

*Highworth*LINK

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November 2024



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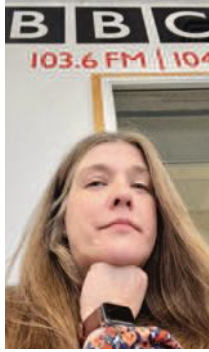
Dear Reader

Okay, okay. Who's gobsmacked that it's November already? Hands up now. I'm completely amazed that we're into the winter and another year of LINK Magazine is almost done.

Time is such a funny thin; always slower when you want it to speed up and flying by when you want more time. School weeks were always the slowest things and holidays would be done in a flash. Perhaps you're like me when I find myself trying to fit 35 hours into a 24-hour day. Busyness can be a killer.

Author John Mark Comer in his book, 'The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry', says, "Here's my point: the solution to an overbusy life is not more time. It's to slow down and simplify our lives around what really matters."

The older I get the more I seek ways of cutting back on



the superfluous and focusing on what matters most. I believe that, ultimately, we're the sum of what we give our attention to and I'm writing this in a week which has been bonkers-busy for me in organising our Volunteer Expo and Celebration events. Superfluous or essential? All I know is that I chose to give myself to this kind of work because it matters to me. It matters that people find fulfilment and a sense of belonging. It matters that we work together for the betterment of us all; and it matters very much that I bring joy to the people I meet.

As a final act of vulnerability, I must tell you that in all the busyness of my week was the slightly surreal and huge privilege of being interviewed live on BBC Radio Wiltshire. Can you believe I had the opportunity to speak about our little town to the entire county? You see, it matters. This town matters. You matter.

So find what matters to you, focus on that, and cut out the superfluous.

Rachael

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Highworth Methodist Church

celebrating 60 years of Worship at Vicarage Lane
with an

Angel Festival

December

Saturday 14th: 10am-3pm

Sunday 15th: 11am-3.30pm

**Join us for a Carol Service:
Sunday 15th 4pm - all Welcome!**

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

**Refreshments, live music & crafts for children
throughout the weekend.**

Highworth Methodist Church, Vicarage Lane, Highworth, Swindon, SN6 7AD

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

Front Cover image: IgorKocka via Pixabay

There is Hope

Down through the centuries many services which are seen as fundamental to the life of our society were established by Christians. Many schools were founded by Christians, as were hospitals. Children's homes were first started by Christians such as Dr. Barnardo and the movement to abolish slavery was led by another Christian William Wilberforce. In recent years it was churches which led the way in setting up foodbanks to meet the needs of people whose incomes do not allow them to eat well.



In 1996, John Kirkby established Christians Against Poverty (CAP). He believed God was calling him to sacrifice his career in finance and use his knowledge of the industry to help those in need. He himself had become bankrupt and had a desire to assist people in recovering from the burden of debt, much of which was not due to their own inadequacies but to a range of circumstances.

As a result of John's initiative, CAP has spread throughout the UK and internationally. For nearly 11 years, Highworth has been blessed to have its own

CAP Debt Centre.

So, what motivates the CAP team? In the Old Testament in the book of Micah, the question is asked "What does the Lord require of you?" The answer comes "To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."

Jesus, when He was on earth, stated that His mission was "to proclaim good news to the poor, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim freedom to the captives and release from darkness for

the prisoners and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour." (Luke chapter 4 verse 18)

As churches we seek through CAP to carry out this Jesus manifesto. Our motivation comes out of the love of Jesus for each individual. This love is non-judgmental. It is shown to all of our clients regardless of background. Already several hundred people in the Highworth area have experienced the love which brings hope and transforms their lives. Our message to people is – there is hope!

Phil Baker

See page 12 for more information about CAP.

Remembering Jean Ashton

Jean came to Highworth in 1977 to teach at Southfield Junior School and for many years was Deputy Head. She was a born leader who used her many gifts, especially her musical talent, with assemblies and choirs.

She was very involved in St. Michael's Church; playing the organ and piano and leading the choir. She was also a Reader and Churchwarden, supported CAP, was a member of the Mothers' Union, and always supported church projects and activities whilst also serving in the healing ministry at the Harnhill Centre near Cirencester. A committed Christian, she led many people to Christ with prayer, honesty, kind example and genuine concern for others.

Jean died peacefully in hospital on 10 September 2024 after a very short illness.

She was a valued friend who is greatly missed, but we are comforted knowing she is with the Lord, safe and well. Our thoughts and prayers are with Jean's family at this time.

St. Michael's Church Family

Christian Aid Coffee Morning

Christian Aid will be holding a coffee morning on Saturday 30 November in the Church Room located behind St. Michael's Church.



The Church Room is easy to access from the churchyard. Come between 10am and 12 noon. There will be a table top sale of Christmas items. Please support us.

Drama, Music, Tea, and Cake

In aid of Prospect Hospice on Saturday 16 November, 2:30pm in St. Michael's Church.

Tickets £12 from Visit Highworth, cash only, under-16 free. See posters for details.

The Angel Festival is Coming

Join us at Highworth Methodist Church on 14 and 15 December for our Angel Festival!

This is a message for all the individual crafters who have been busy making angels for the festival display. The time is approaching when you need to bring your angels to the Methodist Church. We look forward to receiving your angels during the following times:

- **Tuesday 3 December**, 10am to 12:30pm
- **Saturday 7 December**, 10:30am to 12 noon
- **Friday 13 December**, 9:45am to 11am, or 1:30pm to 3:30pm

Please label your angels with your name if you would like to collect them from the church on **Monday 16 December from 11am to 12 noon or 4:30pm to 6pm**, when we will have them ready for you.

Please see the poster in this edition of LINK Magazine for more details of the Angel Festival.

If you have any queries please email the Angel Festival Group on churchaf60@gmail.com.



Highworth Historical Society

On Wednesday 27 November, we will welcome **Martin Collisson** who will give his talk on the 'Abolition of the Slave Trade'.

This presentation includes the political and social events leading up to the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act in 1807 and the action taken by the British over the following decades to stop slave trading by other countries.

We now meet at St. Michael's Church, Highworth. The doors open at 7pm and the talk starts at 7:30pm. Visitors are always welcome at a charge of £3 – cash please.

If you need more information contact Jayne on 07583 928277.

To advertise in The Highworth Link contact

advertising@highworthlink.co.uk
or visit www.highworthlink.co.uk

Scouts Christmas Post

It won't be long until it's the most wonderful time of the year!

Have your local Christmas cards delivered by the Highworth Scouts. Stamps will go on sale on **18 November** for the Scouts Christmas Post at our new venue, Highworth Emporium. The price is unchanged at a very competitive 35 pence a stamp. More details in next month's issue.

UTRNTA

The **AGM of the Upper Thames and Ridgeway National Trust Association** will be held at the Baptist Church, Cirencester at 3:45 pm on 16 November. All are welcome.

This will be preceded by a talk by Dr Gillian White (a lady well worth listening to) at 2:30 pm on the subject of 'The Most Dissolute Man in London, the Duke of Devonshire and the building of Chatsworth'.

We would love to see you there.

Phil Eagle

Westrop Choir at Cotswold Fest

Westrop School Choir were lucky enough to be invited to sing on the main stage at Cotswold Fest which was held at the end of July on South Cerney airfield.

Cotswold Fest is a celebration of community, music, food and drink, surrounded by beautiful countryside. This was a new, exciting event created by Oakley Hayward who was once a pupil at Westrop Primary.

The weekend festival was full of live performances

ranging from professional bands to choral groups. Westrop children were entertained by the many free family activities once they had finished their performance. Some even camped for the weekend to get the full festival feel.

This event was such a success that Oakley will be hosting again from **25 to 27 July 2025** – Westrop choir are hoping they will be invited back! Visit www.cotswoldfest.co.uk to find out more.

Claire Kruse



The Visit Highworth Calendar has arrived!

We are very excited to announce that the Visit Highworth Calendar 2025 is now on sale in our shop. It features a range of images and illustrations of Highworth and the surrounding area as well as some of the events that take place throughout the year, all contributed by some very talented local residents. Priced at £8, this would make either a great addition to your kitchen to keep track of dates or as a gift for family and friends. We also thank Number Crunchers for their support towards the production of the calendar.

For those of you who regularly visit our shop you know that we stock a fantastic range of very high quality crafts all produced by local people. The Craft Fayre, on **30 November**, 10am to 4pm in St. Michael's Church, will showcase an excellent range of crafts and provide a perfect opportunity to purchase something unique and locally made as a gift for a friend



or treat for yourself! We will have glassware, photography, pottery, jewellery, felted goods, pamper and beauty products and much, much more, and Bunkies Bakes will provide an extensive range of baked goods to take away. Refreshments will be on sale with lots of delicious homemade cakes giving you a moment to catch your breath before continuing your shopping.

Why not visit our intimate Santa Grotto on **7 December**, 9am to 2pm? Away from the hustle and bustle your child can have a booked slot with Santa and receive a gift. Please book your slot ahead of time giving the age of your child/children at a cost of just £3.50 per child.

Our shop will also be carrying a range of seasonal gifts – we are open **10am to 3pm, Tuesday to Friday and 9am to 2pm on Saturdays**. We look forward to sharing some Christmas cheer with you!



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Ask AMS

Can I claim expenses for working from home for my business?

Business owners can claim the expense of using their home as an office, based on the portion of rent, mortgage interest, council tax, water, fuel etc. used while working on the business at home. There are 2 ways to calculate this:

Weekly Claim: Business owners spending small amounts of time, say, invoicing or doing minimal work relating to the business can claim £6 per week (or £26/month) without calculating the actual home expenses used.

Actual Expenses: If the owner spends, say, a few hours each day at home running the business, they can claim a proportion of actual home expenses. (Rent, rates etc. as above)

If you want to use the second method, HMRC provide examples online – but they are complex. I recommend that you ask your accountant to do the calculation.

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Go and Do Likewise

Highworth resident and author Keith Holder has written a follow-up to his first book 'When Did We See You?', which sold over 250 copies in ten countries and received many positive reviews. His new book, 'Go and Do Likewise', is a sequel written from a slightly different angle.

Both books describe life in the shanty towns of Costa Rica, Central America and how the Educación Plus charity, founded by him and his wife Joy 30 years ago, continues to work there. They try to follow Jesus' example by offering spiritual, emotional and material support to those living in such extreme conditions.

Keith says, "It's been deeply moving at times; often enjoyable and sometimes quite dangerous. We've shared their joys and sorrows as they live – and die – side-by-side with gun-toting drug dealers and the literal murder and mayhem pushed by them. But we've always been aware of God's guidance, protection and provision."

But this is not a book written purely for those of a

religious persuasion. It's about a small charity working against a tide of negative influences to bring hope and guidance to young people in dire situations. There are both successes and disappointments.

Educación Plus has an enduring connection with Highworth as the original leaders and members of Highworth Community Church were fundamental in its conception. The Holders were members of that church and were originally 'sent out' to Latin America by them.

If you'd like to know more or purchase a copy of either book, please contact keith_holder@edplus.or.cr or phone (01793) 764144 for details. Any profits will benefit the charity and it might make a great Christmas gift for someone you know!



Highworth Twinning Association

In September we hosted visitors from our twin town of Pontorson and this short note is a big 'thank you' to all who contributed to making the weekend a success.

First and foremost we thank the hosts who provided accommodation, food and transport. Without you these weekends could not take place. We are grateful to St Michael's Church for making us very welcome on Sunday morning; and especially Lynette Sapwell who made our French guests feel included through her thoughtful preparation.

We also thank: The organisers of the Flower Festival, the reason the dates in September were chosen; CiaoEatalia, for opening especially for our group and preparing a splendid three course dinner; the bee hives of Highworth their inhabitants, and their carers; the Highworth Twinning Associate committee for their work throughout the year; Sudeley Castle, simply for being open for our visit, and also anyone else who played a part in the weekend and thinks I've forgotten them.

You may have noticed there are new flagpoles on the Podium, so finally a thank you to the Town Council and ground staff for putting up the flags of our three towns. (The photo is the best I can do until the wind blows in the right direction!)

We are always open to new members – we're a very informal group and very welcoming.

Richard Pearce – rjnpearcehta@gmail.com



Why and How to Claim Pension Credit

There's been a lot in the news lately about Pension Credit. The government has announced the end of the Winter Fuel Payment for most of the nearly 13 million drawing the State Pension. From now on, the Winter Fuel Allowance will go only to those pensioners who get Pension Credit to top up their low income.

The government says around 1.3 million households in England and Wales already get Pension Credit and will continue to receive the Winter Fuel Payment, but they estimate that a further 880,000 households would still receive the Winter Fuel Payment if they claimed the Pension Credit they are entitled to. Pension Credit can also help you get other government support with council tax, housing, mortgage interest, TV licence and help with dental treatment, glasses and transport to hospital appointments.

I've estimated from national figures that there are more than 100 pensioner households in Highworth who could retain their Winter Fuel Allowance if only they would apply for Pension Credit, which is quite a lot of Highworth pensioners.

It's not particularly complicated to apply and the amount you could receive makes it worth the effort. But, as ever with government things, the devil sometimes lurks in the details, such as any savings and investments. But you won't know unless you apply.

You can apply for Pension Credit (and the State Pension) up to four months before you reach State Pension age and you can apply any time after you reach State Pension age, but your application can only be backdated by three months.

There are three ways to apply:

- Online
- By phone
- On a paper form

You'll need the following information about you and your partner if you have one:

- National Insurance number
- Information about any income, savings and investments you have
- Your bank account details

If you're confident with the internet, then **online** is the way to go. Go to the website: gov.uk/pension-credit/how-to-claim.

The Bridge Centre on Sheep Street has four computers that you can access, along with someone to guide you. They will be available **Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9am to 11am**. You'll need to phone 01793 765060 or drop in to book an appointment. There are also computers in Highworth Library.

The Pension Credit **claim line** is a free number: 0800 991234. It should be pretty quick. When I tested this service in late September I got through to a real person (no, not a machine!) within a minute.

Or you can call the claim line 0800 991234 to request a **form**. Any backdating will start from the date of your call.

Fill it in and post it to 'Freepost DWP Pensions Service 3'. Do not write anything except the freepost address on the envelope. You do not need a postcode or a stamp.

There are **voluntary organisations** which can guide you through the process and also explain other entitlements either on top of or instead of Pension Credit, such as council tax reductions, Attendance Allowance and housing costs. All these organisations have free helplines:

- Independent Age: 0800 3196789
- Age UK Wiltshire: 08081 962424
- Citizens Advice Swindon: 08081 962424

*Researched and written by Adrian Young
from mainly government sources
(see www.gov.uk/pension-credit)*



Highworth Forget Me Not Cafe welcomes back
**The Brewery Street
Buskers**

**Wednesday 27th Nov 2-4pm
Highworth Community Centre**

For more info or if you need transport
email forgetmenot.highworth@gmail.com or call Ruth 07970 543423

Help at The Bridge Centre

The national news has made much of the withdrawal of the Winter Fuel Allowance for the majority of pensioners. At the same time there are a huge number of people who would still be able to receive it if only they claimed Pension Credit (apparently, four out of ten who could receive it, don't).



Call 080 099 1234 or visit www.gov.uk/pension-credit/how-to-claim. If you find applications difficult, our friendly team of volunteers are happy to help you. We also have leaflets that clearly explain who can get Pension

Credit, how much they can receive, and what other benefits could be gained.

Pension Credit tops up your income to a minimum level and can also give you a host of other benefits. It's a benefit for people who have reached State Pension age. And making a claim is simple. All it takes is a free online or postal application, or telephone call.

Why struggle? Call in at the Drop-in, **Monday to Friday from 11am to 1pm**. Alternatively, telephone 01793 765060 or email bridge@highworthchurch.co.uk to make an appointment. Find us at The Bridge Centre, 8 Sheep Street, Highworth SN6 7AA.

We Need Your Window!

We're aiming to make the 2024 Highworth Advent Window Trail even bigger and better than our first trail during lockdown in 2020, so we're looking for volunteers to create fabulous, funny, festive advent windows ready to be revealed during consecutive evenings from 1 December up to and including 24 December, in the same way an advent calendar works.



Each window will be illuminated from 5pm to 9pm on its allocated advent date and for the following four evenings, and then again on Christmas Eve when the whole trail will be lit up.

If you would like to take part in the 2024 trail, please email lesley.muir71@outlook.com by the closing date of **Thursday 7 November**.

Elaine Wellsted (formerly Graham) and Lesley Muir



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Five Easy Ways to Tackle Poverty in Your Community

With 14.4 million of us living in poverty in the UK, there are people facing crushing financial difficulty in every community, including our own. Too many are in crisis because of circumstances entirely out of their control, from household income that doesn't cover the basics and the unaffordable cost of living, to mental ill-health and bereavement.

If, like us at Christians Against Poverty (CAP), you're not okay with this devastating reality we're living in, then here are five easy ways you can make a difference.

Contact your MP

Following the general election, your local MP has had a few months to settle into the new term. It's a great time to ask about their priorities and plans for the next few years.

Support your local CAP centre

CAP is committed to fighting poverty through free face-to-face debt help, job clubs, life skills groups and financial education. Services are delivered through local churches based at the heart of communities like ours. To find out how you could support the work of CAP in Highworth, please contact Claire Titcombe at clairetitcombe@capuk.org.

Raise your voice on social media

Social media is a quick and easy way to share the things that matter to you and encourage others to pay

attention. Local groups are a great tool for discussing issues in your community. Not sure what to say? Follow CAP UK for ready-made content that you can share.



Donate to a local food bank

We hope that one day there won't be a need for food banks in the UK, but right now they're a vital service that many rely on. If you're fortunate enough to be able to afford everything you need at the supermarket, consider adding a few extra bits to your trolley to donate to your local food bank. You can drop off donations at The Bridge Centre in Sheep Street.

Check in with your circle

Unfortunately, people often feel ashamed or embarrassed to talk about experiencing poverty and, at CAP, we're passionate about breaking this stigma. Financial difficulties can hit any of us, for all sorts of reasons, and nobody should have to go through them alone. There may be people in your circle who you don't realise are struggling, so check in with your neighbours, friends, family members and colleagues and, where necessary, point them in the direction of the help they need. There are lots of brilliant, free sources of support available, including CAP. To find out more, visit www.capuk.org/help.

Moving Towards Greener Homes

On Tuesday 17 September the Highworth Climate Group was joined by Kate Silvester for a talk entitled 'Save Energy, Save Money'. For 45 minutes we were guided through the process Kate went through to transform her cold and energy inefficient home into a modern green home that is warm, well-ventilated and energy efficient.

This ranged from a simple change to lighting and appliances, draught proofing, switching energy provider and optimising heating system, to more moderate changes such as improving ventilation, improving insulation and the installation of heat pumps. More complicated changes involved a new ventilation system, the installation of solar panels and the purchasing of shares in a wind turbine.

Kate referenced the agencies and organisations who supported her, including Ripple Energy, and Wiltshire Climate Alliance.



Demonstration of thermal imaging



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Arts and Crafts with Swindon u3a

Are you feeling creative? Do you want to share your interest with new friends in a relaxed, supportive group? Well the u3a could be for you. We have 20 different groups to inspire you to take up a new art or craft, or pursue an existing one.

If you are handy with a needle there are plenty of groups which would welcome you, such as the Dressmaking Group which includes all levels of ability, or the Sewing for Pleasure group where you can make cushions, bags and so much more. There are also the Crochet and Knitting and the Embroidery and Needlework groups – there is always someone to help if you need it, all over tea/coffee and a chat. Patch and Chat offers hand and machine quilting and suggested projects.

Or perhaps you prefer to paint. The Easy Painting, Painting for Fun, Painting Together and Painting, Pastels and Mixed Media groups all provide a friendly, relaxed and encouraging environment for those who enjoy painting.

Or how about the Flower Arranging group? Members bring their own flowers and foliage and create arrangements ranging from traditional to modern with the help of a tutor.

Three Craft as You Like groups (one in Highworth) give you the opportunity to share skills and learn from each other, whatever your craft and level.

Perhaps you would like to learn upholstery and reupholster stools, chairs and headboards in the Upholstery group. Or join the Chair Refurbishing group and keep the craft alive by learning how to refurbish chairs in split cane, rush or seagrass.

Enjoy all types of paper crafting techniques and share

skills and ideas in the friendly Papercraft group. Or join the Scrapbooking group and preserve family photographs and mementos or celebrate an event in your life. You can work on your own project or join in a mini-workshop to create a layout.

Exchange knowledge and experience in the creation of photographs with digital cameras in the Digital Photography group. This is in Liden with Zoom meetings every four weeks.

The u3a is for people no longer in full-time employment. To learn more about it and all the other activities it offers visit www.swindonu3a.org.uk, telephone the office on 01793 614629 between 10am and noon on Monday, Wednesday and Friday or visit our Facebook page.

Highworth Climate Talks

Can we afford it?

Mollie Scott Cato will join us on 19 November for our next Climate Talk.

Mollie was the Green Party MEP for South West England and Gibraltar between 2014 and 2020 and is now the party's External Communications Coordinator. She is an Emeritus Professor of Green Economics at the University of Roehampton and speaks for the Green Party on Economy and Finance. Mollie, an expert in her field, has a wealth of practical experience to support green economic policies. She will be talking about a variety of aspects of green economics and will be setting three challenging questions for our discussion groups after the talk. Come along and have your questions answered.

We will meet at Highworth Methodist Church SN6 7HG. Be aware there is limited parking on site. Doors open at 7pm for 7:30 pm talk and refreshments are provided. All our talks are free to attend but donations are always gratefully received. For further information contact Helen on 01793 861431.



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Weigh It Up is On the Move

Weigh It Up has been a feature on the corner of Highworth's High Street since Matthew and Michelle Aherne took on what used to be the Betfred premises. Over the course of two months (with the help of family and friends) they transformed the space into Highworth's first refill shop.

After Matthew left the RAF, the couple made the decision to open their small business with a view to "doing something different". Matthew has since been running the shop single-handedly with Michelle helping out whenever she had time away from her work commitments.

Matthew said, "The shop has steadily become more popular with locals and people from further afield. We have reached the point where our ever-increasing product range has outgrown our current premises and so we were over the moon when the opportunity arose to take on the old TT Linnetts building."

Michelle is making a big move by leaving her 25-year career in documentary-making and joining Matthew in expanding the business. She explained, "We will be extending and adjusting our product range, offering

cake and organic coffee. We will take things slowly and respond to what our customers want."

The Ahernes want to encourage people to use reusable options where possible and will be operating a mug library where people will be offered the use of a reusable mug for their coffee rather than a takeaway cup.

The mug library works on the principle that you can borrow a refillable mug for your hot drink and return it next time you are passing; the mugs will be thoroughly cleaned and put back into the library.

Weigh It Up are collecting donations of reusable cups for the library – if you have any cups please take them along to the new premises.



Little Caterpillars at Westrop Nursery

Westrop Nursery are running a toddler group for parents, carers and grandparents to come along with children aged up to four years old. It runs 1:30pm to 2:30pm every Thursday in term time at a cost of £1 per family.

We welcome all families – you are not required to be linked to or attend Westrop Nursery; we just want the

Highworth community to have more options for families, so have tried to avoid times other community groups are run.

Our toddler group will be about children exploring through play with their carer and alongside other children. Children explore, question and wonder and, by doing so, learn! From the moment of birth, humans are drawn to new things. When we are curious about something new, we want to explore it. And while exploring we discover.

So, come along to Little Caterpillars to play, explore, and discover.

If you have any queries, please email nursery@westrop.swindon.sch.uk or call us on 01793 762897, press option 4 for the Nursery.



Claire Kruse

HIGHWORTH

AFTERNOON

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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

Create Smiles with Scouting

Having retired from hands-on scouting some years ago I volunteered to help with the catering at our group camp during September, not appreciating how full-on this was going to be. After being involved for many years I really should have known better, as with a mixture of Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorers, parents and leaders making around 160 people on camp, they were going to take a lot of feeding! We started cooking breakfast at 6:30am, then prepared lunch and, after a short break, it was time for the evening BBQ. Was it tiring? Yes. Was it worth it? Most definitely! The enthusiasm of all the youngsters, their happiness, their very large appetites (in some cases), and politeness were priceless.

For Keiron, one of our Trustees, it was his first experience on camp. He said:

"What an incredible weekend we just had at 1st Highworth Group Camp with all our sections. As a Trustee of the group, I am usually the one waving goodbye to my wife (a leader at Northview Scouts) and

our Cub and Scout, knowing they are in the best possible hands. But this time I jumped in myself and wow! what an experience. From site build, running the silent disco, supporting archery (including some of our youngest members), chaperoning a group of cubs, helping in the craft tent and finally site down on the Sunday – it was an exhausting weekend but so much fun!

"450 rashers of bacon were eaten and 320 sausages cooked over three hours; 84 eggs were used for egg mayo (all eaten). 61 Beaver badges earned by Hudson Beavers alone, and 60 tents were pitched for sleeping (all standing strong, no collapses!). Many children had their first-ever experience of kayaking, rafting, paddleboarding, archery, fencing, and throwing tomahawks. And finally, the biggest number of all – the countless leader and volunteer hours that went into making this weekend happen!"

Scouting is all about giving young people skills for life, and it's so much more fun when we have more hands on deck! You may have heard the plea that we need more people and it's true, because we want to keep giving youngsters the experiences they (and we) love. We will always need more people. Maybe help at an occasional section meeting, join a hike or cycle ride, lead a craft session, or maybe you have another skill that could be part of our programme? Or would you rather help with the upkeep of the building and grounds, general maintenance, the subs or even be our quartermaster. You don't need to be an expert – we'll show you the ropes. And trust me, by the next group camp, you'll be grinning for days, knowing you helped create these incredible memories.

If you're interested, even just a little bit, contact Steve Mollart at steve.mollart@highworthscouts.org.uk

David Roblin

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News from Highworth and District Lions Club

We are currently busy preparing for our Christmas events. We are helping prepare Santa's sleigh and it will be making an appearance at the Highworth Christmas Lights Switch-On event – make sure you don't miss seeing the big man himself, as well as all the wonderful stalls and entertainment that are planned for the day. It is going to be another fantastic event for our community to enjoy.

If you would like to help out with any of our Christmas



events this year, please send me an email to the address below.

We recently had our very popular yearly seaside coach trip for the elderly residents of our community. We took a coach full of people to Weston-super-Mare where they enjoyed walking along the seafront, seeing the sights and eating fish and chips and ice cream.

They are all very excited about next year's trip, so if you would like to join us look out for further information around Spring 2025.

Recent causes we have supported are:

- Sight First (Lions International Campaign), £1,000.
- Highworth CAP Hardship Fund, £600.
- Food donations to the local food bank, £400.
- Water Aid (Lions International Campaign), £1,000.
- Mercy Ships (performing critical surgeries in poor countries), £2,000.

Melanie Davenport

E: secretaryhighworthlions@gmail.com

National Trust Coleshill and Buscot

November marks the 80th anniversary of the Stand Down of the Auxiliary Units and with it the beginning of training centre closure at Coleshill. We will be commemorating this at the Remembrance Sunday service at All Saint's Church, Coleshill, on Sunday 10 November at 10:50am. The service will include a tribute to the men who were prepared to give their lives to save the country without recognition. A special wreath will be laid on the village green war memorial in public view.

A 1940s event in 2025 will provide a public moment to mark this anniversary with the last officer leaving the village in January 1945.

The Coleshill Christmas Craft Fair will be on **Sunday 24 November**, 10am to 4pm near the Heritage and Rural Skills Centre. The Fair will showcase our resident craftspeople as well as local artisans, with children's activities and hopefully some live music.

For those of you who like to make gifts, our new

partners, Bishopsland Educational Trust, are running silversmithing workshops at the Heritage and Rural Skills Centre in October and November. These will be small classes to allow more focused tuition.

At Chastleton we have the return of a 1960s-style country Christmas, reminiscent of the parties hosted by last owners Barbara and Alan Clutton-Brock. Explore rooms decorated to represent the Clutton-Brocks' chaotic but cosy style. Christmas opening is **Wednesdays to Sundays from 27 November to 15 December**. The house will be open from 11am to 3pm (last entry 2:15pm).

All the booking information can be found on the National Trust website.



Sarah Hannis

Southfield Junior School Dreams of Helping the World



The children at Southfield Junior School have hit the new term running this year with the whole school focusing on our introductory topic 'They Made a Difference'. All children have been

learning about key people, both historical and those still living, and how their actions have had an impact on the world. It has been a great start to the new year with the children feeling inspired to make an impact!

In Year 3/4, the children have been studying Malala. We used the book 'Malala's Magic Pencil' to learn about her life story so far and the incredible things she has achieved. The children were then given the opportunity to decide how they would impact the world if they had their own magic pencil. The children blew us away with their considerate ideas, from creating food machines to end world hunger to thinking about how their inventions could help stop climate change. The need to discuss the inequality that is still prevalent between



boys and girls in some countries goes without saying when studying Malala. The children were respectful when talking about this topic and asked some great questions. To link with this, we looked at the suffragette movement and used this as a basis for understanding the importance of allowing everyone the right

to vote. The children even put this into practice when electing the new members of our Junior Leadership Team. It has been a great start to Year 3 and 4 and we are now excited to start on our next project!

This term, Year 5 and Year 6 students at Southfield have embarked on an exciting adventure through history! They have delved into the lives of extraordinary figures such as Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King and Nelson Mandela – heroes who bravely fought for equality and justice. Through engaging discussions and creative projects, our young learners have harnessed their imaginations to create unique 'Little People, Big Dreams' books. These incredible stories showcase their newfound knowledge and passion for making a difference in our society. Join us as we celebrate the impact of these historical icons and the brilliant creativity of our children!

Come and meet
Jesus

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Sunday Gathering: 10.30am
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Highworth Community Church

www.highworthcommunitychurch.org Registered Charity 1188202

A New Start at Eastrop Infants

The first term of this new academic year is going by so quickly! We have been learning lots of new things and enjoying different experiences. Starting school can be really daunting but the children who are new to us in Nursery and those who have joined our Reception Class at the school have settled brilliantly.

Our Value this term is Friendship and we have been looking at how we can be good friends to each other. Across the school we have shared the story of the Friendship Bench by Wendy Meddour and Daniel Egneus and we have a very special friendship bench of our own.

This term, our whole school topic is 'Our Big Adventure' and we have been busy learning about our local area, including the geography of Highworth.

The children have also enjoyed taking part in Skate and Scooter workshops. It was great to see so many of our children joining in and having fun. Thanks to their green fingers, at the end of last academic year our Rabbits class won the 'Best Floral planting and Best Vegetable planting' trophy from the Swindon Allotment and Leisure Gardens Association – well done to them.

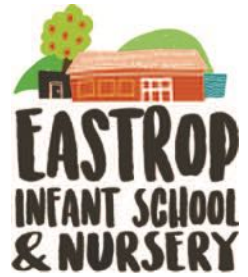


Our parents and carers have joined us for reading and phonics workshops, exploring how we teach this at Eastrop, and we also held a coffee morning to support Macmillan and did food collections for harvest.

If you have a child who is nursery age or will be joining school in September 2025, please come and join us for one of our open mornings or afternoons so that you can see our engaging and welcoming environment. We would love to welcome you on any of these dates:

- 13 November, 9:30am
- 21 November, 1:30pm
- 26 November, 9:30am

We look forward to seeing you then!



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Update from Big Highworth Community Foundation

We have some fabulous news: our Big Highworth Craft Fair raised £510.00! A huge thank you to all those who had stalls and to everyone who came along and supported on the day.

Our Community Awards were judged last month by our panel (Mayor Julie Murphy, and local business owners Fiona Scott of Scott Media, Howard Smith of Number Crunchers and John Lewis of JL Mindset Performance). We will all find out who the winners are at the Awards Dinner to be held at Wrag Barn. All nominators and nominees will receive their personal Big Highworth invitation around the end of this month. Watch out for details of the sale of Award Dinner tickets.

We were delighted to be part of the Highworth Volunteers Expo – what a fabulous event! Our thanks go to Highworth's LINK Magazine for organising this and for giving all charities and community organisations a platform to spread their message. Thanks, too, if you visited our stand.

Our Christmas Prize Draw tickets are on sale at our, and



Richard Hadfield

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www.facebook.com/BigHighworthCommunityFoundation

This year's Christmas Charity Concert is on **23 November** and our special guest will be Britain's Got Talent winner Richard Hadfield, previously of group Collabro. You can expect huge hits from musical theatre, Christmas songs and much more, all in the fabulous setting of St Michael's Church! Tickets are still on sale on Eventbrite, or you can buy direct from us by emailing bighighworthevents@gmail.com.

Finally, our Christmas Light Switch-On stall on **30 November** is another tombola. Find all your favourite characters, such as Marvel and Star Wars. Again, all brand-new prizes (mostly Lego) have been generously donated by local businesses.

We look forward to seeing you!

Trustees of Big Highworth Community Foundation.

Flower Festival Celebrates 60 Years



C.S.Lewis' 'The Lion, the Witch & the Wardrobe' by Julia Bishop

60 years of the Highworth Flower Club was celebrated with sparkling floral displays in a storybook wonderland in St. Michael's Church in September.

Over three days visitors of all ages enjoyed 'The Wonder of Words' – a floral journey depicting a wide range of books and poems. The interpretation and humour of designs of such children's favourites as 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar', 'Alice in Wonderland', 'Thomas the Tank Engine', 'Winnie the Pooh' and



Eric Carle 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' by Jackie Mortimer



Beatrix Potter 'Peter Rabbit' by Sandra Goodey.

'Treasure Island' were popular. Two magnificent all white arrangements – 'Diamonds are Forever' and 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe' – perfectly captured the mood of our Diamond Anniversary celebration.

Superb pedestals and arrangements filled the church with colour, set off by the more serious and muted designs of 'Wuthering Heights' and the beautiful and thoughtful panorama in the chancel entitled 'In the beginning God created...'. The delightful 'Secret Garden' and 'The Old Curiosity Shop' were loved by visitors, as was the activity area for where one could make a buttonhole.

Chairwoman Brenda Saville thanked the many people who had contributed to the success of the Festival; the talented Club members and St. Michael's Flower Guild for their flower designs; the WI and Church members for hours of hard work setting up and providing refreshments; the Highworth Camera Club for the great photos now on our website; the many visitors

who came and made it all worthwhile, and lastly Rev. Phil Goodey for allowing us to create a flower-filled festival in the church.

We welcome new members, so if you enjoyed the festival we hope you will come along to our next meeting on **Thursday 7 November, 7:30pm**, at Warneford School, with Beverley Clay and her demonstration intriguingly called 'Out of the Garage'. Visitors welcome (£7) and members may bring a guest for free.

www.highworthfloralarts.co.uk
Contact Michele: 07798 817249

Highworth Methodist Church – Our Diamond Anniversary

History

It was in 1831 that a group of missionaries first visited Highworth. What we know is that by 1838 a Methodist Chapel had been built. In 1842, a second chapel was built on the Lechlade Road. God was clearly at work! By 1850 the first little chapel was bursting at the seams so it was knocked it down and a new chapel built in the Elms in 1856.



Worship continued for over 100 years two communities witnessing to God's love through Jesus one meeting in what is now the Silver Band Hall on Lechlade Road, the other in what was the Silver Threads Hall in the Elms (now a private residence).

Change in the air....

By the late 1950s Highworth was beginning to grow from its then population of 2,000 people. The Elms Chapel was proving too small for the number of people

attending, and the congregations from the two Churches met to plan and prepare for a new building together. This was a huge step of faith and commitment. God blessed the people and a new Methodist Church was built on the present site, which had been the 'Welcome Home Field' for soldiers returning from the war.

Even this building has since proved too small, as we had a major redevelopment and extension in 1992.

Diamond Anniversary

Our Diamond Anniversary Celebration Weekend is **16 and 17**

November, when we hope that lots of people who worshipped with us during the last 60 years will come and also many present day Highworth folk will join us too. The Sunday service will be at 10:30am and Rev Paul and Mrs Carmel Ashby are returning to lead our praise and worship as we celebrate 193 years since the missionaries first came, but 60 years since the present building was dedicated to the glory of God.

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patients. As a family-focused practice, they also offer free private check-ups for children up to 12 years old when booked with a paying parent or guardian.

To celebrate the clinic's opening, Swindon Dental and Implant Clinic is offering **10% off for all new patients** booking their first consultation. Conveniently located

opposite Morrisons in Dorcan (in Edison Park), this new clinic is the perfect choice for families looking for a trusted, local dentist who prioritises both care and comfort. To learn more or book your appointment, visit their website or call today!

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We are taking new applications for our Pre-School. We have space for children aged 2 starting in January and there are still spaces for 3-year-olds. Please get in touch to book a space to come and visit our fantastic new provision.

In Acorns, the children learn through play with our excellent Early Years Team. The adults support learning and plan engaging activities based around the children's interests. Pre-School take part in wider school activities included Harvest, Christmas and Easter services at the local church.

We have created a warm and welcoming space to allow the children to develop confidence and independence. Pre-School is part of the school and work closely with the Reception Team to ensure the children are school ready.

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Highworth Artists' Society

Firstly, a big thank you to everyone who came to our Autumn Exhibition! There will be news in the December edition of LINK Magazine about our prize winners and hopefully some photos to accompany them.

In the meantime, a further taster session is being offered in the Council Community Room on Gilbert's Lane on **Saturday 16 November**. This will be for beginners and improvers in watercolour and will run from 10am to 1pm. The cost is £10 per person. If you would like to book a place, please use the contact form on our website at www.highworthartistsociety.com. These sessions are popular with both members and the public so please book early! It's a chance to find out more about the medium of watercolour and experiment in a safe environment.

We also have a trip to Bristol on **Wednesday 20 November** to see the RWA exhibition. The cost for this is £30 and is open to non-members. Again please use the contact form on the website to check availability and book a place.



Lastly, we have been reflecting in recent weeks on members who are sadly no longer with us and who are remembered very fondly. Many of these people were local to Highworth and contributed a huge amount to the Society and to the community. If you read this and would like us to mention them in a future article, please contact us with any information and photos you would like to share. Thank you.

Highworth Community Cinema



We will be holding our AGM, which we aim to last no longer than 20 minutes, before our showing on Friday 22 November. We do have vacancies on the committee and if you are interested in supporting us please send me (Debbie) an email or chat to me on film night – you would be most welcome.

Our film for November is 'The Miracle Club'. Set in 1967, the film follows the story of three generations of close friends: Lily (Maggie Smith), Eileen (Kathy Bates), and Dolly (Agnes O'Casey) of Ballygar, outside Dublin, who win a pilgrimage to the sacred French town of Lourdes – that place of miracles that draws millions of visitors each year. Just before their trip, their old friend Chrissie (Laura Linney) arrives in Ballygar for her mother's funeral. The women set out on the journey that they

hope will change their lives, with Chrissie, a sceptical traveller, joining in place of her mother. Along the way, old wounds are reopened, forcing the women to confront their pasts even as they travel in search of a miracle.

90 mins Cert 12

Doors open at 7:15pm for a 7:45pm start. We meet at the United Reformed Church, High Street, SN6 7AG. There is no membership fee. Admission £6 on the door, and 50p for tea/coffee and biscuits.

T: 01793 763907

E: highworthfilms@gmail.com

W: www.highworthfilms.org.uk

Death of the Willow

*Through seasons the willow stood
Its branches extend to quiver in the air
Birds alighted surveying the space
Ready to dash to branch and feeder
Cats in their heyday clambered,
New growth every year green and tender
Its naked strength and stoic sureness
A sense of security,
They came with their machine
Sound of destruction as branches hewed
Gently lowered to the earth.
Final stroke – the poisoned stump
Space now for new plants to flourish
So as boys and girls all must
Like the willow come to dust.*

John Williams

Wantage Orchestra Autumn Concert

Join us on Sunday 24 November, 6pm, at Old Mill Hall, School Lane, Wantage OX12 7LB, for a programme to include Mozart's 'Overture La Clemensa di Tito', Krommer's 'Concerto for Two Clarinets no 2', and 'Symphony no 8' by Dvořák.

Wantage Orchestra are excited to welcome back the acclaimed Oxfordshire clarinetists, Paul Harris and Jean Cockburn, to play Franz Krommer's Double Clarinet Concerto No.2.

Some of our audience may remember their superb performance of Krommer's Double Concerto No. 1 at our Spring Concert in 2022. Here is your chance to hear the virtuosic and lyrical sequel to Krommer's wonderful concerto.

Our second half opens with 'The Off Beat Overture' written by Paul Harris. Paul has many reeds to his clarinet; he is an acclaimed composer, an

internationally renowned music educator and author of more than 600 titles. He originally wrote this overture for chamber orchestra, but Paul has rewritten it to allow a full symphony orchestra to play this delightful and joyous overture. We feel very privileged to be playing this piece with Paul Harris conducting us.

This is followed by Dvořák's 8th Symphony. Written quickly over a summer in Bohemia in 1889. Dvorak's intent was to write a symphony of folk music and song and his 8th has a sense of euphoria and the sheer joy of being alive.

Tickets are £10 in advance, seniors £8, and under-18's are free. All tickets will be an additional £1 if purchased on the night. Tickets are available online at www.wantageorchestra.org.uk, from The Wantage Bookshop or The Regent Bookshop Wantage.

We hope you will come and enjoy our concert.

Highworth Choral Society Singing to Save Lives



2024 is the bicentenary year for the RNLI and we aim to help them raise funds during our usual Christmas concert on Sunday 8 December at 6:30pm. The RNLI selflessly venture out in all weathers, even at Christmas, so please come and enjoy the Christmas music to help us support this worthy cause.

The programme includes carols for the choir, and more well-known ones so you can join in. A drink and mince pie is included in the cost of the tickets, which is £10, with under-12s gaining entry for free. Tickets are available from Visit Highworth (cash only), from members, or email hcssecretary2019@gmail.com.

There will also be a raffle on the night and the RNLI will have items for sale. The first prize of a large oil painting (102cm x 81cm) is pictured and the second prize will be a hamper. Raffle tickets costing £5 will be available at the concert but can also be bought in advance from Visit Highworth.

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Fancy Joining Highworth Camera Club?



Monthly competition winner, Peter Crane

We hope you managed to visit the Club's annual exhibition last month and enjoyed the photographs. Perhaps you felt inspired to come along to club nights and share your images and maybe learn some new techniques.

Earlier this year we looked at the early beginnings of photography – basic black and white. Some members experimented using basic settings on digital cameras to

produce pictures in a small format and printed 6x4 size pictures; there were some interesting results.

Now we are approaching the end of 2024 with final competitions, a Christmas party and award presentations in December. We are looking forward to 2025 with a new programme of projects and events.

Do join us at our club nights **every second Tuesday of the month**. For further information email highworthcamclub@gmail.com, and you can see more images on the club website at www.highworthcameraclub.com.



Photographed by Neil George

Faringdon Writers' Book Fair

Faringdon Writers are holding their annual Book Fair on Saturday 23 November, 10am to 3pm, in the Corn Exchange, Faringdon.

If previous years are anything to go by this event will be packed full of traditional and self-published local authors of fiction, non-fiction and poetry, who are unable to access the more prestigious literary festivals; this fair gives them a chance to showcase and share their amazing talent and work with you.

Books for all ages will be available. There will be something to enjoy for the whole family. Pop a note on your calendar and come along to meet the writers who would love to see you. It might just be the perfect place to pick up that original Christmas gift for a friend, loved one, or maybe even yourself. The Fair will

also incorporate the results of FW Short Story Competition 2024 at 2pm. Come along, hear the winners, and applaud everyone's efforts.

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The Arts Society Upper Thames

We would be pleased to welcome you as a visitor to our November Lecture 'How to Look Slowly: Post Impressionists' with Joanna Rhymer, on Thursday 14 November, 2pm, at Lechlade Memorial Hall.

The wide reproduction of paintings by Georges Seurat and Vincent van Gogh has led to a sense of familiarity and, potentially, a diminished desire to look closely at the real art itself. Yet when van Gogh visited Seurat's studio, he remarked upon the "fresh revelation of colour" in Seurat's work. This presentation aims to rejuvenate our interest in looking slowly with a curious eye to discover how works by both artists were both extraordinary and pioneering. Despite their short artistic careers, both Vincent van Gogh and Georges Seurat made extraordinary contributions to the development of modern art, each through their own distinctive and experimental approaches to picture making.

Since completing an MA at University College London (UCL) in the History of Art: Modernism and the Politics of Representation (1997), Joanna Rhymer has been employed in various roles at the National Gallery including Adult Learning Officer and the Head of Adult Learning Programmes. She has also worked in a freelance capacity; in London galleries and museums including, the National Portrait Gallery, as well as leading group excursions in the UK and abroad. She is currently a Panel Tutor for the Institute of Continuing Education at the University of Cambridge and teaches for the Wallace Collection and the V&A as well as a range of private institutions.

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

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Wrag Barn Golf Club

Thank you Club Captain Shaun Judd for organising a memorable 'Hickory Golf Day' so that we could experience the game of golf the way it was played in the early 20th century. The format was a Texas Scramble in teams of four which gave everyone the opportunity to experience every type of shot with the hickory-shafted clubs, and without having to manage the inevitable wayward outcome. These vintage clubs are often heavier and more flexible than modern clubs, demanding a slower and more deliberate swing – easier for some than others. The teams started on the 1st or the 10th hole so that no-one had to wait too long for results at the end and off we went with two pencil bags per team. We quickly got used to referring to the bomber (our team's favourite driver), the brassie wood, mashie, niblick and putter. Working out the yardage for each club was interesting, but the scores that came



Tim 'hickory smoking' his shot

in were pretty impressive.

Tim won the prize for 'best dressed' in his plus-fours and flat cap; although he couldn't find a diamond patterned jumper to complete the look! The winning team of Shaun Matthews, Jamie Richards, Lee Styles and Lee Welch came in with a score of 60 and in second place were Geoffrey Jones, Andrew Linstead, Jon Slack and Rob Williamson with 62. It was certainly an interesting and enjoyable experience to discover how golf was played in bygone days. I appreciated the simplicity of a pencil bag and a couple of golf balls, but won't be persuaded to surrender my trolley, modern golf clubs, and GPS for now!

If curious about Hickory Golf, I'd encourage you to swing by Timewarp Antique Golf Shop (www.timewarpgolf.com).

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W: www.wragbarn.com

Highworth Running Club

The summer always gives us plenty of scope to expand our repertoire and visit parts of the countryside other seasons cannot reach; the late evenings under the summer's setting skies were no exception again this year. With towpaths and bridleways conquered, our weary but cheery green lane protagonists congregated within many licensed establishments to lament positively on the evening's efforts.

That was then of course, and now is now. November brings a different arena within which we find ourselves circulating. The vests and sunglasses have been put away and replaced with long sleeve thermal tops and hats. Winter is now here and so are the hard yards.

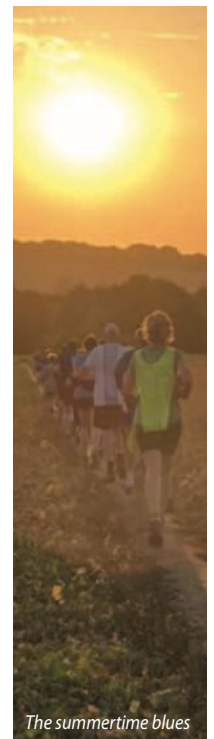
For runners, the winter is the opportunity to rebuild. After a summer of races where personal best times are chased, the biting cold and sleet filled air offer a chance to test ones fortitude and commitment. This is where the fun really starts and the Highworth Running Club have plenty of ways you can find it.

On Monday evenings, those in search of speed training head to Swindon's County Ground track at 6:30pm for approximately five kilometres of creative fartlek (Swedish for 'speed play') training. Wednesday

evenings (also at 6:30pm) range from runs around Highworth to dedicated hill running sessions to circuit training once a month. Saturday is the first time in the week we see daylight when we meet at 9am for a longer more rural outing. Then on the first Sunday of each month, from now until the spring, the club takes part in the Oxfordshire Cross Country League to play nicely with other clubs and find a bit of mud (the courses never disappoint). Remember what's hardest to endure is always the sweetest to savour!

If you'd like to join us, please do look us up on our website where all meeting times and locations are advertised or find us on Facebook, we'd love to meet you.

Jason Daniels
W: www.highworthrunningclub.co.uk
Photograph courtesy of Martin Rye





Our Recreational Summer contestants

Highworth Town Walking Football Club

The Over-65's team went to Nottingham for the National Finals in September, where they played against other Regional Finalists finishing third after a very close-run event. On any other day they could have won but finishing third in the country is still a great achievement. A weekend later the Over-50s ended up fourth, competing in their age group National Finals – another great achievement.

Another weekend later some of the Recreational players across the whole club got together for a very enjoyable Summer Tournament at Grange Leisure Centre, where the teams were made up from men and ladies 50 and 80 years of age.

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

(11am to 12pm), 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 evenings 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. A £4 payment is needed for Thursday and Sunday sessions, and £3.20 for Friday sessions. Ladies' Monday sessions are £3 per session, all payable by credit/debit card only, no cash, direct to the sports centre.

*Graham Seeley
T: 07769 703702*

E: highworthwfc@outlook.com



Swindon Croquet Club

The Golf Croquet Autumn Doubles at Camerton and Peasedown Croquet Club is one of the traditional ends to the season, attracting doubles pairings from across the South West region. This year it attracted a particularly strong field. The Swindon pair of Tony Mayer (pictured left) and Steven Hares (pictured right) won the Plate Final for the second year in succession and they hope to be even better next year!

This is a game of strategy and skill you wish you'd started to play earlier! If you are interested in finding out more or you would like to try croquet you can get in touch using the contacts below or find us on Facebook.

*Wendy White
E: croquetwindon@gmail.com
W: www.swindoncroquetclub.org.uk*

Shrivenham Park Golf Club

We are now well and truly in the winter season; how did the year go by so fast? We are a very busy club, visited by many players and most weeks there are competitions, but our doors are always open to more. All categories of players are welcome, newcomers to the area will be helped to gain handicaps, and we are always on the look-out for more ladies (ladies play Thursdays and weekends).

With ladies in mind, they've recently played in the Wright Memorial, the Silver Bunny, and the Pam Bannister 36 Plus Handicap Trophy, whilst Tracy won September's monthly medal. Winner of the men's September Medal was Dave Staffell who was in good company with Dave Youngs our Senior Medal winner. In the Senior Captain's Cup Richard Edmunds took top

spot with 39 stableford points. At the time of writing many members were looking forward to playing in the annual Adi Betterton Trophy Day that took place last month (to be reported on).

The Clubhouse itself has had its fair share of attention with its entrances now flat to ground level and old decking removed and replaced with slabs creating a much larger and smarter appearance. We look forward to next summer when we can sit out under sunshade umbrellas! Sunday lunches have also returned for monthly guest appearances and those interested are encouraged to contact the club for our winter dates.

We are also proud to host the regular calendar fixtures of 'Parkies Pals' (meeting on the first Tuesday of each month), our 'Social Putters' (meeting bi-weekly on Fridays 10am to 12pm) and of course our Junior coaching, all of which continue to flourish. Please get in contact if you are interested.

But the most heart-warming of all our activities has been the fundraising. Our most recent Macmillan Coffee Morning raised £433.50 and beat our previous total by an amazing amount. We also had pleasure in presenting Pennyhooks Farm Learning Centre with a cheque for £800 (to Lydia Otter and her supporter, middle of picture) courtesy of two raffles and events that took place on our Joint Captain's Charity Day.

Carole Lee
T: 01793 783 853



Highworth Town Football Club

As September came to an end, HTFC sat third in the league after three successive wins in eight days, courtesy of some inconsistent results including home defeats to Roman Glass, Inkberrow, and Royal Wootton Bassett.

We start our FA Vase journey this month at the round of 128 stage and, after our run to the last 16 last season, hopes and confidence are high. To keep up with the latest HTFC news, follow us on Facebook or 'X'.

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A Sweet Tune

I hope you're all doing ok as we go into the cold winter months. However, it isn't all cold and gloomy as you might have things that you enjoy, e.g. playing board games, watching movies, or reading. Some people can do these things for ages like one of my teachers; he can sit all evening reading a book he enjoys and he has even read a whole book in one night!

The thing that calms me down and I most enjoy is music. I can put my headphones on, sit at my desk and listen to music all day if I want to. But what I don't get is what makes it so good and gets me to listen to it 24/7.

Apparently, according to Google, there's something involved in the processing of emotions and controlling memory called the limbic system. It 'lights up' when our

ears hear the music. When you listen to a particularly moving piece of music there's a possibility that you'll feel chills, and it can be good for your wellbeing.

When I listen to music it makes me feel happy and makes me want to dance, but not all songs are happy ones. Some are quite sad, although I like them too and I can listen to them when I'm not feeling as happy as when I listen to other music. I think that's why I'm always listening to music, because I can relate to the songs and match my moods.

I'm looking forward to going into the Christmas season as I can listen to Christmas bangers without anyone telling me I can't!

Sophie Nolan

Better Internet for Highworth



Getting connected to the Internet can happen in several different ways. **Would YOU like a faster connection?**

Q: How do I find out what my current connection speed is?

A: There is a wide spread of available services across Highworth and surrounding villages. Knowing what you have now is an important first step. You can use the QR code or go to www.speedtest.net and click "Go" to run a line test that within seconds gives you your current connection speed. Make a note



Q: Why do I need faster internet?

A: You may just be using your internet connection for sending email, checking websites for services and perhaps connecting your Alexa so it will play songs in the kitchen.

For many, their internet connection has become a vital utility which enables them to do their job, access an almost infinite library of entertainment or connect with loved ones over a video call. All of this requires a good internet connection with a growing demand for services.

What you need to do TODAY!

If you want faster internet today or simply have the option for "tomorrow", please Register an Interest on the Openreach website at www.openreach.com/fibre-checker/express-my-interest-unavailable



Terms Explained:

Standard Broadband: With speeds of 1mb to 20mb, this technology is over 20 years old and uses your existing copper phone line from the exchange.

ISSUE: You may struggle to stream from services like Netflix or Amazon and 4K TV is not possible.

Fibre Internet: With speeds 24mb to 76mb "Fibre to cabinet", it uses your regular copper phone line though has a fibre optic cable running to the green phone cabinet in the road.

ISSUE: If more than one person is wanting to use the internet connection at once, services like Netflix may suffer and uploading/downloading content will still be slow.

Full Fibre Internet: With speeds of 150mb to 900mb, this is the most modern connection now being rolled out in Highworth. Only ~22% of Highworth has this option available to them.

ISSUE: The majority of Highworth does not have this as an option and Openreach are gauging interest before committing to upgrading available services for everyone.

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Saturday & Sunday
starting 2nd & 3rd
November.

We will have some
fabulous gifts, art,
decorations and cards
all made by some
amazing local artists.
Kick start your gift
buying with us
we would love to see
you.

REPRESENTATIVES

News from our New MP

I'd like to thank Rachael of the Highworth's LINK Magazine for allowing me the opportunity to introduce myself as your new MP for Swindon North. I intend to be an MP focused on local issues and whilst I'm sure there will be differences between myself and the residents of Swindon North, I will always take your arguments and concerns seriously and see what I can do as your MP to support you.

By the next General Election I want you to be able to judge me on how I've improved life both in Swindon and Highworth. My focus will be on improving the quality of and access to mental healthcare in Swindon North and providing a greater number of apprenticeships and higher education options for young people and those looking to re-skill. Those opportunities should be here in Swindon and I will ensure businesses see Swindon as the place to invest and grow.



As a first step to supporting residents of Highworth I have been in touch with Openreach due to a number of residents raising the issue of poor provision of fibre broadband in the area. I will continue to lobby for improvements and will work alongside anyone to bring an improved standard of living to the area.

If you or anyone else you know would like to raise any local issues or ask questions on national policy, or simply provide me with your thoughts please see the contact details to contact me and my office below:

Will Stone MP

E: Will.Stone.MP@Parliament.UK

T: 01793 540040

To advertise in The Highworth Link contact
advertising@highworthlink.co.uk or visit
www.highworthlink.co.uk



REMEMBRANCE SERVICES

Sunday 10th November

10am St Leonard's, Blunsdon

10am St John the Baptist,
Hannington

10am St Michael's, Highworth

The service will be live streamed
on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/@stmichaelschurchhighworth9643>

A Concert for Late Autumn

A delightful musical afternoon featuring:

Stonegrey

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

- Or on the Door (cash only please) - Tel: 07756642616 for further information.

In aid of  **FRIENDS OF ANGEL'S ORPHANAGE**
every little helps, every penny counts!

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.



Highworth Christmas Event & Light Switch-On

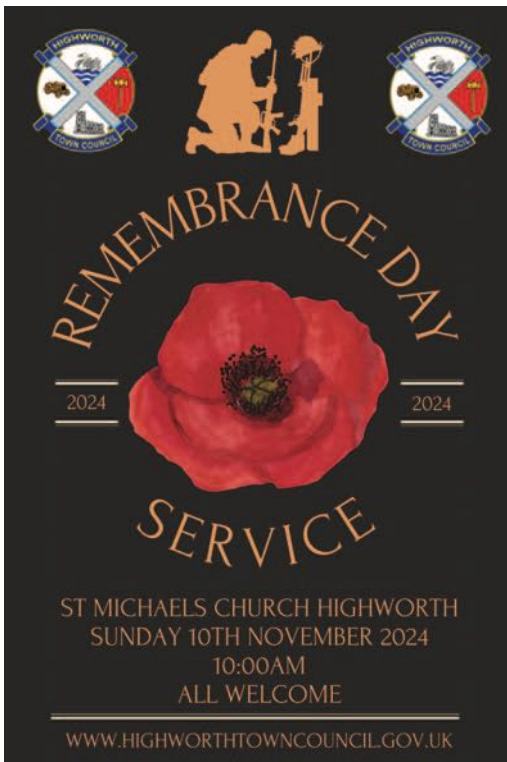
SATURDAY 30TH NOVEMBER 2024
10.00AM - 5.30PM
HIGH STREET HIGHWORTH

- 50 Independent Stalls
- Bar
- Food Outlets
- Photo Snow Globe
- Rodeo Bull
- Fun Fair
- School Lantern Parade
- Elias Performing Arts
- Stuart Gould (Local Author)
- Mayors Christmas Raffle
- Highworth Amateur Dramatics
- Father Christmas on Sleigh
- Live Music
- Chelsea Millard
- Jeanette Etherington
- Ruby Gibbon
- Charlotte Fox
- Southfield Choir
- Westrop Choir
- Forget-Me-Not Choir
- Choral Society Choir
- Highworth Silver Band
- Britannia Majorettes

Competition to win the chance to Switch on the Christmas Lights!



www.highworthtowncouncil.gov.uk



REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE

2024 2024

ST MICHAELS CHURCH HIGHWORTH
SUNDAY 10TH NOVEMBER 2024
10:00AM
ALL WELCOME

WWW.HIGHWORTHTOWNCOUNCIL.GOV.UK

DOWNLOAD OUR NEW APP



Welcome to the Highworth Town Trail App created by Highworth Town Council and Visit Highworth.

Discover the historic hilltop town of Highworth, from being a Cavalier stronghold during the civil war, to the Highworth Post Mistress who was crucial to Churchill's Secret army of resistance. There are tales of ghosts, ties to royalty and a link to one of the most successful musical groups of all time.

We hope you enjoy exploring our wonderful town.







REPRESENTATIVES

News from Highworth's Mayor



I'm thrilled to announce that we have reached a key milestone in our Neighbourhood Plan 2. The draught document is now complete and Swindon Borough Council will soon begin their six-week consultation period before the plan is presented to the examiner. I want to express my heartfelt thanks to everyone

involved; your input and engagement have been invaluable in getting us to this stage.

Over the past few weeks, I've had the privilege of representing Highworth at several events. I attended a Civic Leaders Event at USAF Fairford and had the pleasure of previewing the Highworth Flower Festival – a stunning display of floral arrangements in St. Michael's Church. The creativity and beauty were truly inspiring. Additionally, our Deputy Mayor and I visited Bradford on Avon to receive a presentation on fair trade and the fascinating process of tea manufacturing. If you're not familiar with fair trade, I highly recommend reading up on it!

Here are some dates for your diary! Don't miss the Highworth Christmas Light Switch-On on **Saturday 30 November**. On the Saturday market days, **7, 14 and 21 December**, I'll be serving mince pies and mulled wine. Join me for the Civic Service at St. Michael's Church on **Sunday 2 February 2025** and I'll be hosting the Mayor's Charity Event at Wrag Barn on **Friday 28 March 2025**.

If you'd like me to attend any events, or if you'd like to make a donation to my chosen charity, Highworth Forget-Me-Not, please don't hesitate to contact my secretary at admin@highworthtowncouncil.gov.uk.

Mayor Julie Murphy



Julie at Flower Festival

HIGHWORTH TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN MAYOR & CHAIRMAN

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

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and leave a message

bookings@highworthcommunitycentre.co.uk

CHURCHES

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 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.

Remembrance Services on Sunday 10 November

St. Leonard Blunsdon, St. Michael's Highworth, St. John the Baptist Hannington, all at 10am.

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).

We remember those who love and miss

Roger Green

Anthony Griffiths

We congratulate on their Marriage

Megan Greening and James Springall

Praying for the roads in the town

03 Nov Stranks Close and Stroma Way

10 Nov Swanborough and Swindon Road

17 Nov Swindon Street and Turnpike Road

24 Nov Vicarage Lane and Vorda Road

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www.highworthlink.co.uk

Highworth Methodist Church



What's on
in
November?



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



Sunday Morning Worship @ 10.30am
3rd, 10th, 24th Refreshments served after each service
17th **Church 60th Anniversary Celebration**
with Rev Paul & Carmel Ashby

**Every Friday
9.30-11.15 am**




Craft Group
Tuesday, 5th & 19th
10am-1pm



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

3Cs - Coffee, cake & chat
Wednesday, 13th
2.30pm



CHURCHES

St. Leonard's Parish Church Stanton Fitzwarren

- Saturday 2** Come and help display the churchyard **November** poppies (there are lots of them) between 11am and 1pm. It will be fun for families with young people and children.
- 3 November** Morning Praise, 9:30am
- 10 November** Remembrance Services, 10:55am
Everyone, including children, are welcome to join us at the War Memorial at 10:55am for a short Act of Remembrance service and/or for the quiet reflective service in the church building after that.
- 17 November** Team Service at St Margaret's Stratton, 10am
- 24 November** Holy Communion, 9:30am

The Stanton coffee morning will be held on **Wednesday 20 November** at Stanton House Hotel. We meet at 10:15am for coffee and chat, Mark and Sheila Tubey will be speakers at 11am.

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 open for you to visit.

Please go to www.stantonchurch.info for updates.

WESTERN PLAYERS
Present an amateur production of

A MURDER IS ANNOUNCED

A Miss Marple Mystery
By Agatha Christie
Adapted by Leslie Darbon



7:30pm, Wed 6 - Sat 9 November

Tickets £14, Concessions £12
Booking Line 07575 711522
BoxOffice@WesternPlayers.co.uk

The Arts Centre, Devizes Road, Swindon SN1 4BJ

This amateur production of 'A Murder is Announced' is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd. on behalf of Samuel French Ltd. www.concordtheatricals.co.uk

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



1/11/24 - 3/11/24

*Five years have passed, we miss you every day Mum.
Love Lindsay, Mark, Ben, and Lucy xxxx*

26/11/24

Joyce Ryder

*Remembering a special Mum, Nan and Great Nan
on her 96th birthday. Loved and missed everyday. From
Janice & Pas, Louisa & Chris, Pep, Amy & Carina xxxxx*

26/11/24

Maureen Trollope

*Treasured memories of Maureen.
Forever in our hearts and missed every day.
John, Sara, Paul, Danny, Becky and grandchildren x*

29/11/24

Brian Moody

*Sadly missed by Chris, Dawn, Simon, Emily, Alfie,
Katie, Harry, Barbara, Amy, Harry and Molly.*

30/11/24

Elizabeth Shurmer

*Thinking of you on your birthday.
Missed and loved everyday.
Lots of love Alf, Heather, and families xx*

*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 Friday 25 October for the joint December/January 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

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Westrop Nursery	01793 762897
Westgate Nursery	
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Westrop Primary	01793 762897
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TRAINS

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

OTHER SERVICES

Citizens Advice Bureau	08444 994114
Trading Standards (business)	0207 830 6000
Trading Standards (consumers)	03454 04 05 06
Alcohol and Drug Service	01793 695405
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.

Submission Deadlines:

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

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