

Highworth LINK

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



September 2024



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Dear Reader

“The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members.”

– Coretta Scott King

In a culture which now sees the value in nurturing good mental health and physical wellbeing, it's well understood that our relationships, more than anything, are crucial to our overall happiness and quality of life. We are meant to be in relationships. Sure, life can be hard but we're not meant to go there alone.

If we're to benefit from relationships we need to invest in building a community which means being intentional. That includes all of us introverts too! (Yes, I see you retreating into the shadows.) This means being brave and starting new conversations, joining a new group, going out to lunch with co-workers, neighbours, or reconnecting with old acquaintances.

One of the best ways to build community is to take the



focus off yourself and start serving other people. Here in Highworth and the surrounding areas we have so many opportunities to give back in some way. Did you know that research has shown that volunteering not only benefits the community but also you as the volunteer? You can gain new skills and new friends, improve your confidence, develop a sense of connection to others in the community and improve how things work for the better.

So how about giving it a go? I know it can be difficult knowing where to start and so, to help you out, along with some friends I've organised **Highworth's second Volunteer Expo**. Last year's event was so successful and gave the opportunity for voluntary organisations and those looking to volunteer to meet. Take this as my personal invitation to you – no matter your age, skill set, energy levels, available time, or how long you've lived in Highworth – to come along on **Saturday 12 October, 10am to 2pm, to St. Michael's Church** and see how you can get involved.

I'm really looking forward to seeing you there!

PS. Keep an eye on the Highworth Facebook pages and for posters around the town.

*Front Cover image: Kelly Daniels.
Keith Wooster, Swindon and District Motorcycle Club*

VOLUNTEER EXPO HIGHWORTH

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH
HIGHWORTH

12 OCTOBER
10AM to 2PM

FREE EVENT

Come and find out about local voluntary organisations and learn how you can make a difference to this amazing community.

Contact editor@highworthlink.co.uk for more information

GET INVOLVED. CHANGE LIVES.

HIGHWORTH
Wiki
AFTERNOON

- ✓ New to Highworth?
- ✓ Want to meet and make new friends?
- ✓ Prefer to stay at home on dark evenings?
...Then we are just for you ✓

We are a friendly group with speakers, refreshments, raffle, luncheon club, outings and social events.

We meet on the **first Wednesday of the month** in the Council Offices in Gilberts Lane at 2.15pm.

New members are always welcome.

Contact: Margaret 07843 967260 / Ann 07789 360514

What a Summer!

For sports fans like me it has been a real treat watching many become champions. Well, nearly. Gareth Southgate's England nearly won the Euros. Adam Peaty nearly won Olympic Gold. There were many other champions, but sport turns from sweet to bitterly disappointing when our team *just* misses the mark.

Now sport-phobics, before you chuck LINK into your orange box, bear with me.

"If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it." (Matthew 16:25, New Living Translation)

These are the words of Jesus. And in a culture that idolises victory, sometimes above everything else, I dare say there's a lot of truth in them. I wonder what they could mean on our Highworth social media groups, when we are late for work because of yet more

temporary traffic lights, or perhaps when life generally doesn't work out the way we hoped it would?

Adam Peaty, at the end of the epic final in which he finished second, said, "In my heart I've won," and then went on to talk about his Christian faith. Peaty has had a very public struggle with mental health, addiction and self-worth. But it is trust in God that has got Peaty through, and church has helped him find peace. Adam has realised the value of these words of Jesus, that life is more than winning or losing, being seen as successful or not.



Jon Hares, Highworth Community Church



Sarah Summers

New Leader Joins Popular Choir

The Highworth with Shrivenham Good Afternoon Choir will have a new leader when they start back on Wednesday 4 September following their summer break.

Sarah Summers, who also leads North Swindon Good Afternoon Choir, takes over from Jessie

Thompson who has stood down since starting and leading the choir to pursue her PhD.

Sarah has been leading community choirs for several

years and has taught music in primary schools, as well as working with piano students, for all of her adult life. She loves singing and particularly likes the focus that community choirs have on having fun. Sarah has enjoyed playing keyboard and working with singers on three Chocolate Theatre Shows and was involved in the summer youth project at Swindon's Wyvern Theatre.

There are no auditions to join the Highworth with Shrivenham Good Afternoon Choir and new prospective members are always welcome to go along to meet Sarah and the choir **any Wednesday from 1pm-3pm** in Highworth Community Centre.

"Come along and start a new autumn singing hobby; singing is good for you!" says Grenville Jones, founder of the Good Afternoon Choirs.

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Always Lots To Do at Buscot and Coleshill National Trust

There's been plenty to see and do around West Oxfordshire this summer.

At Uffington, the Ranger Team has been working with Oxford Archaeology to bring the White Horse back to its original size by carefully cutting the encroaching turf back to the original edge and redistributing the top layer of chalk. This halted the chalking event this year but please come and see the results of this work.

The next Village Open Day is on **8 September** with extended opening from **11am to 5pm**. This day is free as part of the Heritage Open Day. See behind the scenes of the Model Farm and Skills Centre, explore the underground Operational Base and the Mill.

The 1940s weekend on **12 and 13 October** is shaping



National Trust

up to be an amazing event. Immerse yourself into life on the Home Front and chat with re-enactors. Take part in 'Dig for Victory', browse vintage stalls and sit back and listen to live period music. There will be a wide range of children's activities taking place across the site.

Building on the growth of the Heritage and Rural Skills Centre, we are hosting a conference in September. 'Conserve' is a conference for industry professionals in heritage craft, conservation and rural skills, to explore the challenges and opportunities in the sector. There will be talks and demonstrations throughout the day. Visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit to find out more and book tickets for Buscot and Coleshill Estates events.

*Sarah Hannis
Senior Volunteering and Community Officer*

Come and Support the Bumps to Babies Group

You will have seen on the cover of the July/August issue of Highworth's LINK Magazine a number of mums and babies from the second birthday celebration of Highworth's Bumps to Babies group. Organised by Jan Davidson and other experienced volunteers, this group fills a much-needed gap in provision for mums-to-be and new parents and their babies in Highworth.

Pregnancy, birth and first-time parenthood are new adventures for all those involved, and family support groups are not always close or available. Those of you who became parents around 30 years ago probably remember the Chatterbox group held at Westrop Surgery; we met as antenatal, then postnatal parents, and some of those bonds and friendships have lasted ever since. Nobody quite understands what you are

experiencing other than another mum with the same age baby.

Chatting to a few of the mums in Highworth Community Centre, today's new parents still need/ appreciate/look for

that friendship and support – somebody to cuddle your precious baby while you have a coffee, chat with a friend, give you a hug and empathise with you.

As babies and young children, it is the one time in our lives when we have no choice in how we live. As we grow older it is entirely up to us (perhaps to some extent based on our earliest years) how we live our lives.

I am delighted to support this community group. Come along to their coffee mornings, quiz nights or the end of summer ball (at the time of writing a few tickets are still available). More information available here www.bumpstobabies.club.

Miriam



Jan Davidson and Valerie Fry

Award Success for Highworth Emporium



Highworth Emporium is one of the best greeting card retailers in the UK – it's official!

The winners of this year's greeting card retailing awards – affectionately known as 'The Retas' – were revealed recently at a sumptuous awards event at The Grosvenor House Hotel in Mayfair. The lavish event, which this year took on a Beatrix Potter theme, was hosted by comedian and radio presenter Andrew Ryan and attended by 400 people.

The Retas awards, launched in 2005 by Progressive Greetings Worldwide magazine, recognise excellence across the whole greeting card retailing spectrum, from independents on the high street to the small groups, national multiples, garden centres, department stores, supermarkets and bookshops.

The UK public spent £1.5 billion on greeting cards last year, with Highworth Emporium beating off the competition to win the Best Independent Greeting Card Retailer in the South West award.

A delighted Aga Marsden from Highworth Emporium said, "This is an amazing achievement and our first ever win in The Retas. Greeting cards are a big part of our shop and our customers often tell us we have a reputation for a good card selection; being recognised by industry experts, however, is something extra special! Something you only dream of... until it comes true. We are on cloud nine and totally buzzing!"

Highworth Flower Club

Highworth Flower Club welcomes you to join us for this month's events.

On **Thursday 5 September** there is a social evening and AGM, 7:30pm, at Warneford School. Visitors pay just £5. Please contact Michele on 07798 817249 for more details.

From **Friday 20 September to Sunday 22 September**, we have our exciting 'The Wonder of Words' Flower Festival. See our advertisement in this issue for more information.

Charity Night with Swindon Guide Dogs

Swindon Guide Dogs are holding a **Great British Classics Charity Night on Thursday 10 October at The Crown, Stratton SN3 4NL, from 7pm with last orders at 8:30pm.**

Each main course is £9 with £5 of this going to Swindon Guide Dogs. We will also be holding a raffle on the night. To book a table please call The Crown on 01793 827530 or email thecrownstratton@gmail.com. This is a very popular event so please book early!



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----- If you would like to know more about us or arrange a visit please contact us -----

Contact: Westrop Primary & Nursery School

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



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Ask AMS

Do I need to register for CIS if I employ a friend?

The rules say, if you pay your friends as employees, (deducting PAYE and National Insurance) you don't need to register for the Construction Industry scheme (CIS).

But, if you pay them as self-employed workers (not PAYE), then you must register as a Contractor under the CIS rules. You will probably need to deduct 20% tax (depending on their CIS status) from what you pay them for labour; provide them with proper statements; send monthly returns to HMRC and keep proper records. And your friends should register as Subcontractors under the CIS rules and obtain a form CIS4(P).

The penalties for failing to comply with CIS regulations are very harsh, so take advice now if you are in this position.

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Forget-Me-Not Needs You



Mayor Julie Murphy has always been very supportive of the Forget-Me-Not events in Highworth and we were hugely honoured to be selected as Julie's Charity of the Year in her capacity as Mayor.

In June, Julie attended the second birthday celebration of Friendship Fridays (every Friday at 10am in the Council Room in Gilberts Lane) and the Forget-Me-Not Café (every fourth Wednesday at the Community Centre in The Dormers). The Café also welcomed the Westrop School Choir – an annual event always eagerly anticipated by our attendees.

Due to our ongoing success, Forget-Me-Not is looking for additional assistance in several areas. If you would like to help this hugely worthy cause and join our volunteer team we'd love to talk to you. We are looking for help with managing our social media, other marketing activities, helping out with setting up our various groups, and assisting with the preparing and running of our weekly and monthly events and bi-monthly Friday Sandwiches and Singalong. We are also looking for keen gardeners to help manage our allotment in Park Avenue!

Our passion is for dementia and friendship support in our community. Please contact us at forgetmenot.highworth@gmail.com.



Westrop School KS2 Choir



Eco Tip from Weigh It Up

Did you know that Brits are wasting 19.4m food items every day that could have been eaten? So next time you're sorting your cupboards or fridge check it before you chuck it.

Dried pasta in a sealed container is fine for up to three years after the best before. Tinned food can often be eaten years after its best before date as it goes through an extremely high heat process that kills bacteria and sterilises its contents. With hard cheeses like cheddar, any mould can be cut off and the rest will be fine – this doesn't work with soft cheeses as the mould can quickly pass through. Vegetables like potatoes, lettuce, root veg and herbs can be revived by soaking them in cold water. Put eggs in a large bowl of water – if it lies flat at the bottom it's fresh, but if it sinks and stands upright on the bottom it's likely fine to eat. If it floats, gases have accumulated inside, and it shouldn't be eaten.



Lechlade Historical Society

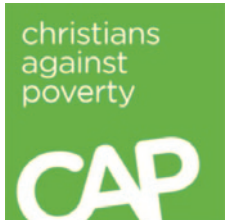
Our next meeting is in The Memorial Hall, Lechlade, on Monday 16 September at 7:30pm, with doors opening at 7pm for refreshments, when Tom Crook will talk about 'Celebrity, Ceremony and Corruption: The Honours System in Twentieth Century Britain'.

Despite its medieval origins, the British Honours system is still in use today. Why and how did this essentially feudal system survive into the twentieth century and beyond? The talk offers a whistlestop tour of how this has changed over the centuries and how it became what it is today – an inclusive institution that bequeaths honours on folk from all walks of life; but also one steeped in scandal and suspicions of corruption.

You would be most welcome to join us.

Ros Godden

Why Tackling UK Poverty Should be a Priority for Us All



At Christians Against Poverty (CAP) we believe that tackling poverty in the UK should be something we all care about. In my job as the local CAP Debt Centre Manager here in Highworth I've seen the challenges

people face, so here's why I think we should all be concerned about poverty.

One in five of us lives in poverty. Did you know that 14.4 million people in the UK are surviving on an income that doesn't cover the cost of basic essentials? Poverty isn't just a distant issue – it's right here in our own community!

It affects our health. Financial struggles can take a serious toll on our health. Three quarters of the people who sought help from CAP said their money problems affected their physical and mental wellbeing. These issues can worsen existing health conditions or create new ones, putting extra pressure on services like the NHS. It's a vicious cycle that needs breaking.

Millions lack basic essentials. Everyone deserves to have food on the table and a warm home, but millions in the UK are having to skip meals or live without heating because they simply can't afford it. This isn't just about adults – it's affecting children and pensioners too.

Borrowing to get by. This not only puts people in deeper debt but also threatens the economy. When too many households are in unmanageable debt, it can lead to economic problems like recessions.

Our future is at stake. The number of UK children living in poverty is on the rise. This affects their schoolwork, friendships and overall wellbeing.

The rising demand for debt help. Here at our Highworth CAP Debt Centre we can see how poverty is impacting our community. Daily we see local services being stretched to their limits by rising poverty levels. Last year across the UK, CAP's Debt Centres had no choice but to turn away over 4,000 people due to appointments being fully booked. We are feeling the pressure too in Highworth.

What you can do. If you are in a position to help, then please consider donating to our local Christians Against Poverty Debt Centre using this QR code. You can also contact me directly at clairetitcombe@capuk.org.



Together, let's make tackling UK poverty a priority and ensure every person in need has access to free, compassionate support.

*Claire Titcombe
Highworth CAP Centre Manager*



Two things tend to come to the fore as the autumn nights draw in: Keeping warm, and those pesky energy bills. That's why our talk on 17 September focuses on a raft of practical solutions to reducing energy and saving money. Saving energy is a no-brainer way of reducing carbon emissions and becoming less dependent on the price fluctuations of foreign oil and gas.

There are quick wins to keep your house warm. Stopping drafts can create a more cosy home at almost no cost. Insulation prevents the escape of that valuable heat you're paying for. At the other end of the scale an air source heat pump is a long-term investment. You can get a £7,500 government grant which often covers most of the cost.

Surprisingly, heat pumps are the heating choice of people in Norway, but they are new to the UK and treated with suspicion. The idea that heat can be sucked out of the nippy air outside to keep our houses warm inside seems to contradict basic science and logic. But if the snowbound Norwegians do it, why not us?

All your questions will be answered by experts from the Wiltshire Climate Alliance on **Tuesday 17 September at 7:30pm** at Highworth Methodist Church, Vicarage Lane, SN6 7AD. Come along and find out how to be warm this winter.

John Ranford

Fantastic Fun at The King and Queen

The Roxi Foundation hosted a fantastic fundraising fiesta at The King and Queen in Highworth on Saturday 3 August.

The venue was filled with happy faces decorated with gorgeous glitter and face paint. Colourful bunting guided you out towards a stage where live music was performed throughout the day.

But could all this be overstimulating? With neurodiversity at the heart of The Roxi Foundation the organisers made sure that there was an accessible sensory space. As you entered the quiet space you could feel the calm. An area with calming colouring activities led into an enclosed dark area, lit up with colour-changing lights and filled with comfortable seating for anyone who needed a space to self-regulate. Founder Matt said, "For us, the day was a success because there were lots of neurodiverse people in attendance at an event which isn't normally accessible for them."

The sun shone all day with activities including fete



classics like lucky dip, hook-a-duck and smack-a-rat. Refreshments were available all day from delicious doughnuts, ice cream and sweets to jacket potatoes, all from local vendors.

The event transitioned perfectly from daytime to early evening with a raffle draw and speeches being followed by a live saxophonist and DJ creating an incredible live house combo which had people of all ages dancing to the music.

Special appearances from fan favourites

Bluey, Belle and Ariel had children and adults lit up as they interacted with the characters. Participants cheered for joy celebrating when they won the raffle, which had incredible prizes donated by local businesses. One woman shouted, 'YES! YES! YES!' as her number was announced!

The event was an overwhelming success and there is hope for more accessible events like this to come.

To find out more visit www.theroxifoundation.co.uk.

Ele Spreckley

ADVERTORIAL

The Cottage Nursery

Do you have a few hours a month to spare? Are you interested in the development of children in their early years? Are you keen to use your skills and experience to support an important charity? If your answer is 'Yes' to all of these then you may be the person we are looking for.

The Cottage Nursery at Watchfield is an enriching centre for children from three months to five years. It was first established as a nursery in the 1990s to provide a childcare facility for the Defence College at Shrivenham. It is still the main provider for what is now the Defence Academy, but also takes children from civilian families in the surrounding area.

The nursery is a charity, supervised by a trustee board, and we are seeking new trustees who can bring their time, skills and experience to this important role.

You will find much more about the nursery by visiting our website at www.thecottagenursery.co.uk, or our Facebook page (search 'thecottagenursery').

If you are interested in becoming a trustee, please call us on 01793 784109 and speak to one of our joint Managers, Clare Olden or Trudi Krzywick.

Are you looking for a new challenge that will support, inspire and make a difference?

Do you:

- want to support the children of the future?
- have time to commit to monthly meetings?
- have skills and experiences you are able to share to support the nursery?

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For more information please email: admin@thecottagenursery.co.uk
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OPEN EVENING

Thursday 19th September 2024

5pm until 7.30pm

Take a tour of the school and meet students and staff

Listen to a presentation from the new Principal at 6pm or 7pm.

OPEN MORNINGS

Tuesday 15th October, Wednesday 16th October and Thursday 17th October

Please contact Mrs Lewis to book an appointment:

01793 762426 / lewisl@warnefordschool.org.uk

Highworth Warneford School, Shrivenham Road,
Highworth. SN6 7BZ

www.warnefordschool.org

Excellence Aspiration Challenge Character Community

Success for Mayor's Chosen Charity

Councillor Keith Smith presented a cheque for £1237.66 to Alison Mackie, the volunteer fundraising manager at British Heart Foundation (BHF).



Councillor Keith Smith presents cheque to Alison Mackie

The money was raised during Keith's mayoral year. Councillor Smith thanked everyone who had helped with the fundraising, which he described as, "Truly amazing." He also took the opportunity to thank Joan Webb and her team who raised another £1100 at the Richard Digance concert and £400 on the bottle stall at the May Day market. Alison, on receiving the cheque, thanked the people of Highworth for their generosity and explained that the money would go towards much-needed research on heart and circulatory diseases. BHF spends around £100 million each year on research projects.

Richard Digance fans, please note next year's concert will be on **27 April 2025**. Get the date in your diary!



Highworth Flower Festival

St Michael's Church Highworth
Celebrating 60 years of the Highworth Floral Art Society

The Wonder of Words
A literary journey of floral displays

Fri 20th & Sat 21st September 10 - 6pm
Sunday 22nd 1 - 5.30pm

Preview Evening Thursday 19 September
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£5 cash only

www.highworthfloralarts.co.uk
Contact: Brenda 07816 790130

ADVERTORIAL

New Principal for Warneford School

It gives me great pleasure to introduce myself as the new Principal of Warneford School in Highworth. I feel extremely honoured to have been chosen to take this school forward onto the next stage of its journey.

My goal is to create a warm, safe, ambitious environment that supports all our students through academic challenge, depth of experiences and a wide range of opportunities; in this way they can develop in character, culture and attainment, giving them an excellent start to be whoever they want to be.

I am a parent of twin girls and my goal for them has always been to ensure they are happy in life and achieve their potential; this is a belief that I bring to my role as Principal. I have worked in education for 25 years; firstly in Bristol and then over twenty years at Lydiard Park Academy in Swindon.

Warneford School has a hugely committed staff. Through the recent joining of the Park Academies Trust (that runs two other very successful secondary schools) we have the knowledge and expertise to make this a truly outstanding school. Parental relationships are a key part of this and I look forward to meeting existing and prospective parents at our opening evening on **Thursday 19 September, 5pm to 7:30pm**, or our open mornings on **Tuesday 15 October, Wednesday 16 October** and **Thursday 17 October**.

If you would like further information, please contact Mrs. Lewis on 01793 762426 or lewisl@warnefordschool.org.uk.

Sophie Hesten

Opportunities at Highworth and District Lions Club

I hope that everyone had a lovely summer; it flew by far too quickly!

Firstly, I'd like to bring up the 'C' word. Now, I know what you're thinking; It's far too early to be mentioning Christmas, but we are already busy planning our sleigh visits with Santa. If there is somewhere you would like us to visit this year, send me an email at secretaryhighworthlions@gmail.com and we will look to see if it is possible to include it in our schedule. Also, if any local schools need a Santa and sleigh then please get in touch.

Our charity shop has been very busy over the summer – so many wonderful donations have been brought in as well as many customers coming through the door to purchase our amazing bargains. A huge thank you



to everyone who donates items and shops in our shop. We are so very grateful for your continued support.

We currently have volunteering vacancies in our charity shop. If you can spare a few hours a week or would like more information, please get in touch.

Finally, here are a few causes we have donated to recently:

- Pinehurst Forget-Me-Not Club: £500
- Prospect House: £1000
- Rob Burrow Centre for Motor Neuron Disease: £1000
- Highworth CAP Hardship Fund: £600

Thanks for reading!

Melanie Davenport, Secretary

Westrop Choirs Delight Audiences

Choirs from Westrop Primary School were extremely busy before the summer with lots of performances around the community and in school.

KS2 Choir started off by performing in June to members of the Forget-Me-Not Café in aid of dementia patients. After the choir had sung they mingled amongst the audience, getting to know more about them as well as having a drink and a biscuit or two! Each child was given a wooden piece of bunting to decorate for future Café events.

KS1 Choir took part in the Infant Music Festival held at the Wyvern Theatre in Swindon, where they sang several songs on stage, backed by professional musicians, in front of over 600 people.

The last week of term was very busy for both choirs. A performance was given to parents, carers, and extended family to show them everything the choir had learned in the academic year. The repertoire included songs from shows, positive and uplifting songs, and a selection of rock songs.

This performance raised over £300 which will go towards the school's music department. Enough money was raised in previous years to purchase an electric piano and music stands and, with the help of funds from the PTA and a large donation from a parent, the school now has a new sound system.

Both choirs performed for the whole school on the last day of term with their final concert held on Saturday 27 July at Cotswold Festival on South Cerney airfield.

Sam Humphreys

Please see page 9 for photographs from the Forget-Me-Not concert



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Highworth Produce Show 2025

The Produce Show is in much need of help and funds to sustain the show going forward. Sadly due to these factors we have not been able to hold the event in 2024. A very hot show in 2023 meant attendance figures were particularly low and this caused a large drop in participation, attendance, and café sales.

In order to raise funds to support the running of the show, we are looking for local business sponsors for trophies and publication support and can offer branded trophies and advertising opportunities.

Local residents, I know, look forward greatly to this annual event and I certainly want to ensure the longevity of it, but it does require participation from residents during the year to help plan and not just their attendance on the day itself.

If you can help, no matter how small, then please join me for an initial kick-off meeting on **Thursday 19**

September at Highworth Council offices, **7pm to 8:30pm** to find out more and help us shape the future of the show with your input and ideas.

If you want to attend or simply find out more then please email aprilthrush@hotmail.com.

April Thrush



Highworth Advent Window Trail



With the encouragement and support of **Highworth Town Council**, we are organising another **Highworth Advent Window Trail** this year. Our last trail was in 2020 during lockdown and many people still have very fond memories of the amazing windows, including some above-

and-beyond efforts with music and fake snow.

An Advent Window Trail is where people in the town volunteer to decorate and illuminate their front windows in a seasonal way; to be revealed during consecutive evenings from **1 December** up to and including **24 December**, in the same way an advent calendar works.

Look out for posters and more information in the coming months and if you would like to register an early interest in taking part please email elaine_graham@hotmail.co.uk.

Elaine Graham

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General Election in Highworth

Back in June, St. Michael's Church in Highworth hosted a hustings open to all party candidates standing in the July election. What follows is a report of that evening from Rev. Phil Goodey.

When the General Election was announced, my first thought was, 'I wonder if we could have a hustings in St. Michael's?' I asked around and discovered that Highworth had held a hustings in previous years but they had taken place in the Methodist Church. However, everyone I spoke to thought it was a good idea to use St. Michael's and so the date was agreed.

My next task was to find contact details for the various candidates who were standing. Will Stone and Justin Tomlinson immediately agreed to attend, but the other candidates took a bit longer to respond and the Lib Dems chose not to get on board. The next issue concerned who was going to chair it and, as most people seemed to think I should do it, I nervously accepted the challenge. I watched Fiona Bruce in action and got even more nervous!

I received much encouragement from the church authorities and was delighted when Sally, the Area Dean, said she would be available to help. I immediately signed her up as a clerk to the meeting to work as an independent advisor in fielding questions.

The poster (shown above) was created and plastered around the town and I received questions from the



Submit questions beforehand by texting them to 07539 456945.
Please be prepared to ask your question on the night,
first stating your name and then your question.

community via text before the event.

The AV team at St. Michael's were amazing and on the night we were able to mic up the candidates and build a little stage to put them on so everyone could see them. I had no idea how many people were going to come, although a couple of nights previously I'd heard that the organised hustings for South Swindon was not happening and therefore I hoped some of those who had planned to attend that event would come to ours instead. As it was, I need not have been concerned about numbers as the building was full, the questions flowed well, and the AV system worked perfectly. All in all it was an excellent evening.

Thank you to Stephen and Arfon on the PA system, to Sally for sorting out the questions, Bella and her team for the refreshments and to Anne and Vicky (and others) for seeing to the details I forgot.

*Rev. Phil Goodey
Rector*



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Excitement for Highworth's All-Inclusive Play Area

It was perfect weather on 14 July for Highworth Town Council to celebrate the opening of their brand new, all-inclusive play area on Northview field near the Community Centre. An excited throng of children hurtled through the paper ribbon to reach their favourite piece of apparatus whilst their parents sat on the grass with picnic baskets, relaxing in the warm sun.

Enjoying the spectacle was Muhammad Ali, the Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Wiltshire, who congratulated the Town Council on such a magnificent play area, remarking on how marvellous it was to see the children enjoying themselves and congratulating the Town Council on its achievement.

Also in attendance was Will Stone MP, the new member for Swindon North, who was delighted to be there celebrating his first opening event. He was very impressed with the efforts of the Town Council in building such a wonderfully inclusive play area. He

said, "It will be a focal point that families around Swindon will actually travel to and will be a boon to the lovely town of Highworth."

This comment was echoed by Anna Bird who is part of the group Mum's On A Mission. It was with her help that the Council was able to create such a magnificent play area.

Mayor Julie Murphy offered congratulations for the hard work of the Play Area Committee who had created such a wonderful facility for the town. Thanks were also given to Aldi Highworth who provided sweets and refreshments, Halo Leisure who donated a prize for the winner of the Scavenger Hunt, and the police services for bringing a car and a selection of activities.

Keith Smith, Councillor



HTC Play Area Committee



Photos by Keith Davidson Photography



Mayor Julie Murphy, Will Stone MP, Deputy Lord Lieutenant Muhammad Ali, Deputy Mayor Tony Houghton

Christian Aid Week Success

Thank you to everyone who helped with, or contributed to, Christian Aid Week this year. You helped to raise £2011.32, including £115 in our e-envelope. Apologies to anyone who tried to use our QR code; we understand it did not work properly.

This year's appeal, from 12 to 18 May, focused on work in Burundi, one of the most densely

populated and poorest countries in Africa. Heavily reliant on agriculture, it's also one of the least prepared to combat the effects of climate change, including droughts, floods, and landslides. The global cost of living crisis has intensified the challenges: more than 70% of the population live in poverty and more than half of children are chronically malnourished. However, money raised will be spent wherever the need is greatest.

Highworth Christian Aid Committee

No Highworth Collections for Operation Christmas Child

It is with great sadness that the Highworth collection centre for the Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes will not be operating this year; we do not have the number of team members to be able to operate in the manner that we need to.

We know that many people will already be making items for the shoeboxes and also filling them, as they do it all year round – please continue to do so. We will keep you informed where the nearest collection centre will be. Alternatively, you could also look at the Christmas Child webpage, which will direct you to the nearest collection centre.

www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child.

If you need any further information, please contact Peter on mcauley.peter@gmail.com.



ADVERTORIAL

Highworth Slimming World

Slimming World has helped Gaynor to transform her life by losing five stone and reversing Type 2 diabetes. As a trained consultant, along with her colleague Jo, she's now helping Highworth members to change their lives and achieve their weight loss dreams too.

"Support is really the most important thing. It all starts with feeling that you're not alone. With Slimming World you get weekly help, encouragement and understanding to set targets, share ideas and work together to overcome challenges and celebrate achievements.

"With a few tweaks planning and preparing food, you and your family can still eat favourite meals like curries, pasta, fish and chips etc. I love the Food Optimising plan because you can eat plates full of delicious food and you never need to feel hungry! When you reach your chosen goal weight, you have free membership and an amazing support package called 'Slim for Life'

which guides you through maintaining your weight loss and keeping it off for life!

"My Slimming World journey has given me choice power, helping me to create healthy new habits which enable me to live life as a slimmer, healthier, happier me! If I can do it, you can do it!"

We have two Slimming World groups in Highworth; pop along to either and you will find a warm welcome.

Thursdays, 6pm, at St. Michael's Church Hall with Gaynor (07875 690617).

Fridays, 9:30am, at the Highworth Bowls Club with Jo (07815 838944).





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In 2024 Ridgeway Rise care home had many nominations in different categories of national awards, including regional winners at Great British Care Awards for best activities, chef, unpaid worker and the nurse.

On 25th of June Kinga Dabrowska was crowned the Dementia Specialist of the Year at Stars of Social Care ceremony in London. Two weeks later we saw our healthcare assistant, Martha Onwunghara proudly walking on the stage to collect her award from Kate Garraway, as a Worker of the Year in Palliative Care.

In the care sector, where compassion, dedication and hard work are the cornerstones of daily operations, recognition through awards can have a profound impact. These awards do more than simply acknowledge our excellence; they elevate the entire ecosystem of care - from the community and the team to the residents themselves. Our skills and experience delivered to the residents day in and out improve their quality of life and enable to pursue existing and new hobbies.

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Wrdeup Community Fund

<p>APPLICATIONS OPEN</p> <p>WRDEUP 2014-2023 INVITES APPLICATIONS TO COMMUNITY FUND</p> 	<p>Over the years we are proud to have supported many local groups, charities and individuals and have already donated over £10k to good causes.</p>
<p>Firstly we would like to congratulate Tom Falding and his team on a fantastic Wrdeup this year. We are immensely grateful Tom was willing to take this great event on and ensure the residents of Highworth and Swindon continue to enjoy the festival.</p>	<p>Apply NOW</p> <p>We would now like to invite applications to this new community fund, no cause is too small for consideration, we can consider applications up to £5k.</p>
<p>The original community interest company organised the festival up to 2023, would now like to donate all remaining funds to the local community to benefit the people of Highworth.</p>	<p>WHETHER YOU'RE A CHARITY OR A LOCAL GROUP?</p> <p>If you would like to apply to the WrdeUp community fund please email c.laken@btinternet.com to request an application form.</p> <p>WrdeUp Committee 2014-2023</p>

Highworth Historical Society

25 September sees the first of the meetings in our 2024/2025 season. There will be a very short AGM followed by another of our 'Show and Tell' events – items belonging to some of our members, with a story to tell. This is a very informal event and visitors, as always, are very welcome to attend.

We meet at St. Michael's Hall, Lechlade Road. The doors will open at 7pm with, for this evening, a 7:15pm start.

A reminder: membership fees are now due for the next season. They remain at £12 for the nine meetings. If paying cash then the correct money would be very helpful. The charge for visitors is £3 for the evening.

If you require more information please contact Caroline on caroline.pooley@yahoo.com.

Supporting Parkinson's Walking Football

Do you consider yourself a sporting expert? How do you feel about predicting the result of five fixtures every week between October and April?

If this sounds like you, email spforparkinsons1819@btinternet.com for all the details. There is no entry fee, you just donate what you wish to over the period of the competition. Proceeds go to the Swindon Parkinson's Walking Football group, who play every Monday morning at the Swindome at

Supermarine. This activity is a tremendous help for those suffering from Parkinson's, helping them mentally and physically.

We have raised just under £4,000 over the past four years, so please help us to raise plenty over the coming months. To be honest, you actually don't have to be a sporting expert as one of our most successful participants would claim to have little interest in sport!

David Roblin

Delight and Gratitude from WrdeUp Crew



First and foremost, I want to say a huge **THANK YOU** to everyone who supported us on our first year running the WrdeUp Festival!

Thanks to the attendees, all our performers, to our crew and the outgoing committee who lent invaluable support on our takeover year. Also to our wonderful sponsors, KMS Construction, Austen Dawson, and supporters at the Arts Council England.

Overall, the event was a roaring success and we're proud of our achievements personally and for the town. We had fantastic numbers turn out on the main festival Saturday with lower numbers on the Friday (affected by the rain!) and lower on the experimental pay-what-you-feel approach to the Sunday...this is why we experiment!

It was a genuine challenge for our small team at Fandangos but one which rightly pushed us to excel and bring better for the town. The event in total cost a little over £66,000 to produce (not including VAT!), of which just under a third was from the Arts Council. We spent double compared to previous years. The rise in general event costs coupled with us being a business (rather than a charitable committee and so not being able to access previous cheaper prices for event infrastructure) meant we had to really make it work! Although this year didn't turn a profit, we're confident next year it will at least pay for itself – ultimately the event needs to be profitable to continue.

The grassroots element of the event was a real achievement. We engaged local schools, ran DJ workshops, supported funding a new sound system



Photography - Anthony Hunt

for Warneford, ran free jazz workshops, supported Swindon Welcomes Ukraine and also ran a work experience programme for budding event enthusiasts. We're working on a new grassroots scheme for 2025.

Keep your eyes peeled for our fresh website launching, the event video being released and your opportunity to purchase super early bird tickets for 2025!

Thanks again

Tom Falding, WrdeUp Festival Director



Photography - Anthony Hunt

Highworth Methodist Church
Angel Festival
14th and 15th December, 2024

A variety of hand-crafted Angels made by Groups and Individuals from Highworth will be on display (some for sale - just in time for Christmas!)

Don't forget to make a note of the date in your diary now!

Refreshments, live music & crafts for children throughout the weekend



Look out for details in future issues of the Highworth LINK to let you know when to bring your angels to the church for display.

For further information contact the Angel Festival Group - email: churchaf60@email.com



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Dear Editor...

Hello Rachael,

While I was banned by my doctor from any work in my garden after my cataract treatment, my back lawn became very overgrown. In the long grass I spotted a plant I had not seen before and, after showing it to a professional gardener friend of mine, he confirmed it was a rare bee orchid.



Photo: Keith Davidson
Photography

As soon as I was allowed back to my gardening, I carefully trimmed around what I found to be two bee orchids and then mowed the lawn very carefully.

I thought readers of Highworth's LINK Magazine might like to share my excitement.

Yours sincerely

KP

Dear Editor,

My partner suffers from Aphasia which, following a stroke some years ago, means he has trouble with speech, communication, and some related movement issues.

Recently he rode his motor trike to our local convenience store in Shrevenham to collect some shopping and whilst there he had a bit of difficulty picking up an item of shopping (nothing unusual for him given his condition but he is able to make adjustments to complete the task – one of the everyday functions most of us take for granted).

It was at this point a man approached him and outright accused him of being drunk and disorderly, which he most definitely wasn't! My partner came home extremely upset and very angry.

I hope that the person who was so disrespectfully cruel and thoughtless is reading this and is feeling ashamed of themselves for being so judgemental.

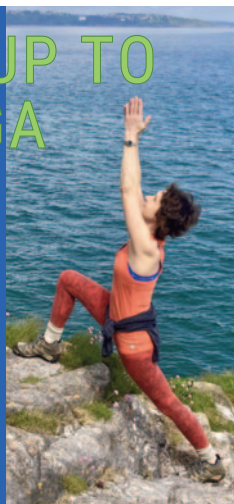
Please, when you see someone who may be having difficulty in either speech or mobility, or both, don't make instant assumptions that they are inebriated or under the influence of other substances. If you are concerned, politely ask if they require assistance or ask a member of staff to do so on your behalf. These are ordinary people trying to cope with life's challenges. I know that your respect and, on occasion, assistance would be appreciated.

Name and address supplied

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Ideally we would like you to volunteer on a regular basis on either a Monday, Tuesday or Thursday, from 09.45 to 14.15. In return we offer training, a beautiful environment and a hot meal.

If you feel this could be for you please feel free to drop in to our volunteers evening for a look around and an informal chat.

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Summer at Southfield Junior School

On Your Marks, Get Set, Go!

The Junior Leadership Team (JLT) at Southfield Junior School were inspired by the London Marathon and decided to host their own to raise money for new school resources.

It all started when Southfield's JLT challenged each class to take part in the organised Mini London Marathon by running, jogging or walking 2.6 miles. As well as improving fitness and wellbeing, JLT hoped that the money raised would help towards updating reading books in their classrooms.

One teacher commented, "We all know that regular exercise has a positive impact on children's physical health and mental wellbeing and can help start a habit that stays with them for the rest of their lives.

Everyone feels happier after they've exercised!"

The children completed their Mini Marathon during school time and split it into manageable chunks. All our children took part and successfully completed the challenge; and as a result raised an incredible £985!

Martha, Year 3, enthused, "It was really fun to see all of our class getting up and active. We loved running laps!" And Spencer, also Year 3, said, "It didn't matter who finished first or last. All that mattered was you completed your 24 laps and cheered everyone on."

We would like to say a massive thank you to all family and friends who supported our children... this will make a huge difference to reading at Southfield.

Southfield JLT



Halo Swim School

at Highworth Recreation Centre

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

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

www.haloleisure.org.uk

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



Holly (c), Georgia, Lois, Emily, Faith, Ava, Ayla and Isabelle

Let's Hear It For The Girls!

On Thursday 13 June, we had the privilege of representing Southfield Junior School and our local team (Swindon Town FC) at the Girls' Primary School National Finals! We won the local tournament in October, then finished runners-up at the regional finals in Wolverhampton in March. This secured us a place in the national finals!

We were so excited to play on a Premier League pitch at Brentford's Gtech Community Stadium. The day started early for us, leaving Highworth at 5:45am to make the trip into the capital – the adults loved our singing keeping them wide awake on the journey!

We were introduced to the parents and spectators by walking out through the tunnel onto the pitch; there was even a camera crew filming so we made it onto the big screen! After this, we played four games against Brighton, Stoke, Cheltenham and Charlton. All the games were very competitive. We lost three games and drew one, but the results didn't mean anything to us as we were so proud to get to the finals where 25,000 girls had played in the first round; and we can now say we're in the top 20 schools in the entire country!

We hope this inspires other girls to put on some boots and enjoy the sport we love.

Sports Week Spectacular!

Southfield Juniors' had an action-packed Sports Week filled with thrilling activities that captivated the children, their families, and their friends. From skateboarding to Bollywood dancing celebrating Holi; football, darts to boogie bouncing; the week was nothing short of spectacular. The children's enthusiasm was contagious with powder paints flying as they engaged in the festivities.

"Sports Week was the best! I loved skateboarding as I haven't done it before and we got to learn new skills."

"I loved celebrating the festival of Holi by Bollywood dancing and doing the colour run, especially as I got to throw powder paint at my mum! It was great that everyone got to join in and it was definitely one of my favourite days at school ever. The entire school was filled with colour!"



Bollywood Dancing

"My favourite part of Sports Week was Boogie Bounce because there was good music and you could do cool jumps. I'll never forget how high I went!"

We would like to thank everyone who was involved for making the week a success and helping to create memories that will last a lifetime. Stay tuned for more exciting events next year!

Highworth Enjoys Art Festival

Visit Highworth had its Art Festival back in June.

The first event was an art trail, featuring work from the Highworth Camera Club and Highworth Artists' Society – this was the first time the two groups had worked together. The theme was 'Book Titles', and we were very pleased with the response.

There was also a three-day art exhibition in Karoliina Saunder's studio, a beautiful setting to show the pieces on display.

On the Saturday town crier Richard Williams got the day off to a good start, which was followed by a performance from Bang to Rites and a drum workshop.

Artists at work could be witnessed in a photography demonstration from Neil George Photography on the Podium, whilst in the Visitors Centre were artists Christine Purdy and Ann March. Next year it will be back with a full programme for the Highworth Arts and Literature Festival.

Sadly this is my last article for LINK Magazine as manager of Visit Highworth. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time at the Centre, watching what it offers to both visitors and Highworthians' grow. I wish it continued success for the future.

Helen Lacey, Centre Manager

Swindon Open Studios to Celebrate Twentieth Anniversary

2024 is the big twentieth anniversary of Swindon Open Studios (SOS). During the last two weekends in September, 130 creatives will display a wide variety of arts and crafts in 56 venues across Swindon.

SOS has grown into a thriving arts community which banishes the myth that Swindon is a 'cultural desert', with amateur artists exhibiting alongside professionals. Visitors will see beautiful creations and look behind the scenes; some might even be inspired to start their own creative journey! You can book some trial sessions in advance.



Highworth artists include Lindsay Best, Margaret Robbins, Deborah Battaglia, Sean Marsh, Joanne Scislowicz, and The Stanton Barn Exhibition with six contributors.

According to Sheryll Fox of the committee, "Swindon Open Studios is for everyone. It's really accessible, plus you get to meet the artists and see where the magic happens."

Check www.swindonopenstudios.org to plan your route. Follow #swindonopenstudios.

Rhona Jack

Highworth Camera Club

The club welcomed a visit from Terry Walters, photographer and experienced judge from Swindon, and it was a busy evening as Terry appraised and judged the monthly entries from April and May competitions.

A judge's appraisal is always useful to hear as they will point out how an image could be improved, errors that the photographer may have missed, or technical issues that could be rectified. It is always a good learning exercise. Terry then ranked the images in each subject. Shown here is one of the first placed images.

The club was pleased to participate in Highworth's Art and Literature Festival in June. We hope you managed



Rain-Soaked Lily by Hilary Beach

to see the trail of pictures from both clubs around the local shops with the 'Book Title' theme and that you made a good guess at them! There was also an exhibition of work and other activities.

Hopefully we will be able to share images with you after our town walkabout evening and later some black and white pictures too.

If you would like to get involved and share your pictures with us do come along on the **second Tuesday of the month** to the Community Centre, The Dormers. New members are always welcome, or for more information email highworthcamclub@gmail.com.

The Arts Society Upper Thames

The Arts Society Upper Thames (formerly known as NADFAS) invites you to our September Lecture, 'Music at the Courts of Henry VIII and Elizabeth I' with Peter Medhurst on Tuesday 12 September, 2pm, at Lechlade Memorial Hall.

The great chronicler, Raphael Holinshed, claimed that in 1510 Henry VIII was "exercising himself daily in shooting, singing, dancing, wrestling, casting of the bar, playing at the recorders, flute, virginals... [and also] in setting of songs, making of ballads and did set two goodly masses, every of them five parts." The epitome of the Renaissance man, Henry VIII – through his passion for music – had a pivotal influence on the development of English music, laying the foundations for the so-called 'golden musical age' at the end of the 16th century.

Peter Medhurst appears in the UK and abroad as a musician and scholar, giving recitals and delivering illustrated lectures on music and the arts. He studied singing and early keyboard instruments at the Royal College of Music and at the Mozarteum in Salzburg.

Non-members are very welcome, please arrive by 1:50pm and pay £7.50 on the door. Please register first at info@tasupperthames.org.uk.

Adventures for Local National Trust

With the National Trust holiday in Pembroke over, the main event of 2024 is a happy memory. This year we went to Pembroke in south-west Wales. We visited St. David's, which, in spite of its size, earns the title of a City. Tenby needed a long period of sunshine to make it attractive. Apart from places we visited, one of our abiding memories is of our Barnes coach driver persuading the coach to go into some very tricky places without scratching it. The weather was no better for us than anyone else trying to holiday in the UK this year but our hotel was welcoming and comfortable.

On 16 July we went to Dorney Court near Windsor, just one of the social events we've been looking forward to this year.

The local branch of the National Trust (Upper Thames and Ridgeway National Trust Association) is yours to join if you are attracted by our adventures. Have a look at our website sometime (www.utrnta.co.uk).

Phil Eagle

New Season for Highworth Community Cinema



Highworth Community Cinema commences its 2024/25 season on Friday 27 September.

For residents who don't know about us, we are an independent, voluntary organisation run by Highworth residents since 2006, which aims to bring world-class films to Highworth.

On **Friday 27 September**, we'll be showing *The Great Escaper* at St Michael's Hall, Lechlade Road, SN6 7HQ. Doors open at 7:15pm for a 7:45pm showing.

In the summer of 2014, a World War II veteran sneaks out of his care home to attend the 70th anniversary commemoration of the D-Day landings in Normandy. The film stars Michael Caine and Glenda Jackson and is based on a true story of 90-year-old British

World War II Royal Navy veteran Bernard Jordan who 'broke out' of his nursing home. The film marked the final screen performances for both lead actors: Jackson died in June 2023, nine months after filming finished, and Caine announced his retirement from acting in October 2023.

97 mins, cert 12A. There is no membership fee with admission on the door at £6, and 50p for tea/coffee and biscuits.

T: 01793 763907

E: highworthfilms@gmail.com

W: www.highworthfilms.org.uk

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David Holden

ADVERTORIAL

ACC Physiotherapy

Hi! I would like to introduce myself. My name is Andrea Carnero Charles, although I go as Andi mostly. I own ACC Physiotherapy based in Highworth and offer human and veterinary physiotherapy services in the surrounding area.

I may have met some of you at Highworth Physiotherapy Clinic where I have worked providing physiotherapy treatments since 2020, but that is not all I do. I also offer home visits for clients struggling with mobility, balance, falls and neurological conditions, to name a few. Furthermore, I treat horses and dogs! I qualified as a Human Physiotherapist in 2019 from University of West of England with first class honours. I have also gained



experience working in different areas in the NHS and continue to work part-time at the Great Western Hospital. In 2023 I achieved my Master's Degree in Veterinary Physiotherapy from Hartpury University, allowing me to offer physiotherapy to dogs and horses. I am fully registered (HCPC, CSP, RAMP, ACPAT) and insured.

In my spare time I enjoy looking after my two horses and spending time with my family.

I look forward to hearing from you and offering my help to yourself or your four-legged friend!



Find me on Facebook or visit my website at www.accp physiotherapy.co.uk.

E: andrea@accp physiotherapy.co.uk

T: 07485 224657 (call/text/WhatsApp)



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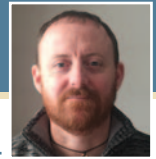
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Swindon Croquet Club

SCC's 'Level Play' team continued their good form this season with a stunning 15 – 5 win against Moreton-in-Marsh that was played at Moredon Sporting Hub.

A highly motivated Swindon team took the match to Moreton-in-Marsh from the start, winning seven of the first eight games. The match was played in perfect conditions with the sun clearly shining on the home side as they pressed home their superiority to lead 12 – 2 at the lunch break.

With the match already won, a relaxed Swindon shared the final session of singles games 3 – 3.

Team Captain Terry Clements commented, "This was the best performance our Level Play team has achieved. There were so many notable individual performances, but this was all about an outstanding team result." He added how proud he was of the support and commitment of the whole squad.



L-R Steven Hares, Martin Briggs, Terry Theobald, Bev Briggs, Linda Hunt, Colin Brain and Terry Clements

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

Highworth Bowls Club

"Didn't we have a wonderful time the day we went to... Swanage."

In June, HBC went on our first ever Mystery Day Out. The only ones knowing the plans were the two organisers and the driver. 44 Members enjoyed a bacon roll before departing at 9am. After a few trips around roundabouts to add to the mystery and

multiple questions as to where we were going, we finally arrived at Swanage Bowls Club. A close seven-rink mixed game followed, with a few substitutions made halfway through to ensure everyone played a part, which saw the home side narrowly come out on top. After a few more drinks and laughs with pleasant company, certificates were handed out for wrong bias, then it was back on the coach heading towards a restaurant for a Sunday roast. This was also part of the mystery as all the members knew was what meal they had chosen. We ended up at The Mortimer Arms in Ower which offered a delicious meal – we can all highly recommend.

With a quiz, bingo and a raffle on the coach, we arrived back in Highworth for 10pm. A great day was had by all, with members already looking forward to next year.

Kevin Brown

W: www.highworthbowlsclub.org



Our Mystery Day Out



Shrivenham Park Golf Club

What a Captain's Fun Charity Day we had in July! Pitching into a padding pool with air-flow balls, putting on the green between the string lines, being nearest the pin in two shots, playing nine holes as a Junior, and being in the three best Texas teams, were all ways to earn prizes.

A barbeque lunch was enjoyed by all and, as it coincided with Ladies' Final's Day at SW19, Pimms was also in circulation. There was also a raffle with numerous prizes, not to mention an auction that included vouchers for rounds of golf donated by Kirtlington, The Buckinghamshire and Cumberwell; also including a golf lesson at Wrag Barn, a signed cap and glove given by Ian Poulter (well-known Ryder Cup player), and a sleeve of golf balls with the Houses of Lords and Commons logos.

We are delighted that the amount collected on the day plus two previous raffles this year, has amounted to £800 for our charity Pennyhooks Farm and a large-sized cheque will be presented later in the year. A big thank you to bar stewards, green keepers, the management team and director, and everyone who played and took part in any way on the day. As Club Captains, Danny and I were delighted with the day – even the weather was kind.

Other recent events have included our Seniors Championship in which Jim Boyes triumphed, our Men's Championship that saw Tom Gristwood pip Malc Walker to the spoils; and the monthly Ladies' medal for July was won by Denise Shurmer.

The Ladies have played two matches; one away at Deanwood, the other at home when they hosted Radley. Unfortunately, both matches were won 2-1 by the opposition but they were pleasing occasions meeting with friends.

If you would like more information on anything golf-related, our Junior coaching, Parkies Pals or community putting, please do look us up or get in touch.

Carole Lee
W: www.shrivenhampark.co.uk

Highworth Town Football Club

Pre-season was rewarded with some silverware as HTFC won the Annual Jim Newman Cup competition which was hosted by Clanfield. An opening away League game at Thornbury Town was followed by a home FA Cup game with Bishops Cleeve, with August scheduled for league visits to Cirencester Town, Brimscombe and Corsham Town mixed in with us hosting Mangotsfield Utd and promoted Malmesbury Vics. Keep an eye on social media for updates and club events.

Derek Lloyd
W: www.pitchero.com/clubs/highworthtown

Wrag Barn Golf Club

Captain's Day at Wrag Barn is the perfect excuse to dress up and test your golfing skills in a wig, a Father Christmas outfit; with or without a mask. This year the theme was 'Red or Dead' and the various interpretations speak for themselves. Thank you Shaun, Tracey and family for giving us a great day, and congratulations to the golfing winners (some amazing scores) and the outfits were hilarious.

Verity Manners
W: www.wragbarn.com



ANDREWS

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Traditional Meal Ideas

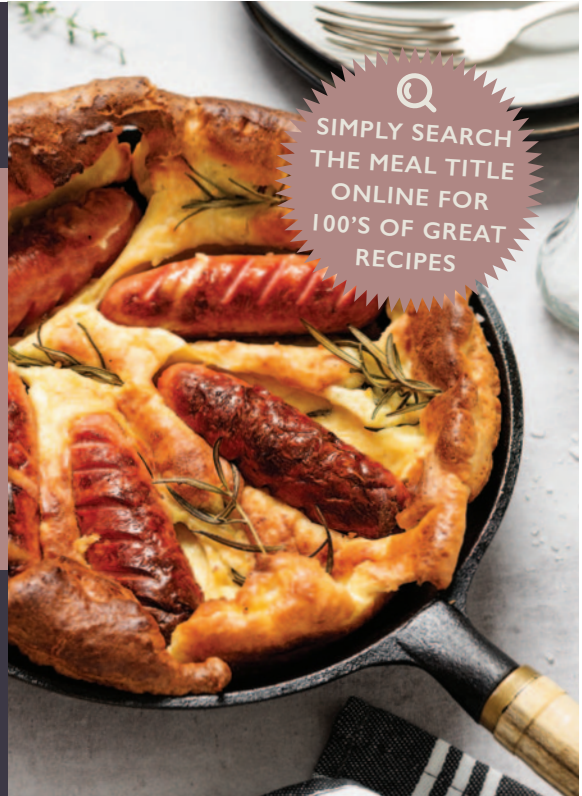
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Shrivenham Cricket Club

Our cricket team, competing in Division 6 of the Wiltshire Cricket Leagues, continues with some success barring a couple of setbacks! Away to Chippenham 4 we won convincingly, mainly owing to one individual in particular. Batting first, Manoj Perera scored 92 of our total of 214 (all out) and then took five wickets for 13 runs as they were dismissed for 73. So, a win by 141 runs for us.



Our last game against Marlborough 3 was at home and again we had a convincing win. Batting first, Marlborough were all out for 104 in 37 overs, Manoj Perera taking four wickets for 21 runs. We then passed this with 105 for one wicket in 12.5 overs; Simon Carr 44 (not out) with Manoj reaching 49 to win by nine wickets. We currently sit first from ten teams having played twelve and won eight. Our next match is against Laycock, who beat us on our ground. Will revenge be sweet or not?! We will have to wait and see.

Julian Stevens

W: www.shrivenham.play-cricket.com

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Shrivenham Bowls Club

Over the summer, our Ladies were successful in the Berkshire County Quarter Finals, prompting Trixie Walsh and Jill Ridley to compete in the Semifinals at Desborough against a pair from Island Bohemians. Unfortunately Trixie and Jill didn't progress but did very well to get so far in the competition.

In July, Trixie and Jill, along with Margaret Neaves and Maggie Minchinton-Smith, featured in the Ladies' Fours against a quartet from Maiden Erleigh. Our Fours Team were successful and we wish them good luck in the next round.

We have four teams competing in the Swindon and District Afternoon Leagues, namely Shrivenham B who (at the time of writing) were topping Division 1 out of 11 teams; Shrivenham C were fourth from eight teams in Division 4; Shrivenham D lie eighth from eight teams in Division 5; and lastly Shrivenham A occupied second place in Division 7.

Our men have also been busy. In Kennet League's Division 1 they sit in third from eight teams and in the Swindon and District League's Division 1 they lie fourth from 11 teams but had three games in hand.

If that didn't keep everyone busy enough, we continue to flourish as an integrated club by playing in the Wednesday evening Ashley Baker League, Friday evening's Club Triples, and our Club Aggregate on Monday evenings and Thursday afternoons, not to mention the many interclub competitions and occasional friendly fixtures.

Away from the Green, the annual Car Boot and Bric-a-Brac event was its usual success thanks to Loraine and her team of helpers, as was our Recruitment Day where 15 attended along with club coaches and other volunteers. Thanks extended to Roy Dixon for his organisation here.

This month sees us embark on our 'Tour of Devon' and we expect a flurry of activity above and beyond our

normal matches now the draws for our Club competitions have been made. Further to this we have the County competitions for our more ambitious members and a host of friendly games arranged for weekends.

If you are interested in finding out more about SBC please do get in touch as we have a number of social and practice sessions in the schedule and would love to meet you.

Julian Stevens

W: www.shrivenhambowls.co.uk



Highworth Town Junior Football Club

Great Western Building Services are very proud to be the new sponsors for HTJFC. Quality and customer service are at the top of our list when we engage with prospects and clients, so we are sure that GWBS having a solid commitment to Highworth Town's Juniors will help to provide the trust needed for people to confidently engage with us. From the first call through to the completion of the job with John-Paul, you can be sure to receive the best level of service. Highworth Town have given our sons so much support since they joined in 2017, so being able to support our local grassroots football team and our Highworth community gives us great pride. We look forward to watching many more matches and watching our children develop with the under-14's.

Carly Donovan

Great Western Building Services Ltd.

Highworth Town Walking Football Club

The Over-65s team have had a very successful couple of months. After winning Division 2 of the Thames Valley Walking Football League last season they went one better this season winning Division 1 in June, before winning a mini cup tournament in Abingdon early in July.

They then played a 16-team cup competition held at Bisham Abbey (having reached the semifinals last year). After beating Oxford, Slough, Portsmouth and Bicester in a mini league format, they beat Wycombe in the semifinals and finally beat Bracknell (who were also unbeaten up to then) in the final. A brilliant result in a very tough competition.

Also in July they won the Wiltshire League by avoiding defeat in their final game and a week later they beat Eastleigh 2 – 0 in the South West Regional Final of the National Cup on a scorching-hot Sunday. They then went on to the National Finals held in Nottingham last month. Massive congratulations go to the whole over-65s squad who have excelled so far this year.

If you are interested in just playing social walking football, there are men's sessions held on **Thursdays and Sundays, 11am to 12 noon**, 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, over-60s, over-65s, and Ladies' competitions.

All sessions are Pay and 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. For more information, please get in touch.

Graham Seeley
E: highworthwfc@outlook.com



A/B Class Winner
Keith Wooster
(Photograph courtesy of Kelly Daniels)

Swindon & District Motorcycle Club

It was on one of those searingly hot July days (the ones you hope for but then complain about) that the S&DMCC held their Wooster Trial on the west side of Highworth.

With five Sections on the old railway line embankment, two on the old railway station platform

itself and three hidden in woodland closer to Hannington, the 64 strong field had plenty of room to play. Ten Sections in total, four laps, and the objective being (as always) to try to keep your perfect score by not putting a foot down in each Section. Easier said than done. Each rider competed in an appropriate category with each category asking the rider to take a

different route through each Section based on ability and marked out by coloured flags.

The pack was split to spread everyone about and each rider then tackled each Section in sequence until they'd completed all four laps. With water, mud, rocks, and roots under the tyres it took impressive displays of balance and bravery to best each challenge but this is exactly what everyone signed up and hoped for. Thanks of course must go to the Observers who oversaw each rider's progress throughout each Section and without whom 'Observed Trials' simply wouldn't take place. As mid-afternoon came, the last riders were marked off on the clipboards, the flags collected and bikes loaded. Those recording the fewest penalty points in each category rightfully had the bragging rights, but from what I could see everyone seemed to have a blast. Detailed results and future events are hosted on the club's website and Facebook pages.

Jason Daniels
W: www.sdmcc.org.uk

PREPARING FOR EMERGENCIES

Highworth Town Council is currently writing an emergency plan on behalf of the community. As part of that process we would like to identify skills and resources in the local community which would be vital if an emergency occurs. We would very much like to hear from you if you have any of the skills, resources or equipment listed in our questionnaire.

VULNERABLE

We would also like to hear from anyone who considers that they might be vulnerable in an emergency e.g. If you rely on power for essential medical equipment.

HELP US

Remember, no matter how small you feel your personal assistance is, it will be valued as part of the whole, and, don't forget, it may be you that needs help!

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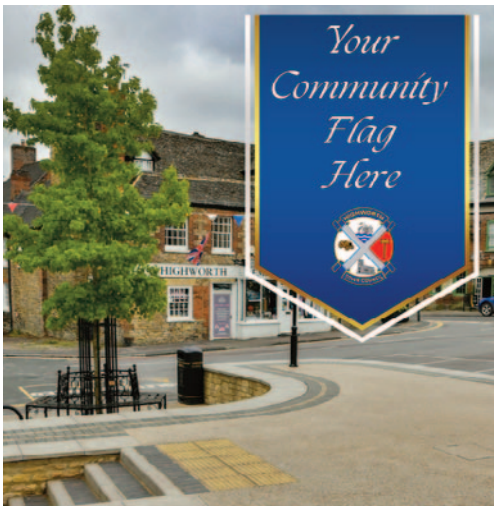
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Your Community Flag Here

Are you a local community group who would like their flag displayed in Highworth. Please get in touch with us to discuss further.
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JOIN US  JOIN US

Highworth Saturday Market

We are looking to expand our Saturday Market and are very keen to invite a new butcher stall to join us.

However, we are always on the look out for new and unusual stalls, if you feel you have a stall you would like to bring to Highworth, do get in touch
We are very flexible and can offer a space every week or twice a month.

If you would like to join us, please get in touch by emailing admin@highworthtowncouncil.gov.uk

Butcher Stall



News from Highworth's Mayor



Before I tell you about the events I've attended, I want to share that the public consultation for the Neighbourhood Plan has concluded, with the Committee reviewing 325 comments. The revised plan will undergo a further six-week public consultation by Swindon

Borough Council. If you have strong views on any policies, please participate in the next stage – dates to be confirmed.

On 6 June, I hosted the 80th anniversary of D-Day with a special commemoration where distinguished guests included Lord Lieutenant Sarah Troughton and Deputy Lieutenant James Arkell. The event featured a proclamation by our Town Crier, a service overseen by Rector Phil Goodey and wreath-laying at the Memorial, with a coffee morning and exhibition in the Council's Community Room. In the evening we were joined by WW2 vehicles, personnel and songs of the 1940s from Chelsea Millard. A poem, roll of honour and a national tribute were all followed by the lighting of a beacon on the Podium.

On 17 July, myself and over 100 residents attended the Swindon Borough Council Cabinet Meeting to raise questions regarding the future of our much-loved Old Golf Course. The Cabinet committed to working with Highworth Town Council to consider our proposal submitted in October 2023. We continue to advocate protecting this space and hope to be successful in designating it as Local Green Space through our Neighbourhood Plan which, if successful, protects its designation in perpetuity.

I recently hosted the opening of Northview Play Park which included a picnic and treasure hunt. Special guests included Deputy Lieutenant Mohammed Ali and newly elected MP Will Stone. It was lovely to see so many of you there.

You can see photographs of events as far afield as Devizes and Malmsbury on the mayoral page at www.highworthtowncouncil.gov.uk.

If you would like me to attend an event or wish to donate to my chosen charity, Forget-Me-Not, please contact admin@highworthtowncouncil.gov.uk.

Mayor Julie Murphy

HIGHWORTH TOWN COUNCIL

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How Can You Best Love Your Neighbour?

Mims Schuler, of the London Institute of Contemporary Christianity, wrote this recent article which I now share with you.

How did a Taylor Swift dance party tragedy in Southport degenerate into some members of ethnic minorities across the UK being too scared to leave their homes?

The news of rioting across the country has been hot in the headlines this last month. After the horrific stabbing of three young girls, thousands of men and women took to the streets. The targeting of hotels, homes and businesses believed to be owned or occupied by asylum seekers and refugees, is parasitic upon Southport's pain, opportunistically seeking to drive an anti-immigration agenda.

We've witnessed old and young threatening police, smashing windows and setting streets alight, courtesy of this angry mob of destruction; all driven by fear and loathing of those who are perceived as 'other' – those the rioters believe do not belong. Resorting to violence is so painfully wrong. What does it look like for us to support the bereaved and fight for justice?

Jesus, in his teachings in Mark 12:28–34, gives us a very clear commandment. In fact, it's one of the two greatest commandments, which is to love our

neighbours as ourselves – to love both the grieving families, friends of the young girls who died, and the marginalised who have consequentially got a target on their backs.

Immigration concerns and policy aside, the people we live alongside are our neighbours. When we are faced with the person in front of us, what should our first and ultimate response be? Jesus says it is to love – to unconditionally commit to work for their welfare.

We do not live anywhere near Southport or where these uprisings occurred. But our loving response doesn't have to directly impact the northwest coast. This isn't a wishy-washy posture or a virtue-signalling exercise; it's a radical ministry that feels awkward. It goes against our individualistic instincts and shapes the culture of our communities.

Love in action could be volunteering to sweep up debris, helping a couple translate the food store price labels (true story), or baking a cake for those in mourning. Perhaps even leaning in and listening to those who resonate with the rioting, for they are neighbours, too. Whatever it is and wherever you are, Jesus said we should love our neighbours. How could you be loving yours?

Rev. Phil Goodey

Highworth Methodist Church



What's on in September?



Every Saturday
Coffee Morning
10.30 – 12 noon
Coffee and cake



Sunday Morning Worship
@ 10.30am

1st 8th 15th 22nd Refreshments served after each service

29th Harvest Festival 

Tuesday Afternoon Communion 3rd @ 2pm

Every Friday
9.30-11.15 am



Craft Group

Tuesday, 3rd & 17th
10am-1pm



Vicarage Lane, Highworth SN6 7DG
Tel: 01793 764544
Website:
www.highworthmethodistchurch.org.uk
www.facebook.com/HighworthMethodistChurch

3Cs – Coffee, cake & chat

Wednesday, 11th
2.30pm



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www.highworthcommunitycentre.co.uk

01793 765408

and leave a message

bookings@highworthcommunitycentre.co.uk

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 (excluding the summer holidays).

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.

We remember those who loved and miss

Heather Gunn Prue Hardie Richard Zarczynski
Christina Thring Anthony Wilkins

We welcome in Holy Baptism

Jasper Latimer Emily Searle

Praying for the roads in the town

01 Sept Priory Green and Quarry Crescent

08 Sept Queen's Avenue and Redland Close

15 Sept Redlands Court and The Retreat

22 Sept Rivers Way and Roman Way

29 Sept Sevenfields and Sheep Street

St. Leonard's Parish Church Stanton Fitzwarren

1 September Morning Praise, 9:30am

8 September Family service, 'Jesus walks on water', 11am

15 September Joint Team Service at Stratton Methodist, 10:30am

22 September Holy Communion, 9:30am

29 September Team Service at St Margaret's Stratton, 10am

Stanton Coffee morning restarts on **Wednesday 18 September** at Stanton House Hotel. We meet at **10:15am** for coffee and chat, and welcome Kate, Prison Chaplain, as our speaker at **11am**. Everyone is welcome.

Date for your diary: **Saturday 14 September**, WHCT Ride and Stride, **10am to 6pm**. Contact Liz on 01793 762935 for details.

The church building will be open every Wednesday in school term time from 10am to 4pm, or 'phone Liz and Roger, 01793 762935, to organise for the building to be left open for you to visit.

Please note there may be changes to the advertised schedule. Please go to www.stantonchurch.info for updates.



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



23/8/24 to 25/8/24

Frank Dean – 24 August – Remembering you on your birthday and every day. All our love, Jean, Beverley, Sharon and families

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

19/9/24

Joyce Ryder – Remembering a dearly loved Mum, Nan and Great Nan. Missed every day, the heartache never goes away. From Janice and Pas, Louise and Chris, Pep, Amy and Carina xxxx

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 Wednesday 28 August for the October publication.

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

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

NON-EMERGENCY

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

BUSES

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

COLLEGES

Cirencester College	01285 640994
New College 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
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TAXIS

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TRAINS

National Rail Enquiries	03457 484950
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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

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

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

Contributions:

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

Email is preferred; otherwise deliver to The 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.

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

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