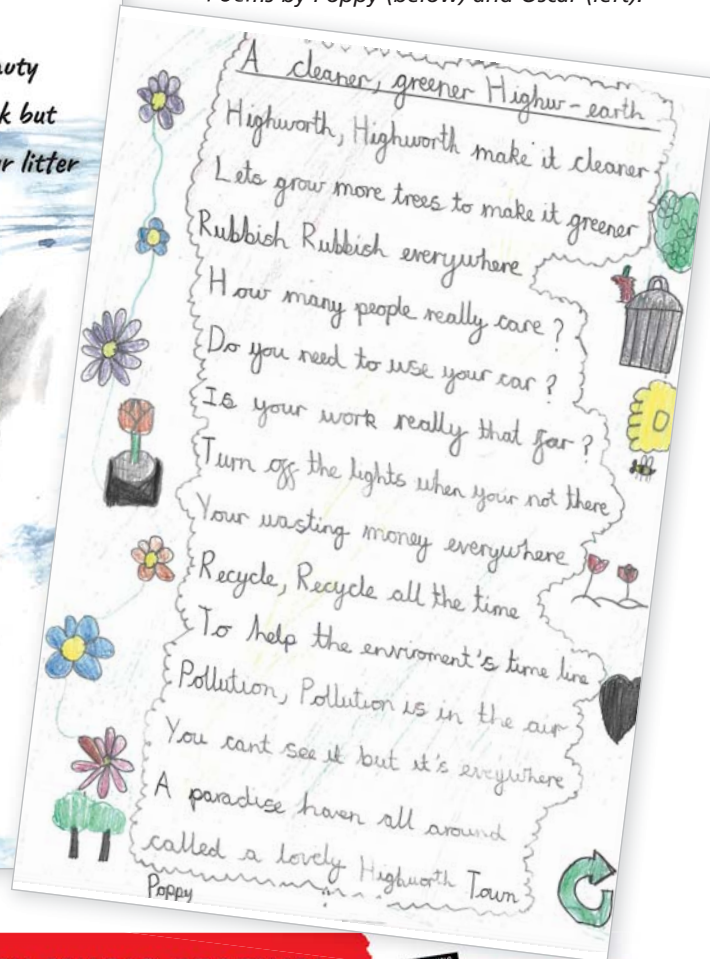
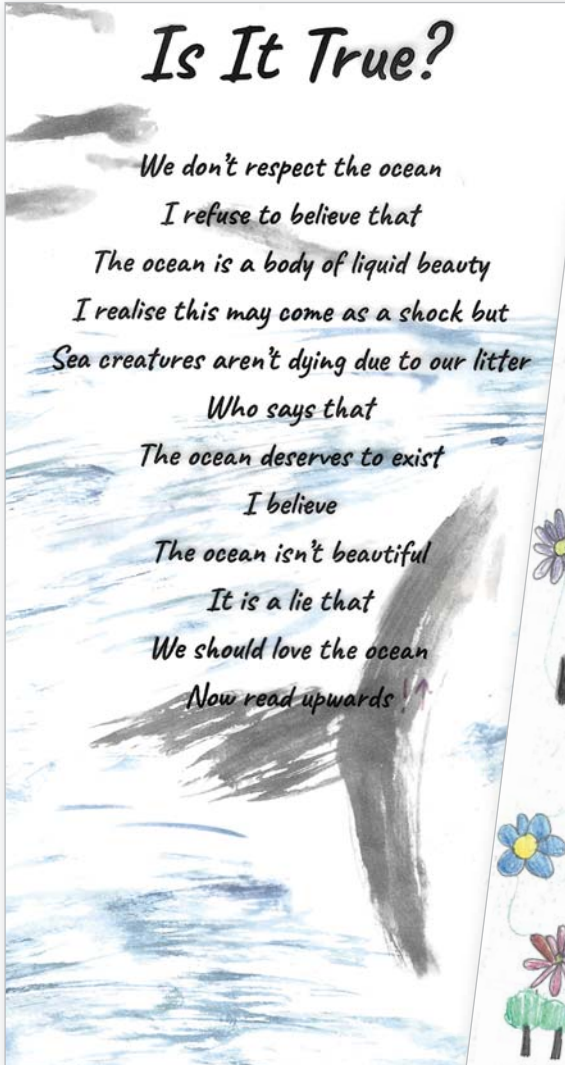
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Poetry Competition Winners

In conjunction with local schools, Highworth May Day organisers ran a poetry competition. Poppy and Oscar from Westrop School entered the competition and they were so good that Westrop School thought you would like to read them!

Other winners were: Evie from Southfield, and Corben, Eva and Lucinda from Westrop.

Poems by Poppy (below) and Oscar (left).



Highworth Produce and Craft Show

Saturday 03 September at Warneford School



This is a friendly, local event that welcomes those that are green-fingered; and those that are not! Alongside the fruit and vegetables you can show off your baking skills in one of our many baking categories, or present your finest floral bloom.

There is something for everyone to get involved with so if you have never entered before then 2022 is the year to give it a go!

It's a great afternoon for all the family. It's **FREE** to come and browse around the exhibits from 2-4pm. There is a pop-up café serving drinks and delicious cakes so make an afternoon of it.

See the posters and programmes around the town for more details.

Facebook page: [@highworthproduceshow](https://www.facebook.com/highworthproduceshow)

See you all there.

April Thrush





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Westgate's Excavation Station!

We are always grateful for the grounds we have here at Westgate and over recent months our appreciation has skyrocketed. Our Westgate Warriors have made the most amazing discovery in our woodland area; fossils! Real life fossils!

We may as well have struck gold for how excited we have been! What began with the unearthing of a 'humble stone' became a full-blown project which has provided the children with endless amounts of learning as well as oodles of opportunities for developmental progression. Positively bountiful!

Immediately after the discovery, the team ('Bigs' and 'Littles') created an Excavation Station. Some of our oldest 'Littles' have been marking, measuring and making a designated area for further excavation. They have used pegs and string with real hammers to cordon off an area around the original find. This unleashed a whole heap of learning potential.

William Ward once said, "Curiosity is the wick in the candle of learning," and it is this sentiment that has fuelled our 'Littles' in their quest to know more. We have explored patterns and done lots of interesting work around shape, size, direction and measuring, created artwork and used various tools to examine the fossils. Some of the children built a fossil washing area. After this



came an identification and categorisation process. Some of the children have worked independently on projects but there has been lots of collaborative work too. They have been expressing themselves in so many different ways and contexts. Through working together they have practised sharing ideas, problem-solving and communication skills as well as resolving conflict. There has been lots of scope for

expanding vocabulary too.

As if this was not enough of a revelation, Nicola, our Preschool Lead, contacted the Natural History Museum in London who, much to our delight, sent a response from Ben from the Fossil and Mineral Identification Department. He has confirmed, "These are solitary corals probably from the Carboniferous Period. The radiating lines are the septa (walls) within the calyx or cup of the coral. This is where the polyp lived."

According to Ben, 330 to 360 million years ago large parts of Britain and Europe were closer to the equator and covered by coral reefs. Middle Jurassic rocks are found in this region which explains this sea urchin/echinoid fossil. Clearly, there has been some learning for the grown-ups too!

Watch this space for what happens next.



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

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New Friendship Café for Seniors at Roves Farm

Home Instead Swindon and Roves Farm have come together in partnership to offer a new Friendship Café for Seniors at Roves Farm.

Guests will enjoy a piece of cake and a cuppa in the café followed by an open visit to Roves attractions which can include Pets Corner, a tractor ride and a chance to see all activities on the farm on the day.

Hopefully, the event will spark some happy memories as many older people enjoy contact with



animals. It will be a chance to connect with like-minded people and great friendships will be formed.

Future dates will be Tuesdays
12 July,

09 August and 13 September.

Tickets are £5 (£2.50 concession for carers) and all places must be pre-booked via email to cat.attewell@homeinsteadswindon.co.uk or by calling Cat on 01793 232585.

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What is a 'Toxic relationship'?

A toxic relationship is usually with a partner, but it could be with a colleague, manager, family member or even a friend. Ultimately a toxic relationship is when one person asserts power, control and their will over another.

Relationship Abuse comes in many forms: Physical, sexual, psychological, emotional, financial and technical.

- Do you, or have you had, a relationship that makes you doubt your own opinions?
- Do you find yourself consistently agreeing, because it keeps the peace?
- Does your partner 'gaslight' you?
- Do your friends and family think you have a wonderful life, but do not know the psychological and emotional toll that happens behind closed doors?

If you recognise any of the above, then I am here to help you with any toxic relationship.

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"I wished I was doing the hair!"

While interviewing Karoliina Saunders, I remembered a study by the qualifications authority City & Guilds that found hairdressers topped the list of happy occupations. She also brings a sense of Scandi wellbeing to hairdressing.

As the pandemic recedes, Karoliina Saunders Hair Design (KSHD) is back in business in premises remodelled during the first lockdown, inspired by a cottage in Finland. Karoliina and her husband Mark (a builder) did the work themselves.

Education underpins her attitude to business, starting with her initial training by the Finnish world champion hairdresser Riitta Urjansson. Arriving in England in her teens, Karoliina landed an enviable job with the iconic British salon chain Toni & Guy where she rose to Art Director. Lured briefly into modelling, she developed her interest in fashion and photography, eventually realising, "I wished I was doing the hair."

Along the way she met Mark and left the bright lights for laid-back Highworth where she's experienced motherhood and hairdressing in Swindon salons and working from a small home studio. The shop in Sheep Street (a former hairdressing salon) became vacant in 2013 and Karoliina took the chance. "But I'm a creative, not a businesswoman," she realised and set about learning how to run a business with a start-up course at Outset Swindon. That's her number one tip for any entrepreneur. She also worked with a mentor to develop her business plan. She still has a mentor who looks at the business with a different eye as she continually develops the salon and allied enterprises.

Entering KSHD, customers are immediately

soothed by its calm ambience, yet there is a buzz in the air. "We love our jobs so much; it's about helping our customers feel good," she smiles. And the essence of a good hairdresser? Apart from the technical skills, it's about being good with people, something difficult to define but quickly recognised.

Like business people everywhere, Karoliina's initial response to the pandemic was panic. "I was scared to close; would we ever open again?" But she rose to the many challenges, such as home schooling (she chuckles at the memory), and, after initially covering expenses from her savings, she got her staff furloughed and set about retaining their support and enthusiasm. She hit upon the idea of online training with Facebook group KSHD Education that gained a following of about 100 hairdressers in Wednesday sessions. During the lockdowns, Karoliina also

created a course, Salon to Session, to enable hairdressers to bridge the gap between salon work and fashion session work. The course builds on her experience styling models' hair in the fashion shows of London, Paris, Milan and New York. "My biggest gratitude is to see them getting into session work."

Karoliina's latest venture is KSHD Creative Space in the remodelled former dry-cleaning store across the lane from her salon. It's a self-contained studio for still and video photography, education workshops, exhibitions and meetings. Hiring this space has knock-on benefits for other Highworth businesses such as accommodation and hospitality; for example, the 11 Londoners brought to Highworth in May for a photoshoot.

Karoliina Saunders, bask in the sunshine as our High Street Hero for July/August Link.

Adrian Young



Obsessed with hair: Olivia, Karoliina and Abby
Photo: Pauline Godwin, Highworth Camera Club

Arts Section *Compiled by Iain Barnwell*

Contact: HighworthLinkArts@gmail.com



Swindon Dance Auditions

The CAT is a national training programme for young, talented dancers, regardless of experience or background.

Swindon Dance aims to **inspire and empower gifted dancers** to fulfil their creative potential. Each year, they offer a range of open events for dancers interested in joining their programmes. Register your interest in auditions if you are 11 to 17 years of age and want to train with CAT!

Auditions are being held on **Saturday 16 July** for the Contemporary Dance Programme, the Street Dance Programme and the Ballet Programme.

Remember; you need to register your interest in order to attend the auditions.

Go to: <https://www.swindondance.org.uk/> and look for the programme you're interested in.



The Arts Society Upper Thames



Are you interested in all aspects of the arts, history and culture? The Arts Society Upper Thames (formerly known as NADFAS) is now recruiting new members for the start of our season in September.

Ten one-hour, fully illustrated lectures are held each year in the Lechlade Memorial Hall. We meet between September and June in the afternoon of the second Thursday of the month, listening to the lecture and making friends over a cup of tea. Our programme secretary will have commissioned one of 380 accredited lecturers to give us our talk from one of his or her specialist subjects. The quality of the lecturers and the wide range of subjects always captivates our members.

Past and future lectures are there for you to see on our website as are past day visits and our longer holidays. If you are interested in joining all you need to know can be seen at: <http://tasupperthames.org.uk> or email: info@tasupperthames.org.uk

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Summer at Visit Highworth

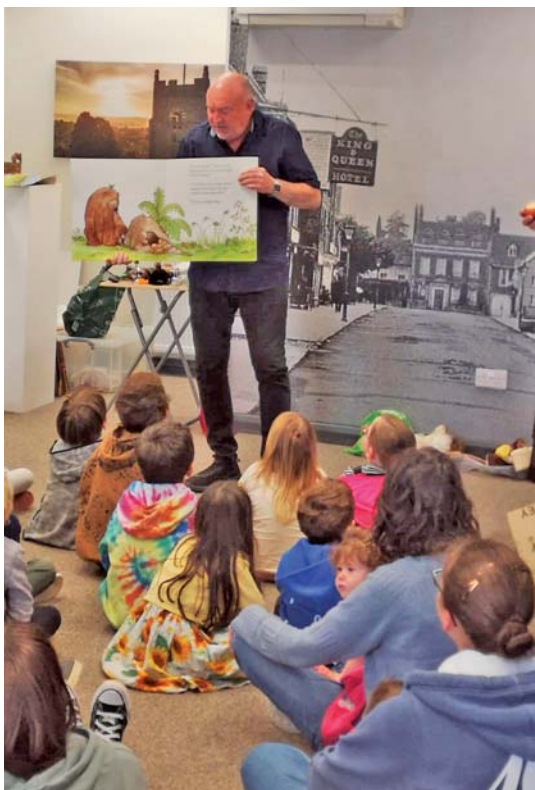


We are busy at Visit Highworth this summer!

'Fabulous Fossils' on **Saturday 02 July**, 10am to 1.30pm. Make your own dino mask, colour dinosaur pictures and handle dinosaur teeth, claws and bones!

Bring along your own fossils for our experts to identify, or have a go at the lucky dip to win a 60 to 300 million year old fossil!

On **Saturday 23 July** we have a **'Meet the Maker' session with Patrick Bull**. Patrick is a Wiltshire-based artist working in bronze and inspired by the great outdoors. His latest piece, *Nocturne*, is on display in the Centre, as well as some of his earlier pieces. You can join him to discuss the design process, how he achieves his results or ask him any questions regarding his work.



Last, but definitely, not least, international children's author, Neil Griffiths, is back for **'Storytime'**. He will be entertaining children and adults alike on **Saturday 30 July** on the Podium. Not to be missed.

Visit Highworth relies on the generosity of its residents. If you love Highworth, love the town's unique atmosphere and love the award-winning High Street, why not help to preserve it for future generations? Join our community-spirited supporters by setting up a monthly standing order (forms available from the Visitor Centre) or consider making Visit Highworth a bequest in your will.

Contact details: info@visithighworth.co.uk
www.visithighworth.co.uk
 T: 01793 764440

'Madame X' Revisited

'Madame X' is the title of a painting by John Singer Sargent, 1884. Its controversial reception at the Paris Salon led to Sargent leaving France to join an artists' colony in Broadway, Worcestershire. Sargent became famous as a portrait painter in Edwardian Britain and in America (the birthplace of Sargent and 'Madam X').

My painting shows Madame X, with her slipping shoulder-strap the source of scandal, against The Lygon Arms, where Sargent stayed, with the Broadway Tower in the background where William Morris stayed at the time.



I contrast this with a model draped over the bonnet of a Ferrari that today would hardly raise an eyebrow.

David Gibbons, artist



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Highworth Jubilee



Photographs kindly
Paul Newton-Smith,
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ee Celebrations!



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June 'Mary' Faulkner

Sadly, Mary Faulkner died peacefully on 02.6.22 in Sunflower Ward, Old Town, Swindon. Mary moved to Highworth over 35 years ago with her beloved husband Harry. They lived in Eastrop and then, following Harry's death, Mary moved to Wrde Hill. Both were involved with the Pontorson Twining Association and made friends in both France and Highworth. Later, Mary volunteered at the Lions' Shop, earning a Certificate of Appreciation when she 'retired' at 80 years old. Mary was a loving mother to her children Liz, Heather and John and will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

Mary's funeral will be held at Kingsdown Crematorium on 14 July at noon. If you wish to make a donation, in lieu of flowers, Mary's designated charity is Hands at Work in Africa www.handsatwork.org/uk-donations. Thank you.

Liz Faulkner

Hedgehog Tip

Regularly leaving out a shallow dish or saucer of water is truly lifesaving for hedgehogs and other wildlife in extended dry weather. If you add stones to the water bowl, insects can also safely drink.

Highworth Library



Join us for our Under 5's 'Story and Rhyme Time' every Tuesday during term time at 10.30am. It's free to attend, but please contact us to reserve a place

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Friday: 12 noon to 6pm
Saturday: 10am to 1pm

T: 01793 463500

E: highworth.library@swindon.gov.uk

www.swindon.gov.uk/libraries

We look forward to seeing you

Highworth Library Team

Three Cheers from the Emporium!

Our intention was always to do something a little bit different for this special Jubilee. A Union Jack balloon flag seemed appropriate and we knew that if we scaled it right it would stand out. And it did!

We have received lots and lots of comments and compliments including visits from Swindon Advertiser and BBC Radio Wiltshire. A lot of people took photographs in front of the flag and it made our day very special seeing them posted on social media.



With the support of the local community, especially over the last two years, we felt it was important to give something back, something that would cheer us all up and bring smiles to Highworthians. We have a wonderful community in Highworth. Thank you very much everyone for all your support and we hope you enjoyed the Jubilee celebrations.

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Rotary Club of Swindon North and Thamesdown makes presentation to local charities



Representatives from local charities attended a special Presentation Meeting of the Rotary Club of Swindon North and Thamesdown this week to receive a share of £14,500 the Club was donating to charity.

The money had been raised by means of Santa Sleigh collections at Asda West Swindon and Morrisons Dorcan Way in December, a quiz and ploughman's supper event in March and the St George's Day Ball and Gala Evening held at the Cotswold Water Park Hotel in April.

The £14,500 was distributed to 11 charities amongst which were:

- Swindon Women's Aid
- The Swindon Food Collective
- The Swindon Down's Syndrome Group
- Wiltshire Air Ambulance
- Tickled Pink
- Young Lives vs Cancer
- Swindon Carers
- Friends of Fairford and Lechlade Communities

The President and some members of the Inner Wheel Club of North Wiltshire also attended the Rotary Club's Presentation Meeting to hand a cheque to Swindon Carers matching the Rotary Club's donation to them. The Quiz in March was organised jointly by the Rotary Club and the Inner Wheel Club.

In the photograph above, the Club's guest representatives are pictured with:

Kathy Hobson, the President of the Rotary Club of Swindon North & Thamesdown (3rd from the left), Priscilla Winslow, the President of the Inner Wheel Club of North Wiltshire (centre) and Terry Williams, the President Elect of the Rotary Club of Swindon North & Thamesdown (on the right)

For more information visit:

<https://www.rotary-ribi.org/clubs/page.php?PgID=839890&ClubID=616>

Follow [Rotary Club of Swindon North & Thamesdown](#) on Facebook and Twitter [@SwindonNorthRC](#)

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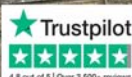
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News from the Highworth Lions' Den

We've celebrated the 48th anniversary of the granting of our Club's Charter in 1974 and the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Anniversary was celebrated in the Town in a most spectacular way. What a wonderful, once-in-a-lifetime, experience it was. Did you see our Lion and the fantastic Scarecrow?

The Lions International year starts on 01 July and in my rôle as Treasurer I am putting together my report to the Charity Commissioners. Locally, we have a new Secretary, Melanie, who takes over from me on that date.

We have started running a car boot sale in the car park of the Goldfinger Public House in Newburgh Place. We plan to run it until September and pitches can be booked online. Dates for the remainder of the year are Saturdays: **23 July, 20 August, and 17 September.**

We also hope to have a stall on the Podium on **Saturday 06 August** and we are looking into running some other events in the Goldfinger later in the year. We are still planning our usual favourites (the outing for the elderly in September, gift vouchers for the elderly) and, of course, helping Father Christmas with visits in

December. And, don't forget, our sponsored whist drives at the Council Community Room on **Wednesdays 13 and 27 July and 10 and 24 August.**

If you want to join us just ring me, email, or visit our Facebook page and we will get back to you.

Donations during May were as follows:

- Annual donation to Wiltshire Air Ambulance £1,000
- Lions Clubs International 'Gift for Living' scheme £250

Lions Clubs in the UK and Ireland have been supporting medical establishments and projects in the Balkans for 25 years following the devastation caused by the Civil War.

For more information go to the Lion's Website: www.lionsclubs.co – and follow the links to 'Gift for Living' in the Directory of Projects.

Rodney Davis, Highworth and District Lions Club

T: 0345 833 9831

E: highworth@lions105sc.org

Wiltshire Sight in Highworth

Wiltshire Sight is a charity providing support to people living with sight loss. Come and meet your Community Sight Loss Advisor for North Wiltshire at the monthly drop-in group at Highworth Community Centre, The Dormers on the second Wednesday of every month, 10.15am to 12.30pm.

At the drop-ins, you will receive information, advice and guidance on how to live with sight loss, remaining independent and getting the most out of life. There will be resources and equipment available which will help with daily

living tasks. Drop in on the day, or book your appointment in advance on 01380 723682.

Wiltshire Sight also welcomes volunteers to help greet visitors at the drop-in groups, with a commitment of three hours once a month. If this is of interest get in touch on volunteering@sightsupportwest.org.uk



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Sport *Compiled by Jason Daniels*

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



Highworth Ladies Walking FC

May saw us enter two teams in the next round of the National Cup. The Over-60's travelled to Gosport and had an emphatic 6-0 win to see them through to the next round after a great team performance, but the Over-65's sadly lost at home to an Argyle side who benefitted from an ex-professional goalkeeper in their team. He ultimately made the difference between the two sides. After a game dominated by Highworth that failed to get a winning goal in open play, it ended 1-1 with the lottery of penalties which we sadly lost.

May also saw the next round of the Wilts WF League. The Over-50's played four games, winning two, drawing one and losing one after a missed penalty. The Over-60's played five games, won three, drew one and lost one, to maintain top position in their league. May also saw the ladies team have their first round of games; illness left them travelling to Devizes with just six players, but everyone put in a good shift with us, picking up six points, winning two games 2-0 and narrowly losing out 2-1 in two games.



The Highworth Ladies Walking Football Team

If you're interested in playing either competitive or just social walking football, the club's men's sessions are held on Thursdays and Sundays, 11am to 12pm and the ladies session on Sundays, 10am to 11am, both at Grange Leisure in Stratton, with an additional Friday session

between 11.30am and 12.30pm at the Highworth Rec. Please contact me for more details.

M: 07769 703702

E: highworthwfc@outlook.com

Graham Seeley

Highworth Town Ladies Football Club



Highworth's Lionhearted Ladies

It has been an extremely tough season. We have struggled with injuries for most of the campaign. Our final match was held on Sunday 22 May away to Swindon Supermarine's Women First Team which the Lions weren't able to win. May also saw the Ladies Presentation evening which we held at the Highworth Town FC to reflect and reward this campaign.

We are recruiting for next season as we move forward into the summer and beyond. Anyone who wants to come along and train can get in touch by visiting our Facebook page (Highworth Lions Ladies FC) and dropping us a message.

Stephen Curtis (Manager)

Highworth Town Football Club

Following the closure of the 2021/22 season, the league structures have evolved and we, along with Cirencester Town, will move to the 'Pitching In Southern League Division One Central' next season, in a sideways move that means trips to Devon, Dorset and Hampshire will be replaced

with trips to Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire and North London. A full list of our opponents can be found on our website, as can a list of pre-season games.

Please find us on social media to keep track of gossip, news and latest developments.

Instagram: [@highworthtownfc](#)

W: www.highworthtownfc.com

Derek Lloyd

Highworth Running Club

Now the better weather (in theory) and longer nights are with us, the will club seize the opportunity to explore our local countryside and take our Wednesday night training sessions 'out and about' until the nights draw back in. Still meeting at 6.30pm every Wednesday, the club will visit venues such as Ashbury and Foxhill (for runs along the Ridgeway), Shrivenham, Ogbourne St. George and Lechlade, to name just a few. The runs are always very social with lots of stopping (and photograph taking), always with the intention of returning to our cars about an hour later. A contingent will then find a nearby watering hole for a refreshment and a natter.



Conquering Uffington Castle

If you are interested in joining us for some off-road antics, please use our website to find our meeting point and turn up around ten minutes early and say hi. We look forward to seeing you.

(Photograph courtesy of Lee Plank)

W: www.highworthrunningclub.co.uk

Jason Daniels

Wrag Barn Golf Club



Our retiring Chief Marshal, Mike Summers

The weather was fine and the greens were true for the Men's Championships on the last weekend of May at Wrag Barn. The field of 120 golfers set off on Saturday morning and the overnight leaders were Matt Simpkins on 73, winning on count back against defending Men's Champion Tony Keyes, and Club Champion Josh Loughery. In the nett competition, Liam Collins was in the lead with nett 66 and he qualified to play in the Srixon Amateur Championship at the Belfrey on 27 September. Congratulations Liam!

The second round on Sunday told a different story and the putts dropped for Josh Loughery who shot 68 making his score 141 after two rounds. Kai Jordan was in second place with 148 and Tony Keyes was third with 152. The nett competition was won by Kai Jordan with nett 142 and Matt Packer was second with nett 143.

The Men's Committee took the opportunity to present our retiring Chief Marshal, Mike Summers, with a token of our appreciation for all his hard work and endeavour with organising marshals for our big events and ensuring that play was conducted with a safe code of conduct every time lock down was lifted during the pandemic.



Dave Booth (centre) and SCC members with visitors from Cricklade Parkinson's Cafe

Thank you to everyone who took part and to the team of volunteers who run the competition with our General Manager Tracey Lee.

W: www.wragbarn.com

Verity Manners

Swindon Croquet Club

As ever, Swindon Croquet Club continues to support the local community, recently warmly welcoming a group from Cricklade Parkinson's Cafe. Club members explained the basics of the game and demonstrated how to use the mallet before taking the visitors onto the lawns to enjoy a few games. The visitors were also served with refreshments in the clubhouse.

Event organiser, Dave Booth, said, "We were delighted to welcome the visitors to our Club and to introduce them to this fascinating game. We very much hope they will come along again."

If you are a member of a local community group that would like to give croquet a try, please email us for further information.

E: swindon.croquet@outlook.com

Beverly Briggs

Phoenix Diving Club

Successful trip for Highworth Phoenix divers!

Seven Highworth Phoenix divers and their

coaches made the short trip to Cheltenham in May for the Great British Diving Federation Novice Diving Championships. For four of them, this was their very first taste of competition. This did not affect them and all seven came away with a medal! These included three gold medals for Izzy, Katie and William, silver for John and Konrad and bronze for Noah and Joe; the latter two unfortunately missing from the photograph.



Congratulations to all of you!

W: www.highworthphoenixdiving.wordpress.com

Irene Aldridge

christians
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poverty

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From our MP

I was delighted to hear recently that the Government had met its target of getting 1 million more people with disabilities into employment. The original target set out in the 2017 manifesto pledged to meet the target by 2027, so we are five years ahead of schedule!

As part of my work in this area, I revived the Government's Disability Confident scheme which helps employers create more accessible and diverse workforces by championing inclusive recruitment practices. The Disability Confident Scheme has gone from strength to strength and now includes 20,000 employers and covers 11 million paid employees.

In Swindon, I organised a 'reverse job fair' where local businesses were invited to meet with local people with disabilities and organisations advocating for them, to understand how beneficial employing somebody with a disability can be.

The work I have done to ensure that disabled people have the same opportunities for employment as their peers is some of the most

rewarding work I have done in my Parliamentary career. I want to see the Government build on this work and support many more disabled people into meaningful employment.

My community office is beginning to pick up again after COVID forced its temporary closure. We have had a few different groups use it recently, including: the Sepsis Trust, Care Home Volunteers, Wiltshire Girlguiding, Swindon Trauma Group, Swindon Down's Syndrome Group, the Big Knit, and Urban Sketchers, and we have more in the following weeks.

The office is available for free to any community or charity group and has full disabled access, with plenty of chairs and tablespace. If you are interested in hiring the community office or would like more details, please email me.

Finally, I hope everyone enjoyed the Jubilee celebrations! It was amazing to see so many people celebrating the remarkable service the Queen has given the country over the last 70 years. Throughout her reign the Queen has been an ever-reliable and stable presence in an often-turbulent world, and has been a model of duty and service. She is a truly remarkable woman!

Justin Tomlinson,

North Swindon Conservative MP

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Happy Birthday Angela Livall with much love John, Johanna and Harry

29/07/2022

Gordon. In our hearts always, loved and missed so very much. Sue, Liz, Hannah and Alex

01/08/2022

*Elizabeth Shurmer. Can't believe its been 2 years since you left us gone but never forgotten.
Love and miss you Alf, Heather and families xxx*

03/08/2022

Ivy Ponting. Remembering a dearly loved Mum, Nan and Great Nanny on her 100th Birthday

10/08/2022

Frank Miles. Missed but not forgotten xx

20/08/2022

*Sally Shurmer. Can't believe you left us 2 years ago gone but never forgotten, love and miss you –
Dad, Josh, Heather and families xxx*

27/08/2021

*Barbara Knight. How can it be 12 years since you went? Miss you every day, always in our thoughts.
Lots of love, Lyn, Ruth, Patrick and all of your family*

28/08/2022

*Sally Shurmer. Remembering you on your birthday today, missed and loved every day –
Dad, Josh, Heather and families xxx*

*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.

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

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What's on at St Michael's

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.

The live service can be found at www.twitch.tv/stmichaelshighworth or on YouTube by searching 'St Michael's Church Highworth'.

Other Services:

First Sunday of the month, 8.45am,
Holy Communion

Second Sunday of the month (excl. August), 3pm,
The 3 (Family Service)

Prayers

Tuesday Prayers are held every Tuesday morning,
9.30am.

Friday Blessings are held every Friday morning,
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 20 July 2022**. Coffee and cake served prior to the service from 10.15am.

Tuesday Meet Greet Eat

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 26 July 2022**. If you would like to join us for lunch please book in with the Church Office by email office@stmichaelshighworth.co.uk or telephone 01793 762702.

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 are welcome.

Saturday Coffee Morning

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

Monday Toddler Group

Toddler Group is hosted in Church every Monday during term time (excluding Bank Holidays) from 10am to 11.30am. Tea, coffee and light refreshments provided. Suggested £1 donation.

We remember those who love and miss

Mervyn Kinch

We welcome in Holy Baptism

Gwil Jones

Thomas Swinerd

Ottoline Fasham

Jessica Nutburn

Dennis McNamee

Praying for the roads in the town:

03-Jul-22 Knowlands and Lechlade Road

10-Jul-22 Lismore Road and The Mews

17-Jul-22 Middi Haines Ct and Newburgh House

24-Jul-22 Newburgh Place and North View

31-Jul-22 Our Church family who live outside Highworth

07-Aug-22 Oak Drive and Orange Close

14-Aug-22 The Paddock and Park Avenue

21-Aug-22 Parsonage Court and Pentylands Close

28-Aug-22 Pentylands Lane and Pound Road

NATIONAL TRUST EVENTS

Buscot

Outdoor Theatre on Buscot Weir Field;
William Shakespeare's 'As You Like It'

Friday 01 July, 7pm (gates open 6pm)

The Lord Chamberlain's Men invite you to join them for this sparkling comedy.

Adult £17, Children £10 booking fee applies.

tlcm.co.uk/boxoffice or 0333 666 3366

Coleshill

Blacksmith Experience Day

with David Gregory

Saturday 02 July, 9am to 5pm

Getting to grips with the basics of blacksmithing. Enjoy a full day starting with the important health and safety, and finishing with being able to take home some of your own creations.

Please see website for costs, etc.

Family Eco Summit

Sunday 03 July, 10am to 4pm

A fun, yet informative, festival focusing on all things green, aimed at children and families.

Family of 4 £10 or £3 per person.

Tickets from boxedupevents.sumup.link

World War 2 Walks

Thursday 07 July, 6pm

Tuesday 16 August, 11am

Discover Coleshill's hidden Second World War history on this informative walk through village, woods and parkland at the home of the British Resistance.

Adult £7, Child £3.50

Coleshill Village Open Afternoon

Sunday 10 July, 2pm to 5pm

Sunday 14 August, 2pm to 5pm

Visit Coleshill village, descend into the

underground operational base, visit the guard house, the watermill and take a stroll in the parkland.

Adults £5, Children £2.50, NT Members FREE

Concrete Castles; Britain's War Defences

01 August to 11 September, 10am to 4pm

Exhibition of contemporary art in the Timber Store, Old Carpenters Yard, Coleshill, exploring and interpreting surviving WW2 defence structures.

Admission free to the exhibition. Illustrated talks will accompany the exhibition on **10 August, 17 August, 31 August**, all commencing at 11.30am with tickets available via the website.

Family Activity Afternoons

Every Tuesday in August, 2pm to 4pm

Down to the River, Bugs & Boxes, Secrets and Spies, Cuckoo pen Activities.

£5 per child, please see website for further details including booking.

Further details including booking tickets (unless otherwise advised) can be found by visiting: www.nationaltrust.org.uk/buscot-and-coleshill-estates/whats-on

White Horse Hill, Uffington

Chalking the Horse Week

Sunday 28 August to Friday 02 September, 10am to 4pm

Come and help to clean and re-chalk a small part of the iconic White Horse, Uffington.

FREE but please be aware that parking charges may apply.

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/white-horse-hill

LECHLADE

Lechlade Annual Flower and Produce Show
Memorial Hall, Lechlade, **Saturday 03 September**

Programme

9.30-11am Exhibits to the Hall

11.15am Judging begins

- 2pm Open to the public and exhibitors.
Tea and homemade cakes available
- 4pm Prize giving
- 4.30pm Show ends. Exhibits to be collected

Free schedules of how to take part are available from the Post Office and Library in Lechlade. The final date for entry forms is **Tuesday 30 August**, to be sent to Audrey Barnes, 1 Roman Way, Lechlade, GL7 3BS.

This popular annual event is fast-approaching and it is time to decide what you might like to enter. There is something for everyone and cups to be won! There are not only vegetable and flower entries of all types plus flower arranging, but also domestic classes for bread, cakes and jams and eggs for those poultry keepers amongst you. There are special classes for children, from 4 to 12 years-old, with a Tallest Sunflower competition for children under-16. (You should have seen the height of last year's winner!)

It is not too late to take a picture for the photography competition.

The categories are:

'Food', 'Churchyard', 'Vibrant', 'Wildflowers', 'Allotment', 'A close-up of an animal', 'Black-and-white' and 'A picture of Allcourt Meadow', which is open to all ages and for which there is a special cup.

If you like handwork, there are plenty of crafts to choose from, be it with a needle, pen, chisel or bobbin.

You don't have to live in Lechlade to take part in this. This is a fun event which is open to everybody, so why not join us and have a go?

SHRIVENHAM

Shrivenham Golf Club

During May, the Granny Cup was won by Pam and the Norma Morley winning score was achieved by Denise. Oxfordshire County played a ladies match at the Wychwood golf club against strong opposition from Hereford and Worcestershire and the result was a draw. Afternoon tea, which was served at the end of the game, was a new innovation and proved more popular than a full meal.

In the Daily Mail third round, the men's pairing received a bye to one of the opposition having to unfortunately pull out due to injury, so have reached the fourth round whilst the ladies, Molly and Carole, played away at Donnington Grove in this round and narrowly lost on the 17 May, 2/1.

On another occasion, the Olca knockout match was played by Carole, representing Shrivenham Park, and played at the Feldon Valley course. Here, a very close singles match ensued being won by Shrivenham Park on the 19th hole!!! Carole, having received a bye in the first round, is now in the quarter finals.

The ladies May medals were won by Kaye (Thursday) and Tracy (Sunday). Well played all the ladies.

The men playing in the Daily Mail will be playing at Stinchcombe and we look forward to their result being announced next time. We wish them a great game. The senior men have requested their annual match vs. the ladies. Club cup competitions will also be played, including the invitation to the gentlemen.

The summer is always the busiest of golfing seasons! If you are interested in coming and playing our course, please do contact our clubhouse on 01693 783853.

Social putting and Parkies Pals meetings continue as usual.

Carole Lee

SOUTH MARSTON

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Monday 04 July

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Saturday 20 August

Annual Flower and Produce Show

Doors open to the public at 5pm. Admission on door 20p (per adult). Refreshments and Raffle (cash only).

- 5.15pm Giving of Prize Money
- 5.30pm Presentation of Show Winners
- 5.45pm Auction of Donated Produce
- 6pm Raffle Prize Draw

For more information, visit our Facebook page [@southmarstongardeningclub](#) or contact Angela on: 07789 068340

Parking: Old Vicarage Lane, next to the school (100 yards from Village Hall).

STANTON FITZWARREN

St Leonard Parish Church

Sunday 03 July

Morning Praise, 9.30am

Sunday 10 July

Family Service. 11am, starting with coffee and cakes

Evensong at St Leonard, 6.30pm

Sunday 17 July

Team Service at St Leonard, 10am

Sunday 24 July

Holy Communion, 9.30am

Sunday 31 July

Team Service at St Margaret's Stratton, 10am

Sunday 07 August

Morning Praise, 9.30am

Sunday 14 August

Family Service, 11am, starting with coffee and cakes

Sunday 21 August

Team Service at Coleview, 10am

Sunday 28 August

Holy Communion, 9.30am

The church building will be open every Wednesday in school term time from 10am to 4pm, or phone 01793 762935 to organise for the building to be left open for you to visit safely.

Please go to www.stantonchurch.info for updates.

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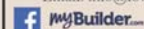
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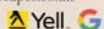
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