

# *Highworth***LINK**

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October 2024



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## Dear Reader

Have you ever realised you're trying to be something or someone you're not? That's the predicament I've been facing of late.

I was chatting with a friend and recounted to them a story from my teenage years when I'd performed in an opera based on a famous poem called 'The Rime of the Ancient Mariner'. I'd forgotten how much I'd loved that whole season in my life, how much I loved singing and how much of a privilege it felt to have performed in such a famous venue.

Do you ever feel like you just need to be yourself? We live in a world where it can be difficult to know what's real and what's fake. Social media can present a very superficial view of the world or try to convince us that something's true when it's not. Somehow, in the quagmire of life, we can lose something of ourselves.

The great news is we don't need to stay feeling lost. Opening ourselves to new opportunities and



situations is a really good way to find increased fulfilment and it's also a way of perhaps finding some long-buried skill or interest, or finding a new venture that provides an outlet for who we really are.

Maybe you're tired of hearing me say it but I really do believe getting involved with groups in the town is a super way to be a part of something that matters. To that end, we have our **Volunteer Expo** this month on **Saturday 12 October, 10am to 2pm**, at **St. Michael's Church**, where you can learn more about many of the voluntary groups who serve our communities so well. Come and have a look at what's going on where you live and maybe stop for a cuppa and cake too! It would be lovely to meet you so feel free to stop by the LINK stand and say 'hello!'.

*Rachel*

**VOLUNTEER EXPO**

**THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS**

**MUSIC | JOY | CELEBRATION**

**SUN 13 OCT | 6:30pm**

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*Come and join us as we recognise and celebrate the difference volunteers make in our community.*

**Link**

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**Where?**  
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Scan the QR Code to find out more or email us at [CarersCommunityVoWH@gmail.com](mailto:CarersCommunityVoWH@gmail.com)

Front Cover image: Keith Davidson Photography – Lily Parker at Highworth's funfair



## Beauty in Celebrating

**Autumn is a favourite season for me. I love the changing colours of countryside and the variety of harvest celebrations.**

All over the world ceremonies are held to celebrate and give thanks for God's continued provision. Here in the UK people will gather in decorated churches to sing traditional songs and hymns like 'We Plough the Fields and Scatter'. A plethora of traditions mark this season: Scottish people bake bread; in Africa many countries give thanks for rain after a drought and celebrate the Yam harvest; Polish people throw flowers into rivers; and Asian countries celebrate the rice harvest.

The harvest season is well-documented in the Bible. I particularly think of the life of Joseph where we can read about seven years of drought after seven years of plenty. Also there is the Festival of Sukkah where all meals are taken in the open air to remember the

journey of the Israelites to the Promised Land.

We may struggle at the moment to find things to celebrate, particularly in our war-torn world. So let us take a break from the hurt and anguish and remember God's good gifts to us. The first petition in the Lord's prayer is "Give us this day our daily bread", which God continues to bless us with even when we turn away from Him.

The thread that flows through all harvest celebrations is our grateful thanks to God for providing us with bountiful harvests that help to sustain our lives. Long may these celebrations continue all over the world.

*Rev. Phil Goodey*



## Help Your Children to Get a Healthy Start in Life

**Swindon Borough Council is currently encouraging parents of children aged four and under and expectant mums over 10 weeks to check and see if they are eligible for a Healthy Start Card on the NHS.**



**Get help to buy food and milk with the NHS Healthy Start scheme.**

Check if you're eligible and apply online at: [www.healthystart.nhs.uk](http://www.healthystart.nhs.uk)



Families who are eligible and apply will be sent a pre-paid Healthy Start card which can be used to help buy a variety of healthy foods including milk, fruit, vegetables and pulses. The card is topped up automatically every four weeks during the time they are eligible. The card can also be used to collect free Healthy Start vitamins for mums to take during pregnancy and while they are breastfeeding, as well as free vitamin drops for babies and young children up to four years of age.

Residents in Highworth can collect their vitamins from The Bridge Centre, 8 Sheep Street, **Monday to Friday, 11am to 1pm**. The friendly team there are also happy to help families apply for their Healthy Start Card online. Feel free to call in during the week while the Centre is open. To make an appointment email [bridge@highworthchurch.co.uk](mailto:bridge@highworthchurch.co.uk) or telephone 01793 765060.

More information about Healthy Start can be found at [www.healthystart.nhs.uk](http://www.healthystart.nhs.uk).

## South Marston Gardening Club

**Would you like to know more about hedgehogs and how we can help them? Come along on Monday 7 October, 7:30pm to 9:30pm when Hugh Warick will join us to talk about 'Hedgehogs'.**

There's a £5 entry fee on the door as a visitor or you can join the South Marston Gardening Club for £15 (annual membership). Refreshments are included

and there's an optional raffle.

A warm welcome awaits you at South Marston Village Hall, with parking on Old Vicarage Lane, next to the school.

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

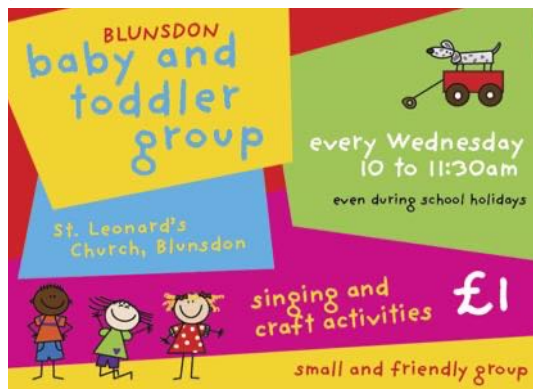
## Delight for Highworth Community Larder

Highworth Community Larder is doing well. After a miserable start to the year the summer months brought us some very generous donations of produce from local gardens, allotments and market gardens to supplement our regular collections from supermarkets.

If you have any surplus non-perishable food, we have donation boxes in Visit Highworth and Highworth Library. If you have surplus fresh produce, we would be pleased to receive it. You can bring it to the Larder on a Tuesday morning, or contact us at [highworthcommunitylarder@gmail.com](mailto:highworthcommunitylarder@gmail.com) to arrange collection.

We could not do any of this without the support of our wonderful team of volunteers. However, more help is always welcome. The more volunteers we have, the less work there is for any individual. If you are interested in volunteering, you can contact us on the

above email address or drop into the Larder between 8am and 11am on any Tuesday morning at Westrop Primary School. We will also be taking part in the Volunteer Expo being held on Saturday 12 October in St. Michael's Church and would love to meet you there.



## Blunsdon Baby and Toddler Group

We would be so pleased to welcome you to our morning session in St. Leonard's Church, Blunsdon.

We meet **every Wednesday**, even in the school holidays, from **10am until 11.30am**. We're a small but friendly group and are very welcoming. We have foster carers, grandparents and other carers who come as well as mums and dads, so come along and give us a try! There is singing and some craft activities included for a £1 charge.

For more information email Helen on [griff9999@btinternet.com](mailto:griff9999@btinternet.com).

## Highworth Flower Club

On Thursday 10 October, 7:30pm at Warneford School, Stephanie Cornell will delight us with her talk entitled 'A View from My Window'.

We hope you will join us in the school hall. Doors open at 7pm with plenty of space for parking in the school car park.

Visitors are welcome at £5. Contact Michele for more information on 07798 817249 or see our website: [www.highworthfloralarts.co.uk](http://www.highworthfloralarts.co.uk).

## Notice of Closure: St Michael's Hall

You may be aware there is a serious risk of the ceiling of St. Michael's Hall, Lechlade Road, collapsing and other parts of the building are also deteriorating. In the light of these issues, the Church Council have taken the difficult and reluctant decision to close the hall with immediate effect.

The Church Council will continue to review the options and the future use of the building.

Please return your keys to St Michael's Church Office. For security reasons we have changed the locks, so if you are storing any equipment or possessions in the hall please let us know.

The PCC (Parochial Church Council) are very sorry for such short notice, but I am sure you understand that this action has become immediately necessary. Your health and safety are of paramount importance.

For any questions and concerns please email the PCC at [pccsecretary@stmichaelshighworth.co.uk](mailto:pccsecretary@stmichaelshighworth.co.uk).

*Rev. Phil Goodey*

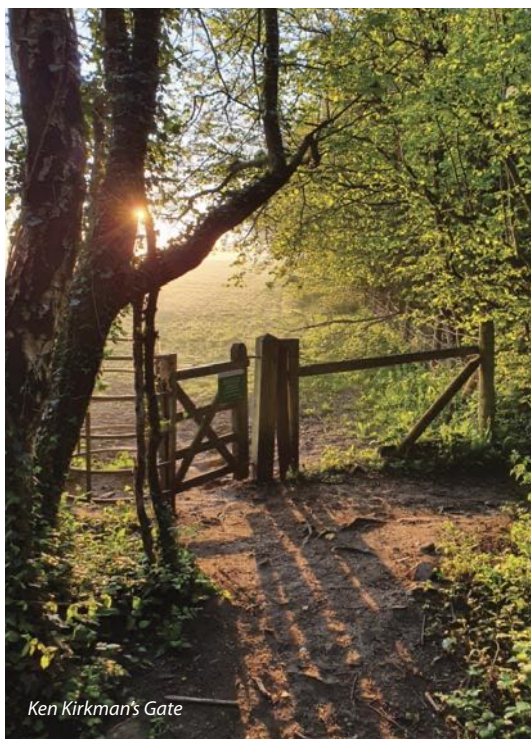
## Every Cloud Says 'Cheese!'

Every Cloud is pleased to announce the return of our Annual Photographic Competition in Spring 2025, so why not start to capture what you love most about Stanton Park and Stratton Woods: from the landscape to the flora and fauna, the sculptures, your favourite tree... all as the seasons start to change.

There are just two age categories: under-16 years and over-16 years. For more information please look at our website [www.everycloudartscrafts.com](http://www.everycloudartscrafts.com) or go to our Facebook page.

Our 'Connect to Nature' walks continue **every Wednesday in October except 23 October**. Meet outside the Barn at **10am** for a one-hour stroll in the park, stopping to notice the sights, sounds and scents of nature, followed by refreshments in the Barn. For more information email [mharding67@gmail.com](mailto:mharding67@gmail.com).

On **Thursday 31 October** a family craft session will be held in the Barn from **11am**.



## Get Active with Swindon u3a!

If you want to keep active by taking up a sport or pursuit with like-minded people, the u3a could be for you. The u3a, an organisation run by and for people no longer in full time employment, has over 130 different groups, several of which cater for physical games and activities.

You can improve your skills, ability and wellbeing by joining one of our two badminton groups. Here you will play mainly as mixed doubles. They are mildly competitive to accommodate people of different abilities. A reasonable level of hand/eye coordination and some previous racquet sport experience is useful.

Our eight pétanque groups provide friendly, but not too competitive, games suitable for beginners to expert players. We also have a short mat bowls group which you may enjoy.

The three table tennis groups cater for players of all abilities in a friendly and supportive atmosphere. We would be pleased to advise which group would best suit you.

Field archery is popular with over 40 members but new members are always welcome. Three outdoor and three indoor targets are available along with the use of a 3D woodland range. Advice is given on bows, clothing and safe practice.

Orienteering is an exciting sport where you can walk, jog or run as you please to find your way between checkpoints. Learn the basics in a few sessions in different Swindon parks and woods and attend organised orienteering events.

If gardening is more your style you would enjoy the Hands on Gardening group where members visit each others gardens from spring to autumn to share seeds, plants and knowledge.

For a full list of all the u3a groups, visit [www.swindonu3a.org.uk](http://www.swindonu3a.org.uk), telephone the office on 01793 614629 between **10am and noon on Monday, Wednesday or Friday**, or visit the u3a Facebook page.

*Sue Mazzoleni*



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## Ask AMS

What is a director's loan  
account?

Many directors/shareholders borrow money from their Companies but, as long as they repay it within 9 months of their following accounting year end date, there are no great tax implications.

If it is not repaid by that deadline, a law called s.455, says the Company must pay 33.75% (from April 2022) of the outstanding loan to HMRC – who will hold this money until the loan has been repaid to their Company in full.

What you cannot do is pay it back by the deadline and then re-borrow it soon afterwards *unless* the loan is under £15,000 where it could be re-borrowed after 30 days.

If you re-borrow more than £15,000, HMRC can make the decision that you always intended to re-borrow it later and apply the s.455 law as above. So, in practice you can borrow money from your Company – but be aware of the rules.

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## A Discovery That Transformed My Summer

**About this time in September, teachers often set a writing task to re-engage young minds in the pursuit of education: 'What did you do over the summer holidays?'. For some there are fond memories of exhilarating adventures but, for many, it's been a long and boring break. What about you? How was your summer?**

This summer I found my feet; correction, discovered my feet. A body part to which I'd hitherto paid scant attention. Why now? What's the big deal?

I'd been thinking about cycles in the spring and learned (from Dr Google) that, if I live to 80, my heart will have beatEN about 2.5 billion times. My lungs will have breathed about 700 million breaths. But we rarely give a thought to these hard-working organs.

Over my life, my feet will have done about 200 million steps. And did I care? No, just kept going! Until ... I started having pains in my feet that got so severe I felt I'd soon be immobile. Of course I'd heard about podiatrists; you know, the people who cut your nails when you get old and can't reach down that far.

I'll be forever grateful to Tracy, the podiatrist at the Faringdon Clinic, who introduced me to my feet. She showed me that my pain could be easily relieved, but not before she observed that I have one foot that tends to point outwards. Over the years, this had affected the structure of my foot and had eventually caused the pain. I'm now gradually correcting this with simple ankle rising exercises and nifty contoured insoles called Interpods, which fit neatly inside my shoes.

(Look away now if you don't like scalpels.)

But there was more to the pain. I'd developed a corn due to rubbing caused by my misaligned foot. Tracy referred me to her colleague Helen, who performed minor surgery to dig out the corn. Within minutes (and a few winces) the annoying pain had miraculously disappeared. Bingo!

So don't wait until foot pain strikes. See a podiatrist for a foot health assessment. Prepare to be amazed by what you learn about your feet.

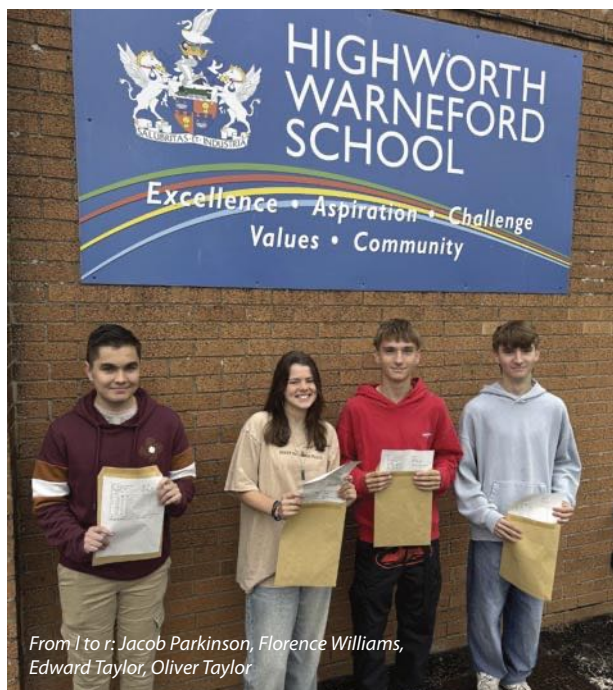
*Adrian Young*

## Warneford School Celebrates Impressive Results

**Staff and students from Warneford School are celebrating their best ever Grade 5 and above GCSE results in English and Maths, along with other schools who are part of The Park Academies Trust.**

This year's results are a cause for extra celebration, with students securing an unprecedented impressive haul of combined GCSE results across the Trust's secondary schools. As exam grading returns to pre-pandemic levels this year, the remarkable grades are a mark of just how hard pupils have worked over the last few years.

Andy Steele, the school's previous headteacher, said, "I am delighted that our students at Warneford School have yet again gained a fantastic set of exam results. They have worked incredibly hard and I know they will go on to achieve amazing things in the future. Congratulations to them all and thank you to the whole school community, including staff and parents, for supporting them to do so well."



*From l to r: Jacob Parkinson, Florence Williams, Edward Taylor, Oliver Taylor*

## Bumps to Babies Are Looking for Volunteers

Hopefully you will have heard of us and the work we do locally. We are a Highworth-based community baby group, established in May 2022, for expectant mothers in their third trimester and parents of babies from 0 to 12 months of age.

Since we started we have helped almost 100 mums and babies, some of whom could not afford to attend commercially-run baby groups.

The group runs on **Wednesdays, from 9:30am to 11:30am**, during school term time only and operates from Highworth Community Centre. The group is run and staffed by volunteers who all come from childcare backgrounds. Utilising the skills and experience of our committed volunteers allows us to offer places to expectant mothers and parents of new babies at a very low cost.

We are always looking to strengthen our pool of volunteers and are currently recruiting. We provide any necessary training and also pay for DBS checks. You don't have to be from a child development or educational background; it takes all sorts of skills to deliver our services.

Ideally, you would be able to commit to



attending sessions on Wednesday mornings during school term times. However, we are also happy to recruit volunteers who could be available on a 'bank' basis to cover holidays and illness.

If you would like to apply, or just have a chat about the group, please email Jan Davidson at [ask@bumpstobabies.club](mailto:ask@bumpstobabies.club). More information about the group can be found at [www.bumpstobabies.club](http://www.bumpstobabies.club).

## Highworth Climate Talks

### Can Petrol Heads be Green?

**October's Highworth Climate Talk will take place on 15 October in the Highworth Methodist Church, Vicarage Lane, Highworth SN6 7AD. Doors open at 7pm for free refreshments, talk starts at 7:30pm. We look forward to seeing you there.**

We are very pleased to be able to welcome Dr Mark Dibben who is a retired academic, a former Head of the School of Management, Deputy Chair of the Senate at the University of Tasmania and a Distinguished Fellow of the Schumacher Institute in Bristol; one of the country's leading climate change policy think tanks (<https://schumacherinstitute.org.uk/>).

As an academic he was known for applied philosophy, particularly as applied to topics in management. This led him to ponder the role management has played in the climate crisis and what a (changed) approach to management could do to get us out of it. With this in mind, and bearing in mind a love of vintage cars, in retirement back home in the UK he is the architect of the sustainability strategies of the Vintage Sports Car Club, a small- to medium-sized enterprise called Vintage Bentley, and (with Steve Dymoke) the Bugatti Owners Club.

In the light of this experience, what he will be hoping to show in the talk is how we as individuals, and also how businesses as well as clubs, can do more to make a positive difference to the natural environment despite, or indeed directly as a result of, the reality of our needing to drive. That one does not require an electric car to make even a 'nature-positive' difference and also that it really is nowhere near as expensive as one might imagine.



## Highworth Twinning Association

**2025 Dates for your Diary**

**Quiz night - January 30th 2025**

**Council Community Room Gilbert's Lane**

**and**

**Visit to Pontorson**

**By coach and ferry**

**29th May to 1st June**

If you would like more details, please contact Richard Pearce on 07513 009044, or [rjinpearcehta@gmail.com](mailto:rjinpearcehta@gmail.com)

## New Job Club Course Launching

Highworth Churches Together have teamed up with the charity Christians Against Poverty (CAP) to run a free local Job Club, supporting people who are trying to get back into work.

The next Job Club course starts on **Tuesday 1 October at 1:15pm** at The Bridge Centre, 8 Sheep Street, Highworth SN6 7AA. It will then take place every Tuesday for eight weeks. Each session will finish by 3pm.

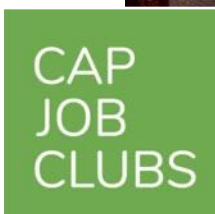
People who are unemployed or looking for a new role are welcome at the Job Club, which offers small group courses and one-to-one coaching.

"A free light lunch with tea and coffee are being prepared, computers and laptops are available, and a team of skilled staff and volunteers are ready to welcome members to the building," says Kathryn Ford, CAP Job Club Manager.

"Some people just need help revamping their CV; others need guidance on how to use a computer and make online applications. Some of our members are long-term unemployed and need somewhere safe, encouraging and committed to rebuilding their confidence and motivation. We offer a friendly environment where they can do so, with the ultimate aim of getting them back into work."

For more information or to sign up for the next course, please email Jackie Kerr at [jackiekerr@capjobclubs.org](mailto:jackiekerr@capjobclubs.org).

If you're struggling with your finances, you can find



out more about the services CAP offers in your area by visiting [www.capuk.org/help](http://www.capuk.org/help) or calling 0800 328 0006.

For more information on a wider range of free help available, visit [www.moneyhelper.org.uk](http://www.moneyhelper.org.uk)




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## It's All Go for Big Highworth Community Foundation

What a year we've had so far! Our May Day Star Wars stall raised £1700. We were delighted to have received so many brand new tombola prizes from local businesses and supporters – too many to list.

Our Community Award nominations have now closed and judging will be in October. Our judges are Highworth's Mayor Julie Murphy and local business owners Fiona Scott of Scott Media, Howard Smith of Number Crunchers and John Lewis of JL Mindset Performance. The Awards event will be early in 2025 – we'll keep you posted. We're delighted to announce our first award headline sponsor; Hilliers of Highworth. We thank them for their support.

Our next Charity Craft Fair is on **28 September** in St. Michael's Church. We've a full house and there'll be refreshments available on the day too. We look forward to welcoming you.

Our Christmas Prize Draw tickets are on sale at our events and various events and stalls – tickets £2 each or £10 a book.



Richard Hadfield

We are looking forward to attending the **Highworth Expo** this year on **Saturday 12 October**. If you fancy joining us as a volunteer or a trustee drop in to the Expo from **10am and 2pm** to find out more.

At our Christmas Charity Concert this year we'll be welcoming BGT winner Richard Hadfield, previously of group Collabro. Since winning Britain's Got Talent in 2014 with Collabro Richard hasn't stopped and you can expect huge hits from opera, Broadway and beyond! Tickets are now on sale on Eventbrite and we have a limited number of Early Bird Tickets available priced at £20. Remaining tickets will be priced at £23.

Finally, at our Christmas Light Switch On stall on **Saturday 30 November** we'll have everything: Star Wars, Harry Potter, Pokémon, Minecraft and Marvel. Again, all brand-new prizes have been generously donated by local businesses.

For more information see our Facebook page.

*Alison, Russell, and Chris  
Trustees of Big Highworth Community Foundation*

### ADVERTISEMENT

## Celebrations for Veale's Wheels Transfers

Hello everyone –

Veale's Wheels Transfers celebrated its first anniversary of trading on 31 July. It seems only appropriate, therefore, to offer profoundest thanks to all my customers who have enabled such a successful start to have been achieved. So successful, in fact that Veale's Wheels Transfers has covered enough miles to travel around the equator three times. Phew!

Veale's Wheels wants to keep the wheels turning, of course, so I am looking forward to being of service again to you all in the future, gladly welcoming new customers too, should you have an upcoming travel need of any distance.

To make contact for a quote, please either call, text, or WhatsApp me on 07400 400316.

Alternatively, please visit my website at [www.vealeswheelstransfers.com](http://www.vealeswheelstransfers.com).

To Highworth and beyond!

Blessings, Pete



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## News from Buscot and Coleshill National Trust

It's been lovely to have some sun over the summer. It certainly brought out the creative spirit at Coleshill where children have had great fun in the family activity workshops. The Rupert Aker art exhibition has also been a success with several paintings of the local landscape travelling to new homes.

We did have to make a difficult decision to cancel the date of the 1940s weekend that was planned for October. It wasn't a decision taken lightly and we are now looking at dates for 2025.

There are plenty of other ways to be involved at Coleshill, particularly for young people. Encouraging young people to see the possibilities of careers in the heritage sector is something we are passionate about. The Heritage and Rural Skills Centre has partnered with the National Saturday Club for a 20-week programme starting on **Saturday 19 October**. This is a **FREE** programme for young

people aged 13 to 16 where they can develop their skills and build their knowledge of our cultural heritage by talking to experienced craftspeople and trying different skills. There will be practical activities including blacksmithing, decorative wood carving and

coppicing. Find out more at [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit). Booking for this is essential.

Autumn Half-Term Tracker Packs return from **Saturday 26 October**. Spend time outdoors and learn all about the critters of the estate with the magnifying glass and binoculars. Complete your activity to receive your nature friendly prize! Packs are available to hire from **10am to 3:15pm**. And mark your calendar for the Coleshill Christmas Craft Fair on **Sunday 24 November**. As well as crafts to buy there will be things for children make and do.

**We look forward to seeing you at Highworth's Volunteer Expo on Saturday 12 October!**



*Blacksmith making a poker*

## Enjoy Christmas with Visit Highworth

**With summer and harvest festivals a distant memory, thoughts begin to turn to Christmas and the Festive Season.**

To coincide with the switching on of the Christmas lights in Highworth on **Saturday 30 November**, Visit Highworth will once again be holding a craft fayre in St. Michael's Church from **10am to 4pm**. There are currently 22 local craftspeople attending with a diverse range of high quality crafts; a perfect opportunity to buy an original present for your nearest and dearest or perhaps treat yourself.

There will be coffee, tea and cake available to sustain you whilst you enjoy your shopping and we very much look forward to seeing you.

Our ever-popular calendar is currently in production and will be available mid-October. If you would like to

reserve a copy, as we only have a limited print run, please pop in to Visit Highworth or send us an email on the address below.

Once again we will be hosting Santa in the Centre (Visit Highworth shop) on **Friday 6 and Saturday 7 December** – a perfect opportunity for children wanting to experience the magic of a visit to Santa without the crowds. More information to follow in November.

For more information about our events or becoming a volunteer please contact me at: [info@visithighworth.co.uk](mailto:info@visithighworth.co.uk).



*Iona Sadler*



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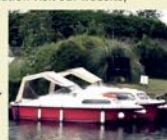
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## HIGHWORTH



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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**



## Highworth Community Cinema

On Friday 25 October Highworth Community Cinema is showing a biographical film, 'One Life', based on real-life events of the British humanitarian Sir Nicholas Winton who helped to rescue Jewish children from the Nazis. The older Winton is played by Sir Anthony Hopkins.

*Please note that as St. Michael's Hall is now closed we will meet in the United Reformed Church. The church has good facilities with comfortable chairs and an accessible toilet.*

Join us at the United Reformed Church, 26 High Street, Highworth SN6 7AG from 7:15pm for a 7:45pm showing. Certificate 12, 111 minutes runtime.

'One Life' tells the true story of Sir Nicholas 'Nicky' Winton, a young London broker who, along with



Trevor Chadwick and Doreen Warinner of the British Committee for Refugees in Czechoslovakia, rescued 669 children from the Nazis in the months leading up to World War II. Nicky visited Prague in December 1938 and found families who had fled the rise of the Nazis in Germany and Austria living in desperate conditions with little or no shelter or food and under threat of Nazi invasion. Fifty years later, it's 1988 and Nicky lives haunted by the fate of the children he wasn't able to bring to safety in England, always blaming himself for not doing more.

**See us on Saturday 12 October at Highworth's Volunteer Expo!**

Debbie

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

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

## New Executive Head for Eastrop and Southfield



Julie Warburton

**I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the new Executive Headteacher of Eastrop Nursery and Infant School, and Southfield Junior School. It is a privilege to take on this role.**

I have worked in education for the last 28

years and in leadership for 15 years in a variety of schools in differing situations, and bring those

experiences with me to this role. I am excited to be working across these schools serving the community of Highworth as part of the Grove Learning Trust.

Please contact the schools if you are looking for a place in either the Eastrop Nursery, Eastrop Infant School or Southfield Junior School. We do have the following dates for open mornings for places in our reception class: **Wednesday 2 October (pm); Thursday 10 October (am); Wednesday 13 November (am); Thursday 21 November (pm), and Tuesday 26 November (am).** Please call Eastrop School (01793 763772) for more information regarding times and booking a slot.



Julie Warburton, Executive Head



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## Highworth on Air

Did you listen? Did you hear it?  
Did you even know Highworth  
was 'on air'?

Well, it happened. Highworth dipped its toe into broadcast media thanks to Shirley Ludford, the station manager at Swindon 105.5FM.

Following the community meeting in February this year, where over 50 people expressed a real interest in creating Highworth's own regular radio broadcast, a small team finally put together a short pilot broadcast. At around 4pm on Wednesday 7 August this broadcast went live on air. As I write this piece we are planning a second piece for September and then in October we shall be



looking for volunteers to contribute to a regular monthly Highworth on Air!

**On Saturday 12 October at the second Volunteer Expo**, to be held in St. Michael's Church, please come along to the Highworth on Air stand to register your interest and have a go at being a broadcaster! It's not hard and it's fun!

Many thanks to Deanne (Highworth Town Council Clerk), Natalie Key (fellow councillor), and Rachael (editor of Highworth's LINK magazine), for their help in making it happen.

*Keith Smith, Councillor*

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## Highworth Historical Society

**Our talk on 23 October will not be as shown previously. Instead David Mitchell will talk about 'The North Wessex Way – The Forgotten Road.'**

Ten years ago David was given a book entitled 'Britannia'. This was published in 1675 and had been commissioned by King Charles II. The idea was to map the 100 most important roads in the country. Map 79 showed the road from Oxford to Bristol, passing through Highworth. David has spent the last ten years investigating this road; some of it is now B roads, some just lanes or even footpaths. David is an enthusiast and has spoken on the BBC about the North Wessex Way.

For anyone interested there will be copies of the map for sale.

We will meet at St. Michael's Church on Vicarage Lane (this is a change of venue due to the closure of St. Michael's Hall). Doors open at 7pm for a 7.30pm start. Visitors are always welcome for a charge of £3 cash on the door.

For further information contact Chris on 01793 764811.

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## The Lions Need You

We are currently looking for more people who would like to volunteer and join as a member of our Club. We are short of volunteers and members which means that we are unable to do as many activities and as much fundraising as we have done in previous years.

You can give as little or as much time as you can spare. If you are looking to be more involved in your community, want to socialise more and help to improve the lives of people in our community and further afield, please get in touch with me.

We are desperately looking for a Treasurer to take over our accounts. Unfortunately if we cannot find a new Treasurer or more volunteers and members then we will have no option but to sadly close our club and charity shop. We would love nothing more than to continue serving our local community and raising vital funds for those in need so please help us by volunteering some of your time.

I look forward to hearing from anyone who has any questions or has an interest in joining us.

Melanie Davenport  
secretaryhighworthlions@gmail.com

Highworth & District Lions Club Christmas Vouchers 2024  
on page 35

*Ed: The Lions will be at our Volunteer Expo on Saturday 12 October where you will see community and volunteer organisations showcase what they do. Get the date in your diary!*



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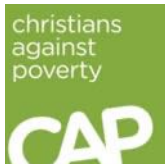


On Sunday 27 October, Stephen Hodgson, Highworth resident, will be running a 10KM race in Accra, Ghana – where the temperature is anticipated to be 25 degrees with a humidity level of 90% – all in an effort to raise money for Christians Against Poverty (CAP) Highworth.

CAP is an international, award-winning debt counselling charity which wants to see an end to UK

poverty by transforming lives with their free help and advice to anyone in need. Your donations will help your local CAP continue to offer practical advice through their Life Skills groups, Job Clubs and their revolutionary money management course; CAP Money.

Please help me reach my target of £10K by scanning the QR code which will take you to the fundraising page. Many thanks.



Stephen Hodgson

## Gardening Naturally Installs Lifesaving Defibrillator in Highworth

We are excited to announce that Gardening Naturally has installed a lifesaving automated external defibrillator (AED) on the exterior of our building at Unit 27, Blackworth Industrial Estate, Highworth SN6 7NA.

This crucial addition improves the safety of our staff and the entire Highworth community by providing immediate assistance in cardiac emergencies. The AED is user-friendly and can be accessed by the ambulance service.

We encourage everyone to be aware of its location and take note of these details for future reference. While we hope you never need it, we are proud to contribute to the well-being of our community with this important resource.



### HALF TERM ACTIVITY DAY

3-5pm Thursday 31st October  
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Craft, activities, cake -free but donations welcome

We'll be serving food  
throughout the session

## A Concert for Late Autumn

A delightful musical afternoon featuring:

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Acoustic duo Stonegrey perform a unique take on contemporary and traditional songs with a sprinkle of blues and ballads thrown in for good measure!

**One Foot in the Stave**  
Classical guitar duo One Foot in the Stave perform a blend of both traditional and contemporary guitar music - peppered with their own sly sense of humour!

**2.30pm Saturday 23rd November 2024**  
**Highworth Methodist Church**  
**Lechlade Road, Highworth SN6 7HG**  
**Tickets: £10**  
 Highworth Visitor Centre 7 High St, Highworth SN6 7BE  
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In aid of **FRIENDS OF ANGEL'S ORPHANAGE**  
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 Friends of Angel's Orphanage is a local charity - set up to help support their sponsored 'family' of homeless children in Nepal. All proceeds from our events goes directly to help finance the children's housing, educational and well-being needs.

# Diamond Anniversary of the Highworth Methodist Church

In November 1964 a crowd of people gathered on the corner of Vicarage Lane and Lechlade Road to celebrate the opening of a new church building. There were several churches in our lovely town where services of worship were held each week and two of them were Methodists; there have been Methodists here since 1838.

One group of Methodists met in a building in The Elms, opposite where The Rec centre now is, and the other in a building a good way down the Lechlade Road. The two groups of people knew each other well and in the 1950s they met together and decided to look for a place where they could build a new, bigger Methodist church building. Lots of meetings, lots of letters, lots of prayer, lots of sacrificial giving, hard work and some grants, enabled their hopes and dreams to come true.



From this...

It was in November 1964 that the work was completed and the new building on the corner of Vicarage Lane and Lechlade Road was opened. The two congregations blended together with great certainty that this was God's way forward for the Methodists in Highworth. This was a huge undertaking and walk of faith for those dear folk who saw their faith realised, their work completed and the building opened. The Elms chapel was sold and became the Silver Threads Hall; the Lechlade Road Hall sold to become the home for Highworth Silver Band and both buildings continued as integral parts of life in Highworth.



and this...

So this year is a very special one for the Highworth Methodist church family. We will celebrate it with special services on **Sunday 17 November**, with Rev. Paul Ashby and his wife Carmel returning to lead the services and share in our celebration, and we will 'praise God for all that is past and trust Him for all that's to come'.



...to this.





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## Success for Local Artist

Having just completed her final show, Highworth's own Sarah March is celebrating the recent achievement of her MA in Fine Art from Newcastle University. Sarah is a member of the Highworth Artists' Society and won the Society's Spring Exhibition award in 2023 for her linoprint, 'Nestled in the Corners of Time'.

The photograph shows Sarah with her artwork which was on show for three months at Bishop Auckland Town Hall. Entitled 'Two Minutes to Midnight' it was a commissioned work and depicts the fauna and flora of various periods of prehistory over eight enormous hanging canvasses.

*Editor: It's always wonderful to hear about the successes of our local community so, if you have any exciting news about yourself or someone you know, drop us a line. And well done Sarah!*





**HIGHWORTH ARTISTS' SOCIETY**  
Autumn Exhibition 2024

**Saturday October 5<sup>th</sup> – Saturday October 12<sup>th</sup>**

Highworth Council Community Room, Gilberts Lane SN6 7FB

10am – 4pm every day  
Refreshments available



Please drop in to browse and enjoy the artwork!

## Exhibition Time Again for Highworth Artists' Society

It's exhibition time again and there is plenty of new work for visitors to come and see! The exhibition will be held in the Council's Community Room on Gilberts Lane in Highworth, from 5 to 12 October.

Paintings and cards will be for sale – an ideal opportunity to buy something special for a loved one, or even for yourself!

Refreshments will be available at our exhibition and all proceeds from teas and coffees will be donated to our charity of the year; Swindon-based Dressability. We hope to see you there!

Shown in our advertisement is a pastel painting titled 'Abandoned' by our secretary Pam Hague. This was inspired by the August theme of the same name; more interpretations of this idea can be seen on our HAS Facebook page and our website [www.highworthartistsociety.com](http://www.highworthartistsociety.com).

*Hilary Sinclair*

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## Lechlade Art Society Annual Exhibition



John Sirrell's award winning picture, 'Pride'

**Despite difficulties in trying to get to the Annual Exhibition over the August bank holiday weekend, visitors supporting the exhibition and the Society made the event an amazing success.**

Lechlade residents have had to develop a certain amount of resilience to adversity over the past few years. Last year we could almost declare island status with various road closures and this year British Gas has been working on a new pipe outside the entrance to the Memorial Hall, venue for our exhibition; and there is no doubt that this deterred some visitors.

In addition to members' works on display and for sale there were also small 8" x 8" works – 'Little Gems'. These sold for £25 each and once again the proceeds will go to the Prospect Hospice, Swindon.

Jeremy Lune, Chief Executive of the Hospice, came to the preview

evening for members and invited guests and he spoke of his work for Prospect. He emphasised the difficult job of keeping the Hospice funded to perform the care which is so valuable and so necessary. He thanked the Society for its contribution to Hospice funds again this year and encouraged everyone to go and buy lots of 'Little Gems'.

The Society was delighted that patron Lord Faringdon and his wife Lady Faringdon supported the event once again. Lord Faringdon praised the breadth and quality of members' work on display and chose John Sirrell's work 'Pride', a lion in acrylic and coloured pencil, as the winner of the Patron's Award. He then declared the

exhibition open.

A steady stream of visitors enjoyed the artwork over the four days and many commented on the high standard which made it a difficult task to vote for their favourite piece of work. The Art Society website has a splendid display from the exhibition: [www.lechladeartsociety.co.uk/exhibition](http://www.lechladeartsociety.co.uk/exhibition).



l to r, Lord Faringdon, Jeremy Lune, Brian Britton, Lady Faringdon



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## October Lecture at the Arts Society Upper Thames

The Arts Society Upper Thames (formerly known as NADFAS) would be pleased to welcome you as a visitor to our October Lecture 'The Richest of Legacies: Colonial Buildings in India' with Anthony Peers. We will meet on Thursday 10 October, 2pm, in Lechlade Memorial Hall.

This lecture's narrative revolves around the speaker's experience of having masterminded a British Government-backed project to restore the magnificent George Gilbert Scott designed university buildings in Mumbai (Bombay), India. The chapters of this building's story – its design (in England), construction, history and, of course, its restoration – provide useful startpoints from which to consider the broader historical, cultural and architectural context.

For instance, the lecture looks into Bombay's economic boom of the 1860s. This coincided with the high point of the Gothic Revival. Nowhere else in the world can claim to have as magnificent an assemblage of Gothic Revival buildings.

Anthony Peers is a freelance historic buildings consultant, educated as an Architectural Historian at Manchester University and trained in building conservation at the Institute of Advanced Architectural Studies, York.

Non members are welcome but please arrive by 1:50pm and pay £7.50 on the door. Please register first at [info@tasupperthames.org.uk](mailto:info@tasupperthames.org.uk).

## Always a Photo Opportunity for Highworth Camera Club

With sunny days and maybe a change of scenery for summer holidays I am sure there were lots of opportunities for taking pictures.

Highworth Camera Club members have been out and about; an evening round Highworth looking for interesting subjects to snap and a Sunday morning for a wander around the Old Golf Course looking for the smaller creatures to capture. We also made a visit to Lambourn Camera Club for an image 'battle'. There was an interesting mix of images to look through, and a judge critiqued them and scored each one. Lambourn won the battle! We were pleased with our results with one of Neil George's images receiving a top score!

The Club will now settle into the winter with regular monthly meetings, more club competitions and photography discussions, the AGM, Christmas party, and this month's Annual Exhibition in the Council Offices on **Saturday 19 October, 10am until 1pm**. Do come and have a look at the members' pictures.

You are also welcome to come along to a monthly meeting held **every second Tuesday of the month** at the Highworth Community Centre, The Dormers, **from 7:30pm**. If you would like any further information you can email at [highworthcamclub@gmail.com](mailto:highworthcamclub@gmail.com).

*Hilary Beach*



*Grasshopper photographed at Highworth's Old Golf Course*

## Greetings from HADS!

Rehearsals are well under way for our next show which is scheduled for 29 and 30 November – keep your eyes peeled for our posters in the town to find out more.

We still need people to help out backstage, especially with sound and lighting, and we always need people to help out with front of house. If you'd like to get involved or would like more information about what we do, you can find us on Facebook or email us at [hadshighworth@gmail.com](mailto:hadshighworth@gmail.com).

## Purton Artists' Exhibition

Please keep the first weekend in November free! Our exhibition opens on Friday 1 November from 6pm to 8pm at Purton Village Hall, when early birders will be treated to wine, music... and art!

We also open on Saturday 2 and Sunday 3 November from 10am to 4:30pm. A wide range of local artists will be showing off their talents in a number of different styles, as well as glassware and woodcraft and lots of colourful greeting cards at a much lower price than in many stores. In addition we will also have a pre-loved art and craft stall and our artists demonstrating their work while you browse.

This is a wonderful opportunity to brighten up your homes with new artwork for your walls and, as we



move ever nearer to Christmas, to buy some presents for your nearest and dearest!

Refreshments will be served on all days, so come and enjoy!

## We need YOU

Make a Difference to YOUR community

So that the Lions are able to remain in Highworth and District to continue their excellent work we are in desperate need of:

- a) Shop volunteers between 3-4 hours a week, this is to remain open on a Saturday
- b) A Treasurer and Trustee(s)
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### Can YOU Help to

ensure that YOUR local Lions Club remains exclusively within the Highworth and surrounding areas?

We want the Lions club to continue to thrive and prosper but without YOU it cannot

Thank you

Highworth and District Lions Club

Telephone: 0345 833 9831

Email: [highworth@lions105sc.org](mailto:highworth@lions105sc.org)

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## Wrag Barn Golf Club

Junior Presentation Night is always one of the highlights of the year at Wrag Barn and this year was one of the best ever. There are so many pictures on our social media platforms celebrating the awesome achievements of our Cadets and Juniors, who seem to be able to hit the ball miles, sink every putt however impossible and cut shots off their handicaps with ease.

The golf success stories are an important part of the week and the reason everyone signs up to take part, but the additional benefits are many; the friendships that are made and the life skills that are learned have no price. Rudyard Kipling's line '...If you can meet with triumph and disaster and treat those two imposters just the same,' comes to mind where golf is concerned. There is always a mention in the speeches about mutual support and to us that's just as special as winning.

Thank you Alan and Brian for the time you dedicate to our Juniors and Cadets — we wish we'd taken a photo of them standing under the spectacular arch created by Stella Mason (the parent of one of our cadets). Going back to work will feel like a holiday! A special thank you to your families who have missed your presence while you have been organising the Juniors and Cadets.

The Wrag Barn team of golf professionals, clubhouse staff and green keepers always go the extra mile to develop skills, provide physical and emotional support and present the course to the highest standard whatever the weather, and a simple thank you seems

## Highworth Town Football Club

At the end of August, HTFC sat fourth in the league with 13 points from six games. There was, however, an exit from the FA Cup at the first hurdle with higher league Bishops Cleeve rather fortuitously leaving the Save On Tyres stadium with a 1-0 victory.

A lack of Saturday fixtures as a consequence of the FA Cup loss and us not entering the FA Vase until November, a 'reward' for our great run last season, has been frustrating, but the rest of the year sees plenty of games ahead so we look forward to the support of the Highworth faithful.

Follow us on Facebook and X to see what's going on around the Club.

*Derek Lloyd*

rather inadequate, but it comes from the heart.

Lastly, thank you to our Junior Captain Louis McDiarmid who has led from the front and gave an awesome speech summing up everything in this post with so much eloquence, charm and humour. If we've forgotten to mention something or someone, we apologise; it's a constant failing and never intentional.

*Tim and Verity Manners*  
[www.wragbarn.com](http://www.wragbarn.com)



*Junior Highs*

## Highworth Town Walking Football Club

The Over-65s team headed to Nottingham for the National Finals at the beginning of last month, where they played against other regional finalists including Wakefield, Burnt Wood, Chelmsford, Blackburn Rovers and Godalming.

The Over-50s headed off to Redditch a weekend later to compete in their age group National Finals. We wished them luck and hoped they'd both come back National Champions (to be reported in next month's issue).

Some of the recreational players got together in August for a summer social; for a couple of drinks in the Rose and Crown followed by a curry in the Spice Kitchen where a good night was had by all.

If you are interested in playing social walking football, men's sessions are held on **Thursdays and Sundays**,



Summer socialising

**11am to 12 noon**, both at Grange Leisure in Stratton and a **Friday session 11:30am to 12:30pm** held indoors at The Rec in Highworth. The ladies meet **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 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, and Ladies Monday sessions are £3 per session, all payable by credit/debit card only, no cash, direct to the sports centre.

If interested, please contact me for more details.

*Graham Seeley*

*T: 07769 703702*

*E: highworthwfc@outlook.com*



Battling with Bradford-on-Avon

## Swindon Croquet Club

This summer, SCC's 'High Handicap' team (for people who are new to the sport who want a taste of competitive play) managed a nail-biting win against the Bradford-on-Avon B Team. Swindon were in the lead in the morning, being up four games to two. However, Bradford-on-Avon fought back in the afternoon and the match was decided in the last game when Swindon's Terry Theobald won the deciding

game, meaning Swindon won by 6.5 to 5.5!

If you are interested in trying out croquet (a game of strategy and skill you wish you'd started to play earlier), or joining the club, please call or email us, look us up on our Website, or search for us on Facebook.

*Wendy White*

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Swindon local, Christine was scrolling on Facebook and saw a Step by Step advert pop up. The advert read *Do you have a spare bedroom?* and knowing she did she was inspired to find out more.

She now provides a safe and supportive home for young people in need. They always try to share their evening meals together and keep each other company.

Having now been a host for over 4 years, Christine says **"From my experience it's probably the best thing you can do, go ahead with it. You don't need any particular skills, just an open heart and a room."**

If you've considered renting your spare room, why not do it through Step by Step and make a meaningful difference to a young person's life? Find out more by scanning the QR code below.



## Shrivenham Park Golf Club

Back in the summer, SPGC held its Junior Open competitions, which attracted 11 players from Broome Manor, Drayton Park, North Wilts, Marlborough and, of course, our own players, that culminated in a Gross score winner in Oscar Bolton (Junior Captain of Drayton Park). The less experienced played in a nine hole 'Sixes' competition; a splendid England Golf initiative where the maximum score allowed on any hole is ten when a 'pick up' and 'move on' are encouraged. It's a system that caters for all abilities, especially those starting out in their golfing career and aiming to gain a Handicap Index. The Marlborough players did well here.

Thanks and appreciation must be handed out to those club members and parents who helped with the organisation of the day; to the greenkeeping team who had the course in amazing condition, the committee for helping with scoring and the catering team who served all the needs of the many spectators. Whilst I may have planned the day, it wouldn't have been possible without the tremendous teamwork in operation and I was truly humbled by the lovely presentation of a beautiful bouquet of flowers afterwards. Thank you.

In other sections of the club there have been changes and successes to report. The Social Putters have (from September) moved to their Autumn/Winter schedule of meeting on Fridays at 10am (until noon). Parkies Pals, who are growing in number, were invited to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the group at a special 'Home Instead' organised party.

Back at the club things have been just as industrious



Marshalling at Carnoustie

with our building undergoing some renovation work whilst we plan for the return of Sunday lunches and of course Christmas meals. Watch this space!

All training dates and information for our Juniors, Seniors, Men and Ladies can be found on our respective club noticeboards, but if you require any information and aren't able to drop in, please do give me call.

Carole Lee

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



**Sunday Morning Worship @ 10.30am**

6<sup>th</sup> Café Church - Val  
13<sup>th</sup> Mark Dowling  
20<sup>th</sup> Rev Joseph Ribeiro  
25<sup>th</sup> Own Arrangement

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**Tuesday Afternoon Communion 1<sup>st</sup> @ 2pm**

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Website:

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**3Cs – Coffee, cake & chat**

**Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup>**  
**2.30pm**



## Highworth & District Lions Club Christmas Vouchers 2024

This year, the Lions Club will again offer Christmas Vouchers to residents in the Highworth & District Lions Club area. To receive a voucher, you must be over 66 years of age. One voucher per household.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this completed form to The Lions Charity Shop, Newburgh Place before  
**Wednesday 13 November 2024.** The number of vouchers is limited and Highworth & District  
Lions Club Charity Trust Fund (285690) reserves the right to close this offer early.



**HIGHWORTH TOWN COUNCIL**

*Fireworks 2024*

**FRIDAY 1ST NOVEMBER 2024**  
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# REPRESENTATIVES

## News from Highworth's Mayor



As the summer holidays draw to a close, August typically offers a brief reprieve from Council meetings, aside from planning that occasionally requires extraordinary meetings. This period is usually a time to catch up and relax. However, this summer has been particularly busy with significant progress

on the Neighbourhood Plan. We have focused on making adjustments to the draft plan following community engagement and preparing essential documents such as the condition statement and consultation statement. These are crucial for the next stage, which involves submitting the plan to Swindon Borough Council.

In addition, following Swindon Cabinet's decision to engage a company to evaluate three potential options for the old golf course, we have been gathering further evidence to strengthen our business proposal. This will also be submitted to Swindon Borough Council.

Since being elected in May, I have had the privilege of attending numerous events and thoroughly enjoy representing Highworth and supporting local groups and charities. In August,



Julie with the Roxi Foundation

I attended a fundraising event organised by the Roxi Foundation and held at the King and Queen pub. The Roxi Foundation is a nonprofit organisation dedicated to helping young people aged seven to 14 receive timely and accurate diagnoses of autism or ADHD through private funding. For more information, please visit their website: [www.theroxifoundation.co.uk](http://www.theroxifoundation.co.uk).

Regarding my own fundraising efforts for my chosen charity, Highworth's Forget-Me-Not group, I am currently planning a few events and I will share 'save the date' details in the next issue.

If you would like me to attend an event or you wish to donate to my chosen charity, please contact my secretary at [admin@highworthtowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:admin@highworthtowncouncil.gov.uk).

*Mayor Julie Murphy*

## HIGHWORTH TOWN COUNCIL

### TOWN MAYOR & CHAIRMAN

**Julie Murphy**, Rosedene, Inglesham SN6 7RA  
07803 602568 [julie.murphy@highworthtowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:julie.murphy@highworthtowncouncil.gov.uk)

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# YOUNG JOURNALISTS

In the summer holidays, I went to a new museum and art gallery in Swindon and I was pleased to see that the museum had some history of Highworth as well.

Did you know that in Roman times Highworth was bigger than Swindon? Also in Roman times, people would make flour by crushing wheat between two stone wheels that they would spin. I had a go at it myself and it is harder than it looks.

In the art area you could create your own artwork, including mosaics, take photos with props, and make colourful sculptures. There were also lots of fun costumes to try on. My favourite part was where I drew a mask – it let me be really creative. I had so much fun and was there for ages.

Museum and Art Swindon is open Tuesday to Saturday, 10:30am to 4:30pm, and is located inside Swindon Council's main civic building in the town centre.

Happy October! Happy Halloween! And see you all in November!

*Constance Davenport*



*Constance and her sister making mosaics*

October is one of my favourite months as Halloween is at the end of it! Though not everyone takes part, I realised I didn't know why we celebrate it so I have done a bit of research.

**How and why?** About 2000 years ago, an ancient Celtic festival of Samhain took place on the evening of 31 October and continued into 1 November. People would light bonfires and wear costumes to scare off ghosts and the spirits. Samhain is marked as the Celtic New Year as it is the end of the harvest season and the beginning of winter.\*

**Why 31 October?** It is the eve of All Saints' Day, a day where Christians remember and honour the dead.

**Why trick-or-treat?** Trick-or-treating is a fun activity to do with friends and family. This has evolved from a very old Celtic tradition where people impersonated the spirits of the dead and received offerings of food on their behalf.

Last year I went out trick-or-treating with one of my friends. I was very surprised to see children much older than me all in costumes having a great time too. I hope to see the same this year!

I hope you have a spooktastic Halloween!

*Sophie Nolan*

*\* The Celts made offerings of food and drink to spirits (or fairies) to make sure the people and livestock survived the winter. People also thought the souls of dead loved ones would revisit their homes looking for hospitality, and a place was set at the table for them.*

## 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](http://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 and third 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 (excluding bank holidays).

### Praying for the roads in the town

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| <b>06 Oct</b> | Shrivenham Road and Skye Close           |
| <b>12 Oct</b> | Spa Close and Squires Court              |
| <b>20 Oct</b> | St. Michael's Avenue and Stapleton Close |
| <b>27 Oct</b> | Station Road and Stonefield Drive        |

## St. Leonard's Parish Church Stanton Fitzwarren

**6 October** Morning Praise, 9:30am

**13 October** Family service, 'Jesus walks on water', 11am

**13 October** Team Service at St Margaret's Stratton 10am

**27 October** Holy Communion, 9:30am

On **Wednesday 16 October** Stanton Coffee Morning will meet at Stanton House Hotel. **10:15am** for coffee and chat and we will welcome Rossi Mitchell as our speaker at 11am.

Saturday 14 September saw the WHCT Ride and Stride, and on its 40th anniversary the Lord Lieutenant presented a plaque to St. Leonard's to mark the many years we have participated.

The church building will be 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

Please note there may be changes to the advertised schedule. Please go to [www.stantonchurch.info](http://www.stantonchurch.info) for updates.



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



**2/10/24**

**Julie Page**

*Four years have passed since my beautiful Julie was called away, the tears and pain still remain.*

**5/10/24**

**Eric Ryder**

*Remembering a dearly loved Dad, Bamp and Great Gramp, on his 99th Birthday.  
Forever in our hearts and thoughts.  
From Janice and Pas, Louisa 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](http://www.stmichaelshighworth.co.uk/floodlighting). Your dedication will appear in this magazine.*

*All submissions to the Church Office by **Wednesday 25 September** for the November publication.*

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



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# USEFUL CONTACTS

## LOCAL CONTACTS

### EMERGENCY

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

### NON-EMERGENCY

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

### BUSES

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

### COLLEGES

|  |              |
|--|--------------|
| Cirencester College                        | 01285 640994 |
| New College Swindon,<br>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 |
|------------------------|---------------|

### DOCTORS AND HOSPITALS

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

### LIBRARY

|                   |              |
|-------------------|--------------|
| Highworth Library | 01793 463500 |
|-------------------|--------------|

### RECREATION

|               |              |
|---------------|--------------|
| Highworth Rec | 01793 762602 |
|---------------|--------------|

### PHARMACIES

|                                       |              |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| Highworth Pharmacy                    | 01793 762220 |
| Home Farm Pharmacy                    | 01793 861392 |
| Jones Graham Pharmacy<br>(Shrivenham) | 01793 783336 |

### PRESCHOOL/NURSERY

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

### SCHOOLS

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

### TAXIS

|       |              |
|-------|--------------|
| Veezu | 01793 701701 |
|-------|--------------|

### TRAINS

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

### OTHER SERVICES

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

## Highworth LINK magazine

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

### Contributions:

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

Email is preferred; otherwise deliver to The 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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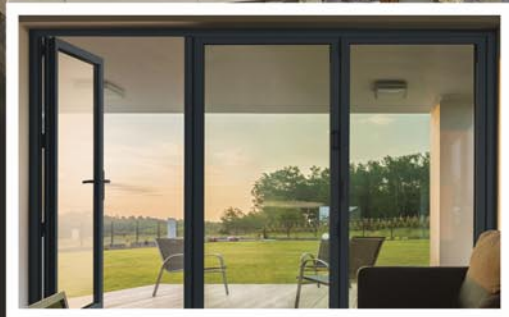
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