

# HighworthLINK

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



September 2022

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## Time to slow down and listen

Recently, at Gloucester House we have been reflecting on how we find time to listen to God. Our lives are so busy that we rarely seem to have the time required to understand what God is trying to tell us. We also live in a world which is a dangerous place, with the Russian invasion of Ukraine, Covid and political wranglings. Our everyday lives are filled with tasks at work and at home.

It is pleasing to God if we choose to talk to him, but we make it a one-way street with our requests. God wants to have a dialogue, not hear a monologue. As Jesus showed, we need to find

a quiet place where this can happen. More importantly, we need to quieten our minds and allow God to speak. If we do, then we have at least a chance of reflecting on what God wants to say. By taking a breath and just slowing down, we allow God to bring, not just peace to our minds, but a real sense of purpose to our lives.

Give God a chance to commune with you today and slow down. He can then begin to express his will for your life.

*Bless you*

*Alan Baldwin (Gloucester House)*

## Queen's Face Competition Winner

In our July issue, we launched a competition for you to find the Queen's face scattered throughout the magazine. Many of you entered the competition, and some even got the correct answer! Ten faces were to be found; did you find them all?

The winner, drawn at random, was Imogen Love who can be seen pictured with her mum, Louise, receiving her £15 voucher from Highworth Emporium assistant manager, Vicky. Many thanks to Highworth Emporium for sponsoring this competition.

*Photo: Vicky, assistant manager, presenting the prize to Imogen Love who was accompanied by her mum, Louise Holman.*



## LINK magazine

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

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

### Contributions:

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

Email is preferred; otherwise deliver to The Lighthouse Bookshop.

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

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

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

### Deadlines:

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

## Welcome to our September issue of Link magazine!



I've not yet met anyone who was a fan of the July and August heatwaves, so thank goodness we're heading towards the cooler weather of autumn (I hope). Following a busy summer, don't be thinking that Highworth will suddenly be quiet. There's plenty going on this month; why not take a look through this issue. From open art studios and gardens to new toddler groups, exhibitions, volunteering to do and groups to join, we've got it all going on. Whoever said Highworth was boring?!

Anyone remember 'Why Don't You?' It was one of my most favourite 1980s TV shows and so I will, if you'll indulge me, sing you a section from the theme tune. \*Clears throat...\*

*'Why don't you? Why don't you?... Just switch off your television set, go off and do something less boring instead. Sitting at home, watch TV, turn it off, no good for me...'*

Have fun!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Eoli Pieri".

---

## New, Free Budgeting Course in Highworth

The churches in Highworth have run debt charity Christians against Poverty's (CAP's) Life Skills course for five years and are launching a new eight-week course for people in Highworth this autumn.

The free course gives people the confidence and decision-making skills to live well for less, look after themselves and feel positive, even if they are on a low income. It focuses on:

- How to deal with the pressure to spend
- How to decide where your money should be going
- Cooking cheap but healthy meals
- Spotting a good deal
- Improving relationships

Eoli Pieri, CAP Life Skills Manager said, 'Living, as we do, in times when the price of so many essentials is increasing, Life Skills can help people cope more easily on a limited budget. It's a series of lovely, relaxed sessions where people can interact with each other and learn new skills which enable them to take control of their finances. Most of all, it will be a time to share what works and what doesn't, both as a group

and one-to-one, and to give each other encouragement to do things better. It will be some of those key things you wished they had taught you at school, but didn't. We want to help people in Highworth to take back control of their money and live much happier lives, free of financial pressure.'

The course starts on **Tuesday 20 September**, 1pm till 2.30pm, at The Bridge Centre in Sheep Street, and will include a free light lunch.

To find out more call Eoli Pieri on 07753 627049 or email [eolipieri@capuk.org](mailto:eolipieri@capuk.org).



# From One Driving Seat to Another

Our Mayor, Julie Murphy, has two very different aspects to her life that are poles apart. She puts on the Mayor's chain to chair the meetings of Highworth Town Council and represent the Town at public events and in her spare time she puts on her race suit and helmet to co-drive in a Subaru rally car.

The rallying came about due to her friendship with Shelly Taunt. They both grew up in Highworth and Shelly's dad was a rally driver, so they both used to travel the country to watch. "I'll always have fond memories of sitting on hay bales in the middle of the night on Salisbury Plain listening to the distinctive sound of the Audi Quattro and Mark II Escorts roaring past on rallies like the Lombard Rally. I just wanted to compete," Julie recalls.

Although Shelly and Julie always kept in touch, they took different life paths. Julie's career took her travelling the UK, whilst Shelly won a competition to be sponsored for a year's rallying by Do It All; this started her rallying career.

In 2004, Julie purchased a brand new Subaru from Simpsons in Highworth and, at the same time, Shelly asked Julie to co-drive a Subaru rally car. Julie knew joining a former British champion was going to be a challenge, but Julie was up for it!

Initially they did a single venue on tarmac. "The smell of the fuel and constantly being thrown about whilst trying to read notes made me so car sick," Julie grimaces, but she finished the event

and won the Spirit of the Rally award. She was determined not to give up on future events.



The next event was in Yorkshire, on gravel. The heavy snow made it more challenging but they settled in well to the stages and by the end of the event they got maximum points for the BTRDA Championship. The girls soon developed their own system of working together and,

at the end of the year, won their class in the Championship.

The team have since competed all over the UK, Northern Ireland, the Isle of Man and Barbados and have been invited to Goodwood's Festival of Speed by the Duke of Richmond on seven occasions.

Julie said, "Co-driving has many responsibilities to it, including organising the team, working out fuel quantities, tyre choices, telling the driver exactly where to go on road sections, reading pace notes to the driver whilst racing on the stages and making sure of arrival at time controls exactly on the minute due. It wasn't an easy job at first but, after years of experience competing, we are a very competitive team. You have to trust each other as consequences can be serious if you get it wrong, but we love it. It is interesting participating in a male-dominated sport and we all get on very well. Our success over the years wouldn't be possible without the support of our great service crew who work really hard to keep the car going. It's a real team effort."



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## Bumps to Babies Celebrate!

On Wednesday 20 July, Bumps to Babies celebrated the success of our first term meeting as a group. Who would have thought, when we opened our first session at the Church Rooms on 04 May, that the group would have taken off and developed so quickly! But don't take my word for it, here's what some of our Mum's have had to say.

*"...a massive thanks to everyone involved in running the group (and to the mamas and babies attending)... It's been a fab start to what will become a strong, and even more well-known, group for mums in the future." J.D.*

*"Bumps to Babies is the best! As a new mum, I was made to feel welcome, safe and supported in a non-judgemental environment. The group leaders are both knowledgeable and caring. Each week I look forward to chilling and Crafting and Messy Play. The best group I've been to." C.B.*

*"This is the first baby group I've been to and I felt welcome and fully supported the moment I entered the room." K.S.*

*"...it's one of the best around, so welcoming. You really are amazing." L.O.*

We rented the National Trust Community Room at Coleshill. Janice and her team from the Carpenters Canteen next door provided us with the most delicious buffet lunch. Also, Val provided us with a very special Bumps to Babies



cake. Despite being one of the hottest days of the year, it was a lovely opportunity for mums, babies and the volunteer group to relax and celebrate together.

As a result of our success, we will be moving in September to Room 9 at the Community Centre. This will give us more space and will provide us with convenient parking onsite. We are a voluntary community group and rely heavily on our fundraising events, so please come along and support us on The Podium on **Saturday 17 September** and at our Coffee Morning at the Methodist Church on **Saturday 15 October**.

If you are interested in joining our group, please go to the Bumps to Babies Facebook page or to our website: [www.bumpstobabies.club](http://www.bumpstobabies.club).

## Dressability

**Dressability is a local Swindon-based charity that alters and adapts clothing for anyone with a disability and also for the over-65's.**

Whilst many of our alterations can be fairly complex, we are happy to help even if it's just a hem you need taking up or a waistband let out or taken in. We operate a low-cost alterations service and welcome you to visit us at our fully accessible premises in West Swindon or, if you are unable to get to us, we can come to you.

We currently have funding specifically to help support the people of Highworth. Our friendly dressmakers are happy to discuss your needs by

phone, so please get in touch with us if we can help.

Please take a moment to have a look at our website if you or anyone you know could benefit from our dressmakers' help:  
[www.dressability.org.uk](http://www.dressability.org.uk)





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- Register as an employer with HMRC (do this 4 weeks before paying your employee, and get some Payroll software that can deal with Real Time Information submissions).
- Prepare to auto enrol eligible employees into a company pension scheme.
- If your business works with vulnerable people or security, apply for a DBS check (formerly CRB)
- Don't leave everything till the last minute!

\*Further information is available from Gov.UK

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## Highworth Neighbourhood Plan

Highworth Neighbourhood Plan2 (HNP2) is about to go into its second phase of preparation, thanks to the help and opinions of so many residents and businesses. Your responses to the surveys and your comments from the workshops and focus groups will now be pored over and we will endeavour to find a pathway towards a future Highworth that both meets the needs of the town and the approval of the people who live and work here. We will be publishing these results gradually over the next few months.

With the help of our consultant, who is provided through a government grant, we will be starting to formulate policies which will be the basis of Plan 2. To help us with this, we have other expert teams looking at housing design and advising on the different sorts of houses Highworth will most likely need in the future. Thanks to the help of a local planner, we now have a collection of statistics that will provide the objective evidence an examiner requires.



For the next few months, work will be done in the office and in the NHP2 committee. These committee meetings are open to the public to listen, but protocols do not permit participation.

However, ten minutes are allocated at the beginning of each meeting for members of the public to ask questions. They usually take place on the last Tuesday of the month in the morning; agendas can be found on the Highworth Town Council website.

Our timeline for producing a revised plan is also governed, to some extent, by Swindon Borough Council's

Emerging Local Plan, the draft of which was recently withdrawn and is now not expected until early 2023.

Keep an eye on our website

[highworthtowncouncil.gov.uk](http://highworthtowncouncil.gov.uk), where any key events will be published. Highworth Town Council is keen to maintain its policy of openness and transparency.

## Historical Society's New Season

After the summer break, we will commence our monthly meetings again on 28 September. Bill King will be talking on 'Dad's Underground Army'. This is the story of the Auxiliary Units (British Resistance Organisation) whose HQ was at Coleshill House. His talk will cover the forming, organisation and activities of the Units. Highworth has a link through the part played by Mrs Stranks at the Post Office.

This meeting will also include our very brief AGM. Please note slight time changes.

Doors open: 6.45pm.

AGM: 7pm

Short break: 7.15pm

Talk to start promptly at 7.30pm.

As usual we meet at St. Michael's Hall, Lechlade Road. Visitors are always welcome, with a small charge of £3. If you require more details, please contact Chris Suter. 01793 764811.

## History Open Day

After a three-year break, we will be back at The Community Centre on **Saturday 29 October** from 10am to 4pm. No charge, although donations to our work would be welcome.

For newcomers to the town, we will have on display many items relating to the town's history. This will include items from the railway and a display of medical items, the latter by kind permission of the late Dr. Gilmore's daughter. There will also be a large selection of photographs. If you have been to previous openings, please note that there will be plenty of new items on display.

Feel free to bring your questions along and we will do our best to answer them. New information that you can give us is always welcome. For me personally, any information on the Home Guard or early Highworth Police would be very welcome to help with my research.



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## Former Dovecote at Sevenfields

In early July, Sandra, Mandy and I delivered 352 flyers to homes in Sevenfields, The Knowlands and Edencroft, asking the residents to email or phone 'yes' if they wished to have the dovecote replaced. The closing date for replies was 22 July.

Of the 352 possible responses, nine people telephoned and 64 emailed 'yes'. 73 replies worked out as just under 21% of households in favour.

I will take this information back to Highworth Community Partnership Group in September to see what their opinion is, but I fear it may be too small a return to move the project forward.

Although there is the potential for half the cost to be raised through a grant, we shall still have to find the other half and the cost of erecting it. As it is on Swindon Borough Council land, we

have to use one of their trusted contractors who will need to prepare a risk assessment and have their own Public Liability insurance. We will then have to purchase our own Public Liability insurance, which is renewed annually, plus arrange an annual inspection. As well as the basic cost, we will need an additional kitty to cover the ongoing costs.

I point all this out now as the next time you receive news will be November. I will leave [Highworthdovecote@gmail.com](mailto:Highworthdovecote@gmail.com) open for the time being and look at it during September/October. If anyone thinks they have a bright idea, jot it down with your email and I will get back to you.

Sorry I cannot be more upbeat.

*Keith Smith, HCPG*

## Update on the Old Golf Course

By the time this edition of Link magazine hits doorsteps, the beautiful summer weather will (hopefully) be at its best, allowing Highworthians to fully enjoy the beauty of the Old Golf Course. The reappearance of some truly amazing flora and fauna, even over the last few months, beautifully photographed and shared by several talented Highworth residents, has been a joy to watch. 'Barney' the Barn Owl and our resident fox family have been particular favourites in this household.

Behind the scenes, the Highworth Old Golf Course Action Group has been meeting and working regularly with Highworth Town Council, our three Swindon Borough Councillors and our MP, to maintain the momentum gained back in January. In particular, work should (by the time of reading) now be well underway to gather viable plans for the use of the Old Golf Course that generate meaningful income to help contribute to the cost of its maintenance as open, accessible green space; ideally with long-term, protected Park or Local Green Space status.

The intent is to gather locally generated and delivered ideas into a Business Case/Usage

Proposal to present to SBC towards the end of the year that will be sufficiently viable and sustainable to secure their support for the Old Golf Course being leased to HTC long-term, with the revenue generated from the several business ideas funding, or significantly contributing to, its maintenance as open, accessible green space.

It is believed that such an approach will allow Swindon Borough to be an exemplar to others across the country in terms of utilising their green space to combat climate change, promote biodiversity, contribute to Central Government green targets and support their ever-increasing number of borough residents' physical and mental health and wellbeing.

This endeavour will require support from Highworth and Swindon Borough residents and we ask that you all keep the Old Golf Course in the public eye: keep those fantastic photographs and posts coming! Even better, spread them far and wide so that the widest audience possible understands how important this amazing piece of green space is to so many people.





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

# Looking for a church in Highworth?

## United Reformed Church

High Street SN6 7AG

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

**Meets Sundays, 10:45am**

bryanek90@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

Office: 01793 849241

## 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, 10:15am**

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

Office: 01793 762702

## 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





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or email [Sharon.Scott27@nhs.net](mailto:Sharon.Scott27@nhs.net) for more information or a membership leaflet.

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## **Highworth Silver Band a triumph at Forget Me Not Café**

The Forget Me Not Café was finally able to welcome Highworth Silver Band to play in July after a couple of Covid delays and it was well worth the wait. Several of their junior members played and it was a fantastic show, hugely appreciated by all. The performance was enjoyed by over sixty customers and volunteers, which set yet another attendance record for the café.



In September, we will be going back to bingo, but this time a musical bingo, so we are fully expecting people to sing along with the calls as well!! Please join us if you can on **28 September**

at the Community Centre at 2pm for tea, cakes, healthy snacks and a lot of fun!

Don't forget we have monthly Love To Move seated exercises sessions on the second Wednesday of each month, also at the Community Centre between 1.45pm and 3.15pm, and the Friendship Fridays drop in café at the Council Room in Gilberts Lane between 10am and 11.30am.

Please contact us at [forgetmenot.highworth@gmail.com](mailto:forgetmenot.highworth@gmail.com) or call Ruth on 07970 543423 for further information.

## Highworth Library



Join us for our New Under 5's Story and Rhyme time starting on Tuesday 06 September at 10:30am, then every Tuesday during term time. It's free to attend, but you'll need a ticket. Please contact us for more details or go to the libraries website.

### Opening Hours

Monday: 10am to 4pm  
 Tuesday: 9am to 5pm  
 Wednesday: CLOSED  
 Thursday: 9am to 4pm  
 Friday: 12 noon to 6pm  
 Saturday: 10am to 1pm

T: 01793 463500

E: [highworth.library@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:highworth.library@swindon.gov.uk)

[www.swindon.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.swindon.gov.uk/libraries)

We look forward to seeing you.

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## Little Caterpillars

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Exciting News - Westrop Nursery are hosting a toddler group on Thursday 1.30pm-2.45pm  
 Term time only and all families are welcome.  
 Please drop in to visit us...

Ring the buzzer at the Westrop Nursery entrance on Newburgh Place (at the end of the path by the doctors surgery) Postcode: SN6 7DN  
 Any queries - please call us on 01793 762897  
 Website: [www.westropprimaryschool.co.uk](http://www.westropprimaryschool.co.uk)

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## Town Twinning: Recent and Future Visits

Most Highworth residents will probably know from the 'Welcome to Highworth' signs at the side of the road that our town is twinned with Pontorson in Normandy, France, and Wassenberg, North Rhein Westphalia, Germany. In May this year, I was fortunate, as the Twinning Association's Chairman, to visit both towns in the space of three weeks.

For a long time, a small park near the centre of Pontorson and by the river Couesnon, has been called Highworth Square. It has recently been rejuvenated and part now resembles a Roman amphitheatre as you can see from the photo. A vote was made to retain the name of Highworth Square. Furthermore, the red UK telephone box, which had stood at the other end of town, has now been moved to a position overlooking the park.

In Wassenberg, a disused railway track has been cleared to make a path for cyclists and pedestrians from one side of the town to the other (sound familiar?). The decision was to call the path Highworth Lane and it leads to Pontorson Platz. At the inauguration, I was honoured by being asked to join with their mayor to cut the tape. As I was in Wassenberg just before the Queen's Jubilee Celebrations, I presented a commemorative flag which Highworth Council kindly donated. The flag received a round of applause and I've learned there is a lot of interest in our Royal Family in Germany.

The next visit to take place will be from 02 to 05



*Highworth Lane inauguration in Wassenberg.*

**December** when our friends from Pontorson come to Highworth. In 2023, the major gathering, when all three towns will be involved, will be on the weekend of **18 to 21 May** in Pontorson. We don't have a website, but you can reach us either through our Facebook page (no fb account is required in order to view)

<https://www.facebook.com/highworthtwinning> or directly to me at [rjnppearcehta@gmail.com](mailto:rjnppearcehta@gmail.com).

We look forward to welcoming new members, especially if you can help us to host French guests on the first weekend in December!

*Richard Pearce, Chairman HTA*

## Westrop School Readers NEED YOU!

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Each class is regularly read to by their class teacher and enthusiastic, confident and expressive reading is both encouraged and modelled frequently. There are many opportunities for children to read in school, including whole class guided reading, individual reading to a teacher, TA or class helper, as well as wider reading opportunities that occur through everyday classroom teaching, topic books, and visits to our school library.



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If you can spare a few hours a week to support our children with their individual reading we would love to hear from you. Our contact details are below.

No experience needed, you just need to love reading as training and support will be provided.

E: [admin@westrop.swindon.sch.uk](mailto:admin@westrop.swindon.sch.uk)

T: 01793 766646

## Highworth in Bloom

The plant troughs managed around the town by Highworth in Bloom volunteers continue to brighten up our town and our thanks go to all of our volunteers for their hard work. Following the successful open gardens weekend last year, and the receipt of a donation from the Town Council, the HiB scheme is now on a much more secure financial footing. Indeed, we are continuing a programme of gradually replacing those troughs showing signs of distress after several years of use.

We are grateful to the Town Council grounds staff who have recently taken on responsibility for the two planters by the Highworth Town entrance signs on the A361 and Lechlade Road.

Some of our volunteers have been looking after troughs for the full duration of the scheme, some ten years. Unfortunately, for various reasons, some are having to relinquish their

responsibilities and we are looking for new volunteers, perhaps a little younger than those who are having to retire.

There are two areas in particular where we are looking for help: the troughs against the town gardens wall in The Elm, and the trough and bus stop planting at the top of The Willows. If you live in the rough proximity of these two areas and would like to contribute to a really positive community initiative, please can I ask you to get in touch. The costs of all plants and compost can be covered by the scheme.

Of course, our particular thanks go to our retiring volunteers who have given so much to the scheme.

*Norman Jeffery*

*Chairman, Highworth in Bloom*

*Telephone: 01793 762805*



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## 'We listen, we take note, we do!'

**Interviewing Helen Lacey and Sandra Rendall, I realised four of my five stories in this series were about women entrepreneurs.**

Fearing a foot-in-mouth moment I nevertheless ploughed on and asked them why this is. Sandra's quick reply sums up nicely why women often thrive in business, especially in public-facing roles: "We listen, we take note, we do!"

Sandra is secretary of the Highworth Community Partnership Group (HCPG) and Visit

Highworth Limited (VHL) and was the project manager when HCPG developed the centre in the former Lloyds Bank in 2019. Helen is the Centre Manager, recruited for the launch of VHL in September 2019. Both Sandra and Helen live in Highworth.

The idea of VHL is to encourage tourism in the town and draw residents into our precious town centre. It's a shopfront for local arts and crafts, as well as hosting craft courses, a recycling point, town walks, wildlife walks and the Highworth Museum. The former bank vault, complete with its splendid door, houses the museum where the Highworth Historical Society curates objects and stories from our past.

The emphasis on merchandise is 'local'. You'll find greeting cards, calendars, carry bags, paintings, jewellery, applique (patches of fabric sewn onto a larger piece), pottery, woodwork, glass, acrylics, walking sticks and more. During the lockdown in 2020, residents Robin and Paul Moore compiled and updated the book of walks around Highworth; so popular that it's been reprinted. VHL also organises Christmas and Spring Fairs in the beautifully remodelled Saint Michael's Church.

Like other businesses, VHL's operations were

suspended in March 2020. Helen says, "We'd only been open a short time (barely six months) when everything was cancelled. We had no idea it

would go on for so long." Since reopening, the country has struggled to recover from Covid and a disrupted economy. Helen adds, "We are slowly recovering, seeing more tourists to the town and welcoming our local visitors."

VHL is a not-for-profit Community Benefit Society with one employed manager and about ten volunteers and an

active committee. They have relied on generous shareholders and supporters and grants from Westmill Solar, the United Reformed Church, the Lions, Highworth Town Council and others. They are keen to welcome more shareholders and they need volunteers for a 'Friends of Visit Highworth' group. If you're a keen artist or crafter, VHL could be your shopfront. Highworth-branded products make great gifts for friends and family abroad.

Helen and Sandra are determined to keep VHL viable and to evolve their offering. They want to see more local people using our vibrant and diverse High Street, building on the support for essential local businesses during the Covid emergency. Helen summarises, "You might pay a little more in the High Street, but you get quality. It's about building relationships and selling things made with passion and love."

As well as her work with VHL, Sandra is often the glue that brings together our community. In 2023, after nearly ten years leading the fun May Day weekend, she is stepping down to make way for someone new to have a go. Could this be you?

Remember to Visit Highworth, our September High Street Heroes.

*Adrian Young*



*Helen Lacey and Sandra Rendall of Visit Highworth.*

*Photo: Kevin O'Donaghue, Highworth Camera Club.*





## HIGHWORTH CAMERA CLUB Exhibition

Highworth Camera Club are pleased to announce the return of their annual exhibition. Come along to see the pictures (some will be available for purchase) and have a cup of tea or coffee with club members.

Highworth Council Room - Gilberts Lane (between the Co-op and the High Street)

Saturday  
17 September  
10:00 am

Also see us at  
highworth camera club.com  
and on Facebook

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highly original and tastefully designed to create a blissful, relaxed and chilled out ambience - pleasantly surprising you with their specialist 'take' on some classy popular numbers.



### Friday 16th September, 2022

7.30pm - Highworth Methodist Church  
Lechlade Road, Highworth SN6 7HG

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Buy @ the Lighthouse Bookshop, Highworth.

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SN2 7JX

#### CONTACT PERSON

Bob Astbury  
07724 581253  
Email:  
penniebob26@gmail.com



You are invited to take part in an

## Open Photographic Exhibition

October 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>



The Theme this year is

*Savour the moment*

For entry details please go to our website

[www.everycloudartscrafts.com](http://www.everycloudartscrafts.com) or visit our Facebook page

Closing date for entries: Oct 16<sup>th</sup> 2022

## Arts Section *Compiled by Iain Barnwell*

Contact: [HighworthLinkArts@gmail.com](mailto:HighworthLinkArts@gmail.com)



### Swindon Open Studios

After a two-year break, Swindon Open Studios is back this September. It is a free community exhibition celebrating the talents of local artists, during which they invite members of the public into their studios/homes and public places for a chance to see where and how their art is made. With over 50 artists taking part, the studios are as eclectic and individual as the makers and there is a tremendous choice for visitors. Do go along and support the creativity in your local area!



This year, Open Studios will be taking place across Swindon and the surrounding areas over the two weekends of **Saturday 17 and Sunday 18 September**, and **Saturday 24 and Sunday 25 September**.

Local to Highworth are a group of artists displaying at the newly refurbished Barn at Stanton Park.

Please see the website for specific times, artists, and venues:

<https://www.swindonopenstudios.org>

### Highworth Community Cinema

Highworth Community Cinema commences our 2022/23 season on Friday 23 September. For residents who don't know about us, we are an independent voluntary organisation run by Highworth residents since 2006, which aims to bring world-class films to Highworth.

**Friday 23 September:**

*Downton Abbey: A New Era.*

(124 mins, Cert PG)

St Michael's Hall, Lechlade Road, SN6 7HQ. Starts at 7.45pm, doors open 7.15pm.

From award-winning creator Julian Fellowes comes the motion picture event *Downton Abbey: A New Era*. The much-anticipated cinematic return of the global phenomenon reunites the beloved

cast as they go on a grand journey to the South of France to uncover the mystery of the Dowager Countess' newly inherited villa.



There is no membership fee but we have reviewed our admission price and have increased the cost of a ticket from £5 to £6 (this was last increased in 2014).

Refreshments will be an additional cost of 50p for tea/coffee and biscuits and 50p for cake. As with all organisations, our costs have increased and we have no choice but to pass these on. We trust you will understand.

Enquiries: 01793 763907

E: [info@highworthfilms.org.uk](mailto:info@highworthfilms.org.uk)  
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HIGHWORTH, SWINDON



## People Love to Look at Pictures

Don't know your DIN from your f-stop?

Fear not, because John Kennedy says, "80% of the people with a modern point-and-shoot camera or phone get superb results."

At their first club meeting in 1982, Brian Godwin was recorded as member No. 7 and John was No. 40. Since then, a lot has happened. John explains, "The early SLR (single-lens reflex) cameras used film, precious and so expensive. Most were doing their own black and white processing, but for colour it was cheaper to go into Jessops and get a 10x8." Brian adds, "Then it was digital, and everything changed again."

John recalls, "When I started, it was very much male-dominated because it was technical and you needed to know a little about physics and chemistry to do it (which tended to be boys' subjects). Today, about a third of our members are women, in fact they dominate in many areas. Barbara Thorpe must have won practically every trophy in the club with her little point-and-shoot camera. We now have a competition in her memory."

Brian says still photography remains popular, "It's this spur of the moment thing, you see



Members 40 and 7: John Kennedy and Brian Godwin of Highworth Camera Club. Photo: Pauline Godwin, club member

something and it's natural to take a photo of it to show other people." John adds, "People love to look at pictures; they want the memories," which underpins the success of Facebook.

The club meets at 7.30pm, on second Tuesdays at Highworth Community Centre. Information at: [www.highworthcameraclub.com](http://www.highworthcameraclub.com). Their 40th anniversary exhibition is on the morning of **Saturday 17 September**, in the Town Council's Community Room.

Adrian Young



## MEMORIES

*We enter life without them  
And lose them when we leave,  
But while we live we collect them,  
Share them, and sometimes  
Keep them up our sleeve.  
Yes, they can fade and alter  
And to this they are certainly prone,  
So whatever emotions they recall  
They will be yours and mine alone.*

David Holden

# Ridgeway Rise Care Home, Blunsdon


*The past 18 months has put more focus than ever on the brilliant staff working at care and residential homes across the UK.*

Ridgeway Rise Care Home based in Blunsdon St Andrew, Swindon is leading the way by offering its team lots of opportunities to continuously improve their skills and gain new qualifications.


Supporting the elderly and those with care needs requires a certain level of skills, empathy and knowledge and that's why Swindon's brilliant Ridgeway Rise provides an abundance of extra training for its nursing and caring team.

Everyone in the building is required to complete the mandatory training needed to work in the care industry, but this is just the start of their journey in delivering first-class care to their residents.

The ever-changing landscape of the industry means additional training is frequently needed and with Ridgeway Rise boasting three in-house trainers, all training is completed onsite with no need for external companies to be brought in.



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CARE HOME



Home is where you cherish your memories and safekeep those special moments. Your home is where you pursue your hobbies and invite friends to homemade Sunday roast. Tea tastes better at home, where the walls smile at you from family photos and the roof provides safety and security.

At Ridgeway Rise we understand there is no place like home. We also know that circumstances can unexpectedly change and life can take a dramatic turn. We are here to invite you to write the next chapter of your life with us. We want to give you a peace of mind and make everyday enjoyable and easier, without taking away your independence, identity, dreams and habits.

Our team loves to meet new friends and feels privileged every time someone's mum, dad, grandmother or brother chooses to share their journey with us. We cannot wait to meet your family and friends and make new memories together.

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Additional training sessions to support residents with specific needs are organised to equip team members in the understanding of symptoms and strategies to manage them in order to provide the best possible care.

Care assistants must also go through their Care Certificate and Ridgeway Rise even has specialist leads in specific areas, for example oral hygiene, to make sure the highest standard of care is always being delivered with one nurse even becoming a finalist at the Great British

Care Awards in End of Life Care.

It can be hard for the individual and their families involved when the decision is made to move from independent living into a care home, but Ridgeway Rise and its brilliant team always go the extra mile to make sure the highest standards of care are delivered and all residents' needs and requirements are met. Call us to arrange your visit.



# Lions and 'U'



Time for a change, Time for a challenge, Time for 'U'

Is there ever a good time to get involved in a community action group? The simple answer is 'Yes.. no time like the present'. In fact in the current social and economic climate even more so.

The amount of voluntary assistance the Lions can provide ranges from physical to financial, getting local projects moving, helping the elderly and the younger generation, raising funds... and having much satisfaction and fun doing it.

**DID YOU KNOW** that in 2021 the Highworth and District Lions Club donated £16,080 to Local, National and International Charities and good causes, and of that figure £11,900 was donated to Charities etc in the area.

The Lions have a long history of getting the best out of people by promoting and using your skills and talents that life, hobbies, sports, or careers have afforded you. In fact, just being 'useful' is qualification enough.

*Never put off tomorrow what you can do today.*

Don't wait  
to be asked...  
**Get involved!**

## What experience do U need?

No experience is required to get involved with the Lions. We can mentor you to be a fully active participant to be involved with, experience and enjoy the many community activities we provide or participate in. The more of U that join, the more opportunities and benefits 'U' can give to the community and beyond.

## Do U have specific talent?

Alongside all the other opportunities are 'U' able to bring something extra to the party. If so, don't keep it to yourself.

## WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Because we'd love to talk to 'U'

**Saturday 3 September**

from 9.00am on the Podium – Highworth Market Square SN6 7AQ

**Thursday 15 September**

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# WESTGATE NURSERY

September



New term begins

Welcome to the new academic year at Westgate. As we aim to provide a sense of belonging and security, we are grateful for our beech hedge. Not only does it cocoon us while we play and learn with our Littles, it also provides us with the most beautiful example of how things change with the seasons.

October



Bring the outdoor in

Even though we have all weathers here, all children to experience elements, it is that our indoor reflects the natural world. We treasure that and

January

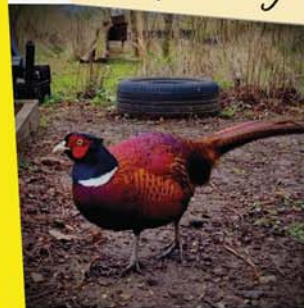


Inspiring!

In early years we recognise the importance and implications of creating environments that are both engaging and enabling. When you acknowledge the significance of the environment, it is important to consider the impact representation has and the role it plays. Flourishing in diversity, celebrating the beauty in each of us, and creating focus on the content of character.

When the children created their bird feeding station, we had visions of robins, sparrows and blue tits. Instead we got Phil the Pheasant! Clearly the baldest and bravest pheasant you would ever have the pleasure of meeting! What an excellent opportunity for the children to demonstrate how thoughtful and considerate they can be. Phil's wellbeing was at the heart of everything they did in the woodland, they even chose to lower their own voices to listen to Phil's!

February



Meet Phillip!

May



Life cycles

For all the goals, aims and objectives we have, ultimately we want the little ones to be happy, engaged and having experiences that fill them with joy. This month the children liberated the butterflies that they had nurtured from eggs to their natural environment. As part of this journey the children learnt about life cycles. Our Littles observed the metamorphosis of each stage of this process.

June



We have fairies!

This is our Littles' Fairy Kingdom! A project which was rooted in a fascination with fairies which several of our children shared. It is so exciting to watch the Littles construct and build on their ideas and create these longer term projects. Self-directed learning always produces the best outcomes.



are outside in  
labelling the  
experience all the  
is important to us  
for environment  
that is going on in the  
gather autumnal  
to create provisions  
natural and authentic.

November



Awe and wonder!

Once again Mother Nature delivered on the awe and wonder front! Our little ones were delighted to discover these cobwebs dotted all over our garden. As the frost highlighted the wonderfully woven cobwebs, it gave us equally wonderful opportunities to support learning. Weaving, mark making, breathing guides, patterns...

December



Snow!

And just like that our lovely garden had a fabulous new carpet. Isn't there something magical about snow? In our view, the importance of outdoor learning cannot be underestimated. The children were invigorated by the ever-changing conditions of the outdoors. With all of their senses awakened, they marvelled and made connections to understand themselves in their world.

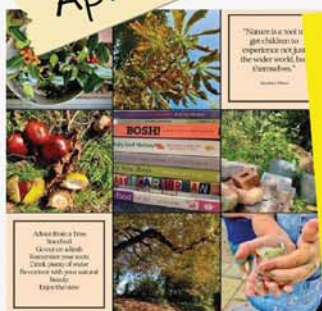
March



Washing up in mud!

No-one's done the washing up in our mud kitchen! We operate a supposedly simple principle: You use it, you clean it and put it away. Even our youngest Littles are encouraged (and supported) to respect and care for the indoor and outdoor environments. Gratitude and responsibility are key components of Westgate's core values.

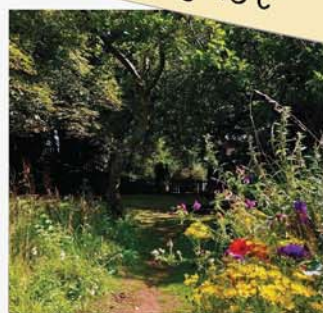
April



Spring has sprung

Reflection and celebration as nature draws us towards the new beginnings that come with spring. We take a moment not only to celebrate the successes of previous months, but also to assess what worked really well and what we could do better. Reflective practice is key!

August



Bees love wildflowers

Look at our wildflowers! The bees particularly loved them which is fantastic and prompted all kinds of learning from discussions about eco systems to sound exploration, to respect, to colour. However, our thoughts remain grounded in gratitude. As we send our oldest Littles off to school, we are not only grateful for our garden but for the time and experiences we have shared with them.

July



Bug hunting

Each of the children are valued as individuals. Whilst they all enjoy a bug hunt, not all of them are ready to come into close contact with the fruits of their labour! Fostering a love and respect for nature is such a valuable lesson!



## Dear Editor,

Walking back from Red Down onto the old golf course, I had a very pleasant surprise. Golfers who played this course will be well aware of the area of rough adjoining the Oaks hole. It was here in the long waving grass, about 8.30pm, I saw this little creature staring at me. We both remained motionless, but I was able to take out my phone and snap this photo and then continued to watch. After about four minutes the deer bounded away. What an unexpected treat! It seemed as if the deer wanted its photo to be shared, so here it is.

Link Reader



## Hedgehog Tip

[www.hedgehogstreet.org](http://www.hedgehogstreet.org) has ideas for creating a hedgehog house for any spiky visitors. These shelters can provide vital protection for hedgehogs, especially as autumn approaches.

Photo credit: Linda Harrison



### Interested in becoming a Trustee?

Root & Branch is an independent charity located near Highworth, providing therapeutic activities that promote recovery for people who experience mental health difficulties.

We are keen to hear from anyone who has a couple of flexible hours a week to help out and can attend one monthly meeting.

*We would be very interested if you have skills in human resources, marketing, publicity or fundraising... but please do get in touch whatever your background.*

To find out more contact us on:  
**T: 01793 780 380 E: [rootandbranch@btconnect.com](mailto:rootandbranch@btconnect.com)**  
**[www.rootandbranch.info](http://www.rootandbranch.info)**

## HIGHWORTH CHORAL SOCIETY

Highworth Choral Society will be restarting on Monday September 5th.

We would welcome singers of all parts so if you are a soprano, alto, tenor or bass come and join us at 7.30pm at the Methodist Church in Highworth.

Contact: [hcssecretary2019@gmail.com](mailto:hcssecretary2019@gmail.com) or see [www.highworthchoral.co.uk](http://www.highworthchoral.co.uk)

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The community centre is seeking volunteers to cover our reception desk on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays between 10.00am and 12.00pm. You will take phone messages, answer queries pass any problems to trustees. Generally be the face of the Centre for a couple of hours.

### CLEANER REQUIRED

We are also looking for a self-employed cleaner. The hours are flexible between and 12 and 15 per week. The job is to vacuum rooms as necessary, sweep and mop corridors, sweep the hall and clean toilets and kitchens. We pay above living wage.

If you are interested in either vacancies contact Keith Smith at [enquiries@highworthcommunitycentre.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@highworthcommunitycentre.co.uk)





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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.

*Based in Highworth, I provide unbiased and non-judgemental contact to any person and situation.*

**If you want the emotional pain and distress of a relationship to stop... Then call me**



**BREN HOSKING**

*The Toxic Relationship Coach*

**07511 929020**

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## Christian Aid Week 2022

Christian Aid Week in Highworth this year raised **£2,451.60**.

Meet Janet: a grandmother from Zimbabwe who transformed her dusty land into a garden of hope. In her village, Janet has experienced first-hand how drought pushed her family into desperate hunger.

"One year, there was so little food. Rains had not fallen. We ate things which we wouldn't eat in normal times. I made porridge and gave it to the children, then removed a portion and put it down for the dogs. The children picked up the dogs' share because they weren't full. When I saw this, I knew the situation had become unbearable," Janet shared.

"My heart was so painful thinking that my family would die. By God's grace we did not die. We soldiered on."

With faith, hope and love for her family, Janet brought her family through this painful time with the support of Christian Aid's BRACT programme (Building Resilience through Absorptive and Adaptive Capacities for Transformation).

BRACT helps the most at-risk communities in

Zimbabwe to prepare for and adapt to the changing climate. Working with local partners, Christian Aid's work empowers vulnerable communities to grow drought-tolerant crops, teaches women like Janet how to grow food in dry seasons and helps families to build storerooms to preserve food so they have the resilience to bounce back from future droughts. Families learn to eat healthier, nutritious food and gain new skills for alternative sources of income when agriculture fails.

By learning how to grow drought-resistant crops with the support of Christian Aid, Janet was able to bring her family through a painful time and turn her barren land into a garden of plenty. Now, her farm is bursting with life and she harvests enough surplus food to share with her neighbours while also storing enough to survive future droughts.

"My life is changing," Janet says. "This project is uplifting us. We are thankful."

Thank you to everyone who contributed this year.

*Highworth C.A. Committee.*





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## Highworth Forget Me Not Café

### Musical Bingo



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[www.homeinstead.co.uk/swindon/contact-us](http://www.homeinstead.co.uk/swindon/contact-us)

## News from the Lions' Den

It's odd writing an article at the end of June for publication in September. The May Fair and the Jubilee have been covered, the Lion's Spring Jubilee Raffle has been drawn (thanks to the Town Mayor, Julie and Deputy Mayor, Ken), the Over-65s outing to Weston-super-Mare on the 01 September will have taken place before some of you have received this magazine so we are left with the last car boot sale at The Goldfinger on Saturday 17 September. It's very popular, so give it a visit and have some refreshments at The Goldfinger to finish off the outing.

But don't despair, other things are being planned so keep your eye open for some interesting announcements. Also, don't forget the fortnightly ghost drives at the Council Community Rooms on Wednesdays. If you want to know more, give me a ring.

The annual distribution of gift vouchers to the elderly is going ahead again this year. Don't forget the cut-off date for sending in your application forms which will be published in the October and November editions of the LINK magazine.

Elsewhere in this edition, you will see details of our latest drive for new members. Come along and find out what being a Lion entails. As we used to put in our old recruiting literature, "You have nothing to lose, but perhaps a lot to gain."



*Town Mayor, Cllr Julie Murphy making the Jubilee Raffle Draw assisted by two Lions, Susan Bodman and John Palmer*

### Donations during June were:

- |   |         |
|---|---------|
| ● Christians Against Poverty, Highworth     | £250.00 |
| ● Lions Clubs International, Sight First    | £250.00 |
| ● Julia's House Children's Hospice, Devizes | £250.00 |
| ● WrdeUp Festival, Highworth                | £250.00 |

*Rodney Davis, Highworth and District Lions Club*

*Tel. 0345 833 9831*

*E: [highworth@lions105sc.org](mailto:highworth@lions105sc.org)*



### DIARY OF EVENTS 2022

- November 4<sup>th</sup> 2022 - Fireworks (ticket only event)
- November 13<sup>th</sup> 2022 - Remembrance Service
- November 26<sup>th</sup> 2022 - Christmas Event / Light Switch On

**More details for these events to follow.**



Are you a stall holder who would like to join us at our Christmas Event?



If you would like to have a stall at our Christmas Event on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2022 please email [admin@highworthtowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:admin@highworthtowncouncil.gov.uk)

## Sport *Compiled by Jason Daniels*

If you have a sport story email [jcdsport12@gmail.com](mailto:jcdsport12@gmail.com)



### **We're looking for your Sports Stories!**

*Whether you're at the top of your game or nearer the bottom; whether you play a sport everyone knows or one that is only known in Alaska, we'd love to hear from you. We'd love some sports stories from those that don't normally feature so if there's anyone in the town that enjoys roller hockey or rafting, darts or decathlon, basketball or beach volleyball, or maybe shooting or squash, then please do get in touch. Everyone's perspective is unique, so please tell us why and where it happens and we'll do our best to cover it. Who knows, there may be other Zorb football enthusiasts just waiting to join you. Incidentally, the national sport of Alaska is reportedly glacier surfing!*

Jason Daniels E: [jcdsport12@gmail.com](mailto:jcdsport12@gmail.com)

### **Highworth Town Football Club**



HTFC started their season in early August with an FA Cup tie versus Reading City. With a new management team in place, a completely new squad and a change of division, it really is an interesting time for the club. Follow us on Twitter, Facebook and our website

for all that's going on.

W: [www.highworthtownfc.com](http://www.highworthtownfc.com)

Twitter: @4thTownFC

*Derek Lloyd*

### **Swindon and District Motorcycle Club**

As temperatures returned to normal post-heatwave, the Swindon and District Motorcycle Club were knee-deep in Hannington's Bydemill Brook with saws and shears, clearing back the foliage in readiness for July's Wooster Motorcycle Trial; a Wessex Centre Championship round attracting some of the region's best motorcycle maestros. The ask was simple: each rider was to navigate ten testing sections four times without putting a foot down. In their way were boulder-strewn railway embankments, stone-laden streams, tree limbs, and roots appearing awkwardly from anywhere and everywhere. One section asked the top riders to actually ride through the middle of a splitting tree! With the winners calculated from those that put their feet down the least, each rider competed against

others in their skill level, age category, or motorcycle characteristics for the spoils.

Those coming out on top in the skill-based categories were Tom Culliford, Jonathan Bees, Adam Coopey and Noel Ashman with John Seward and Michael Maslin sharing the top spot in their C-Class, the latter pair not dropping a single penalty point between them. In the age-related groupings Stuart Thatcher, Gary Lane, David Morris and Stephen Reece rode themselves to the top of the pile, as did Edwin Maslin in the 'twin shock' class. In the junior bandings, Isobel Coopey, Jamie Laverton and Stanley Harris all proved themselves unbeatable. Many congratulations to the day's winners and a big thank you to the Club and all the riders who made the day so successful. The next event for the S&DMCC is an Enduro event in Cirencester on **18 September**. Please see the Club's website for details.

W: [www.sdmcc.org.uk](http://www.sdmcc.org.uk)



*Gary Wooster en-route to a top 5 placing*

*Jason Daniels*



## Swindon Croquet Club



*SCC's 'Summer Singles' tournament competitors*

Swindon Croquet Club's 'Golf Croquet Summer Singles' tournament was held in sweltering conditions. Competitors were split into three round robin groups by tournament organiser, Tony Tomlin, with players abiding by the newly introduced 'hoop advantage' handicap system. The lawns were lightning fast, but this did not prevent some excellent croquet shots being played throughout the day. Dave Booth, Martin Briggs, Steve Hares and Clive Smith progressed to the semi-final stage before Clive overcame Martin in a fiercely contested final match. Tournament Organiser, Tony Tomlin, said, "It was very hot out on the lawns, but all players enjoyed this competitive event. The final was a super game, it included high quality, strong clearances and accurate hoop running with Clive narrowly beating Martin by 7-5." Please email us if you'd like to give croquet a try.

E: [Swindon.croquet@outlook.com](mailto:Swindon.croquet@outlook.com)

*Beverly Briggs*

## Highworth Walking Football Club

A brilliant performance saw the Over-60's defeat Winchester 2-0 in the regional semi-final of the WFA Cup. An excellent defensive performance limited Winchester's chances and superb finishes from Mel Miller and Colin Smith gave the reds a deserved victory. Sadly, in the final of the regional section in July, we travelled to Weston but lost 3-0. The game was closer than the score line suggests as their goalie was man-of-the-match. In June's Wilts League matches, another

good set of games were played by the Over-50's who won two and drew two to finish top of our mini league before relegations and promotions to then start all over again. The Over-60's got an eight-point haul from four games. First, a 0-0 draw with Swindon Town, then we won 1-0 against Salisbury in another tight game. Next, a 0-0 draw against Melksham. Finally, we were 2-1 winners against Calne Wanderers. Still top of the league extending our lead with a game in hand.

The women's team had their second round of fixtures with two wins, a draw and a loss. Their first win was against Caldicot courtesy of a Lisa Lane strike. Next were Melksham Blues and Lisa Lane got the team off to a good start with a Becky Gammon strike sealing the win. Unfortunately, they narrowly lost 2-1 to Melksham Yellows with Lisa Lane again scoring. Last were Oxford United where they fell behind by two quick goals. Lisa Lane struck well to give Highworth hope and Becky Gammon smashed home a last minute penalty to pick up a deserved point.



*Our Over-60's Team*

If you are interested in playing competitive or just social walking football, the men's sessions are held on Thursdays and Sundays, 11am to 12pm and ladies session are on Sundays, 10am to 11am, all at Grange Leisure in Stratton, with an additional session on Fridays, 11.30am to 12.30pm at the Highworth Rec. Contact Graham Seeley for more details.

E: [highworthwfc@outlook.com](mailto:highworthwfc@outlook.com)

M: 07769 703702

*Graham Seeley*

## Wrag Barn Golf Club

The ball was running in the summer conditions and the Air Tattoo at RAF Fairford was in 'top gear', on Captain Dave McGrory's special day at Wrag Barn. The Red Arrows came and waved as they flew by which caused a flutter and added to the excitement and fun of a perfect summer's day.

The Air Tattoo might have had a visit from Tim Peake and Tom Cruise, but we had our own celebrities in the form of the Spice Girls in triplicate, Abba (the real thing, not avatars) and the crew of Coconut Airways cancelled all their flights at the last minute to play golf (which was a much better option). The Wham! campaign to 'Choose Life' made an appearance and The Police arrived to make sure that we all had fun, not forgetting the Pink Ladies who looked gorgeous. After 18 holes, a quiz and just

a sip of beer or prosecco, it was a relief to watch a Trick Shot display from Paul Barrington, not as easy as it looks, as some discovered. The winners of the 18-hole competition were Paul Rivett,

Dave Devine, Dave Scott and Pete Bignall with Claire Drew, Adrian Drew, Noah Ridsdale and Chris White finishing in second place. In the 'Nearest the Pin' competition the winners were Jarvis Bell (third), Stuart Moores (fifth), Wayne Rumbold (twelfth) and Steven May (sixteenth). An impromptu 9-hole Texas Scramble in the afternoon was won by Jack Bright and his team, making eight birdies and

one eagle. Thank you Captain Dave for an awesome day and you still had the energy to be the last man standing on the dance floor at the end of the night!

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## Welcome to Warneford!

Highworth Warneford School is a small, collaborative and successful 11-16 school serving the market town of Highworth and the surrounding area.

We have a proud tradition of academic excellence and the school is a very safe and vibrant learning environment.

Just as importantly, this is a place where the students are all 'known' and valued: the quality of pastoral care is outstanding.

You are always welcome to come and visit us to see the school in action.

## Our Ethos

We are an inclusive school catering for the needs of all of our young people, no matter what their ability or background.

We provide a well-rounded education that enables our students to acquire and develop the skills, knowledge and personal attributes they will need throughout their adult lives.

This is complemented by an absolute focus on academic achievement, with our students aiming for the very best exam grades that will ensure ongoing success.

Some of our students need extra support and our amazing SEN and Pastoral teams are always there to help where needed.

# The School Profile: Highworth Warneford



**Get to know the schools in your area.**

*This issue:* **Highworth Warneford School**

*Address:* **Shrivenham Road, Highworth SN6 7BZ**

*Contact:* **01793 762426**

*Website:* [www.warnefordschool.org](http://www.warnefordschool.org)



## The Warneford Way

We are very proud of our school and our amazing students. When youngsters join us, they become part of our family and we do everything to nurture them and enable them to reach their potential.

Our House system forms the backbone of the school and underpins much of what we do – from pastoral care to student leadership and beyond.

We are modern in outlook but also cherish our traditions. We celebrate our students' achievements at every opportunity and hard work is rewarded.

Behaviour and attitudes to learning are excellent – our specialist teachers can teach using the very best educational approaches and students can learn without distraction.

We are particularly proud of the many opportunities available outside of the classroom – clubs, activities, sports, music, events, trips, work experience, Duke of Edinburgh's Award and residential. There is something for everyone!

## Five Principles

Everything the school does is based on five clear and powerful principles:

**Excellence:** every student must aim for excellence in everything that they do

**Aspiration:** students should aspire to do amazing things and not settle for doing 'just enough'

**Challenge:** we will improve students' resilience and help them to adapt to face life's many challenges

**Values:** our students will develop independence and confidence and become moral, curious and enterprising learners, leaders and adults

**Community:** the school is part of local, national and international community

## Our School

Sited on the edge of Highworth, we have plenty of outdoor space and this definitely gives the school a lovely, rural and community feel, as well as giving us strong sporting provision.

The school has excellent, specialist facilities that enable our students to access a wide range of subjects at a high level. This includes a large, modern Sports Hall, a full range of DT and IT rooms and well-provisioned Science labs.





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## HIGHWORTH TOWN COUNCILLORS

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Tel. 01793 762377 / 763511

### TOWN MAYOR & CHAIRMAN

Julie Murphy, Rosedene, Inglesham SN6 7RA  
Mob: 07803 602568 Mob: 07803 602568  
[julie.murphy@highworthtowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:julie.murphy@highworthtowncouncil.gov.uk)

### DEPUTY MAYOR & VICE-CHAIRMAN

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

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Steve Weisinger, 8 Barra Close, SN6 7HX  
01793 764668 Mob: 07791 122843  
[steve.weisinger@highworthtowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:steve.weisinger@highworthtowncouncil.gov.uk)

Richard Williams, 7 Park Avenue SN6 7AW  
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[richard.williams@highworthtowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:richard.williams@highworthtowncouncil.gov.uk)

Simon Wolfensohn, 34 Shrivenham Road SN6 7QQ  
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[simon.wolfensohn@highworthtowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:simon.wolfensohn@highworthtowncouncil.gov.uk)

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**Sunday Worship Service**  
Starts @ 10:30 AM

### \* Café Church – October 2nd

*Our Sunday morning services are a blend of contemporary and traditional worship, accompanied by our music group. Coffee, tea and biscuits and opportunities for prayer are available after our services.*



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# OUR REPRESENTATIVES

## From our MP

**I was pleased to visit Highworth Warneford School again to meet with Andy Steele, the Headteacher. I have been a long-standing supporter of the school having previously helped secure the funding for the fantastic sports hall. It was great to hear about recent progress and improvements, catchment areas and admissions, as well as plans for the future.**

As many will know, one issue which I have really championed during my time as an MP is increasing cardiac arrest survival rates. This is a very personal issue for me as my father died following a cardiac arrest when I was only 12.

In the UK, there are 30,000 out-of-hospital cardiac arrests a year, however, the survival rate is low with just one in ten people in the UK surviving. Earlier this summer, the Government announced that all state-funded schools across England will receive defibrillators to make sure there is a device in every school; an estimated 20,000 will be sent out. The announcement comes after the government first committed last year to look at how to achieve a defibrillator on every school site, following a campaign by the Oliver King Foundation, a charity created in memory of 12-year-old Oliver King who tragically died following a cardiac arrest.

The news is incredibly important. Defibrillators have the potential to save the lives of pupils,

staff and visitors in schools, with latest research showing that accessing these devices within three to five minutes of a cardiac arrest increases the chance of survival by over 40%. This initiative from the Government really will save lives.

The latest announcement builds on the requirement for all school children to be taught CPR as part of the national curriculum, which was something I worked closely with the British Heart Foundation to achieve.

Justin Tomlinson,

North Swindon Conservative MP

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05/07/2022

*15 years have passed, we miss you every day. Lindsay and Helen*

18/07/2022

*Barbara Knight. Thinking of you Mum on your birthday. Sending big hugs to you. Miss you, love you.  
Lyn, Ruth, Patrick and all of your family x*

18/07/2022

*Dennis (Dan) Ackling. Happy Birthday Dad. Love and miss you so much. Love Ian, Sue and Family,  
Gary, Bev and Family, Kim, Jeff, Conor, Kerry and Andrew xxxx*

28/07/2022

*Dennis (Dan) Ackling. 9 years since we heard your voice and saw you smile. Love and miss you more than  
words can say. Love Ian, Sue and Family, Gary, Bev and Family, Kim, Jeff, Conor, Kerry and Andrew xxx*

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*

08/08/2022

*Joy Ackling. Happy Birthday Mum. Love and miss you so much. Love Ian, Sue and Family, Gary,  
Bev and Family. Kim, Jeff, Conor, Kerry and Andrew xxxx*

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*

24/08/2021

*Frank Dean. Remembering you on your birthday today, missed and loved every day.  
Jean, Beverley, Sharon and Families xxx*

02/09/2022

*Martin Hall. Loved and missed always. Mum, Sarah, Gina, Kath, Spencer, Tracey and Steve and all family  
and many friends xxx*

19/09/2022

*19th Sept: Joyce Ryder. Missing a dearly loved Mum and Nan. Forever in our hearts and thoughts.  
Love From Janice and Pas, Louisa, Chris, Pep, Amy and Carina xxxxx*

*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](http://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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## St Michael's Services

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 sanitiser is located in the South Porch for use on entering and exiting the Church.

The 10.15am Sunday Service is being held in Church and streamed live and can be found at [www.twitch.tv/stmichaelshighworth](http://www.twitch.tv/stmichaelshighworth) or on YouTube by searching St Michael's Church Highworth.

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.

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

Our Monday Toddler Group is hosted in Church during term time (excluding bank holidays) from 10am to 11:30am. Tea, coffee, and light refreshments are provided. Suggested £1 donation.

Please see our website for more details of the other services we hold at the church:  
[www.stmichaelshighworth.co.uk](http://www.stmichaelshighworth.co.uk)

### We remember those who love and miss

David Evans

June Faulkner

Barbara Lawton

### Praying for the roads in the town:

04-Sep-22 Priory Green and Quarry Crescent

11-Sep-22 Queen's Avenue and Redland Close

18-Sep-22 Redlands Court and The Retreat

25-Sep-22 Rivers Way and Roman Way



## HIGHWORTH WARNEFORD SCHOOL OPEN EVENTS 2022

Highworth Warneford is an excellent and friendly secondary school providing an outstanding learning environment, which allows students to thrive and develop their academic, personal and social skills.

There will be a number of opportunities to help prospective students and their parents get to know the school better. These include:

- An **OPEN EVENING** on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> October from 5pm until 7.30pm. You will be able to take a tour of the school, speak to students and staff and listen to a presentation from the Headteacher at either 6pm or 7pm.
- **OPEN MORNINGS** on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October until Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> October. If you wish to see the school in action, please contact Mrs Lewis to book an appointment: email [llewis@warnefordschool.org](mailto:llewis@warnefordschool.org) or phone 01793 767083.
- Detailed information on the school's website, including Frequently asked Questions.

*We look forward to meeting you!*

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## National Trust Events

Our local National Trust locations in Buscot and Coleshill have a number of engaging events planned for the autumn.

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

### Heritage Open Day at Coleshill, Sunday 11 September, 10.30am – 5pm

The Victorian model farm at Coleshill was built as an exemplar farm to demonstrate the most modern farming methods of the high farming period in the 1850s. It is a unique site, built on a hill to harness gravity when moving food and manure around the site. The buildings are home to the West Oxfordshire National Trust office. Some of the spaces are being reinvented as our Heritage Skills Centre, designed to host courses in traditional crafts such as lime plastering and blacksmithing hosted by local skilled builders and crafts people. Visitors will be able to take part in guided walks of the buildings and visit the foaling house and working watermill.

This will also be the last day of our Concrete Castles exhibition featuring the contemporary art of the Second World War. Our underground operational base will also be opened where visitors can discover the secret history of the Auxiliary Units who trained at Coleshill in the 1940s.

FREE to all, no booking required. Parking available.

### White Horse Hill, Uffington Chalking the Horse Week, Sunday 28 August – Friday 02 September, 10 – 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](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/white-horse-hill)

## Cotswold Farm Gardens Open Weekend

Supporting National Garden Scheme (NGS)

A beautiful Arts and Crafts Cotswold garden in a stunning location, overlooking a quiet valley on

descending levels with terraces, designed by Norman Jewson in the 1930s. Enclosed by Cotswold stone walls and yew hedges, the garden has all year-round interest.

In September, we have late flowering herbaceous plants such as dahlias, hydrangeas, fuchsias, potentillas and asters, which all look fabulous. Colour in the terrace beds from penstemons, dahlias, nepetas and salvias.

### 03 and 04 September, 2pm to 5pm

£7.50 Entrance (pre-booking available via the NGS website for the weekend or onsite contactless payment). Children can enter for free. Tea, coffee and cakes available as well as plants for sale.

Directions: Five miles NW of Cirencester on the A417

Cotswold Farm, Duntisbourne Abbots, GL7 7JS  
T: 01285-821837 W: [cotswoldfarmgardens.org.uk](http://cotswoldfarmgardens.org.uk)

Also open by appointment through the year.

## Watchfield – Home to a Green Canopy, Cream Teas and Creatures Galore

Watchfield is embracing the opportunities afforded by celebrating the Jubilee and has planted our own version of the Queen's Green Canopy. Using open space in the Meadow View development, volunteers gathered over three days to plant over 50 trees. As well as many fruit and nut trees (apples, pears, plums, walnuts, almonds, medlars, cherries and crab apple), there are native and statement trees (beech, tulip tree, Amelanchier, hawthorns, maples, holm oaks, whitebeams and rowans). We are looking forward to the seasonal changes with blossom and harvests for us all to enjoy.



# VILLAGES



After a couple years of enforced absence, Watchfield Village Cream Teas are back. This year it will take place on **Saturday 03 September** in Watchfield Village Hall between 1 and 4pm. For £5 per person, there will be fresh scones, jam and cream, as well as unlimited tea and coffee. Come along to have a chat with your neighbours or meet new people. Payment is on the door or, if you prefer to book, please call 01793 784478. A raffle will be held in aid of St Thomas' Church, Watchfield.

Wild About Watchfield is an informal group working towards improvement of the environment for wildlife, creation of habitats and monitoring of the creatures with which we share our village. We seem to be experiencing a hedgehog boom this year with many hoglets on the prowl at dusk. Many villagers have made their gardens accessible to these endearing animals by ensuring there is water available, untidy corners of the garden for resting and nesting and leaving hedgehog-sized holes in fencing and walls to allow free passage as individuals can roam up to 2km a night! The heat and dry weather have meant some more unusual animals have ventured into gardens in search of food and water, such as muntjac deer, weasels, badgers and an otter along the stream. We are working in small ways to make Watchfield better for everyone and everything and all those small acts add up.



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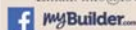
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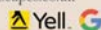
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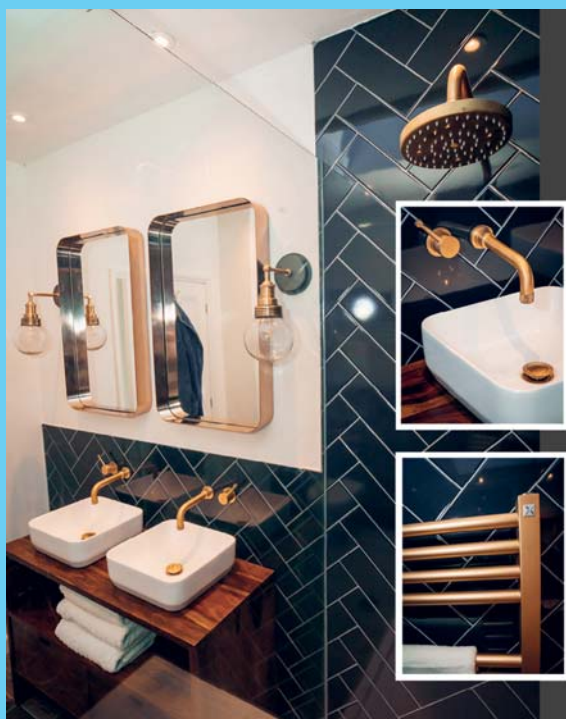
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