

HighworthLINK

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



To be a king and wear a crown is a thing more
glorious to them that find them all in the Link
than it is pleasant to them that bear it.
Elizabeth I on receiving a copy of 'Ye Olde Highworth Link, 1601'

May 2023

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No One is an Island

Have you ever heard the word ubuntu? It is one of the most beautiful and challenging words I have ever encountered. I don't mean ubuntu from the computing world; I mean ubuntu as a way of life. I first heard it from Desmond Tutu, probably around 1983.

Ubuntu has its origins in the Bantu language, and means something like, 'A person is a person through other persons'. It affirms the interconnectedness of all life – I am because you are. And in a world where individualism seems to be all powerful, it is so important to be reminded of our togetherness.

Just think about it for a moment. What would any of us be able to do if we didn't have other people around, people who taught us to speak, or walk? Who would we laugh with, or cry with? Who taught us to read and write? The list can just get longer and longer. As Archbishop Tutu said, 'A solitary human being is a contradiction in terms'.

We are never fully self-sufficient. We need the effort of those who plant the seed, those who

harvest the crop, those who transport the crop, those who transform it into what it will become, those who prepare it, those who sell it and those who cook a meal so we can eat. This is the same with everything, isn't it? And it is also rather Biblical too.

Nobody is able to live a full life without others. You have gifts I don't have, and I have gifts you don't have. And so, coming together, we share for the best of all. As Tutu said, 'Interdependence is the very root of our being'.

Worth a try, don't you think?



Robert H Jordan

Minister, Highworth United Reformed Church

Cover photo by Neil George – A Water Vole beside Bydemill Brook, Pentylands Lane.

LINKmagazine

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

Contributions:

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

Email is preferred; otherwise deliver to The Lighthouse Bookshop.

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

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

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

Deadlines:

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

Welcome from the Editor

I took a walk up to the High Street today and I couldn't help noticing that Highworth is one of the smiliest places I've been to in a long time! No wonder, really, when you think about all we have to smile about. Yet when I left my seaside home in North Norfolk seven years ago, never did I think I could be happy in land-locked Highworth. Still, I am, and I'm glad of it too.

As you flick through this issue and read all the news, you'll see we have more to smile about than perhaps you realise. This month's a good one even if it's only because of bank holidays! I take it you're ready and prepared for the coronation? Flags and streamers at the ready? To add our own smattering of fun to the festivities, the LINK hamsters have hidden a number of crowns like this one throughout the magazine. Get your beady eyes out and let me know how many you spot and on



which pages. Email me at editor@highworthlink.co.uk with your name, age (if you're under 16), number of crowns spotted, and the pages on which you found them. We have a £15 voucher for Weigh It Up for the winner. Just think of the amazing foods, treats, stationery and plants you could spend it on – so why not take part?



The closing date is 31 May so get your skates on!

Lachael

Rotary Club Swimathon

The Rotary Club of Swindon North and Thamesdown is promoting a Charity Swimathon especially for you to raise funds for a club, charity or organisation of your choice

This will take place on **Sunday 18 June**, 10am to 2pm, at Highworth Recreation Centre.

It's a ready-made event for swimmers like you (regardless of age or ability) to use as a fundraiser for a charity or organisation you select. Now is the time to start organising a team and getting each team member to ask their family and friends to sponsor them.

It's easy to enter online and collect sponsorship online too. Everything is on the Swimathon page of our website (www.rotaryswindonnorth.org.uk), including entry forms, sponsorship forms and tips on maximising sponsorship. Entries can be submitted by post or online, and there is no entry fee. Sponsorship can also be organised online.

As well as raising funds for your favourite charities, our Swimathon will also be splashing the cash to SMASH. Based in Pinehurst in Swindon, SMASH has been mentoring local children and young people for over 20 years. It provides safe spaces and practical support for disadvantaged youngsters.

Our 2022 Swimathon raised £6,680 for local charities. We are aiming to SMASH that figure this year. Check out www.smashyouthproject.co.uk for more information.

www.rotaryswindonnorth.org.uk
rotaryswindonnorth@gmail.com
07710 228697

LINK Photo Competition Winners

Thanks so much to all of you who entered our recent photography competition. There's so much talent in Highworth and it was wonderful to see your fabulous work. As promised, the winners have been notified and their beautiful photographs will appear on the front cover of LINK over the next few months.

Without further ado, I'm delighted to tell you the winners are: Neil George; Stacy Woolhouse, and Martin Trehwella. Congratulations to you all!

The cover of this month's issue is presented by Neil George, and pictures a water vole beside Bydemill Brook, Pentylands Lane.

Christian Aid Week: Jen's Story

Jen, a loving mum in Malawi, dreams of her children being able to have the education they deserve. Her hard-working boys have earned places at top colleges, but Jen cannot afford to send them both. 'My heart longs to see our children finish school,' says Jen. 'These dreams are very important to me because, by doing so, I'll be sure that I am creating a good future for my children.'

Her two oldest boys have gained tertiary education places, which is very rare for young people from her rural area. One has a place at a prestigious polytechnic and one at a well-known college. Jen works hard to provide for her children, but soaring costs of food, fuel, fertiliser, school uniforms and school fees are crushing her dreams and keeping her family in poverty. Now Jen has had to make a choice, one no mum should be forced to make. Rising costs mean Jen can pay for only one of her son's college courses. Jen desperately needs to earn more so that her oldest son, Mathews, can study as well.

Jen and her husband have two acres of pigeon peas but are struggling with the effects of the climate crisis. The rainfall is unreliable and there are more storms, flooding and stronger winds. Malawi has been recently hit by a powerful cyclone lasting several days, causing widespread damage. Although the pigeon pea is a tough plant, able to withstand a lot – just like Jen – Jen needs to make the most of her crop by planting good quality seeds to sell the peas for the best price possible and not to unscrupulous middlemen.

During Christian Aid week your gift could help farmers like Jen plant better seeds, secure a fairer price for their crops and build happier futures for their children.



Please give and help this strong and determined mum provide for her family's future.

This is one example of Christian Aid's work to end world poverty.

Christian Aid Week: 14 to 20 May.

Highworth Christian Aid Committee

Charity Coffee Morning at Highworth Methodist Church

There will be a coffee morning and craft sale on Saturday 13 May, 10:30am to 12 noon, at Highworth Methodist Church in honour of Julia Rothemeier (nee Bunting).



Julia lost her life to pancreatic cancer in 2022 at the age of just 56. Her journey since sudden diagnosis in 2021 reflects a disease that is extremely difficult to detect in the early stages and has the lowest survival rate of any common cancer at just 7%. Despite these figures, pancreatic cancer receives only 3% of all cancer research funding.

Julia lived in Highworth from 1975, attending Warneford School until her gift for languages led her to live and work in France, Germany and Switzerland. Her Christian faith, nurtured in Highworth, meant she maintained links with many in the Highworth community and she drew upon it for the strength and courage needed through previous tragedy and in her recent illness.

Sue Hodgson and Elaine Rowe will be undertaking the challenging 177 mile Offa's Dyke national trail walk to raise much needed funds in memory of Julia. (Yes, it is the same Miss Hodgson who may have taught you or your children maths; and Elaine may have taught you to play the flute and to drive – maybe not at the same time!) The coffee morning will be an opportunity to find out more about their challenge and enjoy a drink and some homemade cake whilst adding to our fundraising efforts. If you would kindly consider sponsoring two old ladies, please use the QR code below to take you to the Just Giving page where you can donate. All money raised will go to Julia's fund with Pancreatic Cancer UK.

Our thanks go to Julia's husband Thomas, sons Christian and Domenik, and mother and brother Brenda and Andrew Bunting, for supporting the walk and coffee morning at such a sad time.

COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 13th May

10.30am to 12pm

Highworth Methodist Church



What's Happening in National Trust Coleshill

It's all go at National Trust Coleshill at the moment as we get ready for spring and summer visitors and the launch of our Heritage and Rural Skills Centre. We are being ably assisted by Highworth Community Shed who are now in residence. We are fortunate that the group has settled in and built new bookshelves for our extended secondhand bookshop. Last year over £6000 was raised from bookshop donations and all that goes to support the work at the Buscot and Coleshill Estates. It's great to have a productive and friendly partnership – thanks to all involved.



throughout the year by courses and workshops covering a variety of crafts and skills.

The Centre will also be a place for craftspeople to get together in a supportive and collaborative way in the units we have on site. We have a few available to let so, whether you are a professional craftsman or beginning your journey, come and join us.

And finally...

We've been in league with Visit Highworth to join up the story of the Royal Auxiliary Units and the link between Highworth and Coleshill as a day out, so keep an eye open for more next month.

The Centre will have a public launch on **Saturday 20 May**, with demonstrations and activities for the whole family. This will be followed

Sarah Hannis

Senior Volunteering and Community Officer

Faringdon and District u3a

The u3a May meeting will take place in the Corn Exchange on **Thursday 11 May at 2:30pm**. The speaker is Jeff Evans who will tell the story of 60 years of music on television in this fully illustrated talk called **Pop on the Box**. He will remind us of shows like **Six-Five Special** and **Oh Boy**, and will continue through the decades to **Juke Box Jury** and many more that you might have forgotten. Expect lots of warm memories and more than a few surprises.

Jeff is an acknowledged expert on popular culture and has written numerous books about

television. He is a man of many talents, having appeared on quiz shows, and is on the Mastermind question setting team. His talk is sure to bring back memories of times gone by.

Refreshments for everyone are available after the talk. Visitors are required to pay £1.50.

Please note that all attendees are asked to have had the required number of vaccinations to protect everyone against Covid. However, if you feel unwell, please do not attend the meeting – stay at home!

Highworth Afternoon WI



Our Jubilee Party was a very good gathering. We had a well-prepared meal with Prosecco for the toast. The highlight was the crown design competition with some outstanding creative offerings. We're looking forward to our Coronation party soon to celebrate Charles III's coming to the throne. I think we might need Prosecco for another toast!

We meet on the **first Wednesday of the month at 2.15** in the Town Council Community Room.

Contact Margaret 07843 967260 or Pam 07799136373



Ask AMS

I earn less than £10,000 from self-employment. Do I have to register for anything?

Yes, is the short answer. You certainly must sign up for Self Assessment with HMRC if you earned more than £1,000 through self-employment. Once you register for Self Assessment, you will be given a Unique Taxpayer Reference number as proof that you are a self-employed taxpayer. You may also have to pay National Insurance contribution payments which will go towards state benefits and the state pension that you will receive in future years.

It is possible to be employed in a PAYE job and to also work as a sole trader and, even though you might pay tax through your job (PAYE), you will still need to register the 'trade' for Self Assessment and declare both sets of income to HMRC in a Self Assessment Income Tax Return.

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Forget-Me-Not Café

The March Forget-Me-Not Memory Café saw another great attendance of over 50 people. We were royally entertained by local group The Brewery Street Buskers with a mix of favourites. As is becoming normal now, quite a few were up and dancing between the tables! We will be welcoming Wiltshire Rural Music again at the café on 24 May, starting at 2pm. There will be table activities and, of course, cakes!

Don't forget our Friendship Fridays at the Community Room in Gilberts Lane every Friday between 10am and 12 noon. The third Friday of the month will now be incorporating our Love To Move seated exercise session, so come along for some gentle keep fit with Annamaria.

Our dementia friendly choir is going from strength to strength, with 30 singers in regular attendance. This is in St. Michael's Church at 12:30pm on the second and fourth Fridays of the month. Come along and join in!



Learn, Laugh and Live with Swindon u3a

Do you enjoy music? Do you sing or play an instrument? Or would you like to?

The u3a, University of the Third Age, is an organisation for people no longer in full-time employment that has a variety of interest groups where you can get together with like-minded people, including groups who enjoy making music together.

Perhaps you play the ukulele, or want to learn? If so, you could join one of several ukulele groups.

If you are interested in hand bell ringing you would enjoy Merribells. Helen said, 'I'd never done anything like this before but wanted to try something new. You have to really concentrate whilst you're playing so you can't worry about

anything else! It's a great feeling to play as part of a group.'

The u3a singers meet fortnightly to sing popular songs together. Everyone is welcome and there's plenty of fun to be had along the way. Ken Stimson, the group organiser, said, 'Singing is known to be good for you and it's even better if you can do it in good company. We are not a choir – we just enjoy the pleasure of singing together.'

Folk music is well represented by the folk singing group and by Merrifolk who play folk music together. Or perhaps you are a guitar player and would like to join the guitar group.

If you would rather just listen to music there are groups devoted to classical music, musicals, and jazz. The concertgoers organise trips to concerts in the area throughout the year. The musicals group meet in each other's homes to watch and discuss musicals and also go out to see live performances. The jazz group broadens its knowledge of jazz and its history through CDs, DVDs, discussions, and demonstrations.

For a full list of the music groups, and all the other activities u3a offers, visit www.swindonu3a.org.uk or phone the office on 01793 614629 between 10am and noon on Mondays, Wednesdays or Fridays.

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Southfield Girls Football Team Proud to Represent Swindon Town

Monday 27 February, our girls football team embarked on a journey to Bristol's Imperial Sports Ground to participate in the prestigious Premier League Primary Stars tournament. Chosen as proud representatives of Swindon Town Football Club, the girls had the opportunity to showcase their skills while wearing the iconic Swindon Town football kit.

Throughout the group stages they battled against great opponents such as Swansea, Torquay, Bristol Rovers, and Plymouth. Despite facing tough competition, the girls exhibited exemplary sportsmanship, teamwork and determination, leaving a lasting impression on



everyone. Their inspiring performance earned them recognition for their unwavering ambition and fairness.

The girls were also lucky enough to get a photo with the actual Premier League Trophy.

We want to congratulate all the girls for their hard work and dedication which undoubtedly made the school, along with the Swindon community, proud.

 **Meet Eat Greet**
Monthly, 4th Tuesday
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Eco Tip From Weigh It Up

Lowering your carbon footprint enough to make a difference can seem difficult, impossible even. The good news is something as simple as how you choose to travel can make a big difference. It's easy to assume that longer distance drives are more harmful to the environment, but the opposite is true; it's actually the shorter journeys of under a mile that are the most polluting.



So switch to cycling, roller skating, scooting, or just use your feet for the little journeys and help save the planet one step at a time.



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Exciting Things are Happening at Visit Highworth!



There is something new and exciting happening in Highworth this summer. Visit Highworth has been working hard putting things in place and we are delighted to say our first Art and Literature

Festival will take place this August. There will be events in various venues around the town, including talks from authors, question and answer sessions, a creative writing workshop, story time for children, and we will finish with an evening with Jasper Fforde. We are also working with schools and local groups to make this a real community event. There will be a few surprises too!

The art part will be an art exhibition in St. Michael's Church featuring a variety of artists working in different mediums. There will be no charge for entry, and all works will be available for purchase if something catches your eye.

We are also introducing the Visit Highworth Book

Club. The first meet up will be **Wednesday 17 May**. If you would be interested in taking part please get in touch.

And there's more! Fancy yourself as a writer? Why not enter our Story Writing Competition. All you have to do is write a story in 50 words. Yes, in exactly 50 words. Not 49 words, not 52 words, but exactly 50 words.

The competition will open in June and you will have approximately six weeks to write your fabulous story on a theme to be announced on social media and in the VHL office.

The competition is open to everyone over 16, with prizes for the three best entries decided by a panel of judges. Full details will be available in June.

There is more to be announced soon – watch this space!

*Helen Lacey, Centre Manager
7 High Street, Highworth SN6 7BE
01793 764440 – info@visithighworth.co.uk*

GARAGE SALE!

MAY 13TH & 14TH
10am – 2pm both days

Number 3 and 6 Wakefield Close GL7 4DP
in Kempsford are holding a down-sizing
garage sale.

Sale will include indoor and outdoor items, pots, chairs, coolers,
games, arts and craft stuff, DVD's, frames and so much more.

Thursday Kitchen at St. Michael's Church

Thursday Kitchen was held across 13 weeks, from January to March, in St. Michael's Church. We have loved meeting everyone and getting to know you all. Our thanks to all the wonderful volunteers who have given their time to help make this happen – we really couldn't have done it without you all.

We are grateful to the individuals who have tirelessly cooked each week and to those who have generously donated puddings, and particularly to the Goldfinger Tavern for the weeks they provided a full meal and pudding and gave the team a much deserved rest.

Thanks to all the individuals, organisations and churches who have supported this project financially including: Highworth Lions; Highworth Town Council; the United Reformed Church, and St. Michael's Church.

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My School Trip to Belgium Made Me Stop and Think

Three words to describe my time in Belgium with a group of Year 9 students: interesting, thought-provoking, and fascinating.

Whilst there our tour guide was Mr Twiggs, who has a deep understanding of WWI. If you asked him a question, I would put money on it that he would give you a definite and detailed answer. He was nothing short of a walking encyclopedia.

One of my favourite parts of the whole trip was our visit to Tyne Cot Cemetery which is the largest British military cemetery in the world. It was truly mind-blowing and riveting. The 12,000 men who are named and the 35,000 men who are unknown, all lying there. On Tuesday evening we attended the Last Post at Menin Gate where two buglers played the traditional tribute to honour the memory of all who perished in the First World War.

It truly was a once in a lifetime experience that I will never forget.

Robert Stockdale, Year 9



At Westrop Nursery we follow the curiosity approach, our rooms are calm and neutral, encouraging us to create the 'thinkers & doers' of the future.

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- Children will benefit greatly learning through play and become confident, curious and self-motivated to learn.
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----- If you would like to know more about us or arrange a visit please contact us -----

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Hilliers – 100th Anniversary

2023 marks our 100th anniversary; the first funeral dates back to May 1923 and Hillier Funeral Service has remained a family run company, now in its 4th generation. The company was originally set up by Harold Hillier. After a short time spent working at Great Western Railway he established a building company at The Broadway, Rodbourne Cheney; it was in the days when homes fit for heroes had been promised by the government for the brave souls who had survived the horrors of the war. Harold did his bit and the company grew to a workforce of 60 men who built many houses in the area. But a black cloud lay on the horizon. The depression days arrived and contracts dried up. He turned his hand to funerals and ran both businesses for a time.

Due to the growing town an office was set up in a house in Victoria Road. The workshops, garage and chapel of rest stayed at the Broadway. Coffins were prepared by hand from butts of oak and elm that were delivered to the workshop. There they were sawn and planed by hand and made into coffins. Local artists engraved the name plates. The first motor hearse was bought in 1933, before this funerals were conducted with a hand bier.

Harold's son Michael joined the business in 1944 and took control of the business when Harold retired in 1952. Michael, now aged 96, still takes a keen interest in the business and still conducts the occasional funeral. Michael's son Mark joined the business in 1980, building on the family tradition of providing a professional caring service. He moved the main office from 55 Victoria Road to 170 Victoria Road in 1993,

established our unique Bereavement Care service and extended and modernised the chapels at The Broadway.

In 2014 Rebecca, Mark's daughter, joined the business. Looking at the forever changing funeral industry the business has adapted the ways of working to best suit

the needs of their clients and constantly looks to improve their services. One thing that has remained constant throughout the 100 years is the service we provide to families which has made us a firmly established and integral part of the community. In the last five years we have opened our Highworth branch and moved our head office to Kingshill House in Old Town, as well as making improvements to our website, internal systems, products and the services we offer.

To mark our centenary, we decided to give something back to the people of Swindon. Therefore we will be setting up 'The Hillier Community Fund' which aims to support local charities. More information about this will be available on our website at the end of May.

We are looking forward to serving Swindon and the surrounding areas for the next 100 years.

Highworth Historical Society

With summer hopefully on the way, our May talk should get you out and about.

On **24 May**, Bill King will be speaking on 'A Walk along the Thames Path.' This describes the walk from the source of the Thames towards Oxford. He will tell the story of the early history of the river as a highway and trade route. The natural history to be seen along the way is also covered.

Visitors are always welcome for a charge of £3

payable at the door. We meet in St. Michael's Hall, Lechlade Road, with doors opening at 7pm for a 7:30pm start.

Tea and coffee is available as is a display of various items from our collection. Our published books are on sale and they are also available at the Lighthouse Bookshop, the Library, and Visit Highworth.

If you need further information, please phone Chris on 01793 764811.

Cotswold Farm Gardens

Open Weekend: 3 and 4 June, 2pm to 5pm

Also open by appointment through the year.

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. Highlights in June include colourful herbaceous planting, roses, alpines and a magical bog garden.

£7.50 entrance. Pre-booking is available via the NGS website for the weekend or on site with contactless payment. Children can enter free of charge.

Refreshments are available (in aid of local WI and ARocha), and plants are available to buy.

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01285 821837 – cotswoldfarmgardens.org.uk*

Come and Visit Westrop Nursery

The early years are such a special and important time in your children's lives, and at Westrop Nursery we create special memories during the time your child spends with us. We have a very dedicated and committed Early Years team who strive for the best outcomes for every child.

In our provision we follow the curiosity approach, our rooms are calm and neutral, encouraging us to create the thinkers and doers of the future.

Our open morning on **Saturday 13 May, 10am to 12 noon**, will be a time to explore with your child and see the space your child could be learning in. Meet key staff who will be involved in your child's learning journey and ask any questions.

Please contact us on 01793 762897 to book a visit to Westrop Primary and Nursery School and don't hesitate to get in touch if you cannot attend this open morning but would like to visit.

Dying Matters Awareness Week

Dying Matters Awareness Week takes place this year from 8 to 14 May, led by Hospice UK's Dying Matters campaign. Throughout the week, people across the country will come together to encourage communities to talk about death, dying and grief. The theme of Dying Matters Awareness Week 2023 is 'Dying Matters at Work'.

At Prospect Hospice, there will be an interactive display in the Heart of the Hospice Café which everyone is welcome to contribute to. The display will ask different questions on the topic of death and dying, such as, 'What do you want people to wear to your funeral?', encouraging us all to think and talk about death and helping to break the taboo that surrounds it.

If you would like to get involved or attend any events being held for Dying Matters Awareness Week, you can find more information and a list of events at <https://www.hospiceuk.org/our-campaigns/dying-matters/dying-matters-awareness-week>

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Highworth and District Lions Help CAP

Highworth and District Lions recently approached CAP Highworth asking if they could help with some of the practical needs of people from the area whom CAP are working alongside. They have made available some funds so that where an urgent need is identified through CAP Highworth they can help meet this need.

In the last two months, local families who were in urgent need of a fridge were able to be supplied with one through the kindness of the Lions and the generosity of donors.

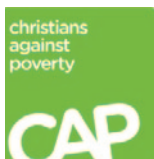
Kathryn Ford, centre manager for CAP Highworth, reports, 'The families were overwhelmed with this kindness from the Lions and are so grateful for a new fridge that works!' She added, 'When people are working hard on their financial situation there is often a tight budget and it can be very difficult to replace a necessary appliance. This opportunity to partner together with the Lions to support our local community is wonderful!'

Norman Little, chair of Highworth and District Lions, said, 'We are always pleased to be able to help people!' If you would like to volunteer with the Lions to help others, they would love to talk to you. Contact them via email on highworth@lions105sc.org.

Along with Norman and Kathryn, the photograph shows Mel Davenport, who volunteers a lot of time to help manage this branch of the Lions both behind the scenes and in fundraising, and David Boyle, who agrees from personal experience how amazing it is to have support like this when you are going



through a difficult time. Since receiving support from CAP himself a number of years ago he volunteers his time with CAP Lifeskills.



If you are worrying about how you are going to manage your debts, please call our CAP freephone helpline on 0800 328 0006 and ask for a home visit. Our friendly team will connect you with a Highworth-based debt coach – Kathryn or Eoli. For more information on see www.capuk.org.

 Is your child 2 or 3 in the next year?
Come to visit Westrop Nursery and reserve your child's place



Saturday 13th May 10am - 12noon

Our learning environment is full of meaningful and mindful spaces that put the child at the centre of every activity.
Children will benefit greatly learning through play and become confident, curious and self-motivated to learn.
Highly qualified staff team with a wealth of experience.
We offer dedicated early years wrap around care.
Government Funding for 2, 3 and 4 year olds.

Contact us to register for our open morning or to organise a visit. Telephone: 01793 762897
Email: nursery@westrop.swindon.sch.uk
Website: www.westropprimaryschool.co.uk

News from Eastrop Infant School and Nursery

On Tuesday 28 March Eastrop Infant School and Nursery, and Southfield Junior School hosted a double celebration – the official opening of both Eastrop Nursery’s new sensory space and The Treehouse, a community hub provided by both Eastrop and Southfield. The ribbon cutting was attended by and conducted by both the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Highworth, followed by a drinks and nibbles reception with invited guests.



variety of hygiene items for us to distribute to a range of our families at Southfield and Eastrop. We would like to thank The Hygiene Bank Swindon and the Vulnerable Assistance Network for their continued support and donations to help our families.

Both Eastrop and Southfield hold an assortment of preloved school uniform items for our families to use. There are many reasons reusing good quality uniform is a positive initiative including:

- It is environmentally friendly.
- It helps families who need uniforms quickly (when they move to the schools).
- It saves families money – children grow so fast!



Mayor and deputy

The new sensory space in Eastrop Nursery will benefit all the Little Acorns who attend each week. Eastrop Nursery welcomes children aged 2 to 4 years old and offers a play-based curriculum. The new sensory area is a calm, yet stimulating, space full of awe and wonder, with lots of opportunities to explore and learn.

The Treehouse is able to offer a number of services to families including a hygiene bank, pre-loved uniform, parental support groups and, in the near future, a parent and toddler group.



Sensory space

Southfield Junior School is a community partner for both The Hygiene Bank Swindon and the Vulnerable Assistance Network, who generously donate a



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We are keen to hear from anyone who has a couple of hours a week to visit us and help.

Our volunteers help out with gardening, cooking, craft and woodwork activities... but please do get in touch whatever your background.

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Highworth Methodist Church

Highworth Methodist Church has been serving the local community in Highworth for almost 200 years. As a church, we want to grow in our love for the Lord Jesus while our mission is to serve the community in Highworth. We believe in both practical action to enable us to fulfil God's purposes.



Sunday Worship

Our Sunday morning service is at 10:30am and is accompanied by our talented music group. It is a blend of contemporary and traditional worship, and includes a variety of speakers to appeal to everyone. Refreshments are served afterwards and there are opportunities for prayer.

Our midweek Communion Service is on the first Tuesday of every month at 2pm.



Café Church

Church with a difference — relaxed and informal. Seated around tables instead of sat in rows, we drink coffee or tea, eat biscuits and enjoy friendly company while exploring faith and big life questions. It is still a service as we sing a few songs, hear a bit of a talk and say some prayers, but there are film clips, discussions, and sometimes a quiz or drama as well.

We meet for Café Church on the first Sunday of every other month at 10:30am. Our next service will be on 4 June.



Coffee Mornings

Every Saturday morning at 10:30am we host our very popular charity coffee morning. Freshly brewed Fairtrade coffee, tea and delicious cakes are served at a very reasonable price. Table tennis is also available throughout the morning.

In the last six months, we have raised over £3500 for various good causes like The Uplands Enterprise Trust, The Angel's Orphanage, Bumps to Babies, Wiltshire Air Ambulance, and many more.

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th prayer and



JaM Club (Jesus and Me)

On Friday mornings in term time, JaM club meets from 9:30am to 11:15am. It has always been a place for parents and carers to relax and for children to play.

There's a wide range of toys, books and puzzles, a weekly themed craft, several ride-on toys and a slide too, with a baby corner for those who are very young. A snack time is followed by story time, finishing with singing nursery rhymes and action songs. The morning flies by with lots of chatter and fun. Everyone's welcome.



3Cs (Coffee, Cake and Chat)

3Cs meets monthly on the second Wednesday of every month from 2:30pm to 4pm for sharing and friendship, and a cake or two! There's companionship, love and care, and a warm welcome.

The singing of old and new hymns and songs reminds us that God loves us and we are never alone. Celebrations of Christmas and Easter are always special times. For the Queen's Platinum Jubilee there was an English classic of fish and chips followed by a red, white, and blue pudding. And 'The Queen' came too! The Coronation this month? That will be celebrated in a special way too.



Craft Group

This is a very friendly group which meets on the first and third Tuesday of each month, from 10am to 1pm.

Bring your knitting, crotchet, sewing, patchwork, quilting etc., or just come along and have a natter and make some new friends.

Tea, coffee and biscuits are always available. Sometimes there are special lunches, such as fish and chips.

Highworth Churches Together

Highworth Methodist Church is part of Highworth Churches Together. We work for Highworth community, providing services such as CAP, the Foodbank (Food Collective), Lent Lunches and Link magazine.



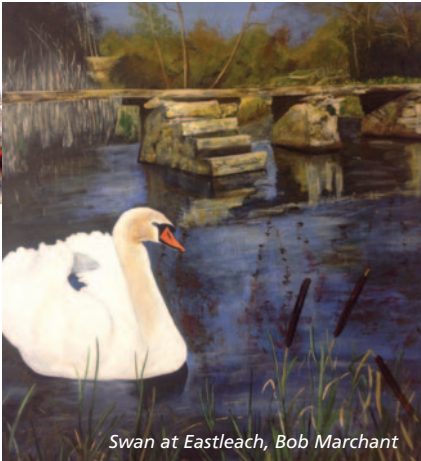
Irises, Barbara Lepojevic

Local Artists Exhibition

Three local artists are holding an exhibition of their paintings in Highworth Council Rooms, Gilbert's Lane, on Saturday 13 May. This is just a one day exhibition and is open from 9am until 1pm. The artists include: John Sirrell, Barbara Lepojevic and Bob Marchant.

Bob says, 'On retiring I tried acrylic paints and haven't stopped since. My paintings are gradually becoming larger in size and I am always on the lookout for a new subject. I have discovered that photos of my paintings make attractive greetings cards and have sold lots of these at local craft fairs and other events.'

Do come along and support these artists if you are able. Admission is free.



Swan at Eastleach, Bob Marchant

Any 50's Sunday

*Sundays, chapel twice a day
To hear old preachers, what they say.
The same old message of Him above
About spirit, evil and of love.*

*Then home for lunch which we all enjoy.
Chicken or beef or pork to savour
Thick Bisto gravy adding flavour
Cooked in the oven fired by coal
Mined by my father down the black hole.*

*Mam's apple tart and cream to complete the feast
Then forty winks by the fire, at least.
My father meanwhile went up to bed
To read News of the World inside his head.*

*6pm and again to Chapel
To hear the Preacher and the usual babble,
Ladies now in their Sunday best
An array of hats that look like nests.*

*8pm and home for supper
A fry-up treat, washed down with a cuppa.
Another Sunday been and gone,
Nothing eventful, nothing wrong,
Eventually it's time for bed, ready for the week ahead.*

John Williams



Wondering, John Sirrelle

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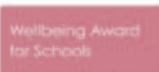


Currently we have spaces in Year 3,5 and 6

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Lechlade Art Society Talk on Liquid Acrylics

LAS member Simon Morriss gave an illustrated talk on liquid acrylics followed by a demonstration after the break for refreshments. It was a very well attended event with an audience of over 35. Simon is an artist based in the Cotswolds. His talk and demonstration focused mainly on a mural which he had been commissioned to produce for Cirencester Baptist followed by a practical demonstration of some of the techniques involved.

The mural was steeped in research based in part on religious mediaeval paintings. This was

updated by Simon to give his work a modern twist incorporating images of landscape linked with figures in a present day setting. After the break, Simon gave a practical demonstration of how he uses linear perspective in his compositions. This was a skilful demonstration drawing much from the expertise which Simon gained from his previous occupation as an architect.

For more details about Simon and his work, see his website: www.simonmorriss.com/

Highworth Artists' Society Painting Taster Day

We had a great session on 11 March with a fun drop-in morning for anyone who wanted to have a go at painting. Not tasting the paints specifically but trying out watercolours or acrylics just for fun! There are definitely some budding artists in Highworth, and we hope to repeat the event again in the future.

Many thanks to the Council who allowed us to use the Council offices, and also to everyone who came along. We enjoyed meeting you!

If you are interested in joining us, please contact us on highworthartistsociety@gmail.com.

Our recent painting theme was Spring Flowers. For more examples, please visit our Facebook page [@highworthartistsociety](https://www.facebook.com/highworthartistsociety).



To advertise in The Highworth Link contact deb.hodgson@tiscali.co.uk or visit www.highworthlink.co.uk

Joy Jones – August 1931 to 11 December 2022

Joy was dearly loved by all who knew her and died peacefully at the age of 91 years.

She had a deep Christian faith and was a committed member of the Methodist Chapel in Blunsdon where, for decades, she played the organ, arranged the flowers, and cleaned and helped with a wide variety of activities including the Sisterhood, Youth Club, Toddler Group and Sunday School.

Joy was a tireless fundraiser, hosting many coffee mornings and afternoon teas. She also knitted blankets for the Prospect Hospice and for the premature baby unit at the Great Western Hospital.

By her own admission, Joy was a worker. She was never happier than when she was busy. She would say, 'Hard work never killed anybody.' She couldn't just sit and relax, even in her most senior years, and she would always be baking, knitting, doing needlework or word searches. In her later years Joy was a much loved and active member of Highworth Methodist Church where, right up until her last days, she used her many talents to continue to raise money for charity.



Joy was known for her kindness, generosity, humility and selfless service. She was a good listener to any moans and groans and was a shoulder to lean on when things didn't go so well. She was always willing to help and support others in any way she could, saying, 'It's far better to be useful than ornamental!'

Her final words, 'I'm tired,' seem so poignant. She has earned her rest.

Her close life-long friend, Beryl Wicker, wrote this poem in memory of Joy. It was read at her funeral on 3 January at Highworth Methodist Church.

What is a Friend?

*A friend is one who is loyal and kind,
Who finds time to listen to what's on your mind.
A friend is a voice at the end of the phone,
Who loves to chat when she's sitting alone.*

*A friend is one with memories to share
Of many years ago,
When we were young and carefree
And the pace of life was slow.*

*A friend is one to take out for a snack
Of our favourite soup and a roll.
A friend is one who bakes a cake
And visits a lonely soul.*

*A friend is one who gave from the heart,
Seeking no reward.
She's now set free from her earthly bonds
And dwells in peace with her Lord.*



**Join Us for
Tea & Cake**
in aid of Prospect Hospice
St Michael's Church Room (Behind the Church)
2nd Wednesday of every month
2.00 - 4.00pm



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News from Highworth and District Lions Club



The grand opening of the Blunsdon Community Shop took place on Saturday 25 March when the shop was officially opened by TV personality Nick Knowles. Crowds of people visited throughout the day and we attended the VIP night the previous evening. We were so pleased to see their fantastic shop and café open and are very proud to have been able to make a £3,000 donation to help them towards their financial goal to open to the community.

Our donations for March were as follows:

- Wiltshire Air Ambulance = £1000
- Lions Club International Brain Tumour Research Month = £250
- Highworth CAP for a fridge/freezer for a family in need = £300
- Highworth Ukrainian family's furniture purchases = £200

We were recently approached to help a local Ukrainian family as they moved into a new home of their own in Highworth. They had previously been living in the town with a host family and were in need of some help with furniture in particular.

We sourced most of the items on the list from our amazingly generous community across Highworth, Blunsdon and Swindon, and we would like to say a huge heartfelt thank you to everyone who donated. The remaining items were purchased, then collected and delivered to the family using the Lions van. Everyone at the Highworth and District Lions wish you all the best in your new home.

We are still looking for volunteers to work in our fantastic newly refurbished charity shop in Highworth. Please get in touch if you could spare a few hours each week as we would love to hear from you.

Melanie Davenport
Highworth and District Lions Club
highworth@lions105c.org

Looking for new interests, new faces and great company during the day

Guest Speakers Luncheon Club

Come to Highworth Afternoon WI

1st Wednesday
of every month @ 2.15pm

The Town Council Community room

Refreshments Celebrations Outings

 **Midweek Church**
Monthly, 3rd Wednesday,
at 11am

Join us in St Michael's Church for a quiet service of Holy Communion

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



Headlines
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Sport Compiled by Jason Daniels

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

Wrag Barn Golf Club

The Captains' Drive In is always a popular competition and this year a full complement of golfers from all the sections assembled in the newly refurbished clubhouse ready for an 8am shotgun start. Our new Captains for 2023 are Club Captain: Ash Green, Ladies Captain: Suzanne Hunt, Seniors Captain: Jack Arkley and Junior Captain: Ollie Webb. Teams of four played their own ball and out of each team, two scores counted on holes 1-6, three on holes 7-12 and all four on 13-18. There were also prizes for nearest the pin on all the par 3's. After the main competition, there followed the nerve-racking prospect of hitting a drive off the 1st tee in front of a large audience, but everyone hit a great drive and a prize was given to the person whose peg was close by. The winning team was: Ian Young, Ivor Whinney, Tim Manners (much to his surprise) and Andy Bright. Second place was won by the team of Vice Captains: Louis McDiarmid, Shaun Judd, Carolyn Murphy and David Brownsell. In the afternoon the Juniors had their own Drive-In competition playing 9 holes on the back 9. Thank you to the team who organised the day, the staff for looking after us and Club Captain Ash Green for giving us delicious sausage rolls at the halfway house. Looking forward to a fabulous year of fun and good golf.

www.wragbarn.com
Verity Manners



L-R Ollie Webb, Suzanne Hunt, Ash Green & Jack Arkley



Skittles winner Colin Brain (left) with Clive Smith

Swindon Croquet Club

Swindon Croquet Club members turned out in force for a 'Quiz and Skittles' evening at Southbrook Inn, organised by Social Secretary Sharon Smith. It was quite a family affair with Sharon's husband Clive being quizmaster and skittles referee; and two of their grandsons, Sam and Jack doing a great job replacing the skittles and returning the balls. Colin Brain won a fiercely contested game of 'Killer' skittles to conclude a hugely enjoyable, fun evening. The Club's lawns reopened at the beginning of April with a busy schedule planned, including social and competitive croquet. Why not give croquet a try? Members are friendly, equipment is provided and tuition is free so, if you're interested, more information can be found on our website. The Club is located on Moredon Sports Complex (opposite Manor Garden Centre) with lots of free parking available.

swindoncroquetclub.org.uk
swindon.croquet@outlook.com
Beverly Briggs

Highworth Town Football Club

By this time the fate of the 1st team will be known. A run of four unbeaten home games in March and April helped them pull away from the one remaining automatic relegation place but with the possibility of two other clubs having to win a play-off fixture to stay up, April would prove to be vital if relegation is to be avoided.

www.pitchero.com/clubs/highworthtown
Derek Lloyd



your first session free if you would like to give it a go. The ladies are also competing in the latest Wiltshire League games, hoping to go one better this year after finishing runners up last year. If you are interested in playing competitive or social walking football, mens sessions are held on **Thursdays and Sundays 11am to 12pm** and ladies **Sundays 10am to 11am**, all at Grange Leisure in Stratton with a **Friday session between 11:30am and 12:30pm** at the Highworth Rec. Contact Graham Seeley for more details.

highworthwfc@outlook.com

07769 703702

Graham Seeley

Parkrun

It's the taking park that counts! Parkrun is a 'free for all' way to get out in the fresh air and get your exercise in. Taking place at 9am every Saturday (weather permitting) it's a great way to start the weekend and it is open to all abilities. Whether you're training for an upcoming race or you want to have a lovely leisurely walk, Parkrun is for you. There are 1167 Parkrun locations across the UK and there are currently two in the Swindon area. One is located in the grounds of Lydiard Park and usually averages around 500 people. If you would rather a less busy route then Seven Fields Parkrun in Penhill is for you. Additionally, if participating isn't your cup of tea, Parkrun are always eager for new volunteers to help out. The role of a volunteer is to mark out the course and advise runners where to go. If you would like to register and find more information you can go to the website.

www.parkrun.org.uk/register/

Josh Fisher



Shrivenham Golf Club

We recently held our Captains' Drive-In Day where ten teams played in a Florida-Texas Scramble to welcome in the new Captains. The previous day had been the 'final medal' competition for both the ladies' and the men's sections. It was a duel between two ladies with Debbie coming in first and Carole in second position. Conditions were far from easy due to so much rain in recent days but there was a four-way tie in the men's 'final medal' for Chris Spicer, Malc Walker; Richard Edmonds and Dave Spicer; Chris came first on countback. Luckily neither event was accompanied by rain but the course was exceptionally tricky due to the muddy conditions! Hopefully by the time this report is read, summer conditions will have returned. In recent months we have been happy to accommodate players from courses in the

Highworth Town Walking Football Club

The Highworth ladies go from strength to strength and five players attended the South West Trials in February. Becky Gammon, Lisa Lane and Clare Goringe for the Over 40's, and Emma Kinderman and Sharon Townsend for the Over 50's, which is a great achievement for the club. We welcome all new players to our recreational sessions on a Sunday morning 10am to 11am with



Lady Captain Molly on the tee, watched by Denise, Jim and Captains of the men's section

surrounding area and from further afield. Thanks for your support and do visit us again, particularly at the Opens that we are holding this year.

Details can be found on Golf Empire and on the Shrivenham website. The best score with combined points of 81 for Club Pair Stableford was achieved by Norman Bugden and Richard Edmonds. Richard Charles won the Seniors March Stableford, realising 43 points and Ryan Moore won the March Stableford also on 43 points.

*M: 07774 348614
Carole Lee*

Highworth Running Club

With the flood water cancelling a number of other races on the same day, HRC's annual 5 mile race was fortunate that it didn't suffer the same fate; there must be some advantages to the undulating nature of the course! With a field slightly down on numbers compared to last year, the quality though was more than a match.

Halo Swim School

at Highworth Recreation Centre

Keep your little ones swimming and learning a valuable life skill by signing them up to our Halo learn to swim programme.

Group Swimming Lessons: Children can learn to swim within a friendly instructor lead group session. Lessons take place Monday-Saturday.

One to One Private Swimming Lessons: These lessons either follow the Swim England national plan or they may just be to work on specific areas of weakness for a short period.

All of our lessons are 30 minute sessions and run weekly all year around (apart from two week break at Christmas). Our Halo Swim School lessons are taken by approved Swim England qualified teachers.

www.haloleisure.org.uk

Find out more
Call us on **01793 762602**



L-R Emma, Wendy & Lillie

Mike Towler, representing Avon Valley Runners, led the pack home in a time of 26 minutes and 56 seconds, a staggering time given the wind was reportedly against the runners for the outward leg. Runner up Nathan Austin crossed the finish line less than two

minutes later and could be heard asking the winner what he'd had for breakfast! I think whatever his answer was, he'd had three of them. To round off the podium Sebastian Garrigues, a late entry that headed to Highworth on the back of his targeted race being cancelled, finished close behind. The ladies boasted a field of equal quality with Swindon Harrier Emma Hines winning in exactly 32 minutes. Emma was followed home by former multiple winner Wendy Nicholls in 33 minutes and 27 seconds ahead of Lillie Bellamy. In the male age related categories Sebastian also scooped the Over 40's prize with Gary O'Brien the Over 50's and Michael Bagot the Over 60's. As part of Gary's London Marathon training he ran to the race as well; from Swindon! In the female age related categories Katie Webster was first to finish in the Over 35's race, as was overall winner Emma in the Over 45's with Claire Pringle winning the Over 55's. The club would like to thank all those that came out and supported our event, whether running, cheering or eating the home made cake. The full results can be found on the club's website along with all its training sessions for those already thinking about next year!

W: highworthrunningclub.co.uk

Jason Daniels

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Highworth Bowls Club

The new season got underway at Highworth Bowls Club on 15 April, when members gathered to 'Open the Green' for the 2023 season. Highworth Bowls Club have teams playing in the



Highworth Ladies collecting a Swindon & District team trophy

Swindon & District Ladies' and Men's leagues and the Wiltshire League where they play teams from as far afield as Salisbury and Bradford on Avon. Many members play in national competitions and we currently have several lady members who hold County titles. As well as the competitive matches there is a lively social bowls scene with club events and friendlies against other Wiltshire and Gloucestershire clubs.

We are very grateful to receive sponsorship support from local companies Richard James Estate Agents, Franklin Memorials, Hillier Funeral Service, Andrews Quality Meats Ltd and A-Plan Insurance.

If you would like to give bowls a try please visit our website for more information or come along to our next Open Day on **Saturday 27 May**.

www.highworthbowlsclub.org

Christopher Davis

Fairford and Lechlade Business Club Awards 2023

On 18 March, the annual award ceremony of the Fairford and Lechlade Business Club took place at Wrag Barn in Highworth. Congratulations to all the winners and finalists.

The results are as follows:

Student of the Year: Kai De'Witt
(Award Sponsor: Cotswold Boat Hire)

Finalists Runners Up: Joe Warrington, Joseph Sayer, and Eva Fairclough

New Business Winner: All in the Country (Award Sponsor: Hersom Whittaker)

New Business Runner Up: SB Sports Massage

Innovative Business Winner: Cotswold Boat Hire
(Award Sponsor: Hersom Whittaker)

Innovative Business Runner Up: Team Doctor

Business Person of the Year Winner: Sam Bird of SB Sports Massage (Award Sponsor: TA Reed)

Business Person of the Year Runners Up: Alex Mullins of ADM Fitness; Lizzie Skinner of Beanology, and John Watson of The Conditioning Club

Business of the Year Winner: New Wave Brasserie
(Award Sponsor: DentArtWork Dental Practice)

Business of the Year Runners Up: Team Doctor, and The Number Crunchers

The Bob Warren Hospitality Award Winner: Blake's Kitchen, Clanfield

The Bob Warren Hospitality Award Runners Up: 7A Coffee Shop Fairford, and The Riverside, Lechlade-on-Thames

The Howard Dowler Award for Services to the Community: Claire Anello of Stargazey Workshops (Award Sponsor: Neil Dowler of Fairford Roof Tiles)

A huge thank you to our award sponsors and to our headline sponsor, McGills Chartered Accountants. Also to Nightjar who provided the music for the evening, Blue and Boheme for floral displays, and Allison Murray for artwork. Wrag Barn sponsored our drinks reception and was also a fantastic host venue for our event.



Additional thanks to all who entered and attended, and those who provided raffle prizes.

Thank you to Alan Parsloe Photography, the steering group for helping to organise, and Georgia Wheeler for her assistance.

The Fairford and Lechlade Business Club is an independent organisation run by a team of volunteers elected by the members. New volunteers are welcome.

Our May event is a guided walking tour of Highworth, hosted by Visit Highworth. Bookings can be made via our website www.flbc.org.uk/flbcevents/

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Lechlade

Lechlade Gardening Club

On **Wednesday 12 April**, returning speaker Roger Umpelby is speaking to us about 'What and How to Grow to Make the Most of Your Plot'. Roger Umpelby is a consultant entomologist of over 40 years experience advising the horticultural sector.

Our subject on **Wednesday 10 May** is 'Wild Orchids and Conservation in your Garden' and is brought to us by Dr Wilson Wall, Director of Bewdley Orchids – provider of native British orchids for individuals and groups to grow in their garden or meadow.

Our usual meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm in the New Memorial Hall Lechlade where there is ample parking. Membership is £5 per person per annum, after which it is £2 to attend each meeting, or £3 for visitors, who are always most welcome. Membership also entitles you to 10% off plants at Burford and Bampton Garden Centres if plants are not already discounted. Current membership cards have to be shown at the checkouts.

For further information please contact 01367 253309 or 252286 or any member of the committee.

Shrivenham

Junior golf coaching at Shrivenham Park Golf Club will take place on **13 and 27 May, 10 to 11am**. This will be followed by 9 holes in the afternoon. If you are interested in attending, contact the Club or Carole Lee directly on 07774 348614. Social Putting is available on the putting green at £5 per player. Please attend wearing suitable clothing and flat-soled shoes.

Parkies Pals continues to meet on the first Monday of the month, except Bank Holidays, and Love to Move meets every other Wednesday.

There's something for everyone.

www.shrivenhampark.co.uk - 01793 783853

South Marston

South Marston Gardening Club

Monday 8 May, 7:30 to 9:30pm, sees speakers Pete and Bob Biggs come and talk to us about Early Summer Colour. Pete and Bob are local to Wanborough and run Wanborough Herb Nurseries. They are experts at growing herbs, know all about them, and have visited us a few times and talked on various themes. They will bring with them lots of flowering plants which will be handed around and all the plants will be on sale at the end of the evening.

£3 entry fee on the door or join the Gardening Club for £12 (annual membership). Refreshments are included with an optional raffle. A warm welcome awaits you.

We are holding our plant sale on **Monday 5 June, 7:30 to 8:30pm**. Annuals, fruit plants, hanging baskets, herbs, house plants, perennials, shrubs and vegetable plants will be available, as well as plants for your house, garden and allotment, all reasonably priced. Pop along and enjoy chatting with Gardening Club members for advice on growing and much more.

Refreshments and homemade cakes will also be available. Cash only please.

Both events held at South Marston Village Hall

Parking: Old Vicarage Lane, next to the school.

For more information, visit our Facebook page @southmarstongardeningclub or contact Angela on: 07789 068340.



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May 13 and 14

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Sunday, 11am to 3pm

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YOUNG JOURNALISTS

Nearly Summer

Summer is a brilliant time of year, and nothing is better than the summer holidays where you get a full six weeks of fun at beaches, playing in swimming pools, and going to many different parks.

Spring has been great too, as in March I went to a panel grading (a special martial art test which is three hours long) to get my Red Belt, around two away from Black Belt, and I passed! I now have a lovely red belt. I had so much fun practising my punches and kicks. And hopefully, in a year, I will try and get my Deputy Black Belt.

Happy Summer's Eve, and see you all next month
Highworth LINK!

Constance Davenport

Comment from Editor: Well done, on earning your Red Belt, you superstar!



What is May?

In May this year, there are lots of things happening: the King's coronation; three bank holidays, and May Day.

Did you know that May is named after a Greek goddess of war called Maia? May is the end of spring, and that means summer is here soon! And 3 May is World Laughter Day, I never knew that, did you? Also, 4 May is Star Wars Day. May the fourth be with you!

Sophie Nolan

THREE FACTS ABOUT THE KING

1. King Charles III was born at 9:14pm in November 1948.
2. From 1967 to 1970 he studied history at Cambridge University.
3. He became the first member of the Royal Family to earn a degree.

Can you use the code sheet to unlock the message?

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M

14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

The message is: (1-12-12) (8-1-9-12) (20-8-5) (11-9-14-7)



**Highworth Celebrates
The King's Coronation
Saturday 6th May 10am to 4pm
The Recreation Ground**

The King's Coronation displayed live
Falconry Display
Ferret Racing
Petting Farm
Dancers

Inflatable Assault Course
Inflatable Dinosaur 3D Castle with slide
Air Cadets Simulator
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Potatoes/Cakes/Sweets)
Licensed Bar
Fun Fair
Face Painting
and more....

We hope you can join us in celebrating this historic occasion, check our website & social media pages for more details nearer the date



HIGHWORTH UPCOMING EVENTS 2023

**KING'S
CORONATION** **MAY 06** 

NOV 03 **HIGHWORTH
FIREWORKS** 

**REMEMBRANCE
SERVICE** **NOV 12** 

NOV 25 **CHRISTMAS
EVENT / LIGHT
SWITCH ON** 

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Due to the Council elections in April the Mayor's article will follow after the elections

HIGHWORTH TOWN COUNCILLORS

TOWN MAYOR & CHAIRMAN

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

DEPUTY MAYOR & VICE-CHAIRMAN

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Kim Barber, Stable House, Eastrop, Highworth SN6 7AT
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Julia Hazel Bishop, Sandstone, 37 Fitzgerald Avenue SN6 7JJ
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nick.gardiner@highworthtowncouncil.gov.uk

Paul Newton-Smith, 41 The Dormers SN6 7NZ
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simon.wolfensohn@highworthtowncouncil.gov.uk

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Vijay Manro, 38 The Dormers, SN6 7NZ
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Steve Weisinger, 8 Barra Close, SN6 7HX
01793 764668 Mob: 07791 122843
sweisinger@swindon.gov.uk

Council Offices, 3 Gilberts Lane, Highworth SN6 7FB
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EVERY CLOUD



Paint a Terracotta Flowerpot



Images taken from Pinterest for ideas only.

Join our small, friendly workshop to create your own painted terracotta flowerpot to take home. I can guide you through a design or you can create one of your own.

Saturday 20th May

10am-12pm or 1pm-3pm

£20 per person includes tuition, all materials and light refreshments.

Enquires/Booking:

lisaeverycloud@aol.com

If you wish your flowerpot to be sealed you will need to collect it a week later.

**Every Sunday
10:30am
Warnford School
SN6 7BZ**

**We'd be very
PLEASED
TO SEE
YOU.**



Highworth Community Church



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



25/04/23

Frank Dean, on this 18th anniversary.

Miss you more each day.

Love Jean, Beverley, Sharon and families

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 date: **28 April for the June 2023 publication.**

St. Michael's Church

The Church is open daily for private prayer.

The **10:15am Sunday Service** is held in Church and streamed live and can be found at www.twitch.tv/stmichaelshighworth or on YouTube by searching St Michaels Church Highworth.

Other services include **Holy Communion** on the first Sunday of each month at 8:45am and **The 3 (Family Service)** on the third Sunday of the month at 3pm.

Tuesday Prayers are held every Tuesday morning at 9:30am and **Friday Blessings** are held every Friday morning at 9:15am. **Prayer Hour** is held in the Church Room on the second Monday of the month at 8pm, with the **Online Prayer Hour**, on the fourth Monday of the month, being available through Zoom via the email link obtained from the church office.

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.

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

We remember those who love and miss

Rina Fitchett
Adeline Shaw
Terence Smith
James Gordon Banks

We congratulate on their Marriage

Jemma Storey and George Leigh-Wood

Praying for the roads in the town

7 May The Green and Grove Hill
14 May Grove Orchard and Hammond Close (includes Cobbett Court and Styles Court)
21 May Hampton and Hanover House
28 May Highworth's schools (for all who work or attend)
Blackworth Industrial Estate (for all who work there)



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- Sunday 7 May Morning Praise, 9:30am
 Sunday 14 May Family Service, 11am
 Sunday 21 May Team Service at St Margaret's
 Stratton, 11am
 Sunday 28 May Holy Communion, 9:30am

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

To advertise in The Highworth Link contact

deb.hodgson@tiscali.co.uk
 or visit www.highworthlink.co.uk



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NHS

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Electricity

Water

Pest Control

Emergency

Non-Emergency

Non-Emergency

Emergency

Emergency

Emergency

Non-Emergency

999

101

111

0800 111999

105

0800 3169 800

07789 781151

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Thamesdown Transport	01793 428400
Dial-a-Ride	01793 616050
Community Transport	01793 617828
Traveline	0871 200 2233

COLLEGES

Cirencester College	01285 640994
New College	0808 172 4445
Swindon College	01793 491591

LAW & ORDER

Crimestoppers	0800 555111
Victim Supportline	0808 16 89 111
Action Fraud	0300 123 2030

COUNCILS

Highworth Town Council	01793 762377
Swindon Boro. Council	01793 463000
Streetsmart	01793 445501

FIRE SAFETY

Home fire safety check	0800 389 7849
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DOCTORS AND HOSPITALS

Highworth Surgery	01793 762218
Elm Tree Surgery, (Shrivenham)	01793 782207
Great Western Hospital	01793 604020

LIBRARY

Highworth Library	01793 463500
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RECREATION

Highworth Rec	01793 762602
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Home Farm Pharmacy	01793 861392
Jones Graham Pharmacy (Shrivenham)	01793 783336

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Westrop Nursery	01793 762897
Westgate Nursery	
School & Crèche	01793 861268
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Southfield Junior	01793 762210
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Great Western Railways	03457 000125
Disabled and assisted travel	08001 971329

OTHER SERVICES

Citizens Advice Bureau	08444 994114
Trading Standards (business)	0207 830 6000
Trading Standards (consumers)	03454 04 05 06
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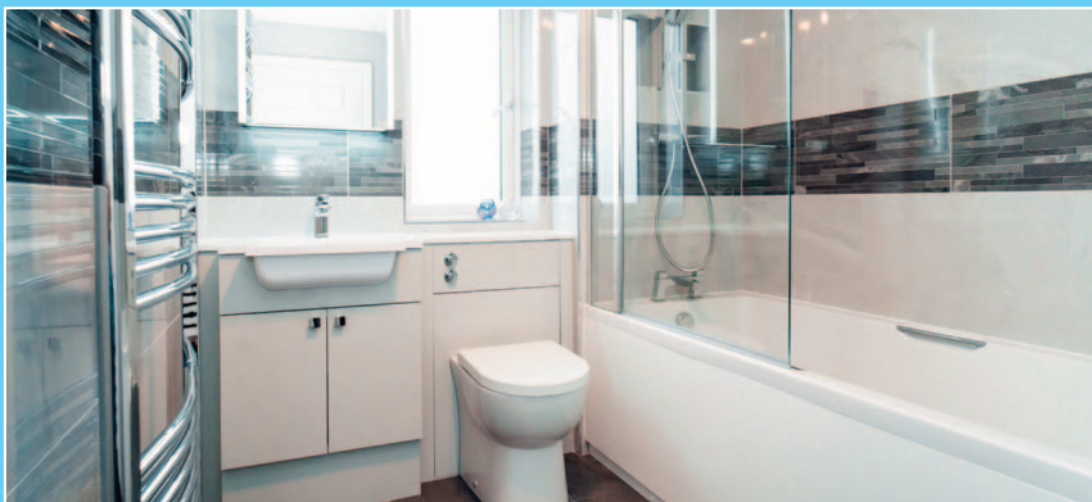


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