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July/August 2024



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Dear Reader

If you take a stroll through this issue, you'll see that we really are an arty lot in this corner of Wiltshire. Art societies, arts festivals, craft clusters, authors in schools, gardening groups, music festivals, choirs and dancing, all have their place in the rich tapestry of our communities. The arts matter because they help us to create, connect, understand and empower.

We have been designed to be creative and be in community. According to Maya Angelo, creativity is a bottomless pit. "The more you use it, the more you have," said the novelist. "Creativity is intelligence having fun," is a phrase often attributed to Einstein.

In 2021, the International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health published a study which demonstrated that creativity is beneficial to wellbeing. We all know that our wellbeing relies on exercise and



healthy eating, but studies like this one are showing that engaging with arts and culture improves physical and mental health – over 70% of GPs report that involvement in creativity and the arts is beneficial to health. Art is also a great way to reduce a sense of loneliness and it gives us the option to take our minds off stressful situations and express complex emotions.

We can all be creative in our own way. Perhaps you like knitting or crocheting; singing and performing; painting; gardening or writing stories. Whatever your 'thing', do it and do it well. Make the time to use your abilities to free your thinking and slow down your busyness. So many artistic pursuits give us the space to breathe and think clearly; and you can find out in this edition about lots of different groups you can join where you can meet likeminded people who are learning, just as you are, to do what they do and do it well.

Front Cover image: Keith Davidson Photography



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Holidays, Holy Days and Ember Days



When I was young, holidays were always times I looked forward to. Later as a parent, I also enjoyed spending time getting away from the routine hustle and bustle of daily living.

For many years in the 1970s I used to go with my parents to the Sidmouth Folk Festival. To young people today, 50 years ago may seem to belong to ancient crinoline-wearing days; as remote to them as the 1800s Grand Tours were to all but the privileged sons of gentry who would swan off to Europe for 'improving' cultural tours lasting up to three years.

Holidays. The word comes from medieval Holy Days when people were given time off work to attend church on important Holy Days such as Christmas, Easter, Whitsun and Ascension. Breaks from work rarely existed for the common man and his family so these

were very precious. It wasn't until 1841 that a one-day excursion to a temperance meeting (from Leicester to Loughborough on a chartered train) was organised and sold at a shilling a head. This earned former Baptist preacher Thomas Cook the sobriquet of the inventor of the package tour.

Ember Days were also days off but they were times reserved for fasting and prayer in many parts of the Christian Church. Ember Days traditionally comprise the Wednesday, Friday and Saturday following St. Lucy's Day (13 December); the first Sunday in Lent; Pentecost (Whitsun); and Holy Cross Day (14 September), though other days might be observed locally.

From the first days of creation God ordained times of rest and relaxation, so let us not take our holidays (Holy Days) for granted. Use them for spiritual refreshment as well as physical and mental renewal.

*Rev. Phil Goodey
Rector for Highworth and Blunsdon*

Operation Christmas Child Needs Your Help

Since 1997 Highworth has been a centre for the collection of gift-filled shoeboxes to be sent to children around the world as part of the Operation Christmas Child Appeal. Last year 1,670 boxes were sent to Belarus from Highworth, bringing joy to children at Christmas.



In order for this to continue, the current team needs some help. We are looking for a volunteer(s) who could be called upon during the day between 11 and 19 November to collect shoeboxes from various

points in the surrounding area and bring them back to Highworth Methodist Church, the furthest point being Malmesbury.

A driving licence, car or access to a car, business insurance and the ability to lift and carry cartons of boxes up to 10kgs in weight are required. We also need assistance with the storage and movement of

cartons in the Methodist Church and the eventual loading of them into vans on a couple of evenings.

If you think you could help or need further information, please contact Peter McAuley ASAP on mcauley.peter@gmail.com, or telephone 01793 764385 or 07464 938960.



Bobby Van's Experts Keeping People Safe

The Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust has been keeping older and vulnerable people safe in their homes since 1998 through the expertise of its staff.

The charity, based at Devizes Police Headquarters, has several strands to its work; all designed to help people who have suffered, or are at risk of, burglaries, fraud and cybercrime. Two operators, both former police officers, take their Bobby Vans – modified mobile workshops – to visit by appointment people over-60, or those with disabilities over-18, to restore their sense of safety and security.

The charity's team of police-trained Stay Safe Online volunteers make home visits or give group talks. They pass on essential, practical and easy to follow cyber and scam prevention advice; signpost further help; and provide reassurance.

When assessing homes, they upgrade locks and fit window locks, door viewers or door chains and pass on security advice. They also carry out fire risk assessments and can fit carbon monoxide monitors and smoke alarms on behalf of Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service. All of this help comes free of charge.

Director Jennie Shaw said, "The fear of crime can often be very much worse than crime itself and our teams



Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust Director Jennie Shaw

rebuild people's confidence so they feel safer in their own homes. We're very proud of our service, but we receive very little statutory funding so we have to fundraise around £310,000 a year to maintain it. We have some wonderfully generous supporters but we are always very grateful for donations."

You can find out more about the work of the charity and how to support it at www.wiltshirebobbyvan.org.uk

To apply for a visit from the Bobby Van team to your group or club, or to arrange a home visit, email BobbyVan@wbvt.org or to enquire about a Stay Safe Online visit email BobbyVanOnlineSafety@wbvt.org, or call about any service on 01225 256867.

u3a Open Days

Is there something you've always wanted to do or learn more about – a language, a new sport or game, an art or craft, science, music, your family tree? You can do all this and more in one of the 130+ interest groups in the u3a.

The u3a is for people who are no longer in full-time employment who want to do interesting things together with like-minded people. It's all about friendship, fellowship and fun. As well as the interest groups there are day trips, annual events, monthly meetings with speakers and much more.

To find out more about the u3a visit us at our summer events:

The Royal Wootton Bassett Publicity Day will be held at The Croft, St Bartholomew and All Saints Church, Royal Wootton Bassett on **Saturday 27 July** from 10am until

12.30pm. Come along and meet members of the u3a and hear about their experiences over a cup of tea or coffee.

The Open Day is on **Saturday 31 August** from 10am until 1pm. This will be held in St Joseph's College on Ocotal Way, Swindon. Here you will find stands for the interest groups with people to talk to about all the different activities. And if you need refreshment you can relax with a cup of tea or coffee.

If you can't make it to these events visit www.swindonu3a.org.uk to see everything on offer, how much it costs, and how to join. Alternatively you can telephone our office on 01793 614629 between 10am to noon on Monday, Wednesday or Friday.

Sue Mazzoleni

Paralympian Footballer Mentors Highworth Team

Former Team GB Paralympic Football captain Jack Rutter has praised students from Warneford School for taking part in the AQA Unlocking Potential Programme. The scheme encourages students to learn new skills to identify and solve problems in their school or local community.

The Year 8 students were among only 120 young people selected this year from across England who were nominated by their teachers to take part in the AQA Unlocking Potential scheme.

The pupils were mentored by Jack Rutter to organise and put on a social action project involving sport and music at Southfield Junior School. The event promoted the importance of mental wellbeing and confidence.

Jack said, "It has been brilliant to see the students use the skills they have been developing on the programme to deliver a superb social action project which raises vital awareness on how sport and music can help improve wellbeing. I am really proud of them!"

The event, held in May, included sessions in rugby and football as well as an outdoor musical performance from a student rock band.

The students were delighted with how the event went. Charlie shared, "The social action project was to help improve mental health and wellbeing. It was brilliant working with the children from Southfield." And fellow pupil Casey said, "I really enjoyed the AQA Unlocking Potential programme and working with Jack as he has inspired us to be the best versions of ourselves."



Andy Steele, Headteacher at Warneford School added, "The event was really enjoyable and pupils from both schools had a great time. Our thanks must go to Jack Rutter who is an amazing mentor and role model. His amazing journey has been an inspiration to all the students. It has been a fantastic opportunity for them, and they have risen to the challenge and been great ambassadors for the school."

Interested in becoming a Trustee?

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

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

Please get in touch whatever your professional background. If you have some time to volunteer, we'd love to hear from you.

To find out more contact us on:
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Highworth Historical Society

Our current season has now come to an end we thank all who have supported us. There are no meetings in July or August.

Here are our talks for our next season. Full details will be in LINK Magazine and on our website nearer the time.

2024

24 Sept	AGM	
23 Oct	'A look at the Crimean War'	Peter Williams
27 Nov	'What the Doctor Ordered'	Paul Kemp

2025

22 Jan	'Further Along the Thames Path'	Bill King
26 Feb	'Hannington and the Freke Family'	Barry Compton
26 March	'The Story of Devizes Castle'	David Dawson
23 April	'Plans for Swindon that Never Happened'	John Radcliffe
28 May	'The Story of the Teddy Bear'	Gillian White
25 June	'The Abandoned Ships of Purton (Glos)'	Paul Barnett

Our membership fees are £12 which covers all our talks. Visitors for individual meetings are charged £3 a meeting.

Chris Suter



Eco Tip from Weigh It Up

Every day in the UK we throw away about 24,000,000 slices of bread! That's enough to cover 61 football pitches! Reduce your household food waste by using up the bread rather than throwing it out. Bread pudding, breadcrumbs, bread sauce... or try to revive a nice loaf by briefly running it under a tap and putting it in the oven for five to ten minutes at 160° Celsius.



National Trust at Buscot and Coleshill

I'm writing this at the end of May when there has been a mix of warm, sunny days and more rain. Fingers crossed that the sun doesn't disappear completely. Sunny days are a great mood boost and it certainly helps encourage us to go outside, so if you haven't visited Coleshill yet (and if you have, why not come back for more?), now's the time to come along.

Have you used the Faringdon tourist bus yet? It runs on Saturdays, stopping (and picking up, of course) at a few local National Trust sites: Buscot, Coleshill, Badbury Clump and White Horse Hill. The times for Coleshill drop-off and pick-up give plenty of opportunity to take a guided tour on the history of Home Farm and the Heritage and Rural Skills Centre. Or take a walk in the parkland. Home Farm tours run



Photography: Martin Trehwella

on Thursday and Saturdays at 1pm and 2:30pm. Booking online is preferred as we have limited facility for card payments.

In May, we hosted a school Earth Summit. Over four days, 480 students from 12 Swindon primary schools came to Coleshill to learn about sustainable energy, how to keep rivers healthy; organic

vegetable farming; reducing; reusing and recycling, and much more. Big thanks to WeSet, Freshwater Habitats Trust, Coleshill Organics, and the amazing volunteers, for all the support in making this happen. The students were surveyed in class, shared their vision for the future and had a fun day out of the classroom.

Sarah Hannis, Senior Volunteering and Community Officer

E: sarah.hannis@nationaltrust.org.uk

Wrde Up Music Festival Announces New Grassroots Day

As the Wrde Up Festival (5 to 7 July) celebrates its tenth anniversary, an additional day to the usual two-day programme has been added to the Festival due to support from the Arts Council England fund 'Supporting Grassroots Music'.

The idea of the day is to provide new opportunities for those wanting to start or continue their journey into music and performance, and inspire others by showcasing artists who have walked a similar grassroots path to the stage.

Entry is free to current ticketholders for the Friday or Saturday event, or admission is via a 'pay-what-you-feel' model so that everyone is able to attend, no matter their financial circumstances.

As well as programming a full day of grassroots music, the funding has allowed organisers to improve access facilities with the addition of a viewing platform and Mobiloo unit operated by Swindon Borough Council.

Funding has also opened opportunities for new local



music programmes to be delivered via a number of partners. Beginner and intermediate jazz workshops along with jazz dance lessons will be delivered in partnership with the newly formed Highworth Jazz Festival. Swindon DJ Paul Carroll will be running workshops at Warneford School and the organisers are also working with three local schools in the area to perform on the day! Organisers of the (now) three-day event are pleased to also be contributing

£1000 to Warneford School, completing their fundraising challenge to buy a new sound system!

A work experience programme is also being run so that students can have an exclusive behind-the-scenes experience of what goes into making events happen and what goes on behind the stage

Tickets can be purchased from www.wrdeup.co.uk with discounts and family tickets available.

See adverts for more information about participating acts.

Outdoor Learning at Southfield Junior School

Learning 'out of the classroom' is not for every child, just as being 'inside the classroom' is not for everyone either.

Outdoor learning gives a little taste of learning with a difference; it enables children to get outside into nature where they are encouraged to get dirty, take calculated risks and have lots of fun. We are very lucky that we also have access to different animals that the children can learn all about. This can benefit children who are not so confident and it is such a joy to see them engage with the animals and have a cuddle – although that's a bit difficult with a tortoise!



Outdoor learning can help children problem solve, work well in a team, and have a laugh and a giggle. It also gives them time just

to be still, laying on their backs and making shapes out of the clouds or listening to the sounds all around them. It provides them with a sense of purpose by doing litter picks both in school grounds and out in the community – this is something that the children really enjoy getting involved in too.

If you've not seen all the things we get up to, please check out our page on the school website: www.southfieldjuniorsch.co.uk/Learning/Forest-Schools/

Ruth Law, Outdoor Learning Leader

ADVERTORIAL

BRAIN WORKOUT – LEARN A NEW LANGUAGE SAVE THE DATE

According to Cambridge University learning a new language is an effective brain workout. With your local Language Centre on your doorstep in Watchfield there is no better time to start learning a new language or improving your skills. Information and Enrolment sessions are being held between 10am and 1pm on 4th, 5th and 6th September at 7 Axis Road, Watchfield SN6 8SQ.

If you can't make any of the dates, simply email for further information: languagecentre7@gmail.com

The Language Centre is aligned to the Defence Academy but accessible to the surrounding community, offering English as a second language and French, Spanish, Italian or German evening classes. Alternatively, you could choose to have a private lesson or be tutored in your own home. All abilities are welcome; beginners through to advanced.



The Language Centre also runs specially tailored classes for children in their own home which have proved useful in supplementing the school curriculum.



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Stalls: Anne 01367 810415 / 07887 996356
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www.westoxonsteam.co.uk

Highworth Flower Club Celebrates with Festival

On Thursday 11 July, 7:30pm, at Warneford School, Jenny York will be giving a flower demonstration entitled 'Barking Mad'. We hope you will join us in the school hall when doors open at 7pm, with plenty of space for parking in the school car park. Visitors are welcome at a fee of £5.

In September the Flower Club is celebrating 60 years with a flower festival entitled 'The Wonder of Words' in

St. Michael's Church. A preview evening will be held on **19 September** and tickets are available from Visit Highworth. The church will be open daily from **20 to 22 September** for you to view the exhibition, so come and enjoy the beauty and creativity of designs, from Cider with Rosie to Winnie the Pooh and many others.

Michele

T: 07798 817249

Fairford Steam, Classic & Retro Show

Fairford's Steam Show is on track to be even bigger and better than last year will be on over the weekend of Saturday and Sunday August 17 and 18 at Lake Field, Fairford GL7 4BT.

Don't forget Steam in the Square on Friday night **August 16** when steam engines – all shapes and sizes – will be in Fairford Market Place GL7 4AF.

The Show weekend will have a fantastic line-up across all sections of modern, classic and vintage vehicles; two classic fairground organs; fairground rides; trade;

craft and food stands; a beer tent and live music on Saturday night.

New for 2024 will be the Ken Fox Wall of Death, Jacko & Nunkie children's entertainer and a dedicated Lego space for children called The Brick.

There'll also be a free hourly bus service from Fairford (various pick-ups) to the Show.

For tickets and more info, visit:
<https://fairfordsteamshow.co.uk>.

ANDREWS
QUALITY MEATS

Modern Meal Ideas

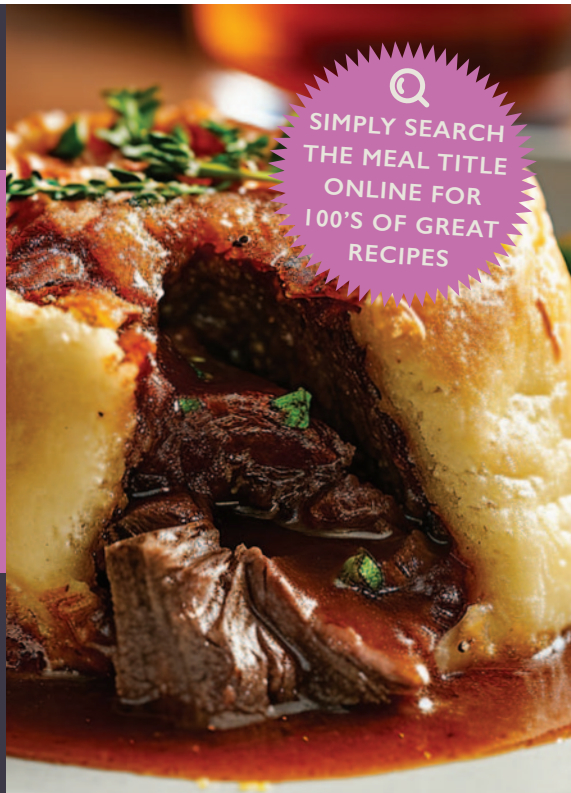
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News from Highworth and District Lions Club

We had a very busy few months on the lead up to our 50th Anniversary in May and enjoyed several fundraisers, along with our anniversary celebration night at Wrag Barn. Fellow Lions from other local Lions Clubs, and special guests from the local charities that we have supported and continue to support, joined us.

We were delighted to celebrate our golden anniversary with so many people who also do so much amazing work within our local community and beyond.

Looking forward, we are excited to be planning more fundraising events so that we can continue to support those in need. To do this we need more volunteers to join us – this could be a few hours or more each month, so if you would like to become more involved within our community please get in touch with me on the email address below for further information.

Our charity shop volunteers have been working very hard to create amazing window displays as well as



presenting all the great items to be sold in the shop. We are always grateful for any good quality donations. Please bring them to the charity shop anytime during our opening hours.

Local causes we have supported recently are:

- Brazil Emergency Disaster Appeal £1000
- Cancer Support Hospital Units £400
- Roshni Indian School Funds £1000

*Melanie Davenport, Secretary
secretaryhighworthlions@gmail.com*

South Marston Gardening Club

We have a number of events this summer that you'd be welcome to attend; all will take place in South Marston Village Hall, and parking is available on Old Vicarage Lane.

On **Monday 1 July**, 7:30pm to 9:30pm, we have a 'Posy Workshop' with Colleen Smith. For more information, including what to bring, please contact me (details below) to book your space.

'Caring for Houseplants' is the theme of our meeting on **Monday 2 September** when Kate Holtom will be with us from 7:30pm to 9:30pm. Kate's love of plants began by wanting to make her own home a more appealing place in which to live and work. It was this passion which prompted her to develop her brand and

start to study the principles of horticulture with the RHS. She now has a shop in Cirencester; 'Fern & Ivy'.

For both events there is a £5 entry fee on the door as a visitor, or join the Gardening Club for £15 (annual membership). Refreshments are included and there is an optional raffle.

On **Saturday 31 August** we are holding our Annual Flower and Produce Show. Registration is the evening before between 6pm and 7:30pm. Staging of exhibits will take place between 10am and 12 noon, with doors opening at 5pm. There will be a 20p admission fee for adults, with refreshments and a raffle available. The Produce Show is now open to anyone living in or around the South Marston area to exhibit any number of entries.

There's lots on the schedule: Vegetables, fruits, flowers, flower arranging, baking, crafts, homebrews and cordials, as well as children's categories. Please contact me if you would like a copy of the Show schedule. This is a cash only event.

For more information, visit our Facebook page @southmarstongardeningclub.

*Angela
07789 068340*



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Every Cloud is Back!

Every Cloud is very pleased to be back at Stanton Park and we would like to welcome people to our new Café in the Barn and a new programme of activities and opportunities to engage in the participatory arts and nature.

3 July and 17 July are our Connect with Nature strolls. We meet at 10am in the Courtyard to walk, chat and relax, noting at this time of year the wildflowers and wildlife as we go. The walks last between 45 mins and one hour, followed by free refreshments in the Garden or the Barn, depending on the weather. If you, or someone you know, would like to try it, simply turn up on the day.

We're also running free summer holiday family activities on **8, 15, 22, and 29 August**. We'll have children's craft activities in the Barn between 10am and 12 noon, with themed nature trails in the Park throughout the morning of the sessions.



The Café in the Barn is open on Saturdays and Sundays, 10am to 3pm, with the takeaway Kiosk opening 12 noon to 4pm Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays. One or both of these venues will also be open for the summer holiday craft sessions in August.

For more information visit Facebook, our website (www.everycloudartscrafts.com) or see the information board in front of the Barn at Stanton Park.

Summer at Highworth Forget-Me-Not Café

We have some of our favourite entertainers back this summer at our monthly memory cafés and we would love for you to join us for a great afternoon of music, fun and dancing. Our afternoon tea style cafés are a great way to meet up with friends as we welcome families and carers supporting those living with dementia, alongside our extended friendship group. When caring stops and loved ones leave us, we keep caring and welcome you along.

Bringing smiles to the room and creating new memories with music and song from across the

decades, by popular demand we welcome back Chris the Hombre on **24 July** and our ukelele friends, Uke Box Jury, on **28 August**.

Don't forget our weekly Friendship Fridays group meets from 10am to 12 noon in the Highworth Town Council Community Room, followed twice monthly by our fun choir sessions in St. Michael's Church from 12:30pm to 2pm. We will meet on **12 and 26 July** and **9 and 23 August** for choir with a welcome sandwich lunch followed by a good old singalong.

We have our July Love to Move Session on **10 July** at 1:45pm in the Community Centre, then we'll be taking a break in August but will be back again on **11 September**.

Our Park Avenue allotment will be growing fruit and veg to share at our groups and we are looking at spending time up there on **31 July** and **14 August** from 2pm. If you'd like to join us and help out, do just come and have a chat and see what's growing. We have two lovely benches to rest your legs and enjoy the great outdoors.

For more details of all our groups call Ruth on 07970 543423 or Ian on 07340 526797 or email forgetmenot.highworth@gmail.com.

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Space to Breathe at Root and Branch

It's a warm summer day. The birds are singing in the garden, the flowerbeds are in full bloom and the vegetable patch is bursting with colour. It is tranquil, peaceful and restorative.

Nature has long been known to support mental health and is a central part for participants who attend weekly sessions at the charity Root and Branch at Westmill Farm in Shivenham, a centre which supports adults who experience significant mental health difficulties.

Providing opportunity to meet new people and learn new skills, the centre provides a haven for participants to recover; rebuild their confidence; and realise their full potential. From planting seeds to cropping

vegetables and all aspects of garden maintenance, participants reset and tune into nature. From crafting cards, weaving baskets and making birdboxes, they learn new skills and give back to the centre's community.

A hot meal is prepared daily by participants and volunteers – for some the only hot meal they will eat all week – and is shared as a supportive community.

With time, participants notice an improvement in how they feel and think day-to-day and start to make positive plans for their future.

T: 01793 782999

E: office@rootandbranch.org.uk

W: www.rootandbranch.info

Supermarine Bowling Club Open Day

The weather was fantastic and this helped to make our recent open day a great success. More than 100 people, including members, guests and visitors, attended and enjoyed the fun and friendly atmosphere.

Lots of people tried the game for the first time, supported by members of the club. Shirley Ludford, Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Wiltshire, was a special guest and said of the day, "Fun and inspiring for all ages and abilities."

This was a community event, with local businesses Cotswold Brew Co (www.cotswoldlakesbrew.co.uk) and Tipple-Tree (www.tipple-tree.co.uk) providing an alternative to the bowls, and support from Bevirs Law, Swindon Sports Forum and South Marston Parish Council contributed to the success.



If you were unable to attend, new members are also welcome to have a go on Friday evenings during the summer from 6pm until dusk.

Sue Gravel



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What's New at Visit Highworth

Visit Highworth would like to thank everyone who came to our Arts Festival. We hope you enjoyed the event – roll on next year when we will be back with a full programme for the Highworth Arts and Literature Festival, the second HALF! The date for the diary is 21 June 2025.

We were delighted to have Southfield Junior School's Year 3/4 join us on our Historical Town Tour where they had a great time learning about our town. Our tours can be tailored according to your needs, so if you are a group who would like to take part we would love



to hear from you. We are also continuing our Wildlife Walks over the summer. We are

flexible with regard to the dates and times for either of these walks so please get in touch if you would like more information or to book.



The Visitor Centre is open on the High Street with an ever-changing display of local arts and crafts; we have paintings, photography, ceramics, stoneware, and textiles. There are jewellery, books and a new line in handmade soaps. Something for everyone. The Highworth Museum is also open so pop in to take a look. We hope to see you soon.

Helen Lacey, Centre Manager

T: 01793 764440

E: info@visithighworth.co.uk

Good News from UTRNTA

I am happy to report that Upper Thames and Ridgeway National Trust Association (or UTRNTA for our regular readers) is in good health.

All our committee posts are filled and even the treasurer has been seen to smile. Our annual five-day holiday in Haverford West, Pembrokeshire was lovely. Not quite the Costa del Sol, but it had much more to interest us.

Back in May we were treated to a look at HEELIS

which (we hope you know) is the head office of the National Trust and sited here in Swindon near the Steam Museum and the Designer Outlet. Working in an office is much different to my memory of my days of toil. Some of us also had a look at Owlpen Manor in Gloucestershire – exhausting! And if you like them, we had a talk about bats by a wildlife photographer at Lechlade Village Hall.

After we have scraped off the suntan lotion then the delights of Broughton Castle and Dorney Court, and an open day at Coleshill, await us.

Phillip Eagle

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Changes Needed at The Hub Shrivenham

Unfortunately, we have had a nighttime case of fly-tipping i.e. items (in this case, tiles) dumped outside The Hub. We reported it to the council and they were very quick to respond by putting a notice on the offending articles and arranging for their collection. As you are aware, we can only accept donations during opening hours and we don't accept tiles anyway!

We have decided, reluctantly, not to continue book swapping in The Hub as, unfortunately, some people were taking advantage of bringing a boxful of books in and only taking one out! As usual it's the minority spoiling this service for the majority, so in future books can only be purchased (for a meagre 50p per paperback and £1 for a hardback). We would like to take this opportunity of thanking Steve and Pam for doing such a sterling job continually sorting the books out and updating the stock. The book swap continues in the phone box in the High Street.



The Repair Café continues to do a roaring trade and we welcome our new repairer, Dave, to the team. They took in over 20 items last time, from a lampshade that needed a new lining to garden shears that needed sharpening and a hoe needing a new handle. There's always a great atmosphere in The Hub on repair day. The next Repair Café is **27 July**.

As always we would like to thank our volunteers and the wider community for their continued support. We are always looking for more volunteers, so do come in and have a chat with us if you would like to know what is involved.

Steph Muir

Highworth Climate Talks

Our July talk, 'From Pallets to Planters', features a highly creative project which helps people overcome loneliness and does so in a way that also tackles our unsustainable and wasteful society.

The Highworth Community Shed has now been running for one year at its site at the National Trust Farm at Coleshill. It is a charity that has been set up to combat loneliness and isolation and offers a woodwork workshop where members can attend to make things and meet like-minded people. The Shed also offers other craft activities in Highworth. They run woodwork courses where members and the public can learn how to use woodwork tools under the supervision of their volunteers.

In the weekly workshops, they take commissions from local companies or individuals to make things from wood, and in the last year they have made garden trugs, garden planters, bird boxes, hedgehog houses, bat boxes, chopping boards, Christmas trees... the list goes on. Items are made mostly from pallets and used wood that has been donated.

Gary Bates, a retired engineer and project manager at the Highworth Community Shed, will give our next talk at 7:30pm on **Tuesday 16 July** at Highworth Methodist Church, Vicarage Lane SN6 7AD.

Westrop Nursery Open Day



We would like to thank all the families who came to Westrop Nursery Open Morning on Saturday 11 May. It was a great success and we received some lovely feedback from the families in the community.

"Lovely calm atmosphere and friendly accommodating staff."

"Thank you for a lovely tour, we believe this nursery is the perfect fit for our child."

We look forward to seeing our new families starting in September along with our existing families and children returning after the summer break.

We look forward to welcoming you all to our Westrop Family!

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all that Jazz!

So sorry, Rev. Goodey, but a roof survey is needed after our first Highworth Jazz Festival kicked off the summer on Saturday 1 June. The trouble is that Simon Spillett's 'all-star' Big Band raised the roof of St Michael's, firing off a slate-rattling salvo with 'The inner splurge' and 'Rumpus'. You get the picture? They performed compositions by British pioneering saxophonist Tubby Hayes. Oh, what a blast!

The day was a triumph for exhausted, rookie, local promoters Ray Stephens and Martin Wellsted. Kim Cypher summed it up nicely addressing her 'late night jazzers' at The Highworth. "We do a lot of jazz festivals and I'll be telling everyone about this new Highworth Jazz Festival. Thank you, guys. You really value and look after the musicians."

What a line up of talent we were offered in five venues: The Wine Bar, The Highworth, St, Michael's Church, the United Reformed Church (what a surprising auditorium) and the Podium in Market Square. I counted 20 jazz acts but, between 2pm and 11pm, managed to see only seven, largely because I got immersed everywhere I went.

Disappointed to miss many others but only a time lord could do the lot.

Apart from Simon Spillett's Big Band and the Kim Cypher Band (oh that soprano saxophone), my favourites included Ghanaian guitarist Chris Cobbson's Afro Jazz Project, Afternoon in Paris (so cosy in the Wine Bar), sitarist Jonathan Mayer's Indo-Jazz Fusion Quartet (think Ravi Shankar of George Harrison fame) and the Colin Campbell Band with some killer hard bop classics (especially their relentless rhythm section and harmonious horns).

I hope the festival runs again but fear there'll be a scuffle over tickets.

Adrian Young

What a treat we had at the Highworth Jazz Festival!

I should like to thank the founders, Ray Stephens and Martin Wellstead (and their very efficient team), for organising a sterling list of jazz acts from all over the country for us all to enjoy at the different venues in Highworth.

We started off at the Wine Bar with the very entertaining 'Afternoon in Paris' quartet (clarinet/vocals, violin, double bass and keyboard) and then onto The Highworth for Fleur Stevenson and Hugh Turner for beautiful vocals accompanied by blues guitar, double bass and the very talented drummer/ trumpet. Unable to prise ourselves away from the list of acts at this venue, here we stayed for the remainder of the day.

We were wonderfully entertained by the six-piece Colin Campbell Band, followed by the enthralling saxophonist Guido Spannocchi with his wonderful

compositions and his fabulous support band. Our final act was definitely one to wait for – the gifted jazz singer/songwriter Marvin Muoneke with his support band. We were treated to beautiful renditions of the classics from Nat King Cole, Sammy Davis Jr., and Johnny Hartman, along with some of his original compositions. My favourites had to be 'The young man with the old soul' and 'Mr Bojangles'.

I think I'm not alone in saying that this was hopefully the first of many fabulous Jazz Festivals to come in Highworth. Congratulations Highworth Jazz Festival Team.

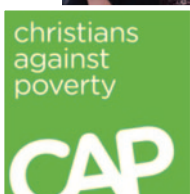
Alison Dutton



CAP Celebrates Ten Years Helping People

Highworth Churches Together launched the Debt Centre in partnership with Christians Against Poverty (CAP) in 2014. While it celebrates ten years of delivering free debt help this year, the team has no plans to stop as the need for its services continues.

Claire Titcombe, Debt Centre Manager, said, "Looking back at when we opened, we knew there was a need in the area, but we were just blown away by how much we were needed. We've been through some tough economic times and these look set to continue with the current cost of living crisis being one of the worst we've ever seen. Energy prices and food bills are increasing – it costs so much to just buy the



food or fuel top-ups if needed, as well as emotional support and encouragement.

Claire further explained, "There are still many more people to help, so while we're thrilled to be able to celebrate each and every person who has made it to the other side of debt, we want everyone else who may still be struggling to know that we are here to help them, completely free of charge, too."

Visit CAP's website at www.capuk.org/help to find out how the local team can help you, or call the free helpline on 0800 328 0006. For more information on a wider range of free help available, visit www.moneyhelper.org.uk.

If you'd like to support CAP's work across the UK and help more individuals and families get out of debt, you can donate at www.capuk.org/donate, or if you'd like to directly support the CAP centre in Highworth contact Claire Titcombe at clairetitcombe@capuk.org.



basics these days. So many people, even many who may have just managed before, are now struggling and we know our service is so vital!"

"During the last decade, we've been privileged to see over 200 people helped through unmanageable debt; hope restored; family relationships saved; and lives changed for the better. To date, we've seen almost 100 people go debt free and £100,000 of debt repaid or cleared!"

The amazing team is made up of local people who provide a face-to-face service and practical help with



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HTA Visits Wassenberg Where Three Mayors Meet

On the 9 May, 34 people from Highworth Twinning Association (HTA) travelled to Wassenberg for the annual three-way meeting of our twin towns.

Have a good look at the photo; the opportunity to take a picture of the three mayors of Pontorson, Wassenberg, and Highworth together is a rare event indeed. In fact, I would be very interested to hear if anyone knows whether the 'three mayors in office' have ever met before. We have been twinned with Wassenberg since 2011 and I very much doubt it has ever happened, but I could be proved wrong. Please contact me if you know of any other occasion. I sincerely hope it will happen in the future as a sign of continuing friendship between the twin towns.

The main reason this is probably a first is that in

Town Twinning Trip Seeks Unity

My final event as Highworth's mayor was to represent the town at the Town Twinning event in Wassenberg together with a party from our other twin town, Pontorson. Those couple of days were full of new experiences, and my hosts Bernd and Heike were lovely and welcoming.

We took a trip to a container works put together by a German entrepreneur who patented an insulation system, built a factory complex and converted steel containers into luxury accommodation; he is now using them to building three storey hotels. Later that day we took a town tour – Wassenberg is a beautiful town despite suffering more destruction than Berlin in WW2. The tour ended within the ruins of the synagogue, destroyed in 1936. A heartbreaking story out of which arose the Bette Reis School, turning heartbreak into a truly inspiring story.

My other host, Manfred, who had been mayor for 16 years, was a delight. I think I shook hands with every resident of the town. 'Meet Keith, the Burgermeister of Highworth!' is still ringing in my ears.

Saturday afternoon was an ecumenical service where the Twinning Charter was renewed. It was followed by a reception in the Bette Reis School where around 200 people attended to hear speeches from the three twinning committee chairs; the three mayors; and two MEPs.

Highworth we keep changing our mayor every 12 months, whereas in Pontorson and Wassenberg the mayor is elected by the people every six years. Our mayor is the chairperson of the council and the council elects a new chairperson every year, although sometimes a mayor may serve for two years. So it was quite an achievement for us to have Keith Smith with us on the coach, but we only just made it as, by Tuesday 14 May, a new mayor had been voted in!

*Richard Pearce, Chair HTA
rjnpearcehta@gmail.com*



(from l to r) André-Jean Belloir, Marcel Maurer and Keith Smith

Two German newspapers reported on the reception. One described it as, "cultivating and celebrating European friendships," and the other as, "a demonstration for democracy, freedom and peace." Both newspapers focused heavily on the MEPs, both of whom were concerned that democracy and freedom must not be eroded and the EU must not be taken for granted. My speeches showcased the need for an EU exchange programme for young people, including the UK, as "young people are our future." The other focused on the importance of these exchanges to cultivate worldwide relationships and contacts.

I presented the Mayor of Wassenberg with a photograph album showing Highworth through the ages. This was kindly put together by Councillor Paul Newton-Smith and the Historical Society.

Thank you Highworth for inviting me to your events and allowing me to represent the town. I shall long treasure my year as your mayor.

Keith Smith, Councillor

Open Studio Success for Lechlade Art Society



Not just 'eight days a week' (The Beatles), it was a nine-day week at Oxfordshire Art Week's Open Studio at Buscot House. Lord Faringdon very generously allowed Lechlade Art Society to set up a working studio in his squash court from 4 to 12 May in order to take part.

On Friday 3 May a group of ten Lechlade Art Society members set up display screens of their work along with easels, canvasses and much art equipment in order to demonstrate their work during the exhibition. It was a wintery, cold and wet afternoon too. However the sun shone for the bank holiday weekend and nearly 200 visitors came to see the exhibition each day. This included Lord Faringdon, his family and many of the house staff and volunteers. It was also great to see so many LAS members come to support the event. There was enthusiastic interest from visitors and many questions were fired at the exhibitors; these ranged from "Where is that?" to "Are you making that up?"

The sun shone and the temperature rose steadily during the rest of the period. It clearly sparked a lot of interest about the Art Society which will hopefully result in more members. Some of the group made some sales of cards and pictures.

The next big event for the Art Society is the Annual Exhibition. This seems to go from strength-to-strength each year. It will take place over the bank holiday

weekend, **Saturday 24 to Tuesday 27 August**, and will be open Saturday to Monday from 10am to 6pm and from 10am to 3pm on the Tuesday, at the Memorial Hall in Lechlade. There will be plenty of free parking and drinks and cake will be on sale too. Once again there will be opportunities to buy artwork, including the popular 'Little Gems' which will be sold in aid of Prospect Hospice.

Old Age

*Woke one morning all thoughts in a mix,
Heading for next birthday, number eighty-six.
Praise or sadness not wanted, it causes no strife,
After all, for me, it's a fact of life.
Bathroom mirror shines clear in the morning light,
Has more hair gone, is more hair white?
Brief memory of hair in Teddy Boy days,
Now false teeth and glasses, and hearing aids.
A glide in stairlift, down to the ground floor,
Clothing all checked now at the front door,
All ready for exit with walking pole,
Prepared, now confident to rock and roll.
Start on my walk at the pace I can keep,
Are the pavements here getting more steep?
As I am walking I have to watch out,
Keep walking pole close, not wander about.
There are people behind, coming up fast,
Stop, step aside, let them pass,
Now back on track, slowly on my way,
Not a care in the world, I have all day.
Wish I could walk faster and do my bit
To keep more healthy and to keep fit.
An idea came, know it could be done,
Buy rubber from the tyres of Formula One,
This will give me more speed, that is my goal:
Fix rubber to the bottom of my walking pole.*

Ray Wassall



Back to Black and White for Highworth Camera Club

At our meeting in May we explored black and white photography. Three club members each gave a presentation on different aspects of this genre.

Back in the 1800s when images were first taken and recorded they were only in black and white (B/W). The presentation took us through various aspects of B/W photography and helped us consider which subjects may make good B/W images, as well as how to take them with digital cameras and how to process or convert colour to B/W. We were also able to look at some equipment and B/W photographs from the 1940s and hear how one member's journey into photography began. An interesting evening.

Members have been challenged with setting their cameras as if they were basic early film cameras and to



Westmill Sunrise by Anne Rogers

take a series of photos. We will share our results at a later meeting – this will be interesting!

The subject for our competition was 'Man in Nature' with varying interpretations of this. The winner was Anne Rogers' 'Westmill Sunrise'.

An external judge appraised members' images at our June meeting. The comments are always interesting and useful to take on board to help to improve our photography. And our members went walkabout with cameras around the town for the evening.

Meetings are on the **second Tuesday of the month**, at 7:30pm. If you are interested in the club's activities and would like more details, you can email highworthcamclub@gmail.com.

Hilary Beach

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Janet Phyllis McRae Boddy (Jan), 1931-2024

Family and friends of Jan Boddy gathered at Kingsdown Crematorium on 29 February for her funeral after she had passed away on 16 January at the Ridgeway View Care Home.

In the early 1970s, Jan and her husband Wally, along with their three sons – Pete, Andy and Nick – moved into Highworth from Hampton, Middlesex and soon settled down into life in the town.

Living near the High Street, Jan became well known in the community and a trip to the High Street would take a very long time because she would meet so many people along the way. When someone she encountered asked how she was, her reply would be, "Ball of fire you know, ball of fire," as she hurried along.

Her role as Chair of the Highworth Historical Society for more than two decades attested to her dedication to community involvement. Tucked away in her home was a curious artefact donated to the Society – an old skeleton, nicknamed Yorrick, nestled within a suitcase beneath her bed! From time to time Yorrick made an appearance, but recognising the importance of respecting the past, Jan and the Historical Society took the right course of action and laid Yorrick to rest once more in Highworth cemetery.

Jan would always take part in the Highworth Scarecrow Trail, entering a scarecrow and accompanying scene she had made herself. She was always fundraising for local causes, helping to increase awareness and she would regularly sell poppies.

In the late 1990s, Jan's pursuit of knowledge led her to earning an earth science degree from the Open University, a milestone that not only enriched her own life but also sparked inspiration in her son Nick, who



subsequently completed a law degree.

A beacon of social ability, Jan cherished her gatherings with close friends Myra and Mike where fish and chips on Friday became a tradition and grew with others joining the group which became dubbed as a 'soup kitchen'!

Never one to shy away from a chance to dress up, Jan embarked on every opportunity for fancy dress, seizing the moment at fetes, helping at

fundraising book sales and local gatherings. Her zest for life and positive outlook were contagious, earning her admiration from all who knew her.

Rich in mind and spirit, Jan radiated inspiration and compassion. Her open ear and empathetic nature endeared her to many. Jan was a force of nature who loved being surrounded by people to whom she always listened, sensing when someone needed to talk.

Jan's community was very important to her and she selflessly cheered everyone on but never shouted about her own successes. A remarkable lady!

Mair Huband

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Edwin John Meach (Ed), 1932-2024

Ed, who passed away on 5 February this year was a former production manager of the Highworth LINK Magazine and a church warden for St Michael's Church in the 1970s. He remembered that one of his tasks was to climb the tower to wind up the church clock.

Ed was born on the 14 January 1932 in Swindon but grew up in Stanton Fitzwarren before moving to Highworth where his father was a station porter. Growing up seeing the majestic locomotives pulling into the station was a wonderful experience for him.

After completing his two years National Service, serving in the RAF, he resumed employment with Vickers Armstrong before moving to Austin Rover where he stayed for 27 years.

Outside work, Ed led a busy and varied social life including photography and home maintenance. He was blessed with two children, Sue and Christopher, who were both born in the early 1960s.

A member of the Highworth Badminton Club, he played well into his 80's, a mutual interest he shared with his good friend Diana for over 20 years. Both had a passion for

walking and walking holidays. Additionally Ed took on the role of leading walks for the Highworth Walking Group for a number of years, meticulously planning routes.

Music, the church, and the community were particularly important to Ed. He was a stalwart member of the Highworth Choral Society for over 30 years as Treasurer and participating in many concerts, as well as going on occasional tours, including a trip to Pontorson (Highworth twin town in France).

For the next 20 years, leading up to four years ago, Ed remained involved with the Highworth Methodist Church, attending weekly services and participating in various activities. He also volunteered at the Highworth Lighthouse Bookshop until well into his 80s and supported the Red Cross, Oxfam, Guide Dogs and Prospect.

Following a decline in Ed's health he passed away at home on the 5 February, shortly before his 92nd birthday. Always cheerful with a ready smile, Ed will be remembered with affection by all who knew him.

Mair Huband



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Primary vs. Secondary School

It's that time of year when all you Year 6s are getting your leavers hoodies and old school shirts signed! You have finished your SATs, have been on PGL, and are saying your goodbyes to teachers and friends. Most importantly, you are moving up from primary school to secondary school. This is a big change for some which could be exciting but also nerve-wracking.

Most schools will give out an information list for your equipment and uniform required for your new school. When I was moving to Warneford, I enjoyed going shopping over the summer holidays for the bits that I didn't have. I remember putting my pencil case together for the first time, and I also remember walking out of the uniform shop with clothes that felt way too big for me (Mum made me get the bigger size!), but it's amazing how quickly I grew into them and soon needed the next size up!

Changes

I've been thinking about the High Street in Highworth and how it has changed, and so I did a bit of research.

Did you know the market was established in 1206 on 20 April? It has been going on for many years and has changed quite a bit. Highworth was founded in the Middle Ages and the markets back then would have had bakeries, fruit and vegetable stalls, and dairy stalls – a little like we have today!

Now it is properly summer, and hopefully the weather is super warm and perfect for a barbecue and going to the beach!

I hope you have an amazing summer and I will see you in September.

Constance Davenport

The best thing I like about my secondary school is the break and lunch times. The canteen sells really good sausage rolls, cookies, and pizzas! We sometimes even have a treat of an ice lolly in the summer. We have different lunches every day including sandwiches, paninis and wraps, and they also sell chips, cheesy chips, and nachos on different days of the week.

Most people would be nervous about the rules and punishments in the school, but it isn't as bad as you'd think. As long as you keep up on your homework and respect others around you, you should be just fine. And if your school offers extra activities like school trips or music lessons, I would say give it a go as they're good fun and it's a good opportunity to make new friends.

I hope you enjoy your summer and good luck with your first term in your new school.

Sophie Nolan

Authors and Emergencies at Westrop Primary School



We are authors and illustrators at Westrop Primary! Otter Class loved innovating the story of *The Princess and the Pea* then publishing it into real books.

We've also had exciting visits from the emergency services.

It started when we had a visit from the police, who talked to us about their jobs and even handcuffed Mrs Davies! Later in the week we met some

firefighters. We learned about modern day firefighters and firefighting in *The Great Fire of London* in 1666, comparing their equipment now and then. We have been doing paintings of the Great Fire of London too.

Mrs Clare Bridge





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Highworth Running Club

In the wake of hosting its Spring 5 Mile race, the Highworth Running Club found itself able to make some charitable donations and were only too pleased to be able to support the Highworth Community Shed, the Pennyhooks Farm Trust, Gloucester House, the Forget-Me-Not Café and the Move Against Cancer organisation. This wouldn't have been possible without those who entered and ran our race so a BIG thank you from HRC.

Over the course of the summer our focus is now firmly back on training and enjoying the better weather. Throughout July and August the Highworth Running Club relocate its Wednesday evening club nights to varying locations nearby to enjoy trots along the Thames, runs along the Ridgeway, and wanders through woodland. Even better news is that the meeting places are often in public house car parks so rehydration afterwards is just as popular as the running; actually more turn up to rehydrate than turn up to run to be honest. Our abilities are quite eclectic so there's plenty of stopping and re-grouping to ensure no-one gets left behind. If



Runners having a riverside rest

you'd like to join us on our summertime saunters, please look up the meeting point from our website and come along and find us. Surely there can't be a better way of spending a summer's evening? We very much look forward to meeting you.

Jason Daniels

Photograph courtesy of Lee Plank
W: www.highworthrunningclub.co.uk

Swindon Croquet Club

In the first warm weather of spring, our Swindon Golf Croquet Level Play 5+ team visited Bristol and came away worthy winners, 14 - 6. Given the strength of the Bristol team this was expected to



L-R, Terry Theobald, Steven Hares, Dave Booth, Colin Brain and Tony Mayer (Stand in Captain)

be a very tough game. Swindon started strongly and romped to an 8 - 0 lead after three rounds (two doubles and a singles) with the 12 afternoon singles ending up all square. Stand-in

captain Tony Mayer said, "The Swindon team played exceptionally well which surprised our opponents who, on paper, expected to win. It was a superb team effort."

Wendy White

E: Swindon.croquet@outlook.com
W: www.swindoncroquetclub.org.uk

Highworth Town Football Club



Training started last month and we're pleased to announce our First Team Friendlies as follows:

- 6 July: vs Chippenham Town (Home). Kick-off at 1pm.
- 11 July: the Jim Newman Cup (Away at Clanfield).
- 20 July: vs Swindon Town (Home). Kick-off at 2pm.
- 25 July: vs Kidlington (Away). Kick-off at 7:45pm.
- 27 July: vs Cinderford Town (Away). Kick-off at 3pm.

Competitive games will start in early August. Please look us up on social media or via our website for more details.

Derek Lloyd

W: www.pitchero.com/clubs/highworthtown

Shrivenham Park Golf Club

The summer is well and truly here. The longest day on the 21 June has passed and, although holidays may still be anticipated, the light evenings will be drawing in slowly. However, at SPGC we have many exciting events well into the autumn; come and experience our course and our great deals on offer.

In terms of club triumphs, May saw Chris Spicer (Club Captain) win our monthly medal on countback after he, Trevor White, P Warneford and S Dawson, all scored 72 – what a fantastic situation! The weekend ladies' medal was won by Tracy whilst Kaye won the Norma Morley, the latter only permitting two clubs and a putter! Pam and I hope to have been successful in gaining sufficient points in the qualifying round of the Coronation Foursomes in our bid to go forward into the next round. We will be watching and waiting to see if we have scored successfully to go forward to the England Golf Ping competition following our 34 points achieved on home turf.



Junior Coaching in full swing

The programme of events at SPGC continues apace with Parkies Pals meeting next on **2 July** and the next Social Putting sessions will be the **12 and 26 July**. Also on the **12 July** we look forward to welcoming the Memorial Knitting Group after successfully entertaining the Shrivenham Bowls Group.

It's delightful to see that our Juniors are progressing well and putting their cards in for handicaps, we look forward to them joining in with competitions soon. Junior coaching takes place on many Saturdays (at £5 a session); turn up by the putting green or send me a text (number below) to find out more.

If you would like to join us, turn up at the club on any of the above dates. The sessions cost £2 and include hot drinks and biscuits with equipment loaned.

Happy Summer to you all.

Carole Lee
M: 07467 657964



Some of the Over 65s Squad

Highworth Town Walking Football Club

The friendly Highworth teams are always looking for new players to come and join them. If you are over 50 and want to get some exercise in a fun team environment, then why not come along and join us. For more information, please contact us or just come along.

If you are interested in just playing social walking football there are men's sessions held on **Thursdays and Sundays**, 11am to 12pm, both at Grange Leisure in Stratton as well as a **Friday session**, 11:30am to 12:30pm, held indoors at The Rec in Highworth. The ladies meet on a **Monday evening** at Swindon New College, 8:30pm to 9:30pm. For those who want a more competitive game there are teams in the Over 50s, 60s, 65s and ladies' competitions.

All sessions are Pay & Play, meaning men over the age of 50 and ladies over the age of 35 are welcome to come and play. £4 payment per Thursday and Sunday session and £3.20 per Friday session. Ladies' Monday sessions are £3 per session, all payable by credit/debit card only, no cash, direct to the Sports Centre.

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Shrivenham Bowls Club

Dare I speak too soon but, at last, some sunny weather after a steady dose of rain!

Although we were late opening our green because of the wet weather, we are now well and truly up and running. The green was recently 'verticut' by our team of volunteers and it was amazing how much grass came out.

The annual Car Boot and Bric-a-Brac event was its usual success thanks to Loraine and her team of helpers. It is now time for our September tourers to settle their accounts in Devon.

The draw for our many club competitions has been taken and so will involve a flurry of activity above the normal matches against other clubs in all the various leagues. There are also the county competitions to occupy some of our more ambitious members – we are entering a busy time. Meanwhile, we have the weekly **Monday evening and Thursday afternoon** aggregate sessions for all who wish to avail themselves of the opportunity of coaching on Mondays and social practice on Thursdays. Further to this, we have friendly games arranged for weekends and members are encouraged to sign-up for matches they are able to support.

Now to the league matches which are occurring every week. In the men's Kennet League, in which we gained promotion last year to Division 1 West, we have played five games to date so an encouraging start to our season; and in the men's Swindon and District Evening League we have played six matches. In The Ashley



Baker League we have featured in five games, losing one. The Swindon and District Afternoon League (affectionally known as the 'Tea and Biscuits' league) got into full swing in May, where we continue to be involved with four teams.

Not forgetting the ladies who are involved in the evening Swindon and District League and also a Ladies' Afternoon League. To date, the ladies have played two friendlies which were both good for their bowling practice but, even more, they were both convivial and enjoyable with the results going in their favour. They fulfilled four Evening League fixtures and three Afternoon League games.

Our Friday Handicap Triples Club has commenced where players will be playing with their newly allocated handicaps so we will all be wondering how these will work! Alongside these games some more serious stuff took place – County games!

Lastly, we held a Recruitment Day where 15 attended along with club coaches and other volunteers, organised by Roy Dixon. As always, please do look us up and come and find us if you are interested in bowls in Shrivenham.

Julian Stevens

W: www.shrivenhambowls.co.uk

Shrivenham Cricket Club (Est: 1854)

Our outdoor season started on schedule despite the wet weather. Away to 'Goatacre 3' we won by seven wickets having dismissed them for 169; Jerry Francis took three wickets for 23 runs whilst Matthew Haywood notched up 71 runs with Jason Yearwood scoring 43 not out. Next we were at home to 'Chippenhams 4' where we won the toss but asked them to bat first. They were out for 121 in the 44th over with our bowlers sharing the wickets. We reached 124 runs for three wickets in the 26th over to win again by seven wickets; Matt Haywood scoring 48 not out and Javed scoring 37 runs. On 18 May we were

away to Marlborough where we again gained a win, but this winning streak ended on 25 May when we lost to Laycock at home; well, all good things come to an end! Over June our schedule saw us lined up to play away to Blunsdon followed by a home game against 'Swindon 4'.

On Sunday 26 May we held a Memorial Day in memory of Sue Whale, a Vice President, 1st team scorer for many years and Social Committee treasurer. The day included junior matches in the morning and culminated with a game in the afternoon against past players of the Club captained by Gordon Aitken (former 1st XI captain). This game followed a

regulation cricket tea at lunch time! The day finished sociably with a hog-roast and frequent visits to the bar! Sadly for us, the 'old boys' (they did feature in the OCA Division 1 and demonstrated that they still had considerable talent) won; and received a new trophy to commemorate the occasion presented by the Club's chairman, Rodger Hood. A most memorable day to a dedicated club servant over many years. The idea is for such an event to occur annually; watch this space.

Julian Stevens

Wrag Barn Golf Club

As is customary, the men's championships were held over the weekend of the first May bank holiday. This date, relatively early in the growing season, focuses everyone's mind to shake Wrag Barn from its winter state and ensure that the new growth definition is sufficiently marked and the greens and bunkers are well presented. This year was even more of a challenge as our head green keeper Neil Carter has been laid low for a spell and it was important that he was reassured that the course was benefitting from all his planning during the winter. The day before the men's championship was a wall of rain and the greenkeepers heroically stuck to their tasks of strimming, mowing,

and ironing the greens so that the course was ready when the day arrived and play started in bright sunshine. A total of 87 golfers set off on the Saturday morning and the best 48 made the cut to play a further 18 holes on the Sunday. Wrag Barn Men's Champion 2024 is Ollie Webb who plays off (+1) and recorded a solid 72 & 72 to win by two shots from second place Guy Drayton. It has been a pleasure to witness Ollie progress through the Junior Section; he was last year's Junior Captain and Junior Champion. As an aside, his speech at Junior presentation night was brilliant! We're looking forward to a summer of sunshine and a mixture of competitive and fun golf; fingers crossed that the weather is on our side.



For more information please do take a look at our website.

Verity Manners

W: www.wragbarn.com

Come and Play at Highworth Tennis Club

Tucked away behind Highworth Recreation Centre you'll find Highworth Tennis Club, a small club run by local volunteers hoping to attract more people in the local community to come and play tennis.

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to play on. We offer great value pay-and-play (from just £6 per court per hour), or by joining as a member you can play with other club members as often as you like, all year round (subject to court availability)!

We positively encourage all ages, backgrounds, and abilities to pick up a racket and play tennis. It's often considered a posh person's sport, but you'll meet people from all walks of life on the courts at Highworth Tennis Club; all of us keen on breaking down any perceived barriers to this brilliant game.

We offer you a warm and friendly welcome but, if you're an adult thinking about playing and not sure whether to take the plunge, why not come and play with us for free one Friday evening to 'try before you buy'. No need to book – if the weather is fine we'll (usually) be there, playing friendly games of doubles. Just rock up in your trainers between 7pm and 9pm and join in (and don't worry, we keep a few spare rackets in the clubhouse if you need to borrow one).

So what are you waiting for? Come and play! Find out more at www.highworthtennis.com.

D-Day 80th Anniversary

On Thursday 6th June 2024 Highworth Town Council commemorated D-Day giving thanks to 80 years of peace and freedom.

The day began with a proclamation read by the Town Crier, Richard Williams and a speech from Deputy Lieutenant James Arkell, this was followed by a short service at the War Memorial in St Michaels Church led by Rev Phil Goodey where Highworth Town Council and the Royal British Legion laid wreaths at the Cenotaph.

The Royal British Legion held a coffee morning in the community room, where exhibits were on show from Highworth Historical Society and Coleshill Auxiliary Research Team. Special thanks to the Highworth Lions who provided transport for a number of residents from Grove Hill Residential Home to participate in the coffee morning and later for the evening event.

An array of war vehicles arrived in the Market Square whilst the crowds gathered and listened to music from the era. We then welcomed Lord Lieutenant Sarah Troughton who delivered a speech followed by sounds of the 40's by Chelsea Millard. The Normandy poem was recited by a representative of the Royal British Legion followed by a recital from the Town Crier of Highworth people who gave their lives. The international tribute was read by the Mayor, Councillor Julie Murphy with the lighting of the beacon the finale of the evening. We were honoured to be joining in this momentous occasion here in Highworth.

Let this light be a symbolism of peace emerging from the darkness of war.



Photo credit:
Keith Davidson Photography



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FOR THE REMAINDER OF 2024



NOV
01

FIREWORKS
TICKETS ON SALE OCTOBER 2024
FURTHER DETAILS TO FOLLOW

NOV
10

REMEMBRANCE
HIGHWORTH REMEMBERS...
FURTHER DETAILS TO FOLLOW

NOV
30

CHRISTMAS EVENT
CHRISTMAS LIGHT SWITCH-ON
FURTHER DETAILS TO FOLLOW



VISIT OUR SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE FOR FURTHER
DETAILS NEARER THE TIME

WWW.HIGHWORTHTOWNCOUNCIL.GOV.UK



Highworth Neighbourhood Plan Update

The Neighbourhood Plan Committee has now completed their 6 week pre public consultation with residents and businesses, known as regulation 14. Thank you very much to everyone that provided their feedback to the draft plan it is really important to us.

The Committees next steps are going through all the comments to see what changes are required to the draft Neighbourhood Plan before it goes to Swindon Borough Council for their 6 week public consultation, known as regulation 16. If you have strong views about any of the policies in the document it is important you read the policies in the updated document and make further comments during this next stage of the process. The Examiner will have access to all your comments. When Swindon Borough Council go out to consultation we will let you know how to comment and timescales.

We will keep you updated on each stage of this process and thank you again for your invaluable feedback to this very important document.

Kind regards

Cllr Julie Murphy
Chair of Neighbourhood Plan



News from Highworth's Mayor



I have just about got over the shock of being voted in as mayor for a second time! It is a great honour and I will endeavour to do my very best to serve and represent our wonderful community.

I envisage this year will be busy and challenging, particularly with

Swindon Borough Council struggling with finances and pushing back on parishes and the imminent announcement of the results of the evidence gathering of the review of Swindon Borough Council's local plan that will determine which housing sites may come forward in the Borough – the next stage will involve a period of public consultation. As a council we are awaiting these results to understand the impact on our community. We will keep you updated on social media and in future issues of this magazine. However, on a more exciting note, we look forward to delivering some big projects like upgrading the play parks one-by-one and the adoption of our revised Neighbourhood Plan, as well as looking at other projects like the upgrade of the High Street/Swindon Street.

In terms of public engagements, my mayoral year started by attending the Highworth Choral Society's concert 'From Fields to Fjords'. It was a superb evening in a packed St. Michael's Church where the acoustics were pretty amazing. We are lucky to have such talented performers in our town – well done to all involved.

I also represented Highworth at the Malmesbury Mayor Making Ceremony accompanied by Deputy Mayor Councillor Anthony Houghton. It was an evening steeped in tradition and was a great opportunity to network with the new mayors of Malmesbury, Marlborough, Royal Wootton Bassett, Chippenham, Tetbury and Salisbury.

My chosen charity for this year is the Forget-Me-Not Café, a wonderful Highworth charity whose main objective is to bring smiles to those with dementia and memory challenges. I will be holding fundraising events throughout this mayoral year to raise as many donations as I can, so watch this space!

If you would like me to attend any functions or you would like to make a donation to my chosen charity, please email my secretary at admin@highworthtowncouncil.gov.uk.

Julie Murphy, Mayor

HIGHWORTH TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN MAYOR & CHAIRMAN

Julie Murphy, Rosedene, Inglesham SN6 7RA
07803 602568 julie.murphy@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 Durnin 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

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

Keith Smith, Flat 35, High Street SN6 7AQ
07836 382827 keith.smith@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 St. Michael's Church and groups for children and youth are available.

The service is streamed live at www.twitch.tv/stmichaelshighworth or on YouTube by searching 'St Michaels 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 7:30pm.

Special Services

Sunday 14 July, Evensong at 5:30pm, at St. James' Sevenhampton

We remember those who loved and miss

Jennifer O'Dell
Barry Hawkins
Nellie Muscutt

We congratulate on their marriage

Emma Pawsey and Thomas Witts
Jessica Parker-Haines and Daniel Drewett

Praying for the roads in the town

7 July	Lismore Road and The Mews
14 July	Middi Haines Court and Newburgh House
21 July	Newburgh Place and North View
28 July	Our Church family who live out of Highworth
4 August	Oak Drive and Orange Close
11 August	The Paddock and Park Avenue
18 August	Parsonage Court and Pentylands Close
25 August	Pentylands Lane and Pound Road



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



Note from Editor: We apologise for the errors in our floodlighting announcements last month for both Gordon Pollock and Mike Badger. The dates should read as 29 June and 17 June respectively.

5/7/24 to 7/7/24

*17 years have passed. We miss you every day.
Lindsay, Mark, Ben and Lucy xxxx*

18/7/24

Barbara Knight – Thinking of you on your birthday Mum/Nan. Missing you always. Lots of love Lyn, Ruth, Patrick, and all your family xxx

1/8/24

Elizabeth Shumer – Four years have gone by since you left us. Not a day goes by you're not in our thoughts. Loved and missed every day. Alf, Heather and families xxx

20/8/24

Sally Shumer – Four years have gone since you left us. Not a day goes by you're not in our thoughts. Loved and missed every day. Alf, Heather and families xxx

27/8/24

Barbara Knight – Can't believe it is fourteen years since you have been gone. Miss you every day Nanny Cuckoo. Lots of love Lyn, Ruth, Patrick, and all your family xxx

28/8/24

Sally Shumer – Happy Birthday 'Sal'! Another year not celebrating with you today. I'm sure you will be partying somewhere. Dad, Heather, Josh and families xxx

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

All submissions to the Church Office by Thursday 25 July for the September publication.

E: office@stmichaelshighworth.co.uk • www.stmichaelshighworth.co.uk



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CHURCHES

St. Leonard's Parish Church Stanton Fitzwarren

- 7 July Morning Praise, 9:30am
 14 July Family service: 'Miracles', 11am
 21 July Team Service at St Margaret's Stratton, 10am, and a performance of Joseph and his Technicolor Dreamcoat
 28 July Holy Communion, 9:30am
 4 August Morning Praise, 9:30 am
 11 August Family Service: 'John the Baptist', 11am
 18 August Holy Communion, 9:30am
 25 August Team Service at Coleview Community Centre, 11am

There will be NO Stanton Coffee mornings during July and August. We'll be back on **Wednesday 18**

September at Stanton House Hotel when we'll welcome Kate, Prison Chaplain, as our speaker.

Saturday 14 September will be the Wiltshire Ride and Stride, 10am to 6pm. For more information see www.wiltshirehistoricchurchestrust.org.uk/ride-stride/

The church building is open every Wednesday in school term time from 10am to 4pm or 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 this schedule. Please go to www.stantonchurch.info for updates.

Highworth Methodist Church



What's on In June?

Coming Soon!
 Cream Tea
 & Bring and Buy Stall
 £5
 Thursday, 4th July at 3pm

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



Sunday Morning Worship @ 10.30am

2nd Rev Joseph Ribeiro
 9th Jenny Corkett
 16th Rev Mike Dilly
 23rd Rev Joseph Ribeiro
 30th Rev Joseph Ribeiro

Refreshments served

Tuesday Afternoon Communion 4th @ 2pm

**Every Friday
 9.30-11.15 am**



Craft Group

**Tuesday, 4th & 18th
 10am-1pm**



Vicarage Lane, Highworth SN6 7DG
 Tel: 01793 764544

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

3Cs – Coffee, cake & chat

**Wednesday, 12th
 2.30pm**



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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
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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

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Westgate Nursery	
School & Crèche	01793 861268
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SCHOOLS

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

TAXIS

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TRAINS

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Great Western Railways	03457 000125
Disabled and Assisted Travel	08001 971329

OTHER SERVICES

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Trading Standards (business)	0207 830 6000
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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.

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: David Roblin

Highworth Link,
c/o The Bridge Centre
8a Sheep Street, Highworth
SN6 7AA

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 inconvenience 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 on the 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.

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