

# *Highworth***LINK**

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



June 2024

# ANDREWS

QUALITY MEATS

*Traditional Meal Ideas*

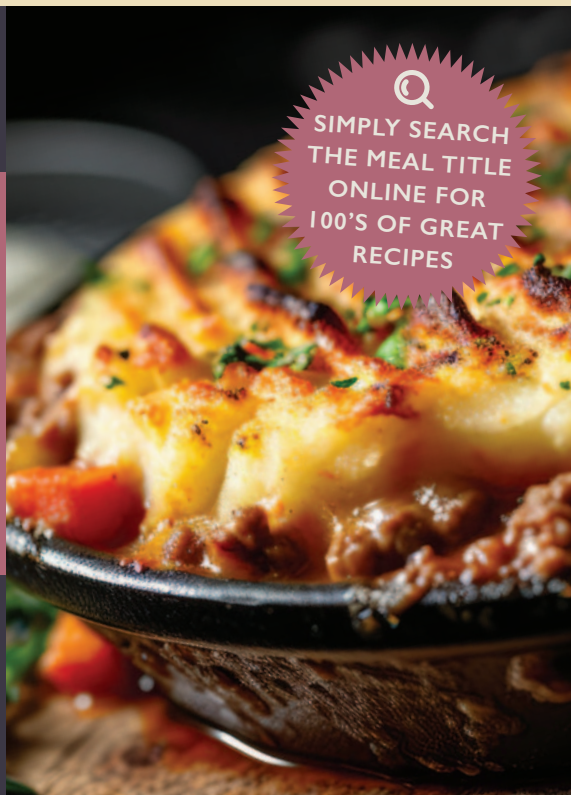
## SHEPHERD'S PIE

A hot and savoury dish consisting of minced lamb or mutton, onions, carrots, Worcestershire sauce, gravy, and seasonings that might include parsley and black pepper.

*Food to go*

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## Dear Reader

"I hate being old," I overheard her say. I'd nipped into the Co-op and found myself stood near two lovely ladies who were talking about the perils of being older. Not that I'm an eavesdropper, honest, but I couldn't help picking up on their conversation about ill-health, aches and pains, tiredness, loneliness, money issues, cold weather... and wrinkles! It was quite a list.

There's no doubt that getting older comes with its issues – be warned you under-30s. And the difficulty can be that the mirror might show a face we hardly recognise, our knees likely creak when we get out of the armchair, and we can walk into a room to get something only to forget what it was, but on the inside we still feel like we did when we were 23. Right?

A few days after that Co-op conversation, a friend said to me, "You don't look anything like your photo in the



LINK, you know". I pointed out that a lot had happened in the two years since that photo was taken and my face proudly bears the story for all to see! (So here's this year's portrait for all you nay sayers!)

But here's the thing: Don't you think getting older is a privilege? You may think I'm crazy and, whilst that may be true, I know that not everyone makes it that far. We've lost friends and family members who barely made it to 40

whilst we've continued living. Life can be exhausting, complex and difficult, of course, but it's also a privilege to live long enough to be able to complain about it, don't you think?

I believe the key to ageing well is to find the joy in every day, a pocketful of happiness so to speak. Growing older doesn't mean being boring and it doesn't mean that the best of life has passed.

As Billy Connolly explains, "I think age is terribly overrated. You're okay as long as you don't grow up. By all means grow old, but don't mature. Remain childlike, retain wonder; the ability to be flabbergasted by something."

Be sure to look out for your own pocketful of childlike happiness in every day.

Front Cover image: Joanne Savill

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**Saturday  
morning**  
**@ St Michael's**  
**1st June**  
**10am-12pm**

## Peace

We live in a world plagued with incredible stress and turmoil in every facet of life. The factors that make peace elude us are legion: Societal pressures; economic challenges; social isolation; disease; bereavements, and threat of war. The list is endless. From billionaires to paupers, none among Adam's progeny is immune to the circumstances that tear at our vitals.

Over and above the turbulence of all that threatens our peace, however, we hear the voice of one echoing through the centuries: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." (John 14:27)

The dictionary defines peace as 'freedom from disturbance'. In the Holy Scriptures, however, the Hebrew word translated 'peace' means completeness, soundness and welfare. The Greek word for 'peace' means rest, wholeness, welfare. The peace that Christ proffers to all who trust in Him is wholly independent of any external factors contending with us. His peace is described as 'the peace that surpasses understanding' (Philippians 4:7). It is wholly supernatural and heavenly

and overrides everything that contends with us.

Christ solves our problems, not primarily by changing our environments, but by changing us inwardly. He puts in us an attitude of focusing on Him, seeing His mercy, love, and sovereignty. Like David who mocked and slew Goliath because his focus was on God rather than the terrifying bully giant, so we, focusing on Christ, will always draw divine power to make us more than conquerors.

'Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.' (Philippians 4:6-7)

SHALOM!

*Rev. Dr. Joseph Ribeiro, Highworth Methodist Church*



**BOURTON VILLAGE HALL**

**QUIZ NIGHT**

**Friday 7 June**

**7.00pm for a 7.30 start**  
at Bourton Village Hall, SN6 8JH

**£10 per person** (includes chilli supper)

An evening of fun and mayhem includes Music, Taste and Table-top rounds, plus Heads'n'tails.

The rest is under wraps till the night!

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All proceeds go to support the Village Hall Roof Fund

## WI Celebrations

At the beginning of May, the Afternoon WI combined their Easter celebrations with their 75th anniversary.

A celebratory birthday cake was made by a member and enjoyed by all. Hot cross buns and sausage rolls also went down a treat. A simnel cake was raffled which was later appreciated by the winner's family, and we concluded our celebrations with an Easter quiz and fun bingo.

We are a small but friendly group and if you are free at 2:15pm on the **first Wednesday of each month** come and join us in the Council Offices when we have a speaker.

Come and see what the WI is all about.





## Highworth Open Gardens

Come and enjoy ten open gardens on Sunday 9 June, 11am to 4pm.

Maps are on sale at Visit Highworth and Weigh It Up. It's just £5 for entry to all the gardens and children can enter free with an adult. Refreshments will be available.



## All the Fun of the Southfield Fair

**Get ready for excitement, laughter and community spirit at our eagerly anticipated Summer Fair. We're back with attractions and entertainment for an unforgettable event!**

Last year, families flocked to our field for an afternoon filled with fun. From thrilling rides on the inflatables to relaxing live music and indulging in delicious treats from the food on offer, there was something for everyone to enjoy. We know this year's fair will be no different – we'll have inflatables, games, stalls, activities, a fantastic raffle, and food stalls. There will be plenty for all the family to enjoy!

To enhance our fair even more, we're offering you the opportunity to host a stall. If you're interested, please contact our 'Friends of Southfield' chair, Sarah, at [fos@southfield-jun.swindon.sch.uk](mailto:fos@southfield-jun.swindon.sch.uk).

Mark your calendars for **Friday 12 July**, 3:30pm to 5:30pm, and join us for bundles of fun at our school Summer Fair. Whether you're a thrill-seeker, a foodie, or simply looking to spend quality time with loved ones, there will be something for everyone. We look forward to seeing you there!

*Kimberley O'Sullivan, Head of School*

## New Highworth Mayor Appointed

**On 15 May, Highworth Town Council announced that Councillor Julie Murphy has been appointed as the new Mayor of Highworth for the forthcoming year; her deputy has been named as Councillor Anthony Houghton.**



You will remember that Julie was mayor for the year 2023-24 and we are pleased to see her back in that role. Look out for news from Julie in future issues of this magazine.

All of us here at Highworth's LINK Magazine thank Keith Smith for his infectious enthusiasm and energy as he has served the town as mayor during this past year. Thanks for all your support, Keith.

## Music for a Summer's Afternoon

**On Saturday 22 June there will be a classical guitar concert at St Michael's Church, Highworth starting at 2:30pm.**

The concert will feature solos by Raymond Burley and duets by Haydn Bonadie and Robert Jack. Tickets cost £10 with all proceeds going to the Swindon Parkinson's Action Group. For more information and reservations please contact either Dee Vaughan on 07793 463409 or Robert Jack on 07946 555845.

## Highworth United Reformed Church

**On Sunday 30 June we will be holding a service, 'Sing to the Lord', full of readings, music and hymns for all, led by the choir of Immanuel URC, Swindon.**

You would be so welcome to join us from 10:45am.

## Four Nurses Climb Three Peaks

Four nurses from the Urgent Treatment Centre at the Great Western Hospital are about to embark on the biggest physical challenge they have ever known.

On 5 July they, along with a few friends and family, are going to attempt the 23 gruelling miles of the National Three Peaks 24-hours Challenge in support of Jennifer Chappell and her husband whose daughter, Olivia, became critically ill in November 2023.

Jennifer explains:

"In November 2023 our lives were changed forever. Our beloved five-month-old daughter became critically ill with the common respiratory illness RSV for the second time since her birth. The first time she was unwell, CPAP (Continuous Positive Airway Pressure – apparatus to support a baby's breathing) was started quickly and it prevented her from being ventilated and saved her life in a matter of days.

"She was not so lucky the second time around. A shortage of CPAP machines available meant she was



left with a hands-off approach to see if she could survive on her own. This left her in a very critical condition. No doctor was available that night to intubate her due to the number of poorly babies in the unit. In desperation, and in an attempt to save her life, the nurses looking after Olivia borrowed a CPAP machine being used on another baby. Both babies survived, thankfully. Had there been enough CPAP machines available that day Olivia's condition would not have deteriorated as it did and nurses would have been spared this awful dilemma.

"As parents we could not bear the thought of this happening to another child or family and wish to raise money by completing the Three Peaks Challenge this summer to purchase more CPAP machines or Optiflow devices for the GWH Children's Unit. These will aid the battle against the increasing number of respiratory illnesses that have proven to be fatal to those most vulnerable."

All money raised from the challenge will be donated to the Children's Unit at the Great Western Hospital. If you feel able to support the girls you can contribute through Jennifer's GoFundMe page by scanning the QR code or by searching 'Jennifer Chappell Olivia's Fight'.



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## Highworth Community Larder

**Highworth Community Larder continues to grow and we are very pleased to have been allocated a new regular donation of surplus food from another supermarket, bringing the total number of weekly collections we make to 12.**

We do have a very dedicated group of volunteers who collect this food and deliver it to the larder for redistribution. Sadly, however, sometimes a volunteer leaves or moves away so, if anybody reading this has a little time to spare and would be interested in helping us, we would love to hear from you. The more collectors we have the fewer collections each volunteer needs to make. Collectors can claim mileage expenses.

If you would like to volunteer or have any questions, please contact us via email at [highworthcommunitylarder@gmail.com](mailto:highworthcommunitylarder@gmail.com) or drop in to see us at the larder at Westrop School on a **Tuesday morning between 8am and 11am.**



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**Ask AMS**






**Do I need to pay tax on rental income?**

If you have net rental income on which you'll have tax to pay, (rent minus expenses) then you must register for a Self-Assessment tax return and keep a record of your rental income and 'allowable' expenses (you can find out what they are here [www.gov.uk/renting-out-a-property/paying-tax](https://www.gov.uk/renting-out-a-property/paying-tax)).


If the rent is lower than the personal allowance of £12,570 -2024/25 (and you have no other income), you will not pay income tax. But if the gross rental income exceeds £10,000, or the net rental income exceeds £2,500, then HMRC will still require a tax return. If you make a loss on the rental, it is still a good idea to complete a Tax Return so that you can record the loss, carry it forward, and maybe reduce your tax in a later year.

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## **friday** 5th july

**BEZ (from Happy Mondays) · FatBoy Tim**  
**Alpha Circle**

## **saturday** 6th july

**Black Eyed Peaz · DJ Paul Carroll**  
**Sugar Motown (& her Soul Brothers)**  
**Ukey Dukes · Pretty Green · Seven77's**  
**Taylor Swift Tribute · Jordan Marvell**  
**Double Helix · North Wiltshire Rock Choir**

## **events & attractions**

**Topsy Turvy Cycle Circuit · Stall holders**  
**Circus skills workshops · Fairground**  
**Quality food & drink · England Fan Zone**  
**Small kids chill out area · Kids activities**





## New Recycling Scheme at The Hub Shrivenham

Our main goal is to help the community reduce and reuse as much as possible when it comes to plastic. However, we are aware that it's currently a fact of life that we end up with plastic waste so we are always on the lookout for ways to recycle items that might otherwise go in the bin.

With that in mind, we are delighted to announce that we have been able to fund a new recycling scheme at The Hub.

You can now bring the following items for recycling:

- CDs and DVDs, including cases.
- Empty toothpaste tubes.
- Empty beauty product containers. (Only containers that do not have the 'widely recycled' symbol. These can go in your green bin.)

To help us make sure we only send the correct items, please hand to a member of staff for checking. Please

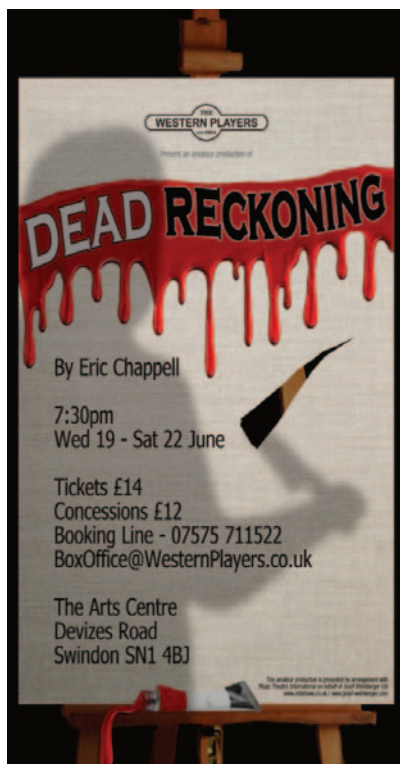


note this recycling scheme is only for individuals and residential households.

The success of The Hub so far has enabled Sustainable Shrivenham to fund this scheme but donations, when possible, are very welcome as they will allow us to continue to provide and maybe extend this service to the community.

In further good news, we are now also able to fund the Blister Pack Recycling Scheme so there will no longer be a charge to our customers. As always, a small donation if and when you can will help to keep it going.

We have also been working hard to make our recycling drop off as simple as possible to use and the space now includes information of many local recycling schemes and where you can access them. Please do come along and find out more. We are open **Wednesday and Friday, 10am to 4pm, and Saturday from 9am to 2pm.** You'll find us on the High Street, Shrivenham.



## New Head for Warneford School

In last month's LINK Magazine we shared the sad news that Mr. Andy Steele is to depart Warneford School, leaving his role as headteacher at the end of the school year. Time doesn't stand still and we're thrilled to announce that a new head has been recruited. Miss Sophie Hesten will begin the new school year in September as Academy Principal of the High School.



Sophie is currently Vice Principal at Lydiard Park Academy which, along with Warneford and a number of other local schools, forms The Park Academies Trust (TPAT). With over 25 years of education experience, coupled with her work within TPAT, she already knows Warneford School well.

A recent letter from the Interim CEO of TPAT, James Nicholson, explained:

"[Miss Hesten] looks forward to continuing with an ambitious programme for the school, aiming to reach even higher levels of attainment and standards while respecting what makes Highworth Warneford a wonderful and unique school."

We look forward to getting to know Miss Hesten and wish Mr. Steele well in his new adventures.

## Buscot and Coleshill National Trust

By the time you read this, bluebell season at Badbury Wood will be over for another year. It's been lovely to welcome so many people who enjoy the beautiful blue glow of the flowers in amongst the trees.

On **Saturday 29 June**, we will be on the Highworth Podium to show what we have on offer at Coleshill and the wider estate and chat with local people. In April's LINK Magazine, I mentioned about finding out what

you want and how we can best serve the local communities. This will be your chance to share your thoughts (there will be more opportunities if you can't make it). From regular dog walkers to occasional visitors, community groups to those who may never have been here; we want to know what you would like to see or what would encourage you to visit.



Another date for your diary later in the year is the weekend of **12 and 13 October**. Coleshill is inviting you to a 1940s weekend. If you would like to dress in period-appropriate costume, there is plenty of time to get your outfit together. More information on the event will follow in the next few months.

Take care and see you soon.

*Sarah Hannis,  
Senior Volunteering and  
Community Officer  
[buscotandcoleshill@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:buscotandcoleshill@nationaltrust.org.uk)*

## 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, an organisation for people no longer in full-time employment, has a variety of interest groups where you can get together with like-minded people to enjoy making music. 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. Sue said, "I'd never done anything like this before but wanted to try something new. You have to really concentrate while 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, rock, 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 music groups are just some of the many types of activities the u3a offers. For a full list of the 130+ groups, and more information about the u3a and how to join, please visit [www.swindonu3a.org.uk](http://www.swindonu3a.org.uk) or 'phone the office on 01793 614629 between 10am and noon on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.



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## Highworth Historical Society and The Great Exhibition

On Wednesday 26 June we welcome **Michael Gilbert**, renowned speaker and London guide, for his illustrated talk on **London 1851 and the Great Exhibition**.

The Great Exhibition of 1851 was probably the most successful, memorable and influential cultural event of the 19th century. With Prince Albert's energetic patronage and Joseph Paxton's gigantic pre-fabricated building of iron and glass, Hyde Park was, from May to October 1851, filled with over six million visitors who were able to view over 100,000 exhibits. When it closed it had generated a vast profit of £186,000; approximately £24.5 million today.

For those new to the town we meet at St Michael's Hall on Lechlade Road. The doors open at 7pm and the talk starts at 7:30pm. Visitors are always welcome for a charge of £3 – cash only please.



If you need more information contact Jayne Stephens on 07583 928277.

## Highworth Scouts Call for Volunteers

**Without leaders, trustees and volunteers, Scouts in Highworth would not be able to continue and flourish. We are looking for volunteers to join us and help ensure that the Beaver, Cub and Scout packs can continue to run.**

As part of the Big Help Out, on **Saturday 8 June** we are having an open morning at the Scout Hut to get some jobs done and also look to get people into volunteering to support Scouting in Highworth into the future. We would love to see you there. Please look at the Highworth Scout Website for more information:  
<https://highworthscouts.org.uk/events>

Our Beaver, Cub and Scout leader teams are vital in providing Scouting activities to the children of Highworth. As a registered charity, 1st Highworth Scout Group also has a committee of trustees whose role it is to support the group lead volunteer and section leader teams. There are also a whole host of smaller jobs, from cleaning to grounds maintenance and managing subscriptions etc., that are done by volunteers to ensure that Scouting can continue in Highworth.

Alternatively, if you are interested in supporting 1st Highworth Scout Group in any other capacity, please contact me at [Phil.Kruse@highworthscouts.org.uk](mailto:Phil.Kruse@highworthscouts.org.uk).

*Phil Kruse*



### Eco Tip from Weigh It Up

The Big Plastic Count results are in and they show that a whopping 1.7 billion pieces of plastic are thrown away weekly in UK. Greenpeace and Everyday Plastic – who performed the research – says the UK throws away more plastic per person than any other country in the world, barring the US. The most commonly counted plastic items thrown away were packaging for snacks, fruit and vegetables. By reusing packaging or buying non-packaged goods you could contribute to a drastic reduction of this figure.







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## Warneford Fundraising Success for SDASS

Talented musicians at Highworth Warneford School have raised £121 for Swindon Domestic Abuse Support Service (SDASS) which will help support families fleeing domestic abuse in the Swindon area.

An idea dreamed up by vocalist Ruby, this special free lunchtime concert was held by Double Helix, a rock band of Year 10 pupils including vocalists; Ruby and Evie; Adiyath, Alessandro, and Alex on guitars; Albert on drums; and Jhomer and Archer on bass. In addition to the lunchtime concert, generous attendees dropped donations for SDASS into buckets at two school-wide shows open to pupils and their families.

James Hanson, Head of Music at Highworth Warneford School, explained, "We hold a lot of charity concerts here at Warneford and when Ruby asked to dedicate a gig to SDASS we were very happy to help. Music is a big thing at the school. We hold two or three gigs a term as well as a big annual concert and most of our performances have a charity attached to them. Anyone can play at one of our gigs, from our more nervous Year 7 performers to our experienced Year 11s, and we have a great range of styles too, from classical and rock to musical theatre."

Mr Hanson presented the cheque to Charlotte Gibbon, Victim Services Manager at SDASS. Charlotte said,



James Hanson presenting the cheque to Charlotte Gibbon

"We'd like to say a big thank you to the pupils and families at Warneford School who donated their money at these concerts. Donations like these go a long way to make a difference to the families we support in the refuge and in the community; in helping them escape and recover from domestic abuse."

*If you need advice for yourself or a friend relating to Domestic Abuse, call the*

*confidential 24/7 Helpline, which is always answered by an Advisor, on 01793 610610.'*

## Success at the Scout Quiz

**20 teams took part in the 2024 renewal of The Scout Quiz and it was another great evening!**

This year's winners were The Toddletons – congratulations to Mark and Mandy Saddleton, and Andy and Sue Tollington. The runners up were The Louts, with MI7 in third place. It was great to see five new teams taking part and we hope to see you again next year.

Thanks to the generous sponsorship of Simpsons Cars (again), the evening raised just under £600 for Scout funds.

David Roblin

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## Westrop Choir go to Wembley!

On Wednesday 20 March, 28 members of the KS2 (Key Stage 2) choir made their way to Wembley Arena for the Voice in a Million (VIAM) event. This concert is an annual event which raises awareness of adoption and fostering and over 6000 school children took part this year.

On arrival in London we had a quick photo, lunch at TGI Fridays and then found our seats in the arena for a practice and sound check with the other schools taking part. All participating children wore the same VIAM T-shirt and sang several pop songs which were chosen for their relevance and entertainment value.

The concert started at 7:15pm with a banner parade and three of our Year



6 children held our Westrop banner, walking onto the stage and through the crowds. The audience, made up of 6000 parents, relatives and friends, were seated on either side of the arena in tiered galleries so they could get the best view of the children performing below. There was even a performance from Sweet Love, a new British girl band who have recently toured with S Club 7.

The concert finished at 10pm, so by the time we arrived back at Westrop it was 12:45am. Although this was a long day it really was worth taking part in 'The world's most spectacular school concert!' Well done Westrop Choir.

*Claire Kruse*

## The Well at Watchfield (and Shrivenham!)

This title will be familiar to those in the villages mentioned, and I am grateful to now introduce the Highworth area to the work of The Well.

We have quite a large armed services community in the Vale serving, retired, and families too. Amongst that community are those who have been badly affected by armed conflict; that damage might include bereavement, physical wounding or mental health issues. Armed Forces medical and welfare services, the NHS and service charities all contribute to tackling this familiar and widespread aftermath of war – their tireless service is warmly acknowledged. The Well simply complements their work.

These organisations focus on their own areas of expertise, whether it's Help for Heroes, an army

physiotherapist, an NHS surgeon, Combat Stress or a community psychiatric nurse. They mostly concentrate on the healing of war wounds inflicted on both bodies and minds. Whilst combat trauma, PTSD and moral injury are widely regarded as problems of mental ill-health, The Well is a resource for understanding, refreshing and renewing wounded spirits.

The rationale is based on the fact that we all have a spirit. Our spirit appreciates art, beauty, love and creation, and includes our unique conscience – our innate ability to sense right from wrong. It is not only so-called religious people who talk about spirit and The Well is not directly connected to church; in fact, we are currently meeting in a pub! We are not a charity, an organisation or a website. We are just a regular gathering of like-minded people who have some armed forces connections... and wounded spirits which need a degree of healing. The warmth, camaraderie, understanding and banter of this militarily-savvy, well-qualified group has already proved its worth.

If you would like to know more or learn arrangements for future meetings, please contact me via email at [jeremyclare@hotmail.com](mailto:jeremyclare@hotmail.com).

*Jeremy Clare*

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# swim stars

# Summer School in Bourton & Avebury

**Great news!! Summer School is back in Bourton and Avebury.**

**Join our wonderful teacher Dean at our Bourton Pool (SN6 8HZ) and the Blue Lagoon (SN4 9NW).**

Due to the success of the previous years we have put together a series of short courses to continue developing your swim skills over the summer holidays.

**Each class is 30 mins and is the usual price of £15 with sibling discount for additional children booked.** We will be teaching at our Bourton and Avebury pools – These pools give the children the opportunity to gain confidence in the bigger and deeper pools, but both have shallow ends for beginners too.

We have found that the benefits of swimming consistently every day, in small groups, make great progress with their confidence, water skills and stroke technique. The Swim England stages that each child is working towards can be completed and work started on the next level. Dean will liaise with your child's current teacher to find out where they are, and we can tailor our classes to work on those areas that need development.



- ★ *Courses are 4 days; Tuesday to Friday.*
- ★ *Each day will commence at 2pm – 6pm, except Wednesdays which will commence at 10am – 2pm.*
- ★ *The cost of the course is £60 for 4 x 30 minute lessons – sibling discount applies.*

***We have limited places on the following sessions:***

**30 July – 2 August at Bourton**

**6 – 9 August at Bourton**

**13 – 16 August at Blue Lagoon**

**20 – 23 August at Blue Lagoon**

Slots will be allocated on a first come first served basis. Secure yours quickly to see the benefits of our summer intensive courses with Dean.

★ ***Please apply via EMAIL ONLY to [swimstarsoffice@yahoo.com](mailto:swimstarsoffice@yahoo.com)*** ★

so we can manage the process smoothly with your preferred dates and the level your child is currently working towards. We will then allocate them to correct class time for their ability.



**We look forward to seeing you at Summer School**

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## Scarecrow Trail is a Success!

The annual 1st Highworth Scouts Easter Scarecrow Trail was held between Saturday 1 April and Sunday 16 April on the theme of 'Animated Film'.

Many thanks to everyone who provided a scarecrow to make the trail possible. In particular, we would like to thank Visit Highworth, The Saracens Head and Allen and Harris for selling the trail maps. In addition, the Scouts would also like to thank: Print Clever for printing the trail sheets for free; Andrews Quality Meats; Highworth Emporium; The Highworth; Bloomfields Deli and Weigh it Up, all for donating the prizes.

The Scarecrow Trail is organised by 1st Highworth Scouts with all funds raised going to support the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts of Highworth. This year we managed to raise over £500. The prize for most popular scarecrow, as voted by people taking part, was for 'Despicable Me'. Congratulations.

Finally, thank you to everyone who bought a trail map, I hope you enjoyed it. We will be back next Easter with a new theme.



## Summer Madness at Highworth Flower Club

On Thursday 6 June, 7:30pm, Warneford School, we will be joined by Denise Jones who will talk to us on the theme of 'Summer Madness'.

Denise is a creative designer and floral artist with over 30 years' experience and her intriguing title promises floral magic.

We hope you will join us in the school hall. Doors open 7pm with plenty of space for parking in the school car park. Visitors welcome at a fee of £5. Please contact Michele for more information on 07798 817249 or see our website: [www.highworthflowerclub.co.uk](http://www.highworthflowerclub.co.uk)

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## Thinking Local, Thinking Samaritans

As the seasons change, your local Samaritans branch is asking you to donate pre-loved items to their shop in Swindon's Curtis Street rather than using Vinted or Depop.



Donating locally is a great way of supporting your local Samaritans branch as well as recycling your great quality clothes and bric-a-brac, ensuring many more happy memories are created by our customers when they buy something you've loved and donated!

Happily, you can also increase the value of your donations through gift aid at no cost to you if you are a UK taxpayer. Please ask us for a form.

Swindon & District Samaritans need to raise all our own running costs and all the money we raise is spent locally by providing our free listening service for anyone who needs a safe place to talk, as well as raising awareness and recruiting volunteers throughout our community. Check out our website to find out more.

As one of our customers recently said, "I understand that by supporting this great shop I am also helping Samaritans to listen to anyone who is struggling, and this means a lot to me."

Just £5 can fund a call – a call which could save a life – and at Samaritans we believe that every life lost to suicide is a tragedy. Our vision is that fewer people die by suicide.

Every ten seconds, Samaritans responds to a call for help without judgment or pressure. We won't give advice or tell anyone what to do but we will explore feelings and give our undivided attention and empathy to help reduce distress and despair.

We're here every hour of every day of the year for anyone who needs someone to listen to them, whatever they're going through. Your help can make all the difference.

*Maggie Gill, Listener*

*T: 01793 526430*

*E: [swindon@samaritans.org](mailto:swindon@samaritans.org)*

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## Highworth Climate Talks

**How bad are bananas? Seriously, we know that everything we touch has a carbon footprint, from a humble fruit to a kitchen appliance, a night away or even a bank account. And as we see more and more exceptional floods, storms and heatwaves around the globe, people are asking how they can play a positive role in preventing the climate getting worse. Are the products we buy produced locally? How is it packaged? Has it been transported by airfreight? What is it made of?**

John Ranford, a trained Carbon Literacy speaker, will help us navigate these issues in a visual and interactive way. He'll draw on the bestselling book, 'How Bad are Bananas' by Mike Berners-Lee, with plenty of examples and there will be a chance to discuss with others what actions are difficult and what are the 'quick wins'.

These events are not just talks – they also focus on our own experiences. So whatever ways you've adapted to be more planet-friendly, we'd like to hear of them too.

But if you're wanting to know exactly how bad – or good – bananas are, come along on **Tuesday 18 June** to Highworth Methodist Church, SN6 7AD, at 7:30pm.



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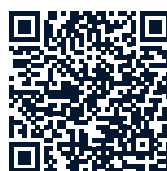
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# CELEBRATING MAYDAY IN HIGHWORTH

Photographs: Keith Davidson, Pauline Goodwin, Aga Gabrysiak, Debra Richardson, Cecilla Johnston, Poppy Nolan and Rob New



## Sage is the Colour of Beauty

Sage Beauty is an exclusive, by-appointment-only service offering a range of treatments and is run by local entrepreneur Natalie Mundy.

Open exclusively from Thursday to Sunday, Natalie offers a calming and peaceful experience in her elegant Highworth beauty studio. Clients can expect a first-class appointment, whether looking for piercings, manicures, lashes, brow lamination or even semi-permanent makeup.


A recent client stated, "Natalie is an amazing lady!!! Nothing is too much trouble and she will go the extra mile in order to make things perfect! I had the



permanent combination brows done and was absolutely thrilled with the result! I would recommend Natalie at Sage Beauty in a heartbeat." (GF)

Natalie goes out of her way to make clients feel comfortable, going the extra mile to accommodate their needs. As one client explained, "Natalie was brilliant because I had to have my head elevated throughout due to my neurological disability. She figured out a way to safely and comfortably do it, which was great. She is a lovely calming lady, explaining everything while answering all your questions." (SR)

You can find Sage Beauty across social media (Facebook: Sage Beauty, or Instagram: Sagebeauty\_nm) and make an appointment through Fresha Booking (Sage Beauty), or directly with Natalie on 07710 657040.



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## Forget-Me-Not Café

The April Forget-Me-Not Café welcomed both Annamaria Marone Kiss and Angharad Caton to another great event.

Annamaria ran Love To Move, a seated exercise session, which was enthusiastically enjoyed by most. Annamaria regularly runs sessions of Love To Move for us at the Community Centre on the **second Wednesday of each month**. These are free to attend. Please contact [lovetomove.highworth@gmail.com](mailto:lovetomove.highworth@gmail.com) or call Ruth on 07970 543423, or Annamaria on 07771 853337, for more information.

Angharad, the Missing Persons Coordinator with Wiltshire Police, told us about the new Dementia Safeguarding Wristband project. It provides a free-of-charge wristband which contains a



unique code and microchip so that carers or family members can load it with key information about the wearer, including their name, age, and the town or village they are from, as well as next-of-kin details.

The bands can be scanned by a smartphone and the information on the chip will then be displayed on that phone. You don't need an app to scan the band. If the wearer is found by a member of the public and appears lost or vulnerable, that member of the public can scan the band and contact the noted next-of-kin.

For more information on the wristband, please contact Angharad at [missingpersons@wiltshire.police.uk](mailto:missingpersons@wiltshire.police.uk),



## Westrop School Say Thank You to B&Q

Some staff from B&Q came to volunteer at Westrop Primary School for around five hours in the Easter holidays. They did great work with our site manager



by re-positioning our forest school sign and planting some beautiful plants around it.

They also set up a memorial area for Mrs. Tracey Simpson,

a teaching assistant at the school who sadly died last year. We now have a lovely bench and planters along with a plaque to remember her.

We are very grateful for the time given by B&Q staff members and for the very kind donations of plants, planters, and bench.

*Claire Kruse*



**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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**Contact: Westrop Primary & Nursery School**

**Telephone:** 01793 762897 **Email:** [nursery@westrop.swindon.sch.uk](mailto:nursery@westrop.swindon.sch.uk) **Website:** [www.westropprimaryschool.co.uk](http://www.westropprimaryschool.co.uk)



## Visit Highworth Arts Festival

We are pleased to announce that we will be holding an art exhibition from 19 to 22 June featuring the work of local artists and sculptors.

**Saturday 22 June** is the main festival day when there will be a series of events including workshops and demonstrations for both children and adults, as well as family activities on the Podium. There will also be Storytime with internationally renowned author Neil Griffiths. These activities are for all ages and promise to be very entertaining – something not to be missed. To round off the festival there will be a barbecue and quiz at The Highworth. Come along to test your little grey cells!

As part of the festival, we would also like to introduce the first Visit Highworth Arts Trail. The Highworth Camera Club and Highworth Artists' Society have created original art works featuring book titles; all you have to do is guess what the title is or match the work to the correct title – the choice is yours. This is on display from **Monday 17 June until Sunday 30 June** in windows along the High Street, with a prize for the winning entry picked at random. Free trail sheets will



be available in Visit Highworth so pop in and collect yours.

Now that the better weather is here it's a good time to take one of our Wildlife Walks with (or without!) a camera. Neil, from Neil George Photography and current chair of Highworth Camera Club, is a wildlife

photographer with over forty years' experience. He is an avid wildlife spotter and has a vast knowledge of wildlife, both native and visiting, to the British Isles. Come with your camera for advice on wildlife photography or join us to see what you can spot. However, if pavements and history are more to your liking, then you could take one of our guided town tours. Take a pleasant stroll around the town and discover its fascinating history.

The craft centre is open with new and interesting pieces from local artists and makers. The Highworth Museum also has a new exhibition featuring Garry Douel Pottery. Pop in to have a look.

*Helen Lacey, Centre Manager*

*T: 01793 764440*

*E: [info@visithighworth.co.uk](mailto:info@visithighworth.co.uk)*

## Highworth Camera Club

**At April's meeting we welcomed David Rutter FRPS (Fellow of the Royal Photographic Society).**

David talked us through some of his work and showed us an interesting range of images taken in and around London Underground and street photography. He talked about the use of several different images that are then edited together for a composite final image.



*The Fog by Kevin O'Donoghue*

His interesting work can be seen on his website at [www.davidrutterphotography.com](http://www.davidrutterphotography.com).

The club's monthly competitions had members' entries as usual. The set subject was 'Book Titles' so we voted for winners and tried to guess the titles! Some of these images will be used for this month's Highworth Arts and Literature Festival to be held the week beginning **17 June** with the art exhibition open from **19 to 22 June**. The Camera Club and Highworth's Artist Society are joining forces for this event and will have pictures around the High Street shops with a competition to guess the book titles.

The winner of the club's April open competition was 'The Fog' by Kevin O'Donoghue. 'Book Title' winner was Margaret Andrews whose two entries scored the same for joint first – well done Margaret!

Our next meeting on **9 July** will be an outside meeting, venue to be arranged. If you are interested in the club's activities and would like more details, you can email [highworthcamclub@gmail.com](mailto:highworthcamclub@gmail.com).

## The Arts Society Upper Thames June Lecture

We would be pleased to welcome you as a visitor to our June lecture with Mark Fisher on the subject of 'A History of Arts Criticism from Aristotle to Facebook'. We will meet at Lechlade Memorial Hall on Thursday 13 June, 2pm.

In this lively lecture, author Mark Fisher will introduce the principles of arts criticism and show you how to put them into practice. You'll journey from the present day into the past, learning lessons from history about how to think about the arts. He'll ask questions about the place of the artist, the role of the critic, and the ways in which all of us can discuss the art we enjoy in a productive and creative way.

Mark Fisher is a freelance theatre critic and feature writer based in Edinburgh and has written about theatre since the late-1980s. He is a theatre critic for The Guardian, a former editor of The List magazine and a contributor to publications all over the world. He has run criticism workshops at schools, universities and theatres all over the UK as well as giving sessions as far afield as Malta, Brazil and Chile. His online workshops have attracted participants from South Africa, Canada, Singapore, the USA, Germany, Italy, Ireland and the UK.

On this occasion our short AGM will be held before the lecture. Non-members are welcome but please arrive by 1:50pm and pay £7.50 on the door.

## Highworth Artists' Society Spring Exhibition

Our Spring Exhibition ran for a full week at the end of April and it was great to see so many visitors! Thank you to everyone who came in to see us and for so many lovely comments about the artworks.

The exhibition was opened on preview evening by Mayor Keith Smith who gave an entertaining opening speech and, as official opener of the exhibition, named his favourite painting. This was awarded to Sandra Palmer for her pastel painting 'Cornish Coast', pictured here.

*Editor: Read more from our Mayor about the exhibition on page 39.*



Winning artist Sandra Palmer

## Highworth Arts and Crafts Exhibition

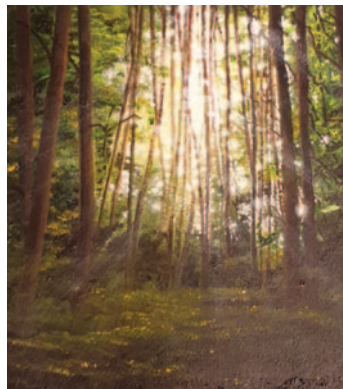


We are delighted to hear that an exhibition is to be held featuring the art of Ann Marsh and Richard Harpin, plus work by woodturner Don Webster and potter Keith Panting.

The show will be open in the Highworth Council Community Room from 10am to 4pm daily, from Saturday 8 June to Monday 10 June.

Tea, coffee and delicious cakes will be available in aid of the Prospect Hospice.

*Recent works by Ann Marsh*





# CHARITY & FUNDRAISING

## Highworth and District Lions Club

We have been busy Lions lately with several fundraising events. Our Easter event on the Podium at the Highworth Market had good weather for us to enjoy whilst welcoming people to our stall for our tombola and Name the Bunny competition.

We also had a few stalls at the amazingly organised Highworth May Day Festival. We had a fantastic time seeing so many people flocking to the High Street for a brilliant family day out of fun and supporting local people and businesses. We enjoyed seeing so many people at our stall trying their luck on the tombola and snapping up the bargains we had on sale.

Our charity shop has been very busy with lots of people buying our amazing bargains, as well as donating fantastic items for us to be able to put on sale. Good quality donations are always welcomed in our shop so if you have anything you'd like to donate



please drop it off anytime within our opening times (Tuesday to Friday, 9am to 4pm, Saturday, 10am to 1pm).

On that note, I would like to say a massive thank you to all of our fantastic charity shop volunteers for their continued hard work with running the shop. You take

great pride in ensuring it always looks so beautifully laid out and welcoming to everyone that comes in.

Here are some of the causes we have supported recently:

- Taipei Earthquake Appeal: £1000
- Swindon Humanitarian Aid Project (Support for vital supplies to Ukraine): £1000
- Helping a local family through Highworth CAP to buy a mattress: £200

Melanie Davenport  
secretaryhighworthlions@gmail.com



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

Entrance will be £7.50 for adults, with children entering for free with a paying adult (pre-booking available via the NGS website for the weekend or onsite contactless payment). Tea, coffee and cakes (in aid of the local WI and ARocha) will be available, along with a plants sale.

Find us five miles north west of Cirencester on the A417 at Cotswold Farm, Duntisbourne Abbots, GL7 7JS

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

## Evening with Richard Digance

Once again our evening with Richard on 20 April was a tremendous success.

He sang some old favourites plus a couple of new songs written this year. The hall was packed to capacity, even a couple from Wotton-under-Edge came along, and we had to disappoint a waiting list of people hoping to attend.

Thanks to everyone we raised a total of £1,159 for British Heart Foundation.

Richard is delighted to come again next year so save the date – **Saturday 19 April 2025.**

*Joan Webb  
British Heart Foundation*

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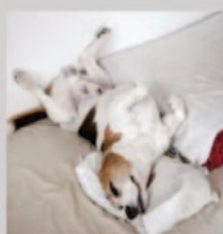
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## Scout Camp

I recently attended my first scout camp.

It was raining on the Friday and Saturday nights as well as all day Saturday. On our first morning we had sausage and bacon baps, then packed our lunch and went for a three-hour hike to a trout farm.

At the trout farm, we ate lunch and fed the fish and ducks before we went fishing. One person in my group caught a massive fish but it got away! We all had a turn, but in the end no one caught anything so we went to the easier section and caught lots! Whilst everyone was playing in the park, a few of us got to gut the fish. It was very interesting and gross at the same time. When we'd finished, we got a lift back to camp to save the three-hour hike... it was only an 11-minute drive!

Once we were all back, we cooked the fish that we had caught – smoked, grilled, or baked – it was delicious. I even ate an eyeball – disgusting!

On Saturday morning we had cinnamon, apple, banana and sultana porridge, and toast. I was told I made the best scrambled egg! Then we packed our things up and went wall climbing, abseiling and bouldering. It was so much fun, but my arms and legs were aching lots. Our parents were waiting for us when we arrived back at camp, so we packed our tents away and put our things in our cars. The final meal for the weekend was chicken fajita wraps for lunch. The last thing to do was lower our flag before returning home,

It was a really good camp and I will definitely do it again.

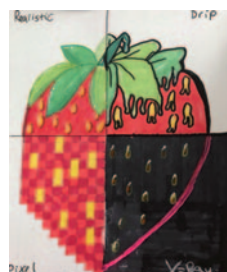
*Sophie Nolan*

## I Love Art

Drawing helps me stay calm and have fun at the same time, and in my room I have a wall full of art I've created.

This month I would like to show you one of my favourite art styles. In this picture I've drawn a strawberry in a variety of styles: realistic, dripping, pixel, and x-ray. My favourite style of the strawberry is realistic as I had a lot of fun creating it and I'm really pleased with the result. It looks just like the real thing!

I hope you like the picture. Have an amazing June and see you next month.



*Constance Davenport*

## Highworth Methodist Church



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9<sup>th</sup> Jenny Corkett  
16<sup>th</sup> Rev Mike Dilly  
23<sup>rd</sup> Rev Joseph Ribeiro  
30<sup>th</sup> Rev Joseph Ribeiro  
**Tuesday Afternoon Communion 4<sup>th</sup> @ 2pm**

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2.30pm







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

## Highworth Town Football Club

Highworth Town finished in third place in the league after four wins in seven days in a quite ridiculous schedule imposed by the League. Two days later we lost the promotion play-off final 1-0 in a close game with Royal Wootton Bassett. Picture courtesy of Lewis Moran ([lewismoran.smugmug.com](mailto:lewismoran.smugmug.com)).

Having beaten Corsham Town in our final league game, they visited us five days later and knocked us out of the Challenge Cup 1-0.

A great season under Paul Braithwaite which also saw extended runs in the FA Cup and FA Vase. Roll on next season.

*Derek Lloyd*



*Battling Bassett in the league Play-off*



*Opening-of-the-green*

## Highworth Bowls Club

Highworth Bowls Club green opened for the season on Sunday 14 April when the club held their green-opening event. Club president Neil Biles raised the flag and the competition got underway, organised by our club chairman Ian Dandy. Thanks must go to the green keeping team for their hard work over the past few months to ensure the green was ready and in playing condition, which indeed it was. Our Chairman commented, "What a lovely way to celebrate opening-of-the-green in the Highworth sunshine. The new edging looks fantastic and the surface played really well despite the heavy rain of the past weeks and months. We're set for an enjoyable season."

After the bowling competition the many members who attended were provided food and refreshments from the bar. A good day all round and we look forward to another excellent season at Highworth Bowls Club.

*Kevin Brown*

W: [www.highworthbowlsclub.org](http://www.highworthbowlsclub.org)

## Swindon Croquet Club

A sunny start to Swindon Croquet Club's season! Swindon's 2024 season began on 1 April in pleasant sunshine with many of our members very keen to return to the lawns at Moredon Sporting Hub. The club's sessions on both Tuesday afternoons and Thursday mornings are in full swing. Members have also been busy preparing and working on the area where two new lawns will be sited. The hope is that a fourth lawn will be available for play very shortly.

Tony Mayer, Clive Smith and Steven Hares (pictured L-R) represented Swindon at the annual 'One ball' charity event held at Kington Langley Croquet Club and, in doing so helped the event raise £165 for The British Heart Foundation.



An open day is being planned and will give prospective new members a chance to enjoy this game of skill and strategy. If you would like to give croquet a try please see our website, find us on Facebook or email for more information.

*Wendy White*

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

E: [croquetwindon@gmail.com](mailto:croquetwindon@gmail.com)

## Wrag Barn Golf Club

The season is well under way at Wrag Barn with a packed programme of inter-club competitions in all the sections and numerous knockouts and qualifiers for everyone who wants to take part. At the time of writing, the Men's Championship was scheduled to be held over the first weekend in May and the ground staff were working hard to present the course to its full potential after a wet winter and a spell of cold, windy weather. Everyone always remarks how well Wrag Barn recovers in the spring, which is due to the



expertise of head greenkeeper Neil Carter and his team and the resilience of the undisturbed permanent pasture that much of the course is built on.

Our tribute nights are very popular and the wedding season is well under way in our newly refurbished function rooms; for some reason people are already thinking about Christmas! Let's appreciate the summer first as the joy of playing a few holes of golf on a summer's evening is a pastime which is hard to beat. For more information please do look us up.

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## Highworth Running Club

Back in April, HRC held their annual spring running race for the 37th time in their almost 40-year history, and 200 runners from far and wide came to take part.

The one thing we forgot to book was the weather! Oh it was dry, but it was exceptionally windy and wherever you were on the course you felt as if the wind was in your face. It was just as challenging for the marshals and timekeepers as the inflatable finishing arch had to be dispensed with and the tape lining the final field section continuously tightened and adjusted.

But run they did and finish they did. Starting at 11am, the masses disappeared down Shrivensham Road, flew down Fresden Lane, and galloped up Eastrop Hill. Maybe gallop is the wrong verb! Crossing the line first



was Oliver Sherratt from Abingdon AC with a time that understandably didn't threaten the course record but did represent an unbelievable effort in the conditions. Felix Wernham was only 19 seconds behind at 28:19 minutes, ahead of the City of Norwich's Matthew Allen also the first veteran to finish in 29:22 minutes.

In the ladies' race, Stephanie Lane stopped the clock five seconds inside 32 minutes and ahead of last year's winner Emma Hines (representing the Swindon Harriers and also first female veteran) who recorded 32:42 minutes, before Highworth Running Club's Jessica Stueber stopped the clock well under 35 minutes to complete the podium. Jon Last and Andy Colling won their respective age categories as did Anna Lea and Samantha Kelly.

But the most emotional award of the day was without doubt the race for the inaugural Tom Bolter trophy. It's my belief that the best of us are taken first and last year the Highworth Running Club lost a beloved club member and friend in Tom to cancer, despite all his valiant battling. In his honour, his family presented the trophy to the first Highworth Running Club member to finish the race, as will be the case in the years that follow. It was understandably an emotional run and a proud achievement for Lee Plank to be the first name engraved on the trophy after he finished 12th overall in a time of 32:32 minutes. Congratulations to you Lee and all the trophy winners from the day.

The full results can be viewed online as can the club's many and eclectic training sessions. (Some start and finish at pubs!) Anyone wishing to top up their fitness (or find some) should just pop along, find us and say 'Hi'. We look forward to seeing you.

Jason Daniels  
W: [www.highworthrunningclub.co.uk](http://www.highworthrunningclub.co.uk)

# OUR REPRESENTATIVE

## Shrivenham Park Golf Club

At the time of writing fine days were still in the minority; hopefully by June we'll be experiencing drier, friendlier weather for outdoor activities! However, one fine day did actually occur in April when the Oxfordshire County Captains' team played their match against Wiltshire at the Hadden Hill Golf Club. Camaraderie, warm hospitality, a renewing of friendships, plus a most appetising meal and, of course the enjoyment of the game, were all experienced. A big thank you to the host club and Cheryl (a past captain of Hadden Hill) who cheered all 32 players on their way at the clubhouse with fabulous cakes. Oxfordshire were the victorious side, winning 5-3. Thanks go to Wiltshire for travelling the long distances.

Our Juniors are working hard under the coaching and guidance of Jim and handicap cards are being completed. Hopefully some of the youngsters will be

taking part in the Junior Open we're staging on **Thursday 22 August**. If you have a golfing junior in your family you can find out more details by getting in touch with me (details below).

May Day celebrations kept the club occupied last month with a visit from US Golf and our involvement in Party-in-the-Park. Hopefully you were able to visit, see our table, and find out all the different things that take place week-by-week, month-by-month at the club. Next month the captains will be welcoming all the members to the Club Fun Day! We cater for far more than just players on our main course.

In terms of recent accolades, Denise Shurmer came first in the Granny Cup; Dave Bannister won the George Glover 'Two clubs and a putter' competition with 36 Stableford points; and Ryan Moore and Allen Powell were second and third respectively thanks to their scores of 35 Stableford points and countback.

Club committee chairman Richard Charles won the Senior April Medal and Trevor White of our greenkeeping team won the Men's section.

Parkies Pals held their April putting competition and the winners were presented with a trophy, second and third places receiving silver and bronze medals. The presentation also launched the day for the Social Putters who will now be meeting twice a month on the putting green, **Fridays between 2pm and 4pm** at a cost of £2 per session. All are welcome and the upcoming dates are **14 and 21 June** and **12 and 26 July**. Parkies Pals continue to meet on the first **Tuesday of each month between 10am and 12pm** at a session cost of £3.

Any ladies who are thinking of joining a club and playing are very welcome to come and swell our membership – our fees are very reasonable for all categories. Ladies meet on a **Thursday at 9am**, so why not drop the children off at school and come and relax for the morning on our course? Please do get in touch for further details.

Carole Lee

M: 07467 657974 / T: 01793 783 853

W: [www.shrivenhampark.co.uk](http://www.shrivenhampark.co.uk)

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## Northview Play Area Update

Highworth Town Council is pleased to update you that the tender exercise has been completed to redevelop Northview play area. At the time of writing this article, the works are due to start soon with a proposed completion date of late summer 2024.

This is the first of 3 play areas in the town to undergo much needed redevelopment, work continues behind scenes covering funding and design.

For more information on the play area redevelopment project and to view the design please visit [www.highworthtowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.highworthtowncouncil.gov.uk)

Deanne Rose  
Town Clerk



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# REPRESENTATIVES

## News from Highworth's Mayor



It always gives me pleasure when I am officially invited to a local Highworth organisation or group. It was exactly that when I was invited to open Highworth Artists' Society Spring Art Exhibition. On this occasion I was slightly apprehensive as I was tasked with choosing my favourite

picture for the Mayor's Prize. I thought, "I really do not know enough about art to make such a judgement." And there were so many wonderful pictures occupying every corner of the room.

I had arrived half an hour before the invited guests, which meant I could have a really good, uninterrupted view. I quickly chose the picture I thought was the one. However within two minutes I had changed my mind... and again and again. It was clear that I needed a strategy. What could it possibly be? Then I had that light bulb moment. Which of the pictures would my wife have chosen to be displayed in our house, if there was room on a wall (there isn't!). The strategy worked. The choice was made. The decision was all the sweeter when the chairperson said, "Oh good, the winner has never won a prize before."

Not only did I have a most enjoyable

evening, I also learned a lesson about making assumptions. Artists live in the real world just like those who do not have their skills and cannot tell the difference between green and avocado, or white and off-white. I am assured by a recent recruit that Highworth Artists' Society is a warm and welcoming place, who added that the artists were non-judgemental, and any one of them will support and offer advice if it is asked for. He was amazed how a thing of beauty could be created from a blank canvas.

Another pleasant and satisfying evening. Thank you.

*Keith Smith, Mayor*



*Keith Smith (Mayor) and Lyn Armstrong (HAS President). Unfortunately the winner was not present on the night.*

## 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

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### 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](http://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**.

### 10:15am Midweek Communion

On the **third Wednesday of each month**, from 11am. Coffee and cake will be served from 10:15am.

### Prayers

Tuesday Prayers from 9am.

Friday Blessings from 9:15am.

The second and fourth Mondays see Prayer Hour in the Church Room at the new time of 7.30pm.

### We remember those who love and miss

Graham Bryant

Jeanette Smith

Paul Bence

### We congratulate on their marriage

Summer Bourne and Guy Berwick

### Praying for the roads in the town

**02 June** Henley Drive and High Street

**09 June** Hannington, Sevenhampton and Inglesham villages

**16 June** Home Farm and Islay Crescent

**23 June** Kilda Road and Kings Avenue

**30 June** Knowlands and Lechlade Road

## St. Leonard's Parish Church Stanton Fitzwarren

**Sunday 2 June** Morning Praise, 9:30am

**Sunday 9 June** Family Service, Godparent Sunday: Samuel, 11am

**Sunday 16 June** Team Service at South Marston, 10am

**Sunday 23 June** Holy Communion, 9:30am

**Sunday 30 June** Team Service at Coleview, 11am

Stanton Coffee Morning will be on **Wednesday 12 June**, at Stanton House Hotel. We meet at 10:30 for coffee and a chat before our speaker at 11am. We usually finish by 12 noon.

The church building will be open every Wednesday in school term time from 10am to 4pm, or telephone 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 this schedule. Please go to [www.stantonchurch.info](http://www.stantonchurch.info) for updates.



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



**17/5/2024**

*In loving memory of Mike Badger.*

*It has been five years since we lost you but not a day goes by without thinking of you.*

*Love always.*

*Yvone, Katy and Bobby xxx*

**29/5/2024**

*Gordon Pollock*

*In our hearts forever.*

*Loved and missed.*

*Sue, Liz, Hannah and Alex*

*Floodlighting forms are available from St. Michael's Church office, Vicarage Lane, or the Church website at [www.stmichaelshighworth.co.uk/floodlighting](http://www.stmichaelshighworth.co.uk/floodlighting). Your dedication will appear in this magazine.*

*All submissions to the Church Office by Wednesday 29 May for the combined July/August publication.*

E: [office@stmichaelshighworth.co.uk](mailto:office@stmichaelshighworth.co.uk) • [www.stmichaelshighworth.co.uk](http://www.stmichaelshighworth.co.uk)



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# USEFUL CONTACTS

## LOCAL CONTACTS

### EMERGENCY

<b>Police, Fire, Ambulance</b>	<b>Emergency</b>	<b>999</b>
<b>Gas</b>	<b>Emergency</b>	<b>0800 111999</b>
<b>Electricity</b>	<b>Emergency</b>	<b>105</b>
<b>Water</b>	<b>Emergency</b>	<b>0800 3169 800</b>

### NON-EMERGENCY

<b>Police</b>	<b>Non-Emergency</b>	<b>101</b>
<b>NHS</b>	<b>Non-Emergency</b>	<b>111</b>
<b>Pest Control</b>	<b>Non-Emergency</b>	<b>07789 781151</b>

### 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 Swindon	
Queens Road Campus	01793 611470
Swindon College Campus	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 Borough 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

### SCHOOLS

Eastrop Infants	01793 763772
Southfield Junior	01793 762210
Westrop Primary	01793 762897
Warneford Secondary	01793 762426

### TAXIS

Veezu	01793 701701
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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

## Highworth LINK magazine

Published under the auspices of Highworth Churches Together.

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Highworth LINK magazine is published monthly except in January and August.

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

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

### Contributions:

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

Email is preferred; otherwise deliver to The Bridge Centre.

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. The print process requires images ideally to be 300dpi for best results, low resolution images, that appear clear on screen, will print blurred depending on the size and resolution of the image supplied.

Make sure any people in photos agree that the photo can be published in the magazine and web. Get parental 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.

### Submission Deadlines:

1st of the month before publication – news, articles, advertising and letters.





# HIGHWORTH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN 2



## HAVE YOUR SAY ON IMPORTANT PLANNING POLICIES THAT WILL SHAPE THE FUTURE OF HIGHWORTH, SEVENHAMPTON AND HAMPTON

**REGULATION 14 PUBLIC CONSULTATION  
11th MAY TO 24th JUNE**



### WHY IS THIS SO IMPORTANT?

When decisions are made on any development in our town the Swindon Borough Local Plan and Highworth Neighbourhood Plan policies must be considered. The plan seeks to shape, direct and help deliver sustainable development by influencing the planning policies and decisions made by Swindon Borough Council.

### WHERE AND WHEN CAN I GO TO VIEW THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN 2?

Highworth Town Council will be holding face to face public events in order for you to ask questions and for you to provide your invaluable feedback.

Public consultations will take place in the Highworth Town Council community room, 3 Gilberts Lane, Highworth on the following dates:

**Saturday 11th May. 9am until 2pm / Thursday 16th May. 6pm until 9pm  
Saturday 15th June. 9am until 2pm / Thursday 20th June. 6pm until 9pm**

### HOW TO VIEW THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN 2 IF YOU CANNOT ATTEND A CONSULTATION

You can go online by visiting the  
Highworth Town Council website at **[www.highworthtowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.highworthtowncouncil.gov.uk)**

Alternatively you can view the Neighbourhood Plan 2 documents at the locations below:

**Highworth Town Council Offices, 3 Gilberts Lane, Highworth.**

**The Highworth Visitor Centre, 7 High Street, Highworth.**

**Highworth Library, Brewery Street, Highworth.**

**Highworth Community Centre, The Dormers, Highworth.**

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