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Eight page supplement
in this issue

November 2022

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Remember, remember...

With bonfires and fireworks we remember Guy Fawkes on 05 November, though I am sure few people know why!

But November has other dates when we remember. 01 November is All Saints' Day when we remember the 'communion of saints'; the wider family of the Church, living and departed, 'friends on earth and friends above'. This year we especially mourn the late Queen Elizabeth II, but many of us also grieve for a loved one, not famous maybe,

but whose memory is precious and still painful for us. The late Queen herself said, 'Grief is the price we pay for love.'

Then, on 11 November and Remembrance Sunday, the nation recalls with sorrow the tragedy of wars and conflicts, past and present. We give thanks for the peace we enjoy as we remember those who have suffered in wars, or paid the ultimate price with their lives.

Above all, as a Christian, in sad times, I remember St Paul's words that, 'Neither death nor life... nothing in all creation can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.' My prayer is that you may know the strength of God's love.

*Alison Williams
(one of the retired clergy at
St Michael's Church)*

Farewell to Rev. Emily Swinerd

On 02 October, St Michael's Church said a fond farewell to the Rev. Emily Swinerd with a lunch for the congregation and friends after the morning service. She and her family were presented with gifts to remind them of their time with us.



Emily arrived in Highworth in May 2019 to start her curacy with us. She has been a huge blessing to the churches in Highworth, Sevenhampton, Hannington and Blunsdon, along with their communities. Emily stepped up to become Curate-in-Charge after the retirement of Rev. Geoff Sowden in February 2022, and she has served us well.

Emily very quickly became well known in the community, especially with young families. She was fundamental in setting up the Monday morning toddler group that meets

during term time in church. She successfully acquired funding to buy equipment and toys. Raising environmental matters with the young people was a passion of hers, and St. Michael's now has a small group of people looking at ways to help us be kinder to our environment. Emily felt privileged that she was able to lead a very moving and fitting service in honour of our

late Queen which was well received by those who attended and those who watched online.

Emily will continue her ministry as Priest in Charge of St. Peters, Stoke Park, Ipswich. We all wish her and her family well as she takes up her new position. We pray that God will bless them richly as they start a new journey with, and for, God.

*Pam Linfield
Church Warden*

Christmas at the Lighthouse Bookshop

Are you looking to send Christmas cards which reflect the reason for the season – the birth of Jesus? Look no further!

We have a variety of Christmas cards supporting various charities including, this year for the first time, **FOODBANK**. A donation from sales will be made directly to the local Foodbank. As well as Christmas cards, we have for sale Advent calendars with windows to open every day up to Christmas telling the Christmas story.

And of course, we also have a full range of Advent devotionals, children's Christmas books, and Christmas gifts, many at promotional prices.

We look forward to welcoming you into the shop on the High Street.



WANTED

The Highworth Link are always looking for magazine distributors in and around the town.

If you fancy getting out and about each month to distribute the magazine, in a small or larger area as you please, then give Clive a call on 07801 365282 or email clive7045@btinternet.com

LINKmagazine

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Publishers:
The Leadership of Highworth Churches Together

Editor: Rachael Laing Smith
E: editor@highworthlink.co.uk

Production E: highworthlink72@gmail.com

Advertising: Debbie Hodgson
E: advertising@highworthlink.co.uk

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

Peter Croton T: 01793 762025

Villages Distribution:
Keith Ratcliffe T: 01793 861122

Treasurer: Terry Williams

Highworth Link, c/o Lighthouse Bookshop,
40 High Street, Highworth, Swindon SN6 7AQ

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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 from the Editor



November. The month of frosty mornings, bejewelled spider webs, and opportunities to play 'dragons' as you breathe out foggy breath. I love winter. I especially love

November for cosy socks, hot chocolate, and fireworks. You may not agree with me, but whilst you're inside hiding from the chills of the season, wrap yourself up on the sofa in a blanket and snuggle down with this issue of LINK magazine.

You'll notice things look a bit different this month as we use this larger format to help mark our 50th anniversary. How we do things has changed somewhat over the years, the LINK team has been through many incarnations, but what remains is the commitment to bring you good news community stories. Thank you for being part of our story, whether you've been here for years or have only just moved to the area.

Celebrating LINK magazine is to celebrate this amazing community.

Rachel

Former Dovecote at Sevenfields

As promised, Highworth Community Partnership Group (HCPG) discussed the outcome of the leaflet drop regarding the former dovecote.

We also looked at the probable costs of replacing the dovecote, bearing in mind that certain costs would be recurring, including public liability insurance and regular inspections by a qualified engineer, both requirements by Swindon Borough Council as the dovecote would be sited on their land. Although there is a possibility that 50% of the cost of the dovecote would be covered by a grant, planning and construction costs would be in addition, and we would be obliged to use a Borough Council approved company. Members therefore reluctantly agreed that the replacement project was not a viable proposition. The gmail address has now been closed.

HCPG would like to thank all the people who worked hard to try to move this project forward. Unfortunately, on this occasion, the odds were stacked against us.

Keith Smith
HCPG

Sign Up for Free Budgeting Course with CAP



Looking for help in managing your money to stay out of debt this festive season?

You can register to take part in a **free** local budgeting course that will help you stay more in control of your finances this Christmas time.

Over the last few years, many local people have learned new skills through the CAP Money Course, and it is for anyone who would like to learn better money management skills.

'It is particularly useful at present when people are facing rising energy and food prices,' said local CAP Money coach, Maria Walker. 'While Christmas should be a time for fun and celebration, it's easy to understand why many people may be feeling worried right now about how they will afford it.'

Maria goes on to say, 'We are running the CAP Money budgeting course both to help



people plan better in the run-up to Christmas, and deal with the issues that January can bring for so many after the Christmas festivities. We want to help give local people the confidence to manage their money well, reduce financial pressure and stress, and be able to look forward to Christmas without worrying about how they will afford it.'

What is CAP Money?

CAP Money is a budgeting course, normally delivered over three, very manageable, sessions. Its aim is to offer financial education so you can live within a budget and feel in control of your money. And best of all, it's free!

What do I need to do?

For more information, or to sign on to the next training session, contact Maria at mwalker62@btinternet.com or call her on 07590 761040.



People's Trust for Endangered Species (PTES)

Hedgehog Tip for November

Please check bonfires carefully for sleeping hedgehogs before lighting. If possible, the entire pile should be checked before being lit. If not, use broom handles to lift from the base of the pile. Shine torches, looking and listening for signs of life.

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Graham Fry... Who?!

It seems, to quote Bob Dylan, 'Times they are a-changing.' Not for the first time, the Highworth LINK is quietly reinventing itself. When Graham Fry and Adrian Young decided to take on the LINK roles of production and editorship back in the early 2000s, it actually saved the magazine from going out of publication. But, alas, Graham has finally decided to hang up his mouse.

The very nature of the beast requires a level of dedication that many companies would pay for royally. Graham has given over 17 years to producing the artwork for the magazine using his natural skills in the field of graphic design. He has always taken professional pride in how the magazine is presented and kept a keen eye on many technical aspects of the finished product, and he must be credited for its continued high standard and visual quality. This continuity has made any incoming editor's job a blessing, as Graham's guidance removed any concerns about how to get their efforts into print.

To put those efforts in perspective, that's approximately 162 editions (including a short break during Covid), six editors, seven printers, and a heck'va lot of coffee – and all this alongside the day-to-day running of Stables Studio!

Having worked for and with him for thirty-plus years, we are almost like an old married couple. He's never one for blowing his own trumpet, so that leaves

me to laud his praises, and he will hate me for doing it!

The man is the most considerate and compassionate of human beings. I've never seen him lose his temper. Even when my toys were flying out of the pram, he would just go and put the kettle on, everything would work out fine, and peace would reign. A number of clients even became personal friends, such as his engagement. He was

also very quick in recognising the future of graphics and production, becoming one of the first businesses in the town to transition from the traditional drawing boards to digital desktop publishing in the very early 1990s.

His talents also include playing guitar and singing, performing in a few bands over the years, notably 'The Sad Dads' and 'The Brewery Street Buskers'.

Of course he has his faults: He doesn't talk about football; likes aniseed balls, and feigns interest when I'm talking about badminton. He's by no means perfect.

His retirement from the field of battle will be noticed, but for someone who has worked so diligently and unseen in the engine room for so long, he will typically require no fanfare, just quiet acknowledgement of a job well done.

Graham Fry, you are a gentleman. Stand up and take a bow, consider yourself noticed. We thank you.

Simon French



Warm Welcome at The Bridge Centre

I was earwigging on a conversation between a Highworth shopkeeper and customer this week. The customer said she planned to turn down her heating this winter to avoid a big bill. After all, the make-do-and-mend spirit got this country through tough times before.

It sounds sensible. But here's my experience of self-dependence – it works until it's too late. And turning down the heating too low can be bad for our health.

So what's the answer to rising prices and struggling to cope? Not being too proud

to ask for help. We've recently joined the Warm Welcome Scheme to offer The Bridge Centre as a warm space each weekday between 11am and 1pm. We offer a range of support from food collective to form filling, benefits to befriending. If the cost of living is worrying you, please feel free to pop in. A warm welcome awaits you.



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News from Westrop Medical Practice

Welcome to a new monthly article designed to help update the patients of Westrop surgery about the latest goings on.

Getting Covid over and done with first – I'm pleased to say that, at the time of writing, face masks are no longer mandatory when visiting the practice. However, this remains under constant review and, for obvious reasons, please still wear a mask or visor if you feel your symptoms could be suggestive of Covid-19.

Hopefully, the latest wave of Covid-19 booster jabs will help keep things under control this winter, and the Steam museum next to the Outlet Village in Swindon remains an option for where to get these done. As was the case last year, we will be co-administering the annual flu vaccination along with the booster, hence there will not be a separate flu vaccination programme at the surgery itself. If you are eligible for a vaccine then please arrange this via the national booking service, although certain cohorts will be given priority (a timeline of who can book and when will be released nationally). You won't be able to book your Covid or flu jab via the surgery.

Much has been said in the media about general practice being slow to return to

face-to-face consultations following the pandemic, although at Westrop I'm pleased to say that we have been giving patients the choice of coming in to the surgery or having a phone consultation for some time now, compared to everything being done remotely at the height of the pandemic. That said, phone consultations have proven themselves to be an effective way of offering patient care, and are often more convenient, without the need to travel to the surgery. These still remain an option, so if you don't think you will need an examination, feel free to request a phone call when speaking to the receptionist.

And finally, some good news – the opening of our new practice in Tadpole Garden Village! This purpose-built facility was over five years in the planning, although we definitely feel the end result is worth it! It's business as usual at Highworth and Blunsdon, with no change to the services provided from these sites. Whilst GP appointments are always booked at your registered practice, having this new facility may allow us to offer you an earlier blood test or nursing appointment provided you are happy to travel, although there will be no obligation to do so.

Dr. Simon Stacey

Visit Highworth

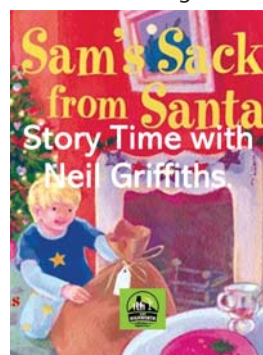
We will be holding our annual Christmas Fair on Saturday 26 November in the beautiful St. Michael's Church. It will be a day celebrating all things Christmas, with a market on the High Street and events in the Market Square, culminating in the Christmas lights switch-on.

We are delighted to invite back some firm favourites to the craft fair, as well as some new faces. We will also be holding a raffle for the visitor's centre, and a Christmas present wrapping service in aid of the Prospect Charity. The Highworth Scouts will be providing refreshments as part of the fundraising drive for Jamboree next year, so treat yourself to a mince pie!

Visit Highworth is also delighted that author Neil Griffiths will be at the fair for a Christmas Storytime, open to children of all ages and adults too. Neil never fails to engage and entertain adults and children alike, and we are so pleased that he will be here with his

special Christmas story. This is a free drop-in event.

Santa is coming back to the Visit Highworth! He will be in his grotto with



his helpers on **Saturday 03 December**. If you would like to visit and receive a small gift with a Christmas craft, £4 per child, please contact the Centre to book.

At Visit Highworth you will find the unique Christmas gifts you are looking for, made by local artists and makers, from handmade felted Christmas decorations to candles, leather work, jewellery, pottery, and so much more. We also have Highworth-themed calendars and Christmas cards, so pop in to have a look.

Find us at 7 High Street, or visit our website: www.visithighworth.co.uk

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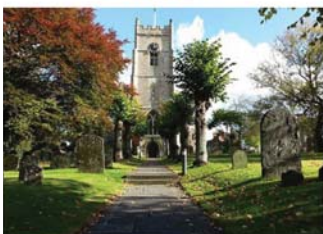
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Highworth Poppy Project

The poppies will be on display in St Michael's Church from 05 to 25 November.

The photograph shows a few of the poppies during assembly and we think there will be over 2000 by the time you read this! What an amazing achievement and huge thanks to everyone who has made poppies in so many different designs. Please come and see the display.

St. Michael's Flower Guild



REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

SUNDAY 13TH NOVEMBER 2022
ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH HIGHWORTH
TIME: FURTHER DETAILS TO FOLLOW

Faringdon and District u3a Meeting

Our meeting on Thursday 10 November, 2:30pm, will be taken by Robbie Burns in the Corn Exchange, where he will be talking about 'Belonging to 2 Troop Falklands'.

In 1982, Robbie led a troop of combat engineers during the Falklands campaign and he recently wrote a book documenting his memories and those of former colleagues and their families. He will talk about his experiences from a firsthand perspective, and provide some background information. His book also includes discussions with veterans of the Falklands War who are still struggling to come to terms with their experiences.

All members are welcome to attend and enjoy the refreshments afterwards. Visitors are also very welcome, but are required to contribute £1.50 towards the cost.

Please note that all attendees are required to be in good health and must be up-to-date with their Covid vaccinations. If in doubt, please stay at home.



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New Community Partnership

We are delighted to announce that, on 24 September, the Highworth Forget-Me-Not-Café and the Coventry Building Society launched a new Community Partnership.

This brings on board great engagement from the Coventry staff within the local Highworth branch, working alongside and supporting our local charity, and giving something back to the community in which they work. Each community partnership is incredibly unique and provides a fantastic opportunity to gain more understanding of the charity's purpose whilst sharing resources in developing our relationship together. What fantastic news for all things 'Forget-Me-Not' here in



COVENTRY
Building Society



Highworth in being chosen for this partnership!

We, as the Café team, are very grateful for the Coventry's support. We look forward to working together with Drew, Laura and the rest of the staff here, and can't wait to

welcome them to our monthly Memory Café, Love to Move sessions and our weekly Friendship Fridays group. Each group brings so much benefit to those families living with dementia in helping create great memories, keeping everyone moving in a fun and beneficial way, and in providing valuable friendship support within our community and surrounding area.

You'll find a fantastic display within the Highworth Coventry branch showing our charity information, and we will keep you updated with all our future partnership engagement activities.

Thank you again to the Coventry for choosing Highworth Forget-Me-Not-Café to partner with this year.

Letter to the Editor

As you may be aware, I stepped down from the Highworth May Day event after nine years of organising, and Highworth Town Council have agreed to take on this event. If you are interested in getting involved in anyway, please contact Claire at her email address assistantclerk@highworthtowncouncil.gov.uk

Once again, a big thankyou to the outgoing committee, stallholders and businesses for their support so far, and to Deanne and Claire for taking it on.

Sandra Rendall




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LINK's New Young Journalists

Back in the early summer, we launched a competition to find someone to join our LINK team as a young writer.

The brief was to write, in no more than 300 words, about something relevant to

young people, and we were thrilled to receive one entry in particular from two Southfield Junior School students. Sophie Nolan and Constance Davenport pooled their ideas in a really

entertaining piece, and together they have been selected as our NEW YOUNG JOURNALISTS. Now attending Warneford School, we thought you'd like to meet them. Sophie has also written a beautiful poem for you to read, focusing on Remembrance Sunday.

FACT FILE

AGENT: Sophie
AGE: 11
SIBLINGS: Two annoying sisters
PETS: A dog called Jasper
MOST EXCITING THING I'VE EVER DONE: At PGL, there was an enormous swing that I went on with Constance. She's afraid of heights, but we climbed up anyway. The view from up there was beautiful and everything was dazzling!



FACT FILE

AGENT: Constance
AGE: 11
SIBLINGS: One younger sister
PETS: A cat called Gambit and lots of fish
MOST EXCITING PLACE I'VE BEEN TO: It has to be Belgium. Not just for the chocolate, but because there were lots of amazing things to see walking around Bruges.



Bring Me Back

*As the night drew darker and darker,
 My life grew shorter and shorter,
 In the trenches below which I call home,
 Is longing me back so I don't go,
 But I can't, I may not return,
 My vision that I cannot see has gone dark,
 My family I cannot see are probably on their knees,
 I must wait for their time to come,
 For me to see them again.*

Sophie Nolan

Fairford and District Choral Society Christmas Concert

We will be performing Handel's Messiah at St Mary's Church, Fairford on Saturday 03 December at 7:30pm.

Tickets are £15 and are available from Fairford Optician, 11 High Street, Fairford. Telephone: 01285 713313.

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Trumpet: Stephen Cutting



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News from Eastrop

Well Done Rabbits!

We are very proud of Rabbits Class and Mrs Payne who have been awarded two prizes for their amazing gardening. They had a visit from two judges from the Swindon Allotment and Leisure Gardening Association (SALGA) who inspected all their planting, asked the children questions about what they had grown and the work involved. The judges were dazzled by their responses and knowledge, and they have won the cup for 'Best Entry' and also the prize for 'Best Vegetable Planting'!



Not only have Rabbits made us proud and learned a lot, they have also produced some delicious vegetables for their daily snacks including radishes, lettuce, tomatoes and peas. As part of their entry, they produced a booklet about what they had done which they have now been asked to submit to the Royal Horticultural Society!

Harvest at Eastrop Infant School and Nursery

The Harvest Festival celebrates the time of year when crops have been gathered from the field and people can reflect on the food that they have. It dates

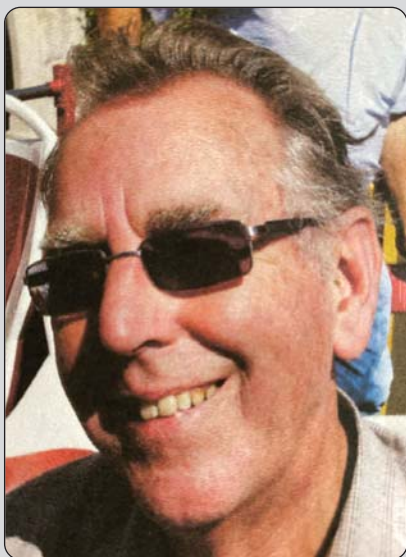
back to Ancient Britain when people relied on local crops for food and farmers would give thanks for a good harvest.

At school, we have been learning about harvest time and collecting food for those in need in our local community. The children have been noticing the changes in the seasons and they have collected the apples from the trees in our school orchard.

On a sunny autumn morning we all walked to St. Michael's church to celebrate together. The children sang songs, recited poems and presented their art work. It was a joyous occasion and wonderful to see our youngest nursery children, aged two, joining in with the more experienced infant school children.

Thank you for the Harvest!

Robert Williams



In Loving Memory of Robert Williams, a dear husband, dad and grandad, who sadly passed away on August 31 2022. Much loved and missed by all.

WANTED

The Highworth Link are always looking for magazine distributors in and around the town.

If you fancy getting out and about each month to distribute the magazine, in a small or larger area as you please, then give Clive a call on 07801 365282 or email clive7045@btinternet.com

OUR REPRESENTATIVES

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Council Offices, 3 Gilberts Lane, Highworth SN6 7FB
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TOWN MAYOR & CHAIRMAN

Julie Murphy, Rosedene, Inglesham SN6 7RA
Mob: 07803 602568 Mob: 07803 602568
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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Alan John Bishop, Sandstone, 37 Fitzgerald Avenue SN6 7JJ
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Fri 11th November 2022
4 Days: From £369
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Festive Cheer in St-Anne's-on-sea Lytham
Sun 4th December 2022
5 Days: From £419
Includes visits to Bowness-on-Windermere, Fleetwood, Southport. Great 'Xmas Xtras' included too!



South Coast for Christmas, Chichester
Fri 23rd December 2022
5 Days: From £629
Includes visits to Southsea or Gunwharf Quay, Bognor Regis! Entertainment every night, Christmas Lunch and many more 'Xmas Xtras' included!



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HIGHWORTH LINK MAGAZINE

1972-2022

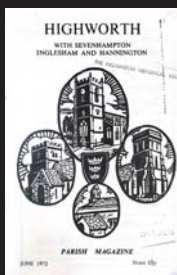
1972 to 2022

LINK Magazine: A Brief History

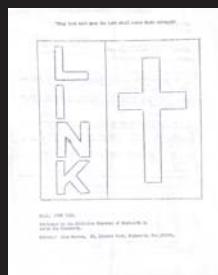
Dating back to the 1920s, the church of St. Michael's and All Angels produced a parish magazine to include Highworth, Sevenhampton, Inglesham and Hannington. By 1972, it was priced 2½ pence (in old money!), and was written with parishioners in mind.



Desktop publishing software was harnessed to produce LINK, and copies were professionally printed, stapled and trimmed.



pre-1972



1972



1982



1992

It contained some advertisements from local businesses which paint the picture of a thriving High Street. Adverts include R & K Wise Ltd. (bakers), and Watts Bros. of Highworth (builders).



Rev. Brian Phillips and curate Rev. Philip Wall worked to establish the first Highworth LINK magazine in June 1972. Edited by Alan Norman and produced by Eddie Meech, LINK was the church's attempt to bridge the perceived gap between the church and the local community. The idea was to produce a copy for every home in Highworth and deliver it free of charge.

By the 1980s, the magazine showed a stronger connection to the community, with details of clubs and societies, as well as continuing to share helpful articles and thoughts to ponder. A diary of local events was also included. Still typed, simple graphics were being included.

Local artist, Geoff Hayes, continued to submit artwork for the issues, and the whole magazine was steered by editor, Geoff Heaford. The number of advertisers had grown to include businesses outside of Highworth itself.

In the year of the Queen's Golden Jubilee, Geoff Heaford remained editor, and the team continued to develop the style and content of the magazine. Some full-colour pages were incorporated into the standard black and white layout.



LINK has reported on hundreds of community stories over the course of the magazine's history, and so many people have been involved. Here we highlight just a few of those events and note some of those people as recorded in the archives. There are so many people who have contributed to LINK's success we could fill pages with their names alone, and we are grateful for each and every one of them.

By this time, editorship and production had changed somewhat. Following on from Geoff Heaford, Adrian Young took the role of editor whilst full-colour production was undertaken by Graham Fry at the Stables Studio, saving the LINK from obscurity. By 2012, Helen Holly was registered as editor, and the magazine rumbled with the ever-controversial issue of changes at St. Michael's church.

LINK can also be found on the internet with its own website, and on Facebook. This social media presence was first established by Sarah Gardiner who worked as editor for around five years.



2002



2012



2022

Tony Brewster headed up advertising and worked tirelessly on distribution for about 15 years. He was known to always carry a copy of LINK, never missing an opportunity to inform visitors and residents alike just how good the magazine was!



From the early days of LINK, Mair Huband, long-time resident of Highworth and journalist for Swindon Advertiser, has been a constant presence, contributing quality articles and obituaries for LINK magazine up to the present day.

The magazine has survived the challenges of Covid-19 and the resulting lockdowns, and distributes around 7000 copies. It continues the solid tradition of bringing community news to the community, supported by a strong volunteer team of contributors and distributors.

Graham Fry continued as the lead in production of LINK until autumn 2022, retiring and handing the reins to Simon French who has also worked on LINK for many years. Debbie Hodgson has overseen advertising for ten years, and Rachael Laing Smith now sits as editor.

LINK

The People

In the very first edition of LINK magazine, 'published by the Christian Churches of Highworth to serve the Community,' editor Alan Norman wrote:

'The background to the production of this magazine is one of dissatisfaction with the extent to which the local churches seem to be in touch with the community of which they are part.'

'Representatives of three churches met and agreed to finance and support the production of a monthly magazine, aimed at interesting the whole community, to be distributed free to every house in Highworth.'

'A tall order?'

'Yes, of course, but the team who have started the ball rolling are confident that it can be done and that the effort will be worthwhile.'

'You can help! In practical ways, such as duplicating, folding and delivering, if you wish but, more important, by reading what is written and responding to it.'

Whilst the magazine was collated, constructed, distributed, and financed by the collective of Highworth churches, it was by no means intended to be a church magazine, but rather a **community** magazine. As it continued apace, the magazine welcomed ever more contributions from the community, including news articles, advertisements, poems, and letters.

LINK, as you see it today, is built upon that 50-year legacy and the hearts of volunteers who believe in this community of Highworth and beyond. And whilst it's unlikely many of us will still be walking this earth should LINK turn 100, it will have been a privilege to have played a small part in something so truly special.

Matt Ford

On behalf of Highworth Churches Together.

'Someone once described the church as 'the only organisation that exists for the benefit of its non-members.' Sadly in my, and probably your, experience that hasn't always been true, and like so much else, the 'church' seems to be after your time, money, and commitment, to help it be successful.

'LINK goes against the grain. It's a 'church initiative for the benefit of the community.' Genuinely, it exists to help your life be a little better, a little more connected, hopefully a little easier, and through this enable you to feel and be a part of something—our town. For 50 years the church has supported and valued this endeavour, joining with others from the community to edit, proofread, chase up articles, make decisions, be on team, receive, sort and, most importantly, deliver this little magazine through your door.

'This intent, to benefit our town and not necessarily ourselves, has fuelled the activities of our joint ventures as Highworth Churches Together for years now. We just genuinely want to help, to give without conditions, and serve you, our precious community.

'Thank you to LINK for showing us the way to be community-centred and not self-centred.'



Adrian Young

Adrian's time with LINK magazine covers quite a crucial time in its history.

'In 2005, it looked like curtains for Highworth LINK. The previous team, led by Geoff Heaford, would admit, I think, that they had reached the end of their road. With no one coming forward to accept the baton, Highworth's long-standing community magazine, sponsored by the churches of Highworth, was on the verge of closure. In fact, the 'final' edition featured *Last Thoughts*, instead of the *First Thoughts*, usually written by a local church leader.

'My neighbour and publishing colleague, Graham Fry, decided that we could not let LINK die, and so we hatched a plot that Graham would pick up the graphic design and layout while I would steer the words as editor. But there was a stumbling block. It seemed inconceivable to a few in the churches that I should become editor. Despite my childhood background in the Catholic faith, I'd developed an agnostic view of religion. It really made no difference to me; all I needed was the publisher's editorial policy. I persuaded the decision makers that the magazine would be in safe hands, albeit with a different, more 'inclusive' flavour.

'In that team, accountant Terry Williams took the reins of finance. We recruited Chris Waterman and Peter Croton to manage distribution in Highworth, while Keith Ratcliffe continued to oversee distribution in the villages, not to mention a veritable army of volunteers who delivered door-to-door. Along the way, Keith Bateman joined the team as proofreader and, finally, Tony Brewster took on the tricky task of selling advertising—the very lifeblood of the business.

'From the outset, the magazine was different, with the first cover photo by local professional photographer, Simon Apps. While retaining *First Thoughts*, I introduced the more secular *Second Thoughts*, and made every effort to inform readers that the new LINK would reflect the views of the wider community—it's a community magazine, after all. I quite enjoyed my five years as LINK editor, and don't remember there being any significant disagreements with the proprietor.

'The magazine was operated entirely by volunteers. It was some years later that Graham and I realised we'd missed a trick by not acquiring the ailing magazine in 2005. By 2009, we'd launched *Ripples*, the community magazine for Fairford, Lechlade and surrounding villages. Eventually, editing the two magazines whilst holding down a freelance writing job became too much. In 2010, I met Helen Holly in the Saturday market. She made my day by agreeing to 'have a go' as editor, and so I passed the email account and editor's red pen to Helen. Graham and I continued to publish *Ripples* until 2021, when the Covid emergency and our yearn to retire took their inevitable toll.

'Long live Highworth LINK—the little humdinger community magazine for Highworth and surrounding villages, for which I still like to write.'

Ha

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month

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help to



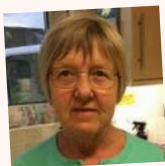
Phyllis Reid

Over the years, Phyllis has featured many times in LINK magazine, largely for her involvement in the Operation Christmas Child project and The Bridge Centre.

'Operation Christmas Child began in 1997 when we sent 200 boxes overseas, and the project grew to become many thousands of boxes over the years. It still continues to this day.

'In 2004, I went to Azerbaijan with the boxes and, following on from this, over £3,900 was raised in Highworth as part of St Michael's Community Harvest Project in the town. This money went towards supporting the ongoing work in one of the orphanages in Azerbaijan.

'The Bridge Centre opened in 2001 and was used largely as an admin office for Highworth Community Church, incorporating the sale of Fairtrade food (which was a relatively new idea) and many youth projects headed up by a full-time youth worker and two full-time volunteers. In 2011, this all changed when we opened up The Bridge Centre every morning as a drop-in centre for the community, where people could get help using computers, photocopying, coffee



and a chat, and a prayer if appropriate. This continues to this day, alongside the work of CAP (Christians Against Poverty) the Help Centre and Food Collective, as well as other ventures.'

Douglas Jacobs

Doug was the editor of LINK magazine for a short period during the 1980s.

'My term was strictly as a stand-in for about ten issues until someone of a more religious inclination became available, as the Canon, who was then the incumbent at St. Michael's, wasn't keen on someone of no faith holding the post. My tenure came about due to a close association with the then Advertising Manager, Ray Jackson, who stressed to me that the magazine was stuck for someone to cover the role.'

Annah Mobbs

Annah is one of our key volunteers, helping to deliver some thousands of copies that are distributed to homes every

with her husband (Andy), and our two boys (Noah, 12, and Isaac, 9), deliver the LINK as a family near where we live.



'Andy's parents have been delivering LINK magazine for decades, so we decided to get involved too. We've been doing it for around three years now and really enjoy delivering the magazine. The boys are also rewarded with pocket money for helping! And, as a bonus, it gets us all out walking together.'

Geoff Heaford

Back in 1997, the year of LINK's 25th anniversary, Geoff Heaford wrote about his time with LINK magazine. Below are extracts from that article.

'I was appointed to the editorship of LINK by the Highworth Interchurch Committee towards the end of 1987, and I suppose my greatest contribution was to move the magazine into the then technological age.

'When I took over, the magazine was typeset on electric typewriters, cut into separate lines, and pasted down to make up the pages. The first suggestion was that we used the Amstrad word processor which was a simple computer, but thanks to the vision of Ray Beck, and with the help of B&D Computing, we purchased one of the first IBM compatible computers—an Apricot Xen-i.

'In those days, there was almost no email and definitely no worldwide web, so everything was written on paper; sometimes nicely typed, sometimes scrawled on scruffy pieces of paper. Everything had to be retyped. This meant dismantling the computer, taking it round to the typist, assembling the computer, waiting a week, disassembling the computer, taking it home, and reassembling it. Looking back, it seemed a miracle that the magazine ever got out.

'Gradually technology improved. We bought an Amstrad portable to take to the typists, and gradually they bought their own computers.

'The biggest change was the coming of email so contributions could be sent directly to the editor. This meant that the typists were gradually phased out. It was then decided to have the magazine professionally printed, and we asked Highworth Press to take on this job. It also meant that we could use photographs on the front cover, and colour, including full colour on the front cover and inside the magazine.

'My time as editor was one that I will always treasure as it brought me into contact with so many people in the community of Highworth. So many people were involved: Ray Beck and Ray Jackson were pillars of support, and the late Les Edwards who, in the later years, used to proofread the magazine and we had many a tussle over my use of English. It is so good to see it continuing and my best wishes go to the present editor [Helen Holly] and contributors for making this one of the best community magazines.'

Clive Hall

'I have lived in Highworth since 1975 (sometimes away due to RAF postings) and had viewed the magazine (or sheet as it was then) with some interest over the years as it gave enough information and viewpoints to keep me and my family looking forward to the next issue.

'I have been involved with LINK for a number of years—sorting, distributing, and general dogsbody work. Within my remit I deliver the magazines to distributors, stepping in at short notice if deliverers have a problem. This allows me to meet newcomers and give advice.

'I enjoy volunteering with this magazine! The blame for my involvement of late (six or more years) is down to Tony Brewster who cajoled me (with Phil Baker) to take it on, from whence I have thoroughly enjoyed the camaraderie with the sorters each month, listening to stories from all ages and areas! If you look at other town magazines, we produce a top quality item which is sent to all areas of the world, keeping those who have moved up-to-date—how many of them actually return like magnets to Highworth?!



'I cannot extol the virtues of the magazine enough, so any problems with distribution feel free to contact me!'

LINK

Through the Years

November

Mr. Cox finished his job as the local lollipop man.

October

Alan Norman writes about the Festival of Highworth. The magazine also publishes a call to Highworth families to house Ugandan refugees.

August

Bill Humphries, Highworth Swimming Pool Superintendent, talks about his hopes that a roof will one day be built over the pool so it can be used all year round. *(Completed in 2015.)*

July

Allan Stanford and Ruth Knight were married in July at St. Michael's Church.

June

First issue of LINK magazine published by St. Michael's Church, supported by Highworth Methodist Church and Highworth Congregational Church. Over 2000 copies were produced and, by 1975, it was being printed at Vickers.

Editor:

Alan Norman

Production:

Eddie Meech

Adverts included:

Highworth Antiques
Watts Bros
M P Kilminster (Barbers)

1972



November

Highworth Catholic Ladies Club hairdressing show and demonstration at The Rec.

October

Rumours that St. Michael's Hall is to be sold refuted by Rev. Phillips.

September

1st Highworth Scout Group Harvest Ceilidh with Tumbledown Dick's Ceilidh Band.

May

Lions Den minibus involved in accident—seriously damaged, but repairable.

February

The Bible Society's new Bible Centre at Westlea Down, Swindon, is opened by international evangelist, Billy Graham.

Editors:

Mike and Gwen Metcalf

Typists:

P Haskins/J Collett/J Bell

Advertising

Ray Jackson

Adverts included:

Kitty Ladieswear
M&L Shaver Services
Millers General Groceries

1982





October

Reopening of Methodist Church following refurbishments.

July

Discussions in progress for installation of skate park.
(Completed in 2022.)

April

Jean Stanley retired as Brown Owl of 1st Highworth Brownie pack.

January

Westgate Nursery opened on Cricklade Road and the Methodist Church redevelopment programme began.

Editor:

Geoff Heaford

Advertising:

Ray Jackson

Distribution:

N. Nutting/Eileen Charles

Adverts included:

Highworth Sports Ltd.
Highworth Shoe Repairs
Stables Studios

September

Rev. Geoff Sowden installed at St. Michael's Church.

August

New church gates on Lechlade Road installed and dedicated to Jack and Peggy Archer.

June

Highworth Junior under-13s won Charles Adam Shield in the Bridges Motor Company Youth Football League Cup.

February

Jamboree Scouts held Valentine's disco raising £800.

January

Commemorative plaque honouring Postmistress Mabel Stranks unveiled by grandson, Elliott Stranks (age 14).

Editor:

Geoff Heaford

Copy Input:

D Rock/M Snell

Distribution:

Eileen Charles/
Keith Ratcliffe

Adverts included:

Fires and Floors
The Fishes Inn
County Dry Cleaners

1992

2002



December

New bell installed at St. Michael's Church.

June

Ray Jackson died. He had been involved with LINK from the mid-1970s until 1997.

May

Dr. John Bestwick cycled 140 miles in one day, from Wokingham to Tynemouth, for Gloucester House.

March

Highworth Library began providing eBooks and downloadable audiobooks.

February

Terry Williams 'lived' on the Podium in a tent, raising awareness about Shelterbox. Over £7000 was raised.

January

St. Michael's Church clock stopped after a violent wind storm. Pigeons moved in and laid eggs on the boxes protecting dial mechanisms.



Editor:

Helen Holly

Production:

Stables Studio

Advertising:

Tony Brewster/
Debbie Hodgson

Adverts included:

Optiplan
Highworth Paving
Sephtons

October

Highworth's CAP (Christians Against Poverty) announced a grand total of over £7000 raised following their sponsored swim in August.

July

Mayor Julie Murphy volunteered with the Highworth Community Speed Watch Team.

June

Former resident, Darren Smith, scooped three medals in the European Transplant and Dialysis Games.

April

Highworth Camera Club relaunched their in-person meetings after two years of meeting online only.

February

Rev. Geoff Sowden retired after 19 years of service as vicar of St. Michael's Church and surrounding villages.

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Rachael Laing Smith

Production:

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2012

2022

CHARITY & FUNDRAISING

Operation Christmas Child

Operation Christmas Child (also known as the Shoe Box Appeal) will soon be upon us. The national campaign is from 14 to 21 November inclusive.

The Highworth collection centre will be based, as usual, at Highworth Methodist Church, 9:30am to 1pm each weekday. On Saturday and Sunday, boxes can be dropped off between 10am and 12 noon.

For those unfamiliar with Operation Christmas Child, shoe boxes are filled with a variety of gifts which are sent to needy children around the world. Last year from the UK alone, nearly 250,000 shoe boxes were sent to 13 countries, and globally about

10 million shoe boxes were sent to over 100 countries. From Highworth, we collected 1780 shoe boxes, which was really amazing, particularly because of the Covid situation last year. We are so grateful to everyone who donated.

If you would like to be involved, fill a shoe box for either a boy or girl

within one of the following age groups: 2 to 4 years, 5 to 9 years, or 10 to 14 years of age. We suggest that each gift-filled box contains a 'wow' item that the child will immediately love as soon as they open the box. Ideas include: a stuffed animal; deflated football and pump; toy truck; doll (baby, Barbie etc.), or musical instruments, depending on the age group.



McAuley on 01793 764385, or at mcauley.peter@gmail.com.

You can also find out more about Operation Christmas Child on their website.

<https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/>

Scouts Christmas Post

Stamps will go on sale at the Lighthouse Bookshop on the High Street on 07 November, costing 35p each. The postbox will also be there, but not until the beginning of December. Full details of the last posting date and so forth will be in the December issue of LINK.

A personal note or photo of you and your family can also be included. Shoe box leaflets, which give full details of the gifts that can be included, are available from the drop-off point.

If you would like more information or would like to be a volunteer, please contact Peter



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Swindon Guide Dogs

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Ofsted, July 2022



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Thursday -13th October. 9.30-10.30am

Saturdays – 15th October, 19th November, 10th December 9.30-10.30am

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CHARITY & FUNDRAISING

News from the Lions Den

Members of the Highworth and District Lions Club were saddened by the death of our beloved Queen Elizabeth II in August, and we held a two minutes silence in her memory at our monthly meeting. We cancelled our planned recruiting event out of respect, but if you would like to find out more about the Lions, please contact us on 0345 833 8931 or visit our website. We are always looking for people to become members or who can commit themselves to working a regular shift in our charity shop.

We will be helping out at the Highworth Fireworks on the 04 November, attending the Remembrance Service, laying a wreath on the 13 November, and having a presence and helping out at the Christmas Lights Ceremony on the 26 November. The two major events for us are the Vouchers for the Elderly Scheme (don't forget the 09 November cut-off date for applying, application form is in October's LINK) and helping Father Christmas during December.

The provisional programme for the sleigh is as follows:

06 and 08 December

Mobile in Highworth

15 December

Mobile in Blunsdon and Abbey Farm area

16 December

Static at the Co-op, Highworth and later mobile in the Tadpole Village and Oakhurst areas

17 December

Static on the Podium, Highworth Market

18 December

Static at the Orbital Centre, North Swindon

Fuller details will be published in the December LINK, in our charity shop, and on social media.

We are resuming our donation of Trauma Teddies to the fire service. We have done this for many years to help comfort children who

have been involved in a fire, accident, or some other traumatic incident.

The Whist Drives at the Council Community Room continue to be popular. These will take place on 02, 16 and 30 November with a Drive before Christmas on the 14 December. They cost £2.50, which includes a cup of tea and a biscuit, plus a raffle.

Donations during September were:

Highworth Town Ladies Football Team: £1060 for replacement kit

Highworth Town Junior Football Team: £614 for a team kit

N.S.P.C.C. Swindon: £500

Rodney Davis,
Highworth and District Lions Club
T: 0345 833 9831
E: highworth@lions105sc.org
W: www.highworthlions.org.uk

To advertise in The Highworth Link contact

advertising@highworthlink.co.uk OR deb.hodgson@tiscali.co.uk



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Halo Leisure

Say hello to Highworth Recreation Centre and to great ways to work out and wind down.

Lots of local people in the community of Highworth are already using Highworth Recreation Centre to get more active more often with a gentle swim to help wind down, an upbeat group exercise to get energised or a session in the gym to help build strength. Enjoy full access to the centre and don't miss out on:

- Fully Equipped Gym
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- Indoor Cycling Studio

You can join for £32.25 a month or at a discounted price of £22 for 12-24 year olds or those on means tested benefits, also enjoy NO joining fee and NO contract when you sign up.

Why not give it a try for yourself? Our FREE 7 Day Guest Pass allows you to trial Halo completely free – with no commitment! Sign up here: www.haloleisure.org.uk/7daypass/

You can find out more here at haloleisure.org.uk/highworth or call the centre and speak with one of our friendly team on 01793 762602.

See our advertisement on page 8



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ARTS & CRAFT

Highworth and District Floral Art Society

You are invited to our 'All I want for Christmas' event, a demonstration by Master Florist Mark Entwistle.

Held at Warneford School on **01 December**, 7:30pm, tickets are available from Michele Cousins on 07798 817249, priced £10 each.

Bourton Club Christmas Craft Fair

Saturday 17 December from 10am till 4pm

Raffle tickets sold on the day to raise money for the Village Hall roof.

Bourton Club Family Skittles Night

Saturday 12 November at 7pm.

Teams of six people or less, £2 per person

Bourton Club, Bishopstone Road, Bourton SN6 8HZ

Christmas at Stanton Country Park

The Every Cloud Christmas Shop will be open **Saturdays and Sundays from 12 November until 11 December**, 10am to 3pm, selling unique gifts and cards.

Create and decorate your own wet-felting picture at a workshop run over two consecutive Saturdays, **05 and 12 November**, 10am to 1pm, at a cost of £35 per person including materials, tuition and light refreshments.

You can bring your own image to work from, although others will be available. Booking is essential. Contact Jeni at jhowell4@virginmedia.com or, for more information, telephone 07779 117676.

Paint a Slate Hanging Heart at a workshop on **12 November**, at either 10am to 12 noon, or 1pm to 3pm. £15 per person includes tuition, materials and light refreshments. Booking can be made at lisaeverycloud@aol.com.



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On the third Wednesday, we meet at Highworth Community Centre

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Joyful About Celebrating 30 Years in the High Street

The supermarkets and filling stations offer an easy answer for someone needing flowers in a hurry. There's not much thought needed – it's a quick fix. But when you really want an arrangement that's unique and with better quality flowers, your logical destination is your local florist, Highworth Flowers.

Started in 1992 by former owner Carol, this year Highworth Flowers celebrates 30 years in the High Street. Now 28 years in the job, Justine Ballamy learned her trade at the age of 15 at Lackham College (a centre for agricultural learning since 1946, now Wiltshire College) near Lacock.

'It's a physical job,' says Justine, 'you have to be very strong.' But surely flowers, you might ask, are not heavy? Yet anyone who's worked in a shop knows you're likely to be on your feet all day. The job includes receiving deliveries, arranging the display, assisting shoppers, individual selection and wrapping, and all the paperwork. At peak seasons, such as Mothers' Day and Christmas, it's all hands to the pumps in 18-hour days. Justine is often assisted by her long-time florist colleague, Jacqueline.

If you're up early, you might see a truck parked in the High Street unloading flowers



Justine Ballamy at Highworth Flowers
Photo: Kevin O'Donaghue, Highworth Camera Club

for Highworth Flowers. Justine explained that the Netherlands is the European gateway for flowers from all over the world. What about local suppliers, I asked. 'Unfortunately, it costs more to produce flowers in the UK.' Evidently a massive investment is needed in heated greenhouses and the Dutch and others are already well established.

Brexit, according to Justine, has not been

kind to the flower industry. There's added paperwork to get a consignment through customs. I was surprised to learn that flowers now need special passports.

Justine does much more than supply flowers to High Street shoppers. Her business extends to internet customers and contract work. She works with event organisers and is part of the Interflora flower delivery network, associated with over 58,000 affiliated flower shops in over 140 countries.

When the pandemic struck, Highworth Flowers closed initially. 'There was no stock with wholesalers and an enormous loss of flowers in production. It took us eight weeks to get back to a sustainable operation,' she says.

Justine says most customers are well informed when they come in to order flowers. Even the lads getting flowers for Mothers' Day and mum's birthday. I admit I had no idea in my 20s and was grateful to understanding florists.

So when you want to say it with flowers, you need look no further for quality, service and value than Highworth Flowers, LINK's November High Street Heroes.

Adrian Young



Highworth Historical Society

Our talk on 23 November is titled 'Markets and Tradesmen of North Wiltshire'. Our speaker, Mike Stone, will be looking at the towns of Highworth and Chippenham.

The grant for the right to hold markets and fairs meant wealth and prestige for a town. Charges were made for stalls and on each animal sold. Highworth was once noted for the size and importance of its cattle market, and the inns and beer houses had good business!

For those new to the town, we meet in St. Michael's Hall, Lechlade Road. The door opens at 7pm for a 7.30pm start. Entry is free for members. Visitors are always welcome with a charge of £3. (This includes tea or coffee.)

If you would like to become a member it costs £12 a year and covers our nine talks.

If you want more information, please contact Christine Suter 01793 764811.

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Swindon Croquet Club



Tony Tomlin presents the trophy to Ann

SCC's Progressive Doubles Tournament was well attended on a glorious, sunny day. Organised by Tony Tomlin, the event involved 16 competitors playing five rounds of croquet games. Players moved between lawns depending on whether they had won or lost so that the doubles pairings changed at every round of games.

Ann Freegard was the worthy winner with Steve Hares being a close runner-up. Ann generously said, 'Thanks very much to my doubles partners for their contributions to my victory.' However, it was her own impressive skill on lightning-fast lawns that secured her winning points score. Everyone thanked Tony for organising such an enjoyable competition. Free taster sessions are always available, with play continuing through the winter months. If you are interested please email us.

Beverly Briggs

E: Swindon.croquet@outlook.com

Wrag Barn Golf Club

A summer of blue skies and sunshine has allowed many people to enjoy their golf at Wrag Barn without the worry of juggling umbrellas or searching for waterproof coats. This wonderful spell of weather has brought its challenges as we found ourselves in the unprecedented situation of having to postpone the first date for the Ladies

Championship due to extreme heat. The Club Championship is open to everyone in all sections and was held over the August Bank Holiday weekend. It was won in fine style by Andres Gomez-Williams with a gross score over two rounds of 144.

The nett competition was won by Gary Williams with a nett 139. Running alongside the 36-hole competition, there were two 18-hole competitions on Saturday and Sunday, and this is a massive shout-out to two of our young players who have only recently been moved to the Junior section from the Cadets. Ittai Sibanda came third on Saturday with a nett 70, and Hamish Ogilvy won the 18-hole competition on Sunday with nett 71.

Congratulations to both players for an awesome performance.



L-R Gill Loughrey, Ellie Webster & Shelia McNeal

Our 36-hole Ladies Championship was won by Gill Loughery, closely followed by Ellie Webster in second place, and Shelia McNeal in third. The nett competition was won by Jane Bale and the 'Daphne Willmetts Bowl' by Di Reeve. Many congratulations to everyone, and thank you to the team of committee members and staff who set up and run these competitions; not forgetting the ball spotters and marshals, without whom the results could be very different!

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W: www.wragbarn.com



Over-50's Champions



Ladies Runners Up

Highworth Town Football Club

HTFC's start to the season in a new league, with a virtually new and young side, is proving a tough one. Early exits in the FA Cup and FA Trophy meant a fragmented fixture list with periods of up to two weeks between games.

At the end of September, a record of four points from five games was just enough to keep out of the bottom four, but with regular games coming results will hopefully pick up. Keep an eye on social media to see what's happening at home at the club.

Derek Lloyd

Highworth Town Walking Football Club

All three teams came away with silverware from the Wiltshire League final matches in September, the Over-50's and Over-60's were crowned league champions, and the Ladies were runners up in their first season in the league.

The Over-60's completed the season with only one defeat and three goals conceded. The Over-50's only lost two games with six goals conceded, whilst the Ladies won 11 of their 20 games – a great result considering it was their first season of competitive football.

This was a magnificent effort by all three teams and a great effort from all the players who have contributed throughout the season; a real credit to Highworth Town WFC.

If you are interested in playing competitive or just social walking football, the men's sessions are held on **Thursdays and Sundays, 11am to 12 noon** and the ladies session on **Sundays, 10am to 11am**, all at Grange Leisure in Stratton, with an additional **Friday** session from **11.30am to 12.30pm** at the Highworth Rec. For more information please contact me.

Graham Seeley

E: highworthwfc@outlook.com

M: 07769 703702



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VILLAGES

Shrivenham Park Golf Club

The ladies who played at Denewood enjoyed their away day. The winning team consisted of Pam, Bran, and Carole, with Carole also winning the singles Stableford competition. On 25 September, the counties of Oxfordshire and Gloucestershire played a junior girls county match at our course. Thanks to a wonderful team effort from the greenkeepers, bar staff, ladies section, plus Dave Bannister and the ladies club county delegate and vice captain. The girls enjoyed a great day, with Gloucestershire coming out with a win. Well played everyone! There were some amazing shots and close match scores.

Carole has had an amazing flourish of good scores this summer, winning the Birdie trophy and the Wright Memorial. The latter reduced her handicap to 22 Handicap Index 21.8 at SP. On this occasion she finished +5 up on the course!

Togs played at Bassett Downs to end the 2022 season.

Social Putting has now been moved for the winter period to run from 10am until 12 noon, and a Love to Move group has been formed as a trial run for October, November and December.



Shrivenham Park Ladies – The lady captain is standing in the centre of the group with her vice captain, Molly (in the cap), to the right



Shrivenham Junior Girls

Junior coaching is available some Saturday mornings. Just turn up at the putting green, 10am until 11:30am, £5 each.

For more details of these events, please contact Carole on 07774 348614 (text preferred).

Shrivenham Cricket News

The last game of the 2022 season was at home to Chippenham 4 on a cloudy day. Our visitors elected to allow us to bat first, and with most of our batsmen contributing we set a target of 185 all out in the 44th over. (Simon Carr 53). Neither team had a scorer so it is difficult to see how the batting compared, but suffice it to say the visitors surpassed our total with 187 for 5 and so they won by five wickets, with both teams utilising six bowlers each.

P	W	L	Tied	Cancelled	Points	Posn
18	9	7	1	1	274	5/10

And so ends another season in the history of Shrivenham Cricket Club in our new Sports Pavilion. We are still in the market for new players.

In further news, a successful curry night was held in the Gulshan after the last match, and there is to be a Players' Dinner at The Carpenters Arms, South Marston, on **Saturday 01 October**, where this year's awards will be presented. A more formal occasion will be held at The Crown, Shrivenham (date to be confirmed).

On **Friday 14 October** it is scheduled to hold the Official Opening of the new Sports Pavilion.

St Leonard Parish Church Stanton Fitzwarren

06 Nov Morning Praise, 9:30am

13 Nov REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY, 10:55am

A short service of remembrance at the war memorial with a minute's silence at 11am, followed by a quiet reflective service in the church building. All are welcome at either or both services.

20 Nov We are welcomed to a Team Service at South Marston, 10am

27 Nov Holy Communion, 9:30am

A choral concert of 16th-20th century acapella music will be performed on **Saturday 12 November**. This will be the first live performance by a group of musicians who sang these pieces remotely during lockdown. Tickets are available from Liz Hillman, 01793 762935, with more details on our website.

The church building will be open on every Wednesday in school term time from 10am until 4pm, or telephone 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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CHURCHES

St. Michael's Church

The Church is open daily for private prayer.

St. Michael's recommends the continued wearing of face coverings in Church with social distancing continuing where possible. Hand sanitiser is located in the South Porch for use on entering and exiting the Church.

Remembrance Services will be held across the parish on **Sunday 13 November** at the following times and locations:

10am, St Leonard Blunsdon

10am, St Michael's Highworth

10.30am, St John the Baptist Hannington

Please see our website for more details of what's on, including **Midweek Church**, **Tuesday Meet Greet Eat**, and our **Monday Toddler Group**.

www.stmichaelshighworth.co.uk

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, 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.

We remember those who we love and miss
Marguerite Thompson
Derek Telling

We welcome in Holy Baptism

Callum Powell
Rose Saunders
Brandon Goodwin

Praying for the roads in the town:

06 Nov Stranks Close and Stroma Way

13 Nov Swanborough and Swindon Road

20 Nov Swindon Street and Turnpike Road

27 Nov Vicarage Lane and Vorda Road

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



27/9/2022

27 September: Happy Birthday Peter.

03/11/2022

03 November: Three years have passed.

We miss you every day. Lindsay, Mark, Ben and Lucy xxxx

26/11/2022

26 November: Maureen Trollope. Treasured memories of Maureen. Forever in our hearts and missed every day.
John, Sara, Paul, Danny, Becky and grandchildren x

30/11/2022

30 November: Elizabeth Shurmer. Thinking of you on your birthday today.
Wishing you were still with us, loved and missed every day.
Alf, 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.

IMPORTANT SUBMISSION UPDATE:

Please note the submission to the Church Office date is changing to ensure floodlighting requests can meet the Link deadline. We now need submissions by the last Friday of the month, 2 months prior as any submissions must be with the Link on the 1st of the previous month with no late submissions now possible. It's hard to get that in writing so please do contact the Church Office on 01793 762702 if you need clarification.

Submission dates for the remainder of 2022 are: **31 October** for December 22 / January 23 joint publication
and **30 November** for February 2023 publication

Highworth Methodist Church

Every Friday (in term time)
9.30-11am

JAM
Jesus & Me Club

For parents, carers and their children under school age.
Toys, crafts, music and snacks

Christmas Bazaar

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12th
9.30am - 12.30pm

Highworth Methodist Church

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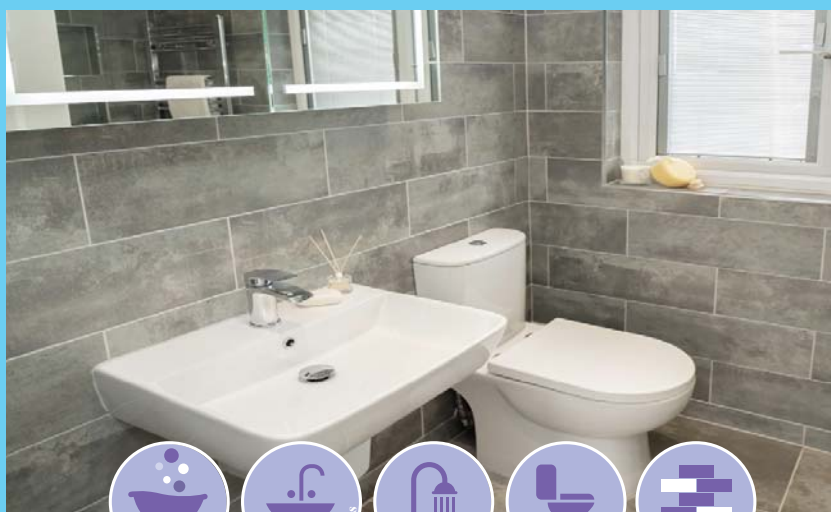


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