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Welcome from the Editor

As I trudged my way along Pentylands Lane I was cross. I'd not slept well the night before and then I'd woken so early not even the birds were announcing the day. One of my cats had been sick in the night so I had to clean that up before I could have a coffee. And then I remembered a meeting I needed to attend that I'd previously forgotten about.

No Sleep + Cat Vomit + Meeting (I was wanting to avoid) = The Highworth Grump!

Ever had a day like that?

Some time ago I learned that gratitude and a bad mood can't exist at the same time. When you focus on being grateful you shift your thoughts away from negative emotions and uncomfortable sensations. Instead, you begin to focus on good things that you may have overlooked.

On my walk down Pentylands Lane several robins popped out to say hello; I'm always grateful for their cheery company on my walk. Then the scurrying of a squirrel through the branches of the ancient oak tree caught my attention. Its acrobatics actually made me

chuckle; I was grateful for the opportunity to laugh. As I turned the corner I was surprised to see how the hedgerow was ready to burst into leaf, already anticipating springtime; gratitude. By the time I got to the farm I was in a much better frame of mind simply because I was choosing to focus on the good and be grateful for it.

Whatever your life circumstances there are always things, no matter how small, for which you can be grateful. I recently saw a post on Facebook in which the author said how grateful they are to live in Highworth. A town that has so much to offer, such beauty in nature and such kindness in people. Look around you and practice gratitude, even for the small things.



Rachael

LENT LUNCHES

Organised by the Churches of Highworth

Every Wednesday during Lent

14, 21, 28 February
6, 13, 20, 27 March

at St Michael's Church
12 noon until 1.30 pm



Choice of Soup
Bread - Cheese
Biscuits -
tea/coffee

You donate what you will

This year, the charity is Open Doors, which supports persecuted Christians worldwide

The last week will be for Christian Aid



Front Cover image: Keith Davidson Photography

I Love it When a Plan Comes Together

So declared a smiling Hannibal Smith, cigar poking through his satisfied grin, at the culmination of another unlikely victory in my beloved '80's show, the A Team.

And we love it as well. Except when they don't. I am writing this on holiday in North Devon. After a very demanding, full and fruitful January we wisely had planned a retreat. The heritage coast knocking on our doorstep, a country club hidden away in the trees, a river meters from our balcony. Five days to reflect, walk, eat great food, read and be envisioned for the rest of the year. Perfect, except I came down with 'flu on day one and my retreat has been a bedridden drain of endless sneezing, medication, attempts at sleep, and battling to keep my temperature down.

Plans, as you and I have both found, don't always come together.

The Bible reveals a God who cares, who carries us, who works through the mess and is intimately involved in

our lives, if we let Him. My faith has and continues to teach me 'Let go, and let God.' Letting go when life goes awry means the burdens of frustration, disappointment and the anxiety that always lies in wait can be handed over to a God who is so much stronger. Letting God position me in supernatural trust – trust that I'll find the strength, inspiration and peace needed to navigate the year ahead. A trust through which I experience the greater purpose of life, not to achieve, but to know. To know my Creator.

I can love it even when a plan doesn't come together.



*Matt Ford
Highworth Community Church*

Goodbye to Lighthouse

The Lighthouse Bookshop closed on 31 January where Val and Malcolm Swift had been the managers since 2000. Lots of friends gathered to mark the closure of the bookshop and Val and Malcolm's retirement, and they received lots of cards and gifts including a special painting of a lighthouse to bring back memories of being the Light on the High Street.



There will be a Thanksgiving Service for the Lighthouse Bookshop on **Thursday 11 April**, 7pm, at St Michael's Church. Everyone is welcome.

Come and Sing!

Highworth Choral Society will be holding a Come and Sing event on **Saturday 16 March** from 10am until 4:30pm in St. Michael's Church. We will be singing Ola Geilo's 'Sunrise Mass' (which will be the main work in our concert on 18 May at 7:30pm), led by our MD Jen Bamford.

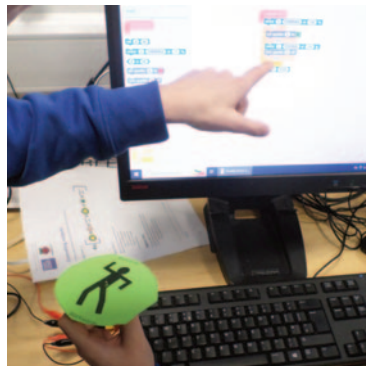
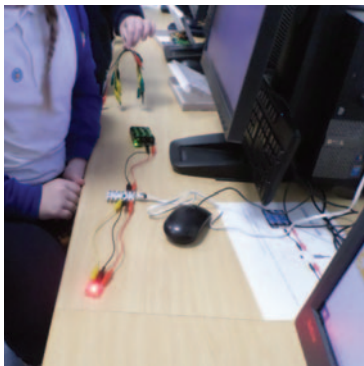
Registration is £20 (£10 for members and students) and forms with full information are available from Visit Highworth or downloadable from our website's Concerts and Events page. Music can be bought or hired. Tea, coffee and cake will be provided but you will need to bring a packed lunch. Email us for more information.

We would love to see you if you can join us for the day.

*Contact Rosemary
hcs.wshop24@gmail.com
highworthchoral.co.uk*

Is Coding the Future of the World?

We certainly think so at Southfield Junior School. This term we are using different types of programming across the school. Year 3/4 are currently using a text-based language in Logo to draw shapes and designs on screen. Year 5 are using Crumble Controllers – block-based code with a micro-controller connected to sparkles and motors to create amazing outputs, and Year 6 are creating games using variables in Scratch, another block-based code.



Coding is an essential skill for the future of our children because it is an important part of the fast-moving digital transformation.

The number of jobs that require coding skills will grow year on year as most services and products are being

digitised. Many jobs in the past have already been replaced with advances in technology.

If you would like to help your child at home, this website gives you lots of tips, ideas and projects to use together: <https://teachyourkidscode.com/how-important-is-coding-for-the-future/>

Go on, have a go. You never know where it might take you!



Highworth Community Larder Celebrates First Anniversary

Highworth Community Larder opened on 31 January 2023, so we are now officially one year old! We held a small celebration at Westrop School on 1 February to thank all our volunteers and supporters. It was a most enjoyable evening. Keith Smith, Mayor of Highworth, gave a speech recognising the hard work of the volunteers and the generosity of the donors, before cutting our anniversary cake.

It has been a very successful year. We have saved 8,944 kg of surplus food from being sent to landfill and passed it on to local people free of charge. We have also had an Environmental Health Inspection and received a 5-star rating.

If you haven't visited us yet, do drop in. We are open from 8am to 11am **every Tuesday morning** at Westrop School.

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Westrop Primary School Visits Parliament

On 10 January, Year 6 members of Westrop's school council took part in an incredible opportunity to visit the Houses of Parliament. After travelling down to London and looking out for landmarks, we were given a tour of Parliament which included getting to watch a live debate in the Houses of Commons. The children really enjoyed seeing some of the MPs in action and learning about the bobbing action that takes place if they want to speak.

After our fascinating tour, we had a 'People's Parliament' where we debated our views on everything from eating vegetables to children running the world! During this workshop, we were surprised by our local MP, Justin Tomlinson, who was in Parliament at the time and stopped by to answer all of our questions about government, life as an MP and how to use our voice about issues that concern us. We are very grateful that he paid us a visit and it really allowed the children to be able to put a face to the different roles within government.

Here are some quotes from the children about their experience:

'I enjoyed seeing Westminster Hall and all its ancestry like



Henry VIII playing tennis. It was also great to see all the engravings from the previous kings and queens at the front.'

'I loved the House of Commons where we saw them debate about the financial bill and the best bit was that it was a real discussion.'

'I like that we met our MP and we saw the House of Commons on the tour! I learnt lots of really cool things.'

The children were an absolute credit to Westrop throughout the entire trip. They listened carefully to the guides, asked thoughtful questions of our MP, and we could not be prouder of them.

Highworth Historical Society Open Day

On Saturday 16 March, from 10am to 4pm, we will be holding our ever-popular Open Day.

Many of our items have been donated but some have been seen and bought at auction. Our old documents have to be stored using the correct wrappings and these are expensive. There are some new items in our farming display. Some have been donated by a local farmer and some have been found in strange places. These items are outdoors so we hope for a dry day.

For younger children there will be a mock-up of an archaeological dig. This will show how these are carried out and children can have a go at digging for archaeological treasures. There will also be a display of Roman and other early Highworth finds.

As mentioned in February's edition of the Highworth LINK magazine, our display follows the title of our latest book, 'Highworth through Time'.

If you have items that you would like identified please bring them along. As usual our publications

will be on sale. Admission is free but donations are always welcome

We are looking forward to meeting and talking to you.



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Bumps to Babies Christmas Party

It seems an age ago now but, on 11 December 2023, Bumps to Babies held their Christmas party for mums, dads and babies in St. Michael's Church.

Music for the event was provided by Lara Rawlings, entrancing everyone with her magical flute playing and adorning us with carols and other seasonal music. In one of their last catering events, TT Linnets provided a sumptuous buffet which was enjoyed by all. (They will be sadly missed!) The traditional visit from Father Christmas rounded off the event with presents for all the babies. Many thanks to Roger Guy for 'organising' this.

Bumps to Babies is a well-established group based in Highworth for expectant mums from their third trimester and with babies up to the age of 12 months. We meet during school term time on **Wednesday mornings from 9:30am to 11:30am** in the Highworth Community



Centre. If you would like to find out more or join us, please visit our website and complete the contact form.

Jan Davidson

www.bumpstobabies.club

Highworth Climate Talks

Net Zero – Busting the myths

Will Net Zero be too costly and throw us into poverty? Is it a conspiracy carefully crafted by shady powerful billionaires? Is it even a viable aim? Or is all the effort a waste of time and energy?

Our young people are rightly concerned about their future. They can already see major environmental changes such as the loss of wildlife. They worry that the possibility of a normal life is fading as they experience more and more extremes in the weather. Will they enjoy a peaceful retirement in a beautiful environment like we have today?

The future of the Net Zero project lies in the hands of

the current generation of adults – of how businesses operate and in the decisions of governments at all levels. Will they make decisions that guarantee a liveable future for our young people?

In the next in the series of Highworth Climate Talks, John Ranford will take an illustrated deep-dive into the facts behind Net Zero and what it means for us and our children.

All are welcome at this event which will include discussion and refreshments. It's free and will take place from 7:30pm to 9pm on **Thursday 21 March** at Highworth Methodist Hall, Vicarage Lane, SN7 7AD.

John Ranford

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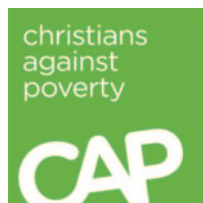
Come to Highworth Afternoon WI

1st Wednesday of every month @ 2.15pm

The Town Council Community room

Refreshments Celebrations Outings

How to Create a Personal Budget



Christians Against Poverty are determined to help people in our local community improve their finances. We do this by offering free debt help, job clubs, money coaching and life skills groups.

This spring we're encouraging everyone in Highworth and the surrounding areas to use our free tools to create for themselves a personal budget and follow our five simple steps to improve their finances in 2024.

1. Create a personal budget

A personal budget can be the key that unlocks the knowledge you need about your personal finances that you can then use to make positive changes. Download and print off CAP's budgeting guide at www.capuk.org/budgeting to create your own personal budget.

2. Balance your budget

See if your budget balances, which means to check you aren't spending more money than you have coming in. Consider cutting costs by finding a cheaper alternative or think about what non-essentials you can cut completely to help you try and avoid living in your overdraft or falling into debt.

3. Maximise your income

The third step is to make sure you are maximising your income. Even if you're in work, it's always worth checking if you're missing out

on any benefits income that you are entitled to. Do a quick, free ten minute check at www.capuk.org/calculator.

4. Seek free debt help

If you are already in debt that you're struggling to manage and you're finding it challenging to pay back what you owe, seek free debt advice. Visit the www.moneyhelper.org.uk website for a range of support.

5. Attend a CAP service in your local area

Coming to a CAP centre can help you further improve your financial situation. You can find more information on all CAP's free services in your area at www.capuk.org/gethelp.

Contact Claire Titcombe for more information.

07990 159802

clairetitcombe@capuk.org



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Highworth Historical Society Celebrates Women's Day

International Women's Day will be held on 8 March and, to celebrate, our talk on 27 March is entitled 'Extraordinary Wiltshire Women'.

Ruth Butler from the Record Centre in Chippenham is our speaker. Ruth will speak about women who range from the humble to the wealthy, from the Middle Ages to modern times. Included are Maud Heath, whose name may be familiar to walkers in the county. Also Lady Arundell who held Wardour Castle in the Civil War. They all seem to have defied the traditional view of women at their time in history.

We meet at St. Michael's Hall on Lechlade Road. Doors open at 7pm for a 7:30pm start. Visitors are always welcome for £3 – cash please.

Chris Suter / 01793 764811

Upper Thames and Ridgeway National Trust Association

Andrew Beer, a former pupil of Warneford School and now the Director of Operations and Consultancy for the National Trust, started off the 2024 talks in great style. No revenue funding is available from the government for the 30,000 buildings and 250,000 hectares of land cared for by the National Trust. Andrew spoke about the need to look back, as well as forward, when planning repairs, maintenance and conservation of properties. Greater use of electronic communication will save costs on printed matter.

The Trust values its staff, which has a high percentage of younger people, and the many thousands of volunteers of all ages. There are now large numbers of families who are members of the National Trust in response to changes in attitudes and the provision of greater facilities. Three projects were used to illustrate the challenges facing the Trust.

The first concerned land management and the conflict of interest in the Lake District at Goldrill Beck, that is flood prevention, tourism, land management and its position in the National Park, and as a UNESCO site. After much debate, a solution was reached to enable

the tenant farmer to graze stock on part of the site and the river to be diverted to prevent flooding in its lower courses. An extra bonus is that otters moved in and wildlife flourished.

The second was the decision to be made about Clandon Park, decimated by fire. Should it be restored, rebuilt or demolished? After wide consultation the decision has been made to partially restore it and to develop the remainder as a multipurpose site.

Thirdly, Andrew dealt with the subject of tree replacement and land management at the Sherborne estate. The types of trees to be planted must be suitable for the present environment and also for the future which we face with climate change.

Future talks will be on **11 March, 18 April and the annual holiday is 15 to 19 June.**

Further details on all these events are available on our new website.

Andrew Beer

www.utrnta.co.uk

UTRNTA@gmail.com to join our group

Take Part in the Green Open Homes Event

Want cosier homes and cheaper energy? The Green Open Homes event is happening from 9 to 17 March.

Green Open Homes is a great opportunity for people to visit a local 'green' home to research how to adapt their own home to save money on energy without getting the hard sell!

John and Hilary from Highworth, who are opening their home, said, 'We'd encourage anyone to start with the simple things like reducing drafts because they can make you feel instantly more cosy



while saving on those energy bills. We then installed double glazing with triple glazing on the colder side of the house and solar panels. We're hoping to install a heat pump which we believe will make the biggest impact – and we'll take advantage of the £7,500 government grant.'

Take a look at the homes open near you and book your tour via our website.

goh@wiltshireclimatealliance.org.uk

www.greenopenhomes.net

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Sustainable Shrivenham

Having been open just over a year, The Hub is changing and evolving all the time to best suit the needs of the community. We have enlarged our refill station to include washing detergent, fabric softener, all-purpose cleaner, hand wash and washing-up liquid. Bring your own container or buy one for a small cost which you can then re-use.



We have signed-up to becoming part of the Plastic Free Communities scheme and are hoping to involve local businesses, the parish council, and schools. Whilst we cannot eliminate plastic completely from our lives, we can work towards drastically reducing it. Sign up for the Big Plastic Count, which runs from **11 to 17 March**, at www.thebigplasticcount.com to receive your pack and then record all the different types of plastic packaging waste you use during that week.

We are working with the Defence Academy to provide a community compost heap. The DA produces more compost than it can use and it has offered the surplus to local people. Watch this space for updates.

Due to the popularity of the book swap we held last November, we now have a dedicated room full of books where you can either bring a book and take a book, or buy a paperback for 50p and a hardback for £1. There are also jigsaws to purchase for £1.50, or you can swap jigsaws in the phone box on the corner of the Highworth Road and Stallpits Road.

We have enlarged both our adult clothing sale area and children's corner. The Craft Scrap Store is a magnet for crafters and would-be crafters, for both adults and children. Here you will find everything from knitting wool and patterns, card-making supplies, buttons, beads, material, stationery, etc..

And our continued thanks go to our dedicated band of cheerful volunteers and, of course, to the local community which continues to be so supportive.

See our opening times and more information about our services by checking out our website.

Steph Muir
sustainableshrivenham@gmail.com
www.sustainableshrivenham.com

The Resurrection of Jesus

It's not uncommon to have a main character in a film, novel or soap opera dying and coming back to life. In a world of zombie movies and cryonics coming back to life is not far from our imagination. In chapter 20 of the Gospel of John we hear the account of the resurrection of Jesus from two women visiting the tomb early in the morning. The miracle of the resurrection is one of the core doctrines of the Christian faith. But why does it matter that Jesus rose from the dead? And will we also be resurrected?

In many books and films, the protagonist dies and then comes back to life. Can you think of some examples? Neo in 'The Matrix', Gandalf in 'Lord of the Rings Two Towers', Aslan in 'The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe', and Harry Potter in 'The Deathly Hallows'.

In thinking about Easter we need to ask ourselves these questions: What is accomplished by Jesus dying – is it a great sacrifice or a great injustice? How does He live again? Is it a gift or a product of His own power?

I often reflect on how technology issues can be solved by a restart – closing down the computer and then restarting it again. Maybe this can shed some light on God's plan of resurrection. A way for us to start again. A seed is buried in the ground and springs up to new life – reborn. So we are offered new life as we surrender our lives to God. As He brought Jesus out of the tomb on Easter morning, He also brings us to new life. The mistakes and sins of the past are dead, and we have new life in and with Jesus.

Phil Goodey
Rector of Highworth and Broad Blunsdon

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Highworth Twinning Association



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provided by our German hosts

If you are interested, or would like more details, please contact
Richard Pearce on 07513 009044 or rjijnpearcehta@gmail.com

We are pleased to give you dates for events we are holding this year. All residents who live in Highworth and the surrounding area are automatically members of the Association and all are welcome to attend. We will advertise the events individually throughout the year to provide further details.

- 21 March:** Quiz and Chips, Highworth Town Council Community Room, 7:30pm
- 30 April:** Ukulele Orchestra, Highworth Community Centre (to be confirmed)
- 4 May:** Attendance at the May Day market
- 9 to 12 May:** Visit to Wassenberg
- 30 June:** Safari Lunch, various venues in Highworth
- 31 August:** Picnic, the Old Golf Course (to be confirmed)
- 20 to 23 September:** Visit from Pontorson

If you have any questions, please contact me

Richard Pearce
rjijnpearcehta@gmail.com / 07513 009044

Highworth URC Writes for Rights Again

Before Christmas, the members of the URC sat down after morning service and signed cards of good wishes to eight men and women selected by Amnesty UK from their sadly bulging files as needing support under duress or imprisonment.

They ranged across the world: a mother seeking justice in Brazil; murder in Eswatini (the old Swaziland); Kyrgyzstan; Myanmar; Poland; 25 years on death row in Alabama USA; Tunisia, and a decade of prison in Abu Dhabi. A small deed in what is often a dark world, cumulatively these cards can build to many thousands and each year Amnesty International is able to record successes in gaining relief.

Keith Salway



Eco Tip from Weigh It Up

Recently we have been hearing more and more about the climate crisis and it can often feel like the little bit that you do to help the environment is just a tiny drop in the ocean. You may question if it is even worth doing.

That is until you read something like this published by Keep Britain Tidy: 'Did you know nine billion less single-use plastic bags have been used in the UK since we campaigned for the bag charge in 2015?'

It's a wonderful reminder that we can all do our bit and it does make a difference. By choosing to reuse, repair or reduce the use of something you can make a difference, and quite a significant one. By refilling just one bottle you can really reduce your household recycling.

All Go For National Trust West Oxfordshire



Photograph: Volunteer Martin Trehwella

The new season of courses on the Heritage and Rural Skills Centre webpages have been published and many quickly sold out! More courses will be added throughout the year so please keep an eye on the website. This year several courses have a special discounted price for young people. For course details and costs, go to www.nationaltrust.org.uk/skills-centre

We need volunteers! We are looking for more volunteers to give history tours of the model farm and tell how the Skills Centre fits into the story. Coleshill will be opening this year for tours during the week to make good use of what is here. Tours will run from April to October on two afternoons per week and on the second Sunday of each month for the Village Open Days. There's a new volunteer role: River and Wetlands Guardians for the



National
Trust

new Riverlands Project at Coleshill. Guardians will carry out water quality testing, monitoring and being the eyes and ears for the River Cole. All training is provided. Sign up for volunteer roles at www.nationaltrust.org.uk/volunteer

For families, there is a new activity tracker pack to borrow to inspire your young explorers. Fun stuff like bug pots and binoculars will accompany a trail sheet. No need to book, just turn up at the Visitor Reception or the Welcome Van and collect your pack.

Over the Easter weekend there will be a fun activity trail at White Horse Hill with a chocolatey treat at the end for young ones. Chastleton House opens on **Wednesday 6 March** and will have a nature trail around the gardens at Easter.



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Contact: Westrop Primary & Nursery School

Telephone: 01793 762897 **Email:** nursery@westrop.swindon.sch.uk **Website:** www.westropprimaryschool.co.uk

Highworth Flower Club Celebrates 60 Years

A dinner at Wrag Barn Golf Club in January launched the Flower Club's exciting diamond anniversary year. The programme of events will include a Flower Festival in St. Michael's Church from 19 to 22 September, so put the date in your diary!

The Highworth and District Floral Arts Society (HADFAS) was formed in 1964 and has met regularly for the last 60 years. We are affiliated to the National Association of Flower Arranging Societies whose aim is to encourage the love of flowers and raise the standard of flower arranging throughout the country by training qualified judges, demonstrators, teachers, and speakers. At club level we



Chairman Brenda Savill receives her long service award



Diamond anniversary cake

benefit from these talented demonstrators at monthly meetings and workshops. Many of our members are experienced flower arrangers taking part in events big and small in the community, but there are also those who just want a relaxing evening enjoying flowers. All are very welcome, and this is a great year to become a member.

We meet on the first Thursday of most months at 7:30pm in Warneford School hall. The next meeting on **7 March** is a practical and fun evening for members. Annual membership is £35 and visitors pay £5 a meeting.

Contact Michele

07798 817249

www.highworthflowerclub.co.uk

The poster is decorated with various Easter-themed illustrations. At the top, a row of colorful Easter eggs (pink, green, orange, purple, yellow) hangs from green strings. In the center, there is a circular logo for 'HIGH WORTH FLOWER CLUB' with a blue flower in the middle and the text 'FORGET-ME-NOT' around it. To the left of the logo is a plate of three orange hot cross buns. To the right is a red teapot and a blue teacup. Below the logo, the text 'EASTER MEMORY CAFE' is written in a large, stylized font. Below that, the date 'WEDNESDAY 27TH MARCH 2024' and time '2-4PM' are listed. The venue 'HIGHWORTH COMMUNITY CENTRE' is written in a bold, sans-serif font. Below the venue, the text 'Music from Brian Slade' is written in a large, blue, sans-serif font. At the bottom, there is a musical staff with notes and a blue microphone on a stand. On the left side, there are two circular illustrations: one with blue flowers and one with orange flowers. On the right side, there is a circular illustration with blue flowers.

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When the Nations Descended Upon Highworth!

A few weeks ago, 12 young people from seven different countries paid a visit to our little market town. Hailing from across the globe with people from the USA, the Netherlands, Finland, Germany, Mexico, Canada and Australia, the group had come together in Norway to complete a Discipleship Training School with YWAM (Youth with a Mission). After a three-month lecture phase, they travelled to the UK for the last two months of their adventures to serve communities in Glasgow, Liverpool and, finally, Highworth!

Partnering with Highworth Churches Together, the team (aged between 18 and 25) were hosted for just over a week, and in that time were able to bless so many groups of people. The team had a creative focus and were able to put their talents to use by running a creative worship night at St. Michael's Church with writing, art, dance, photography, and music.

The group also assisted at b:Fearless, a one-day women's conference held at Highworth Community Centre. This was a brilliant event where women could come together and learn what the Bible teaches us about courage whilst encouraging one another and



Outreach in Swindon

enjoying lots of lovely cake!

The team had mornings of outreach around Highworth, offering to pray for people and helping at The Bridge Centre on Sheep Street. In the evenings, they were able to inspire our young people at youth groups and travelled into central Swindon with the church to worship and bless people there.

All in all, this amazing group of young people made a wonderful impression on Highworth in the short time they were with us and massively encouraged the churches. Hopefully you were lucky enough to bump into one of them during their visit. If you were, I'm sure you'll agree they made an impact!

Heather Wilson



Photography: Aleyah Terry



Serving at b:Fearless Women's Conference in Highworth



The team from YWAM Norway

Highworth

*it takes time for the sun to rise
for her light to illuminate
the rolling hills
and cobblestone roads*

*history is written between the lines
on faces
an undeniable truth
joy can be found in the in-between*

*in the rising sun, in blooming fields
in tales of what once used to
and what once could be
what if and what not*

*it takes time for the sun to rise
watch her color the sky
the clouds
with perfect brushstrokes*

and breathe

Suze van Tilborg

Forget-Me-Not Allotment

With spring in the air we are looking forward to working again on our dementia-friendly allotment at the end of Park Avenue. This was set up last year with generous assistance from the Highworth Lions, B&Q/Wincanton and HTC, and has got off to a great start. We are now looking for anyone with green fingers who is able to come and help maintain and develop the allotment once the weather improves, or just to sit on the benches and enjoy the atmosphere!

If you are interested, please email us on forgetmenot.highworth@gmail.com, or call Ruth on 07970 543423.



South Marston Gardening Club

On Monday 4 March we will hold our AGM followed by a Q&A session with **Roger Moore**. (Note from Editor: Not that Roger Moore!)

Annual Registration during refreshments.

On **Monday 8 April** we have Laura Holmes with us who will speak about 'Creative approaches to gardening for nature'.

£5 entry fee on the door as a visitor or join the Gardening Club for £15 (annual membership).

Refreshments included, with an optional raffle. A warm welcome awaits you.

We meet at South Marston Village Hall. Parking is available on Old Vicarage Lane, next to the school. 7:30pm to 9:30pm.

Angela Newton
07789 068340

Facebook: @southmarstongardeningclub



Visit Highworth's Spring Craft Fayre

On Saturday 23 March, 10am to 4pm, St. Michael's Church will once again buzz with artisans displaying a variety of crafts including pottery, leather work, jewellery, cards, paintings, and cakes for you to purchase. We are delighted to invite back some firm favourites to the craft fayre as well as some new faces and we hope you can join us.

Enjoy a cuppa and a piece of cake between browsing the stalls. Admission is free.

01793 764400
www.visithighworth.co.uk
info@visithighworth.co.uk

Swindon Guide Dogs

We are holding a Great British Classics Night at The Crown Inn, Stratton, SN3 4NL on Monday 15 April from 7pm (last orders at 9pm).

The cost is £9 per person for a main course with £5 of this going to Swindon Guide Dogs.

To book a table call The Crown on 01793 827530 or email thecrownstratton@gmail.com

Please book early as this is a very popular event.

Alan Fletcher

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Remembering Jamie Donnelly (2006-2024)

Although Jamie left Highworth Warneford School in the summer of 2023, his very sad death at the start of January this year has still had a huge impact on the school community. He was a popular young man with lots of friends and the news of his passing was the only topic of conversation for many days.

Although I try to get to know all of the students, I had the pleasure of mentoring Jamie for a while so was able to find out a little more about what made him tick. He loved sport and had a wicked sense of humour. He was also incredibly thoughtful and always wanted to do the right thing. Above all, he had lots of plans for the future. Sadly, these did not come to fruition and our thoughts continue to be with his amazing family who have managed their grief with



dignity and obvious pride in Jamie.

As part of our mourning process, we gave students and staff the opportunity to write down their thoughts to pass on to his parents, and here are some examples:

'He was a kind human being. Even when I stopped teaching him he often came to my classroom to say hello and chat with me.'

'Jamie was loved by everyone. He was a real character and known across the school.'

'He was a cheeky chap with a kind heart and respected by his peers.'

He continues to be missed by all who knew him.

*Andy Steele, Headteacher
Highworth Warneford School*

Highworth Memory Cafe

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Lechlade Gardening Club

On 13 March, 7:30pm, we have Nick Gilbert talking about 'The Dahlia Year: growing, storing, propagating, and showing dahlias'. Dahlias have hugely increased in popularity in recent years and Nick is certainly the man to tell us all about them. He has been growing them for many years and has a nursery and a dahlia field in Hampshire with over 400 varieties. Come and be inspired.

Our usual meetings are held on the **second Wednesday of the month at 7:30pm** in the New Memorial Hall Lechlade which has 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 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 252495 or 01367 252286, or any member of the committee.

Barbara McNaught

Scarecrows and a Quiz with the Scouts

The Annual 1st Highworth Scouts Easter Scarecrow Trail will be running from Saturday 30 March to Sunday 14 April.

The theme for this year's Scarecrow Trail is 'Animated Films'. Scarecrows submitted should be a film title, not a character or series.

If you would like to make and enter a scarecrow please complete the form on our website. **Please note the closing date for entries is the 10 March** and no scarecrow is confirmed until you have received an email from our organisers. We work hard to avoid any duplication of answers across the Scarecrow Trail, so please wait until you have heard back from us before you begin making your scarecrow.

Scarecrow Trail sheets can be purchased for £3 from 23 March from Allen and Harris, Visit Highworth and The Saracens.

Please return your completed trail sheets to Allen and Harris by the 17 April for a chance to win a prize, remembering to include your vote for your favourite scarecrow.

Many thanks to everyone who will provide a scarecrow to make the Easter Scarecrow Trail possible. The Scarecrow Trail is organised by 1st Highworth Scouts with all funds raised going to support the beavers, cubs and scouts of Highworth.

David.Roblin@highworthscouts.org.uk

01793 763720

www.highworthscouts.org.uk

QUIZ NIGHT

Our ever popular quiz will be on Friday 12 April in the Scout Hall starting promptly at 7:30pm. Once again the event is being kindly sponsored by Simpsons Cars. The cost of entry is £24 for a table of up to four people. This includes a ploughman's and you are welcome to bring your own liquid refreshment.

As always, we would be delighted to see some new teams as well as our regular supporters. To enter a team or for more information, please contact David Roblin.



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Jake Winkle visits Highworth Artists' Society



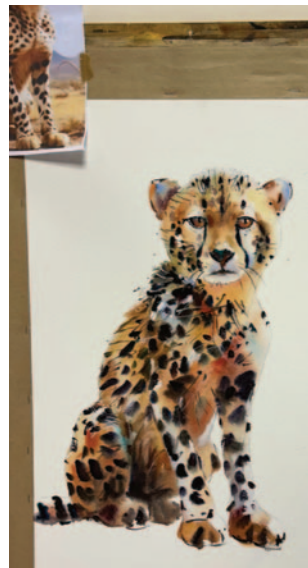
There was a full house in January for our demo with the very popular watercolour artist, Jake Winkle. Jake produced two loose and colourful paintings of a young cheetah and then, in only 30 minutes, a parrot complete with vibrant plumage. Both were impressive and there were so many lessons to take away! Now we must put them into practice! Jake is pictured with his paintings.

If you'd like to see more photos of this event and recent work by some of our members, please take a look at our Facebook page and, even better, follow us!

Soon we will be getting ready for the Spring Exhibition which will run from **20 to 27 April** in the Council Community Room. More on this in the next issue of Highworth LINK magazine.

Hilary Sinclair

Facebook: @Highworthartistsociety



Highworth Community Cinema

Our film for March is a comedy drama starring Tom Hanks who plays a grumpy 63-year-old widower who reluctantly gets involved in the lives of his neighbours.

Friday 22 March, 7:45pm, St Michael's Hall, Lechlade Road, SN6 7HQ

Based on the number one New York Times bestseller 'A Man Called Ove'. A Man Called Otto tells the story of Otto Anderson, a grump who no longer sees purpose in his life following the loss of his wife. Otto is ready to end it all, but his plans are interrupted when a lively young family moves in next



door and he meets his match in quick-witted Marisol. She challenges him to see life differently leading to an unlikely friendship that turns his world around. A heart-warming and funny story about love, loss, and life, 'A Man Called Otto' shows that family can sometimes be found in the most unexpected places.

126 mins Cert 15

Doors open at 7:15pm. There is no membership fee and admission is £6 on the door. We ask just 50p for a hot drink and biscuits.

01793 763907

highworthfilms@gmail.com
www.highworthfilms.org.uk

The Hide

Who made you?

Who made the Bullfinch?

The male bold black head

Flaming red breast

The female less colourful

A young one feeding below

A learned practice.

Who made the Otter?

Like black torpedoes shoot

Across the lake.

Dive, dip and dissolve

Heads emerge on constant lookout.

Who made the Cormorant?

Sitting in the trees like sentinels

Wings open, flapping, a devilish

blackness in profile

Scanning for movement.

Who made the Grebe?

Sailing stately along

Plunging, then disappearing

Then emerging like magic.

I watch this wild and precious life.

What do you plan to do with your own one and precious life?

John Williams

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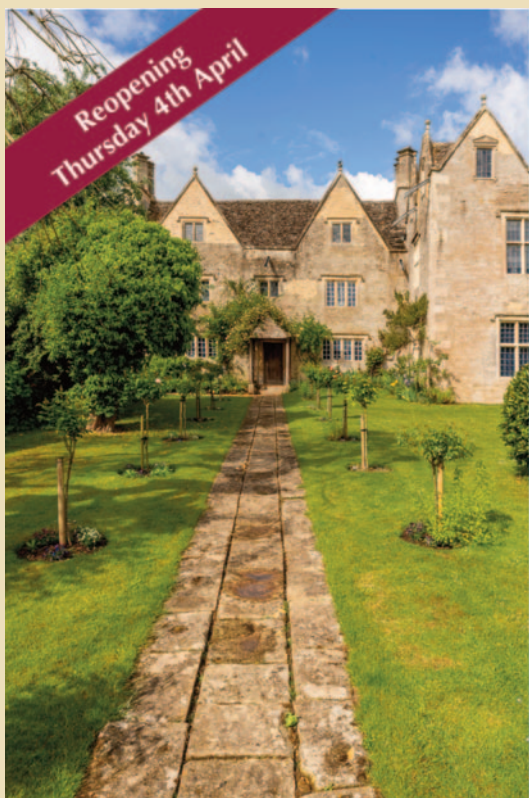
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The Arts Society Upper Thames

The Arts Society Upper Thames would be pleased to welcome visitors on Thursday 14 March, 2pm, to the lecture given by Stuart Harvey on the subject of 'The British in Rome'.

Rome tourist guide Stuart will look at some of the famous British visitors to Rome between the 1500s and 1800s and how these Grand Tourists changed the art world. These wealthy travellers not only visited the great works of art and architecture but also wanted portraits, miniatures, mosaics, and ancient sculptures to purchase for their family collections. We will meet renegade cardinals, exiled royals, wealthy aristocrats and, of course, the artists who came to study. Stuart will also introduce some of the fascinating characters that catered to them in Rome as we look at how the art world in Rome adapted to this lucrative new market.

Stuart is a History and Art Communicator of 30 years' experience. He is a London Blue Badge Tourist Guide (qualified in 1998) and also a Guida Turistica Abilitata della Provincia di Roma (qualified in 2010). He has worked in educational tourism since 1992, leading study tours all over Europe. Living in Rome since 2003, Stuart has developed a great love for the Eternal City and its many treasures. In addition to his primary career as full-time Rome tourist guide, Stuart's entertaining and lively lectures and virtual tours bring the rich artistic and historical wealth of Rome's 28 centuries to life for people all over the world.

Please register first at www.info@tasupperthames.org.uk

Rodney Mountford

Greetings from HADS

Highworth Amateur Dramatics Society is proud to announce that our latest show, 'An Evening of Comedy' – a selection of short plays interspersed with delicious food provided by Andrews of Highworth at a bargain price of £18 (£15 concessions) – will be performed at the Highworth Community Centre on 22 and 23 March, with doors opening at 7pm for a 7:30pm start.

Tickets are now on sale so keep your eyes peeled for posters in and around Highworth to find out where you can purchase them. Tickets are limited in number and can only be purchased in advance – so don't miss out!



Pop Up Art Sale for Lechlade Art Society

Saturday 23 December was always going to be an odd day to try a new venture but at the time of planning it was the only available Saturday left in 2023 and Lechlade Art Society was keen to try a new venture.

Ten members of the Lechlade Art Society held the first ever impromptu sale of some of their artwork and it proved to be a great success. Each member set up a table with stands and easels to display some of their work: paintings, prints and cards.

The general opinion was that the display looked professional and very attractive. There was a steady trickle of visitors and several sales from when we opened the doors at 10am until we closed at 2pm. The day was so fun that we are planning another such sale on **Saturday 30 March** which is Easter Saturday. More details can be found on posters displayed around the town or you can check our website.

Margaret Hing
www.lechladeartsociety.co.uk



White Horse Folk Club

We welcome new members to play, sing, or just listen and enjoy an entertaining evening at St. Michael's Hall, 7:30pm on the first and third Wednesday of each month.

Following a very successful evening with Johnny Coppin as our guest, we intend to once again invite the local community to join us for any of these three dates:

- 20 March:** Jackie and Felix Byrne
- 17 April:** Dave Ellis and Boo Howard
- 19 June:** Anthony John Clarke and Julia

These are all well-known names in the folk world and you are welcome to come along for the bargain price of £5 (bring your own refreshments).

Feel free to call us for more information.

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Our Planet's Future

*Imagine if you would
That all the humans have gone
That other life forms roam the Earth
And evolution has moved on.*

*Perhaps an alien species
That have come from outer space
And have already learnt the lesson
To treat nature with good grace*

*We can only hope they are more humble
And stay much more aware
In respecting this home better than us
And treat the Earth with much more care*

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Did You Know That March Is Cerebral Palsy Awareness Month?

My sister has Cerebral Palsy, but I never really knew what it was. I would like to share some information about this condition as I feel it is important to raise awareness of this motor disability.

So what is Cerebral Palsy (also known as CP)?

Cerebral Palsy affects approximately one in every 400 children born in the UK, but no two people experience it in the same way. It is a lifelong condition affecting movement and coordination. CP is damage or abnormal development to the brain that is caused during pregnancy, birth or soon after. There is no cure for CP and people can be affected from severe to mild.

There are four types of Cerebral Palsy:

Spastic – tightened muscles (which makes it hard to move) and joint stiffness.

Dyskinetic – difficulty controlling limbs and muscles which may affect speech and language.

Ataxic – difficulty with balance, coordination and spatial awareness. This can also affect speech and language.

Mixed - There are a small number of children with CP that will have more than one form of the condition.

Cerebral Palsy affects different parts of the body:

Monoplegia – affects one limb, usually an arm.

Hemiplegia – affects one side of the body, legs, arms and torso.

Quadriplegia – affects all four limbs.

Pioplegia – affects symmetrical parts of the body, legs or arms.

I hope you have found this information interesting and share it with a friend or your children sometime this month. There is a lot of information online if you want to know more and some good illustrations which helped me and my siblings to understand Cerebral Palsy better.

See you next month.

Sophie Nolan

Curious Clubs

Warneford School runs many different clubs and I've enjoyed trying lots of them. I love the Language and Culture Club where we do Duolingo*. One day a week after school I attend Book Club and on another day I do creative writing.

Outside of school on Saturdays I attend a martial arts class and I'm hoping to start going to a badminton club as well since I'm able to beat most of my family at it!

Have a good March and I'll see you next month!

Constance Davenport

** Duolingo is a popular app and website that offers bite-sized lessons to teach you reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills in various languages.*

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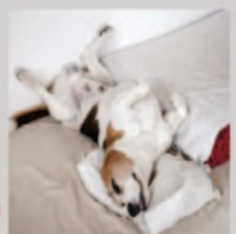
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Highworth and District Lions Club

We are currently busy planning and organising our big 50th Charter Anniversary evening, this will be held at Wrag Barn on Saturday 25 May. If you would like to attend, please send an email to me at the email address below and I will send you an invitation for our special evening of a three course dinner and disco.

Our charity shop has had so many amazing donations along with lots of customers visiting us to snap up bargains. We are looking for more volunteers to join our existing shop volunteers to help with the day-to-day running of the shop. If you have a few hours or more to spare please email me at the address below.

We recently donated £1,000 towards the cost of a new defibrillator at the Co-op store in Abbey Farm, North Swindon. We were invited along to see the defibrillator that has been installed and to meet the store team along with a few people from their head office. We are proud to have been able to assist in getting another vital life-saving piece of equipment into the community to help save lives.

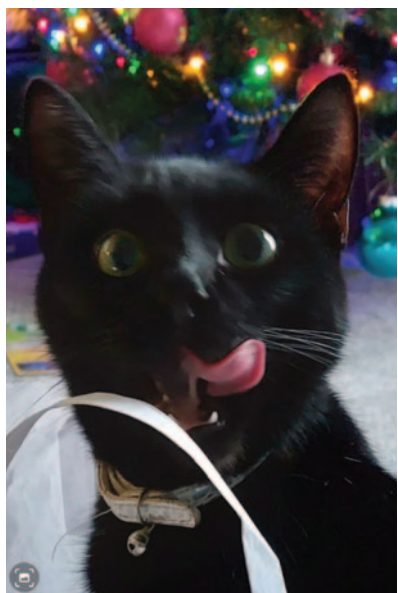


Some recent donations we have made include:

- Highworth Community Larder: £500
- Freedom kit bags and donation to Nepal earthquake victims in Nepal: £600
- Prospect Hospice donations made on behalf of Lions volunteers: £270

Melanie Davenport

secretaryhighworthlions@gmail.com



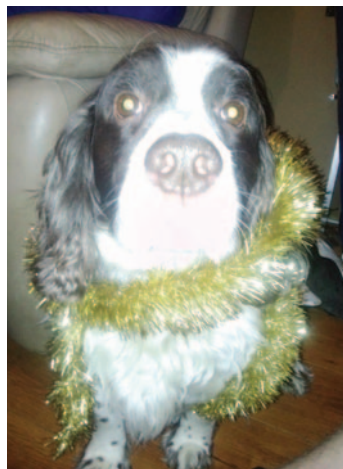
Memorable Moments Competition Winners

I'm so pleased to be able to announce the winners of our Christmas Memorable Moments competition.

WINNER: Isaac Mobbs for his photograph of his cat, Luna. Isaac wins a £25 voucher for The Highworth Emporium, courtesy of 659design.

Runner-Up: Sam Allen for his photograph of his dog, Ozzie. A Weigh It Up voucher for £10 is Sam's prize.

Well done to both of you!





Picture courtesy of Adi Whittington

Highworth Running Club

With only a few weeks left now until the club's annual 5 Mile Race, places will be filling up rapidly and club members will be nearing the peak of their preparational activities. Just imagine hi-vis crusaders dashing around collecting road cones, clipboards, stopwatches, smelting old and forging new trophies whilst simultaneously baking cakes, as that's what happens behind the scenes. Kind of.

Anyway, on **Sunday 7 April** at 11am the runners will be set off to enjoy the rural, one-lap route that finishes on Warneford School's playing field. The race is open to anyone aged 15 or over and we'd love to see plenty of residents taking to the start line (and crossing the finish line of course). Entries can be taken on the day, but only if the race limit hasn't already been reached – and it has been close a few times. So if you are interested, don't delay. Go online and pledge your commitment to being an Eastrop Hill Hero. You know you want to...

Jason Daniels
www.highworthrunningclub.co.uk

Swindon Croquet Club

Great News! SCC has secured an extension to its Swindon Borough Council lease which means that the Club's ambitious expansion project can go ahead. As part of the £6.3m Moredon Sporting Hub development, the Club has been allocated an area of land to enable expansion from the existing three full lawns to five full lawns so it's now all systems go! There is much to be done, including erection of perimeter fencing, procurement of additional balls and hoops, levelling of ground and preparation of smooth lawn surfaces, along with installation of a storage unit and a

players' shelter. Having five lawns will provide significant benefits such as all-year-round play and the ability to host major national croquet tournaments. Club Chair Clive Smith said, 'There is a lot of work ahead but this is certainly an exciting time for the Club as we will be able to welcome community groups and, of course, we are keen to attract new members. Croquet provides gentle exercise, mental stimulation and it's a competitive game, but the emphasis at our Club is always on enjoyment in a friendly, welcoming atmosphere. The Sporting Hub development at Moredon means we'll attract far more interest from the Swindon community; it's all positive and very exciting!'

Interested? Please visit our website, find us on Facebook, or drop us an email for further information.

Beverly Briggs
Swindon.croquet@outlook.com
www.swindoncroquetclub.org.uk



Three become five

Swindon & District Motorcycle Club

In a sweet period of perfect weather conditions between December's deluges and January's spell of sub-zero temperatures, the S&DMC held their annual Klindt Trial that hosted a bumper crop of entries. As usual ten challenging sections were laid out along the old railway line with flag-marked routes for each skill level, ranging from green (introductory level) to expert. There were, as expected, a few stream crossings and plenty of steep ascents and descents, but one of the ten sections began by asking riders of all abilities to get over a large flat stone that was over half the height of the wheels! Then after the stone challenge, the more advanced riders had to ascend the steep railway embankment atop loose chippings and perform a 180° turn around a tree and head back down again. This was no mean feat but Alan Taylor (pictured on page 35) made it look easy. By the

Continued on page 35

Concerts in St Andrew's Shrivenham

Saturday 9th March 2024
5:30pm

Organ Recital

A varied programme of English organ music
played by Thomas Neal, Director of Music at
New College School, Oxford and former Organist
at St Augustine's Abbey, Ramsgate.

Tickets £10 – on sale shortly – Bar & Raffle

Saturday 20th April 2024
7:30pm

A Variety Concert

In celebration of St George's Day,
Featuring an array of local talent.
More details to follow

*Tickets available on 'Eventbrite' or available
from the Shrivenham Post Office*

St Andrew's Church, Church Walk, Shrivenham SN6 8AQ
www.shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk



QUIZ NIGHT



CHARITY QUIZ AND PLOUGHMAN'S

A fund-raising Quiz with a Ploughman's Supper of bread, cheese, pâte, celery, tomatoes,
pickles, chutney & butter followed by a selection of delicious home-made desserts

FRIDAY 8 MARCH 2024

**Supermarine Football Club
Swindon, SN3 4BZ.**

6.30pm for a prompt 7pm start

Enter a team of 4 to 6 people

Prizes for the winning team and the runners up

Tickets: £15 per person

Cash bar with a limited selection of drinks

For more information and tickets contact

Ken Winslow

Email: rotaryswindonnorth@gmail.com

Phone: 07710 228697



An event organised jointly by the Rotary Club of Swindon North and Thamesdown
and the Inner Wheel Club of North Wiltshire. All the proceeds will go to **Wiltshire
Treehouse (Reg charity No. 1159719)** which offers bereavement support for
children and young people in Swindon & Wiltshire. Wiltshire Treehouse believes
every child and young person should have access to support during their grieving
process. It enables those in our local communities to improve the coping strategies,
skills and confidence needed to better manage daily life.

Highworth Methodist Church

Happy Easter!

He is risen!



What's on in March?



**Every Saturday
Coffee Morning**
10.30 – 12 noon
Coffee and cake



Sunday Morning Worship @ 10.30am

3rd 10th 17th 24th

Refreshments served

Tuesday, 5th Afternoon Communion 2pm

Easter Services

Good Friday

29th @ 12noon



Easter Sunday

31st @ 10.30am

**Every Friday
9.30-11.15 am**



Craft Group

**Tuesday, 5th & 19th
10am-1pm**



Vicarage Lane, Highworth SN6 7DG
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Website:

www.highworthmethodistchurch.org.uk
www.facebook.com/HighworthMethodistChurch

3Cs – Coffee, cake & chat

**Wednesday, 13th
2.30pm**





Alan Taylor triumphs

afternoon and four laps later, the 60-strong field loaded up and took their bikes home for washing. The day didn't end, of course, without the riders who 'dabbed' the least taking their well-deserved accolades. Christopher Wickham (Expert Class), Jon Bees (Clubman Expert), Alan Taylor (Intermediate), Martyn Goodall (Novice), Chris Cole (Green), Harry Cole (Youth A) and Thomas Plank (Youth B), all bested the others in their categories to take the spoils.

Whilst the bikes were back again last month (yet to be reported on) they'll return again in July for anyone who wants to pop down and observe such incredible skill for themselves. All dates and information can be found on the website.

Jason Daniels
www.sdmcc.org.uk

Wrag Barn Golf Club

This month our drum roll announcement is that we have completed the refurbishment of our clubhouse. The two function rooms upstairs have been given a makeover by local firm Bench Mark who were responsible for the massive improvement of our Spike Bar. We are hugely grateful for their professional but friendly approach and the fact that they are local is a real bonus. It would be disingenuous not to mention Nick and Newman Floyd who are members of Wrag Barn and were equally professional and efficient in the refurbishment of the downstairs changing rooms. We look forward to opening our doors on Mother's Day and our diary is filling up with life events and

Shrivenham Cricket Club

February saw our Indoor Net Sessions begin and they'll continue every Wednesday through to **29 May**, held at Pinewood School, Bourton. A good opportunity to meet the players and see for yourselves the club set up. On the subject of nets, we are in the process of obtaining outdoor nets ready for the start of our outdoor season this year. We will also run our Junior Cricket, namely 'All Stars' and 'Dynamos', this year with details available on our website. We will play on Saturdays in the Wiltshire League Division 6 but so far have not received the fixtures. Following our AGM last month the Shrivenham Cricket Club are still in the business of signing new members with the hope of starting a second XI. If you are interested please contact us using the details below. We look forward to seeing you, especially if you are interested in playing outdoor cricket.



A second starting XI?

Julian Stevens
01793 531451 / 435453
harrytimms43@gmail.com / hammond17@outlook.com
www.shrivenham.play-cricket.com

celebrations. Everyone is welcome. For opening times please visit our website or telephone us.

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Bar-be-new anyone?



Highworth Town Football Club

HTFC remain within touching distance of the league playoffs having had few games since the New Year and progressed in the FA Vase with a last 16 encounter against Great Waking Rovers that

was due to take place last month. It seems our season will inevitably be extended to Easter time and, dependent upon Cup progress, possibly later. Watch our social media posts for updates.

Picture courtesy of the Highworth Town Football Club Facebook page.

Derek Lloyd

www.pitchero.com/clubs/highworthtown

Shrivenham Bowls Club



After a long, profitable meeting in January, some key decisions were made for the year ahead. 'Roll up' times for the Outdoor Green will be from 12pm weekdays and from 10am on weekends, all to be booked in the Club diary. Club etiquette was also reviewed and a copy of this will appear in the 2024 Fixture Card and be posted on our website. The improvements to coaching will be in place by the start of the outdoor season which starts on **Saturday 13 April** with the Opening Drive.

We would like to thank Chris Stonely for mending the leak in the Bowls Club kitchen – on Christmas Day

would you believe! A thank you is also due to Ron Colyer who ably carved a large wooden knife which now joins the spoon and fork to complete the set to be hung on the Clubhouse wall and used for one of our competitions.

Our Short Mat competitions roll ever onwards and are much enjoyed (indoors of course). The Bonus Ball winners for December were Eve Millidge and Jim Dobson, with Jill Ridley and Mark Leonard winning the following month. Lastly but not leastly, in our 'Eco Quest' we are investigating solar panels so expect an update on this.

Julian Stevens

www.shrivenhambowls.co.uk

Shrivenham Park Golf Club

It is still too early in the year, too cold and too wet, for lots of golfing events, however the men played their Winter League competition in January with an amazing winning score! Tommy Cox scored 42 Stableford points playing off a handicap of 30 and off the Winter Blue course. Runner-up was Nick Goodwin with 40 points and in third place, a tie with 38 points, came Norman Bugden and Malc Walker. Well played everyone.

The new year will commence at the end of March on 'Drive In Day' for the new Captains. This year it will be Carole for the ladies and Danny for the men.

Interested in joining the Club? Please contact the SPGC on 01793 783853, the home of reasonable golf welcoming all comers of all ages and all abilities.

The Social Putting Group will be meeting indoors on **15 and 22 March** between 10am and 12pm with the first afternoon session on **12 April** between 2pm and 4pm when Parkies Pals will be holding their annual putting competition. There will be two sections, one for Parkies and one for the helpers including the Social putters. Refreshments will be available and flat-soled shoes must be worn for putting. More details can be obtained from me on the number below.

Junior coaching dates are expected to be every Saturday except for the first Saturday of the month, namely **9, 16 and 23 March** before a break during Easter and resuming on **13, 20 and 27 April**. Please get in contact for more information.

Carole Lee

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and leave a message

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Highworth Neighbourhood Plan 2 (HNP2)



HAVE YOUR SAY ON PLANNING POLICIES FOR HIGHWORTH!

Highworth Town Council have almost completed their first draft of the Highworth Neighbourhood Plan 2. This is a review of the 2017 Highworth Neighbourhood Plan and follows feedback from previous community engagement. This document incorporates updated and new policies for Highworth, Sevenhampton and Hampton.

Neighbourhood planning gives communities the power to prepare a shared development vision for their area. This neighbourhood plan seeks to shape, direct and help to deliver sustainable development by influencing the planning policies and decisions made by Swindon Borough Council. We would like to know what you think of the policies and proposals and welcome your feedback.

When published you can obtain further details:

- Highworth Town Council website at the following address www.highworthtowncouncil.gov.uk and click on the Neighbourhood Plan link
- Visit Highworth Town Council offices, 3 Gilberts Lane, Highworth, SN6 7FB
- Check the Highworth Town Council notice boards in Gilberts Lane, Newburgh shops or Sevenhampton
- Check the Highworth Town Council notice boards at Highworth Market

Thank you for your help, your feedback is important to us.

Councillor Julie Murphy

Chairman Neighbourhood Plan

UPCOMING Events 2024



May Day Event

The annual event returns with a carnival theme. More details to follow.

May
04
2024



D-Day Event

Join us as we commemorate the 80th Anniversary of the D-Day Landings. More details to follow.

June
06
2024



Highworth Fireworks

The annual Highworth Fireworks return. Tickets will be on sale from October 2024.

Nov
01
2024



Highworth Christmas Event

Our annual Christmas Event & Light Switch On returns. A very popular event where we kick start the festive season.

Nov
30
2024

COMMUNITY LITTER PICK



WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP TIDY UP OUR BEAUTIFUL TOWN BY VOLUNTEERING TO LITTER PICK ON THE **FIRST SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH**?

OUR NEXT SESSION WILL BE ON **SUNDAY 3RD MARCH 2024**

WE WILL PROVIDE THE EQUIPMENT, JUST MEET US OUTSIDE THE COUNCIL OFFICES IN GILBERTS LANE AT 10AM

FUTURE DATES AS FOLLOWS:

SUNDAY 3RD MARCH 2024
SUNDAY 7TH APRIL 2024
SUNDAY 5TH MAY 2024
SUNDAY 2ND JUNE 2024
SUNDAY 7TH JULY 2024
SUNDAY 4TH AUGUST 2024
SUNDAY 1ST SEPTEMBER 2024
SUNDAY 6TH OCTOBER 2024



ALLOTMENT INSPECTIONS



PLEASE NOTE:

Allotment Inspections will be carried out across all three allotment sites from the end of **MARCH/APRIL 2024.**

We hope to see evidence of cultivation having been started on the plots.

If you would like an allotment please get in touch with us by emailing admin@highworthtowncouncil.gov.uk with your address, telephone number and preferred site.

News from Highworth's Mayor



I was recently invited to the first anniversary celebration of the Highworth Community Larder. What a wonderful success story in such a short time! The Larder is open to anyone and everyone. Working from Westrop School every

Tuesday between 8am and 11am, surplus food from local supermarkets and other donors is on display for you to help yourself. They are also asking allotment holders to donate their surplus produce. The Larder relies on volunteers to source the food, collect it, and display it. If you have not visited as yet, go along one Tuesday morning and sample the goods. A big thank you to the creators of the scheme and a big thank you also to all those who have contributed in any way.

Good news. Thanks to the British Heart Foundation, Highworth recently took ownership of a new defibrillator. This one is destined for the telephone box at the top of Grove Hill. There were several conditions attached, one of which was offering training on CPR to the residents. Coincidentally, a few days after delivery of the defibrillator a new BHF fundraising manager was appointed for Oxfordshire and Wiltshire; I wasted no time in meeting her and she has agreed to lead the training. I know many of you are reluctant to use a defibrillator because you do not understand how it works, so she will demystify it for you and assure you that you can do no harm. Training is not difficult – all you need is a firm cushion and a smartphone. We still fall behind other countries in saving people who have had a cardiac arrest outside of the hospital. For example, Britain has a 10% success rate, Denmark 50%.

Finally, more good news. The Town Council is creeping ever closer to installing the first of three new play areas!

*Keith Smith
Mayor*

** See page five for news on the Larder's recent celebrations.*

HIGHWORTH TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN MAYOR & CHAIRMAN

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

DEPUTY MAYOR & VICE-CHAIRMAN

Anthony Houghton, 40 The Dormers, Highworth, Swindon SN6 7NZ
01793 266473 Mob: 07880 793062
anthony.houghton@highworthtowncouncil.gov.uk

Simon Apps, Ambar Cottage, 12 Swindon Road, Highworth SN6 7SL
07850 468095 simon.apps@highworthtowncouncil.gov.uk

Gemma Dennis, 34 Sevenfields, Highworth, Swindon SN6 7NF
07743 859874 gemma.dennis@highworthtowncouncil.gov.uk

Ian Durin-Duffy, 78A Westrop, Highworth, Swindon SN6 7HJ
07821 937159 ian.durninduffy@highworthtowncouncil.gov.uk

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

Lesley Gow, 23 Queens Avenue, Highworth, Swindon SN6 7BA
07840 273750 lesley.gow@highworthtowncouncil.gov.uk

Fraser Haines, 222 Windrush, Highworth, Swindon SN6 7EE
01793 861109 Mob: 07939 032451
fraser.haines@highworthtowncouncil.gov.uk

Natalie Key, 30 The Willows, Highworth, Swindon SN6 7PG
07971 485359 natalie.key@highworthtowncouncil.gov.uk

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

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

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

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

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

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

SWINDON BOROUGH COUNCILLORS

Nick Gardiner, 12 Coffin Close, Westrop SN6 7HA
01793 226337 Mob: 07392 871243
Ngardiner3@swindon.gov.uk

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

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

Council Offices

3 Gilberts Lane, Highworth SN6 7FB
Tel. 01793 762377 / 763511

St. Michael's Church Highworth

The church is open daily for private prayer.

10:15am Sunday Service

We meet in church and stream live at www.twitch.tv/stmichaelshighworth or on YouTube by searching St. Michael's Church Highworth.

Morning Worship is held on the **first, third and fifth Sundays of the month**. Holy Communion is held on the **second and fourth Sundays of the month**.

8:45am Holy Communion

On the **first Sunday of the month**.

Easter Services

28 March, Maundy Thursday:

7pm, at St. Michael's Church Highworth

31 March, Easter Sunday:

7am, Holy Communion at St. John the Baptist Church Hannington

9am, Holy Communion at St. James' Church Sevenhampton

10am, Holy Communion at St. Leonard's Church Blunsdon

10:15am, Holy Communion at St. Michael's Church Highworth

Prayers

Tuesday Prayers are held every **Tuesday morning** at 9am.

Friday Blessings are held every **Friday morning** at 9:15am.

Prayer Hour is held in the Church Room at 8pm on the **second and fourth Mondays of the month**.

We remember those we love and miss

Natalie Brown

Anne Williams

Praying for the roads in the town

3 March Cricklade Road and The Cullerns

10 March The Dormers and Downs View

17 March Eastrop and Edencroft

24 March The Elms and Fair View

31 March Fitzgerald Avenue and Folly Close

St. Leonard's Parish Church Stanton Fitzwarren

3 March Morning Praise, 9:30am

10 March Family service (Mary, mother of Jesus), 11am

17 March Team Service at St Margaret's Stratton, 10am

24 March Palm Sunday Holy Communion, 9:30am

29 March Good Friday (Hour at the Cross), 2pm

31 March Easter Sunday Holy Communion, 11am

Stanton Coffee Morning will be on **Wednesday 20 March** at Stanton House Hotel. We meet at 10:30am for coffee and a chat before our speaker will tell us about the 'Bobby Van' at 11am. We will finish by 12 noon.

The church building will be open every Wednesday in school term time from 9am to 3pm or you can phone Liz and Roger on 01793 762935 to organise for the building to be left open for you to visit safely.

There may be changes to the schedule. Please check our website at www.stantonchurch.info for updates.



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



10/3/2024

Eric Ryder – Remembering and missing a dearly loved Dad and Bamp. Always in our hearts. Love from Janice and Pas, Louise and Chris, Pep, Amy and Carina xxxx

20/3/2024

Ann Berry – Three years have passed but time has still not stopped the heartache nor can it stop the tears. John and Family xx

Floodlighting forms are available from the Church website at www.stmichaelshighworth.co.uk/floodlighting. Your dedication will appear in the Highworth LINK magazine.

All submissions to the Church Office. PLEASE do contact the Church Office on 01793 762702 if you need clarification.

All submissions to the Church Office by Wednesday 28 February for the April 2024 publication.

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Gas	Emergency 0800 111999
Electricity	Emergency 105
Water	Emergency 0800 3169 800

NON-EMERGENCY

Police	Non-Emergency 101
NHS	Non-Emergency 111
Pest Control	Non-Emergency 07789 781151

BUSES

Stagecoach Swindon	01793 521415
Thamesdown Transport	01793 428400
Dial-a-Ride	01793 616050
Community Transport	01793 617828
Traveline	0871 200 2233

COLLEGES

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

LAW & ORDER

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

COUNCILS

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

FIRE SAFETY

Home fire safety check	0800 389 7849
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DOCTORS AND HOSPITALS

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

LIBRARY

Highworth Library	01793 463500
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RECREATION

Highworth Rec	01793 762602
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PHARMACIES

Highworth Pharmacy	01793 762220
Home Farm Pharmacy	01793 861392
Jones Graham Pharmacy (Shrivenham)	01793 783336

PRESCHOOL/NURSERY

Eastrop Nursery	01793 763772
Westrop Nursery	01793 762897
Westgate Nursery	
School & Crèche	01793 861268
South Marston Pre-school	01793 823379

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TRAINS

National Rail Enquiries	03457 484950
Great Western Railways	03457 000125
Disabled and Assisted Travel	08001 971329

OTHER SERVICES

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

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Publishers: The Leadership of Highworth Churches Together

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

Production: Simon French
T: 07716 197236
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 The Bridge Centre,
8a Sheep Street, Highworth
SN6 7AA

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