



*Highworth*LINK

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February 2024



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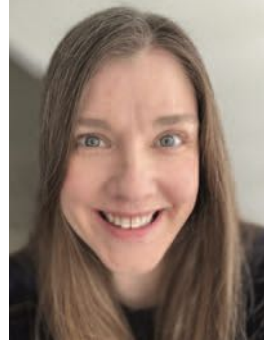


Dear Reader

Last year I tried to get tickets for Jools Holland's Hootenanny. My husband is a big fan (both of Jools and the Hoot), and whilst neither of us are big celebration people, nor New Year's people come to think of it, I nonetheless thought it would be a lovely gift to give him.

Now, I don't want to upset anyone with this shocking information, but did you know that Jools Holland's Hootenanny is actually recorded in November and not beamed out live on New Year's Eve? You're probably a clever clogs and already knew but I only found out a short while back and to say I was outraged is an understatement! I felt somehow cheated. Pretending something is happening when it isn't? Celebrating something before it's happened? Bah humbug! Perhaps unsurprisingly the random draw let me down, and we spent the 12 minutes of 2025 watching the televised fireworks in London. I assume they weren't pre-recorded.

Stepping into a new year can trigger mixed emotions. The fact that 2024 is over could be a relief for you, or maybe it was a good year and that's driving you forward with excitement for all that's to come in 2025. Perhaps you feel both. Here's the thing, and this will likely smack as a cliché but it's worth saying anyway: Life is short and there's no dress rehearsal.



Some time ago I made a resolution with myself and God that I'll keep saying yes to opportunities that come along. So far it's proved mostly positive, and so in 2025 I'm going to keep saying yes to things (so long as they're not illegal...). What do you resolve to do in this coming year? Is it worth getting your diary out and making a note of events that are coming up or new activities you could try? How about grabbing the opportunities and living these next eleven months with curiosity, choosing joy?

Doesn't sound like a bad idea to me.

Rachael



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**HALF TERM
ACTIVITY DAY**



2-4.30pm Thursday 20th February
In St Michael's Church
Craft, activities, cake -free but donations welcome

We'll be serving refreshments throughout the session

Front Cover image: Keith Davidson Photography

FIRST THOUGHTS

I Love You

In the next few days we will see Valentine cards in the shops with many warm greetings and the words 'I love you' and 'Will you be mine' But what do we mean when we use these words? It's all great fun for the young and the not-so-young, and we've giggled as we've wondered from whom an unsigned card has been sent!

God sent an 'I love you' greeting. He made known His love for this world through the pages of the Bible, and He acknowledges His love in lots of different places in His book. His love has the meaning 'wanting the other person's good no matter the cost to yourself.' It's a love that continues to be expressed even when there is no guarantee of a reply.

It's a love which gave His one and only Son to not just live here amongst so many who rejected Him, but to

die a horrible death just to save us from the outcome of our wrongdoings.

God has reached out to us saying 'I love you' and He's still saying it today. 'For God so loved the world that He gave His only son that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have everlasting life.' (John chapter 3 verse 16). It's a love for you and me, a gift for each of us, for each new day.

But, as with a Valentine's Day card, having received the message, what of our reply to Him?

May we all celebrate the wonder of God's love for us as we celebrate Valentine's Day.

Gwen Metcalfe

a member of Highworth Methodist Church

Is Your Wardrobe Winter-Ready?

Everyone has a right to well-fitting clothing, and in the coldest of weather it's important to stay warm and comfortable.

If you struggle with zips and buttons or find that off-the-peg clothing doesn't cater for your body, that can be a challenge.

Contact us at Dressability! We offer bespoke clothing adaptations and alterations for the over 65s, children and adults with disabilities, those with dexterity issues and other specific needs, allowing you to maintain your independence and keep warm in the winter months.

As a charity, our funding allows us to alter and adapt clothing at a subsidised and affordable cost.

Contact one of our dressmakers today on 01793 512878, or email mail@dressability.org.uk.

Helen Shurmer
www.dressability.org.uk



CHARITY QUIZ AND PLOUGHMAN'S

A fund-raising Quiz with a Ploughman's Supper of bread, cheese, pâté, celery, tomatoes, pickles, chutney & butter followed by a selection of delicious home-made desserts

FRIDAY 7 MARCH 2025
Supermarine Football Club
Swindon, SN3 4BZ.
6.30pm for a prompt 7pm start

Enter a team of 4 to 6 people

Prizes for the winning team and the runners up

Tickets: £16 per person

Bar with a limited selection of drinks
Note - cash needed for the bar and the raffle
Raffle with lots of prizes

For more information and tickets contact
Ken Winslow
Email: rotaryswindonnorth@gmail.com
Phone: 07710 228697



An event organised jointly by the Rotary Club of Swindon North and Thamesdown and the Inner Wheel Club of North Wiltshire. All the proceeds will go to the MND Association (Reg charity No. 294354) which focuses on improving access to care, research and campaigning for people living with Motor Neurone Disease. The North Wiltshire Group of the MND Association is run entirely by volunteers all of whom are passionate about providing emotional, practical and financial support to families affected by the disease within the SN postcodes.

Call Out for Drummers and Gigs

We are Bang to Rites Drummers: a not-for-profit, volunteer drumming group based in Highworth. You will probably have seen us (and heard us!) at the May Day Festival last year.

Did you know that we got together as a pagan group, but our first gig was actually for the Christian event Oxjam (Oxfam)? Since then (which has been almost 12 years), we have been doing all sorts of gigs. Birthday parties, Prospect Hospice 'Run The Rainbow', carnivals (Trowbridge and Royal Wootton Bassett), wassails, Stonehenge, weddings, fetes, festivals, art exhibitions. You name it, we have drummed for it!

Covid impacted us significantly, both in reduced gig opportunities and numbers of drummers. We are not professional drummers, nor do we have musical backgrounds; we are just enthusiastic, and our aim is simply to have fun! If this sounds like you and you are over 18, or if you are one of the fortunate ones and

have musical skills to offer, then come along to one of practice nights (alternate Fridays, 7:30pm to 9:30pm) at the Highworth Community Centre.

Our motto is, 'We will drum anywhere and for anyone' and with no charge! So please get in touch with us if you can offer us a gig OR you want to try your hand at drumming!

Contact us via email at contact@bangtorites.org.uk or find us Facebook by searching 'bangtorites'.

Lisa Baskerville



Amnesty and The United Reformed Church

Pens were active again at the URC just before Christmas, tucked away behind its lovely garden in the High Street, to send warm greetings and words of appreciation once again to a small selection made annually by Amnesty International UK from those on their books imprisoned or otherwise persecuted for their beliefs.

We know that these cards, which from all sources can amount to very many thousands, can have an impact for good. They mean that even the darkest forces know that someone is watching, and slowly pressure builds.

This year our cards went across continents to Angola, Argentina, Belarus, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Turkey, and Vietnam. It was heartening that Amnesty also sent details of positive outcomes from previous recent campaigns for 'clients' in Krygystan, Eswatini (formerly known as Swaziland), Myanmar, Russia, and Japan.

Keith Salway

10 km for £10k

I know it was a long time ago, but I just wanted to say thanks to everyone who sponsored me in the Accra International 10 km race which took place on Sunday 27 October last year.

The run was really hard due to the heat, humidity, and burning sun, but knowing there was a lot of sponsorship genuinely helped to keep me going. With the help of many people from Highworth I exceeded my target and raised a staggering total of £10,344

for CAP Highworth. Because of your support many people in the Highworth area will be able to receive the help they need. Thank you.



Stephen Hodgson

Fresh Start with your Local National Trust

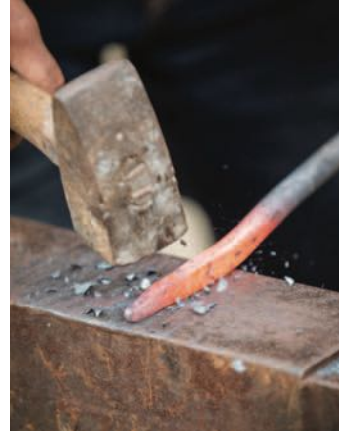
The transition from one year to the next brings the opportunity to look forward and seek ways to enjoy life. New Year resolutions can fall by the wayside, so here are a few ways to find something to do throughout the year.

Learn a new skill at the Heritage and Rural Skills Centre. The 2025 programme is live on the Heritage and Rural Skills Centre website (www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/oxfordshire-buckinghamshire-berkshire/heritage-and-rural-skills-centre). More courses will be added through the year. Last year many people were disappointed as courses booked up quickly, so sign up now.

Donate a book... or two... or three. Books donated to the second-hand bookshop at Coleshill raised over £11,000 between March and December last year. Every penny of this comes back to Coleshill and couldn't be done without our volunteers.

Donate your time. Volunteering for National Trust is

flexible and there are plenty of opportunities to be involved. Our volunteers are an important part of what we do and they are a real part of the team. We are recruiting volunteers for nature projects, visitor engagement, and behind the scenes. Apply through the National Trust website and come in for a chat to see if it's right for you.



Get active outdoors. We have plenty of places for you to explore. A bracing walk on White Horse Hill, a gentle walk around Badbury, or a walk through the Coleshill Parkland ending with a sweet treat at Blake's Kitchen. Please check the website for open routes as we are revising our walk routes around Buscot and Coleshill to make sure they are safe and clearly marked for walkers.

And we have said a fond farewell to General Manager, Christian Walker, as he headed for a new adventure at an estate on the Yorkshire Moors. He is greatly missed.

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Calling all Local Clubs, Societies and Groups!

Visit Highworth provides information for the local community as well as tourists!



We are aiming to build up a database of local groups, clubs and societies that will be available on our website and also in the Visitor Centre. Please send

details of your group, when you meet, and how people can get in touch with you and we will include you! Either pop into the Visitor Centre on the High Street and speak to one of our volunteers or email info@visithighworth.co.uk. We can't wait to hear from you!

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Saturday 15th March 2025



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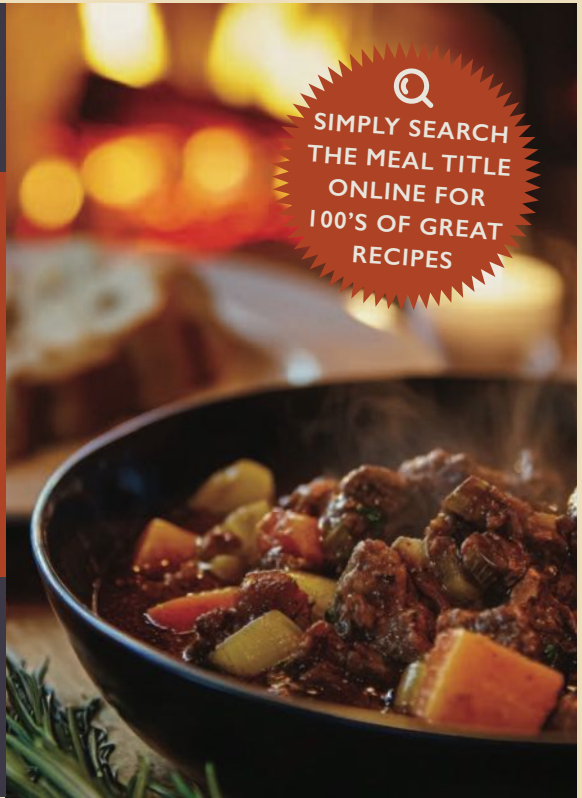
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Highworth Flower Club

On Thursday 6 February 7:30pm at Warneford School, Kate Delve will be presenting to us on the topic of 'She Came Late for Tea'.

Kathryn is a master florist from Somerset specialising in wedding and events using British grown flowers where possible. We hope you will join us in the school hall, with the doors open from 7pm. There is plenty of parking at the school.

Visitors are welcome for £7. For more information contact Michele on 07798 817249 or see our website at www.highworthfloralarts.co.uk.

Lechlade History Society

On Monday 17 February, 7:30pm, at Lechlade Memorial Hall, we have 'A History 'Walk' around Faringdon' by Dr. Mike Wise.

In 1681, Thomas Baskerville described Faringdon as "pretty and well-built with some good inns for entertainment." Dr. Wise will talk about the strategic location of Faringdon as a crossroad and staging post, the history of the buildings and the market, its role in the Civil War, and why Crown Prince Wilhelm and a German delegation met at The Bell in 1909.

Ros Godden

Come and meet
Jesus
Everyone is welcome

Sunday Gathering 10:30am
Warneford School Hall SN6 7BZ
or join our livestream



Highworth Community Church



Registered Charity 1080002
www.highworthcommunitychurch.org

GREGORY'S BOOKS*

'The Snoddy and the Sheeshoo'

Storytelling and Book Signing

Saturday 8 February
10:30am
Gregory's Books, Highworth

Meet local author
Jason Daniels

Bring your copy for Jason to sign
or buy a book in the shop.
Also available at Waterstones and Amazon.

A Snoddy, a Sheeshoo and a Book Signing

'In a land far away in the middle of the sea, there live creatures who look a bit odd you'll agree. On a tropical island they all spend their days, having fun and adventures down in Isaac Bay.'

Come and meet local author, Jason Daniels (perhaps best known to regular readers of LINK as editor of our sports section) on **Saturday 8 February**, from 10:30am, at Gregory's Books on Highworth's High Street, as he reads from his new book, 'The Snoddy and the Sheeshoo'. You'll also be able to buy a copy and have Jason sign it! Or you can buy a copy in advance from Waterstones and Amazon and bring it with you for signing.

Will we see you there? Don't miss out!

GREGORY'S BOOKS*★

Former Pub Landlord Releases Album

Highworth's very own Richard Lowe has long been a local legend in the making. Growing up in the town and studying at Warneford School before working at The King and Queen pub and later becoming landlord, his charm and passion for music quickly made him a fixture of Highworth life.



The Rusty Tubs

After leaving the pub, Richard took his talents on the road as a key member of The Rusty Tubs, a rowdy band of shanty singers and folk musicians with a growing reputation in the sea shanty community. Touring festivals across the southwest of England, Richard has become well known for his rousing renditions of

traditional shanty classics like 'Spanish Ladies' and 'New York Girls', both of which feature on The Rusty Tubs's debut album, 'Rowdy Soul'.

Highworth remains close to Richard's heart and he's proud to carry the banner for his hometown to every stage he graces with his band of scamps and scoundrels. To hear Richard and the rest of The Rusty Tubs in action, you can listen to their new album on all streaming services – just search for 'The Rusty Tubs'.

Michael Lane

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We regret that, due to consolidation of the company, we have now closed the doors of our Highworth branch.

We sincerely thank the local community for your patronage and support over the years.

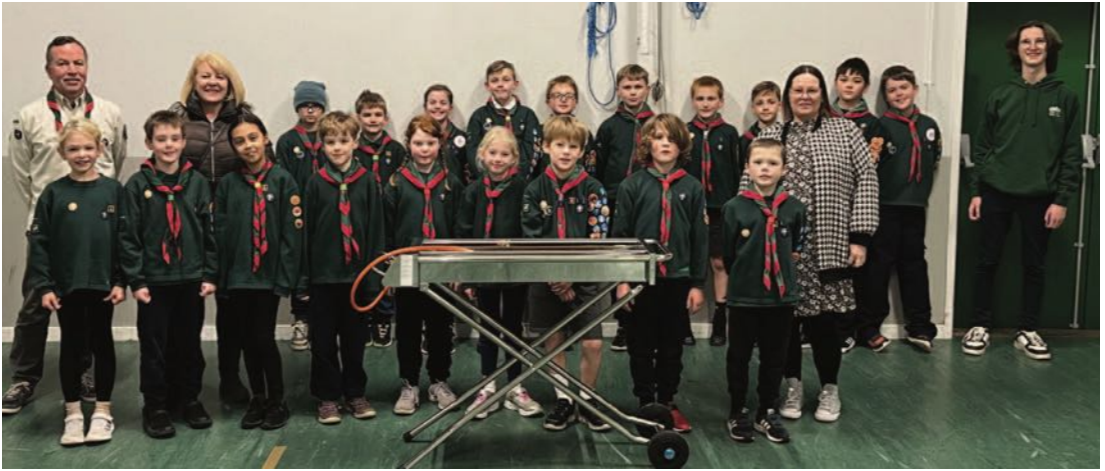
We will continue to serve our valued existing and new clients at our Faringdon and Lechlade office and we are happy to visit you at home if needed.

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CANDRLEGAL.CO.UK

Fundraising Excitement for Highworth Scouts



Scouts Christmas Post

Thanks to everybody who bought stamps for the Scouts Christmas card delivery. We sold 4,405 stamps, an increase of 253 on last year, which was amazing as sales had been slowly decreasing over recent years. Card deliveries were down 20 at 3,553, but the result of all this means we will have raised £1,340 for the group. A huge thank you to Aga and her wonderful staff at The Highworth Emporium in their first year selling stamps for us.

Wrde Up Donation

We recently had a magnificent donation from the old Wrde Up Festival who bought us eight paddleboards and a portable barbecue. This will enable us to offer even more water-based activities and make cooking on camp much easier. The photo shows Chris and Dee from Wrde Up with, appropriately, Wrde cub pack and our spanking new barbecue.

David Roblin

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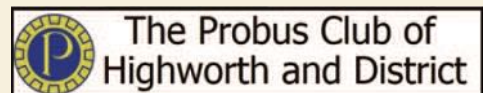
Highworth and District Probus Club

If you are a retired man from a professional or business background, you would be so welcome to join the Highworth and District Probus Club at The Cold Harbour in Blunston from 10:30am on alternate Tuesdays. The Club welcomes guests to any and all of their meetings.

On **Tuesday 4 February**, the topic will be 'Balancing Love and Legacies' by Richard Brewster. **Tuesday 18 February** sees Gordon Land present his talk titled 'It Rings a Bell'. Nick Baxter joins the club on **Tuesday 4 March** with his presentation on 'Wiltshire Churches', and later that same month on **Tuesday 18 March**, 'Consumer's Rights to Repairs' will be the subject brought by Colin Thompson.

For more information please visit
www.highworthprobus.co.uk

George North



A Call to Join Thamesdown Ladies Choir

It is often said that these days things aren't built to last. That certainly wasn't the case back in 1975 when Patricia Langley-Poole started up the Thamesdown Singers, later to become Thamesdown Ladies Choir (or TLC). The world now looks vastly different to how it did back in the 70s, but one thing certainly hasn't changed and that is the ethos behind this very successful ladies' choir – fun, friendship, singing, and raising money for local charities.



Over the years, the choir has moved venues, changed musical directors and accompanists, and learned and performed hundreds of songs across a wide range of styles. Their enthusiasm for singing and commitment to rehearsals has remained constant and they are very proud to be celebrating 50 years of singing.

Their first concert of 2025 will be at St. Michael's Church, Highworth, on **Saturday 5 April**, sharing the bill with Splash of Red from Fairford, and Shrivvenham Ladies Choir.

Singing has many positive benefits for physical and mental health, especially when experienced with others, but the choir doesn't just care for themselves. Many local and national charities have benefited from their generosity during five decades of music making.

TLC are always keen to welcome new members into their 'family' and would be pleased to hear from you if you'd like to know a little more. Or you could come along to one of the rehearsals to experience the 'TLC effect' for yourself. If you don't read music or have never sung outside the car or the shower before, that's no problem. The choir has singers with all levels of musical abilities and backgrounds and meet on **Thursday evenings**, 7:15pm to 9:15pm, at St. Andrew's Methodist Church in Moredon to rehearse.

You can contact the choir through their website: www.thamesdownladieschoir.co.uk, or find us on Facebook. Alternatively you can email the membership secretary at lesley.hemingway@gmail.com.

ADVERTORIAL

The Radnor Arms – A Fresh Start

Welcome to the Radnor Arms, Coleshill, where a warm greeting awaits every visit. Recently redecorated and now presenting our new chef with an exciting new menu, we hope to welcome you soon to sample a completely new experience.

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will be launched imminently and will have a new online booking system which will also be available on our social media platforms.

With new ownership, new staff uniforms, new décor, new furniture, new website, new menu, new chef, new wall images and paintings, we hope you will enjoy a completely NEW experience at the all-new Radnor Arms.



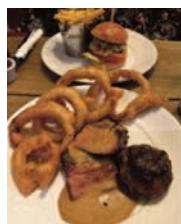
The Radnor Arms Coleshill

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We can't wait to welcome you!

Highworth History Talks

Barry Compton will be giving a talk on Hannington and the Freke family on Wednesday 26 February in St. Michael's Church, Highworth, at 7:30pm.

Barry lived in Hannington for over 40 years, brought up his family there, and taught science at Warneford School for over 25 years before retiring. Almost immediately upon retiring he was asked to take over the post of Clerk to the Trustees of the Thomas Freke and Lady Norton Charity of Hannington, a position he has held ever since.

Barry has always had an interest in local history and enjoyed researching the history of the village and the charity which has existed since 1718. His research led him to write a book on the history of the charity which was distributed during the 300 anniversary in 2018.

As usual, doors open at 7pm for a 7:30pm start. Visitors are always welcome with a charge of £3 (cash only) at the door. If you would like to become a member, £12 covers our nine meetings each year. Tea and coffee is available, and our publications about the history of Highworth are for sale. We also have some second-hand history books.

For more information contact Jayne on 07583 928277, or visit our website at www.highworthhistoricalsociety.org.uk.

Jayne Stephens



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For more information contact Fiona on fiona.ryan@me.com

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Highworth Climate Talks

Butterflies and Bees

Can we solve the pollinator crisis? That's the question Alex Dye from the organisation Farm-Ed will tackle in our February talk. Butterfly and Bumblebee numbers dived in 2024 to make it the year with the lowest recorded numbers.

One of the most common species of bumblebees – the red-tailed bumblebee – had reported population losses of as much as 72%.



With changes to our wildflower-rich countryside over the past century such as farmland intensification, habitat fragmentation, and the ever-changing climate, these insects have more obstacles to overcome than ever before. After a challenging year of weather in 2024, it's no surprise that these insects are struggling to keep their populations stable.

Moreover, pollinators are vital in our food system. The campaign to save butterflies and bumblebees will be key in the coming years. What can we do to help these vital pollinators, as individuals and on a larger scale?

Alex will also tell us about the regenerative farming at the 107-acre demonstration farm.

Join us on **Tuesday 18 February** at 7:30pm at Highworth Methodist Church, SN6 7HG

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Christmas Cake Raffle Raises £262 for Prospect

Highworth Support Group for Prospect would like to say a big thank you to The Old Bakery for the donation of a Christmas cake which we were able to raffle and subsequently raise £262 for Prospect Hospice. The winner with ticket number 166 was a delighted resident of Cobbett Court.

We would also like to thank everyone who has supported our regular monthly Tea & Cake afternoons, which resulted in £810 being raised this year, as well as a further £953 resulting from the craft fair teas and Mayday Teddy Tombola.

Paul Speller

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Board and Card Games with Swindon u3a

If you enjoy playing board or card games with friends the u3a has a lot to offer you.

Beginners and experienced players are welcome in our two Canasta groups. Play with different partners and make new friends. All the equipment is provided. Come and play and chat and have a cup of tea/coffee and a biscuit.



Image: Shutterstock

Our new bridge group is helping its members, beginners and experienced alike, to pick up the game at different speeds. New members are welcome.

Perhaps you'd enjoy a social afternoon playing the popular card game Cribbage. Members of the group make new friends by playing with different partners. All equipment is provided and both beginners and experienced players are welcome. Come, play, chat, have a laugh and enjoy tea/coffee and biscuits.

Play Scrabble in a mixed ability group in Swindon or in Royal Wootton Bassett where other word games are also played in a friendly sociable environment.

Whether you are an experienced player or want to learn, the Mah Jong at Tesco group will welcome you. Join them to play this enjoyable game.

If you enjoy quizzing you can choose from three light-

hearted and non-competitive quiz groups. Members can volunteer to set or run a quiz themselves. And everyone enjoys the fun and socialising.

The u3a is a national organisation, particularly active in Swindon, for people no longer in full-time employment. It offers 130+ leisure groups of all kinds and many other benefits. To find out more visit

www.swindonu3a.org.uk or telephone the office on 01793 614629 between 10am and noon on Monday, Wednesday or Friday. Or find us on Facebook.



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What an Angelic Celebration!

Schools, churches and community groups were invited to take part in December's Angel Festival to celebrate the 60th anniversary at Highworth Methodist Church, and we were absolutely delighted with the response. A huge host of angels arrived to make up the 15 displays from individual crafters and groups across the town.

Displays were made from crafts of the groups' choice. Visitors commented on being amazed to see the range of crafts used and how all the displays were so different; even the angels within the displays had a variety of characteristics.

What a celebration we had, with around 300 visitors joining in. There was such a special atmosphere in the church with all ages enjoying the angels, live



music, refreshments, and craft table. The whole weekend culminated with the church carol service, and it was lovely to have many people returning to join in.

Although the angels have now flown away the memories of this Angel Festival weekend will linger on. We would like to thank everybody who contributed in any way to help make the festival such a success, and also thank everyone who came to support and enjoy the weekend's celebrations.

*Angel Festival Group
Highworth Methodist Church*

*See a photograph of the event organisers
with Highworth's Mayor on page 35.*

Pop-Up Bookshop Pleasure

Pop-up shops are, by their very nature, ephemeral, and by the time you read this we may have already had to say goodbye to our bookshop.

Gregory's Books began to take shape on 19 November when Steve and Sonya very kindly gave us permission to use the former physiotherapy premises on the High Street.

The bookcases went in on 24 November, thanks to the ever-helpful Richard Williams, and the shop opened in time for the town's Christmas Lights switch-on. Left to me, the shop would have been purely functional but Rachael has an eye for beauty, and with the addition of fairy lights and candles it has been transformed into a pop-up bookshop extraordinaire. We were also delighted to have the Highworth Yarny Ninjas showcase their latest creatures in our window.

Why go to all the trouble? As many of you know, my eldest son, Gregory, died early last year leaving behind a myriad of books, along with many role playing games and gaming figures. His brother and I decided to try and sell it all on auction websites and donate any proceeds to charity; Gregory was a generous soul. I mentioned these plans to Rachael and together we



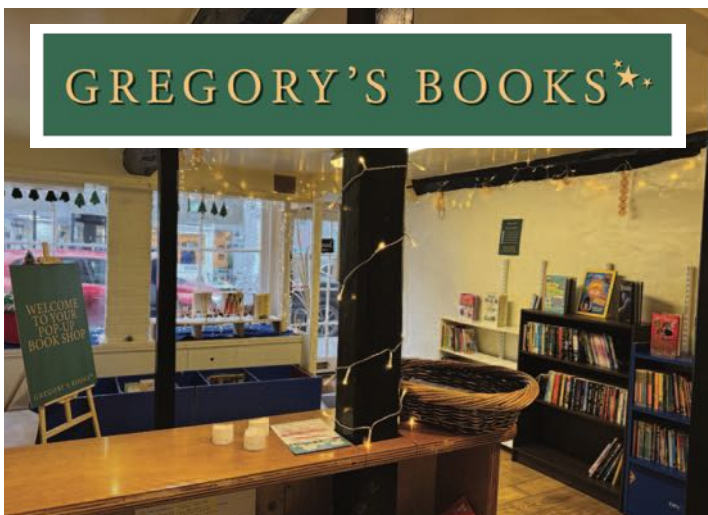
dreamed of a bookshop where we could sell not only Greg's books but also the stacks of second hand books we had accumulated elsewhere. Using Rachael's media skills, the shop was soon advertised on Facebook, BBC Radio Wiltshire, and in Swindon Advertiser.

Has it been worth it? We have been selling a whole range of books mainly priced at 50p with some at £1 or more, and in the 17 days that the shop has been open we have raised £409.70 for local community initiatives. Our footfall has been around 300 people, not counting the three free storytelling sessions (two for adults, and a Christmas story for the children including a visit from Santa.)

Rachael and I have found it an enormous pleasure to be involved. As well as selling books, the shop has been a meeting place, a happy space, a community space. We would like it to be the beginning, but...

To find out more, contact Keith on 07836 382827 or email keith@xcrosskeys.co.uk. You can also contact Rachael through the Highworth LINK Magazine Facebook page or email her at editor@highworthlink.co.uk.

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Highworth Artists' Society

HAS had a successful and enjoyable 2024 with monthly themed painting projects, plein air outings to local beauty spots, a trip to London, demonstrations, and not to forget our spring and autumn exhibitions supported by so many visitors.



As the last weeks of the year drew to a close we started December with our annual Christmas shared meal. Before the eating could start, however, we had a project to complete: painting the mystery masterpiece! Here's how it works. Everyone has a segment of the mystery painting (chosen secretly, photographed, and cut into 20 pieces) to recreate using their paints. To make sure it matches at the end, the squares have to be carefully painted and all is revealed when the numbered squares are pieced together. We think it worked!

We wish all readers a very happy and prosperous 2025 and look forward to seeing you in the New Year.



Highworth Artists' Society's recreation of Paul Cezanne's 'Basket of Apples' alongside the original photograph

The Arts Society Upper Thames

We would love to welcome you as a visitor to our February lecture, 'A Village in Heaven: Stanley Spencer's Cookham', with Amy Lim in Lechlade Memorial Hall on Thursday 13 February, 2pm.

Few artists are as rooted in a place as Stanley Spencer and his beloved home village of Cookham. This Thames-side village was not only his birthplace, his home for most of his life, and even his nickname, but it dominated his imagination and was the inspiration and location for many of his greatest paintings. This lecture will look at Cookham's place in Spencer's art, and how it was central to his unique vision of English domestic and spiritual life.

Dr Amy Lim is an art historian and curator, specialising in British fine and decorative arts from the seventeenth to twentieth centuries. She is curator of the Faringdon Collection at Buscot Park, Oxfordshire, and of the Stanley Spencer Gallery, Cookham, and a tutor at the Oxford University Department for Continuing Education. She was recently an exhibition researcher at Tate, contributing to 'British Baroque:

Power and Illusion' (2020), and 'Now You See Us: Women Artists in Britain, 1520-1920' (2024). Amy has degrees in History and Literature and Arts from the universities of Oxford and Cambridge.

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

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Guardians

Every now and then, one will follow you.
A body of light in the corner of your eye,
A strand of feather brushing your neck.

Sometimes you'll feel a thickening of the air,
A presence beside you as you peel an orange
Or button a shirt, other times, nothing.

They will wait for you,
For a lover to arrive or the kettle to boil.
Biding their time, wrapped in whiteness.

And in that terrible moment,
The one where you will hold your breath,
One of them will step in and breathe for you.

Joanna Sedgwick

A Safety Net of Love

A safety net of love surrounds you
It's above, below, around
It will hold you there suspended
'Til you're on firmer ground.

You are not out there all alone
'though may seem like that for now
Friends are saddened not to help you
But 'tis difficult to know how.

Just say, we will deliver
You only have to ask
To give you strength to carry on
As stressful as is the task.

Our safety net of love surrounds you
We will catch you if you fall
Tough times don't last forever
Calm days and nights return for all.

The safety net of love surrounds you
We know that you will cope
Your friends in love surround you
And will never give up hope.

Rosemary Williams

Thoughts

I started out to do my morning stroll,
ambling slow with my walking pole.
An object was speeding I could not see well,
thought of the saying, 'like a bat out of hell'!
As my eyes started to focus I could now see,
an electrified wheelchair was coming at me.
I stopped and waited on my dodderly feet,
a thank you was said, a voice gentle and sweet.
An elderly lady was driving with consummate ease,
I carried on walking, ignoring aching knees.
A thought in my mind suddenly arose,
when I am able I could get one of those.
I would save all my money, save every bean,
and to get myself a really mean machine.
I could travel faster, a more easier ride.
Have go faster stripes painted on the side.
A very loud hooter to say 'I am here';
it will make sure that my path is clear.
This will give me freedom and lots of joy,
like roller skating days as a very young boy.
Alas the thought fades, life is not what it seems,
I am getting older but I still have my dreams.

Ray Wassall

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New Year and New Programme for Camera Club

At Highworth Camera Club we are trying a new style of programme with an emphasis on practical sessions and different photographic techniques. In January we experimented with 'light painting', the results of which we are waiting to see!

This month members are invited to bring their cameras along to look at menus and buttons that might seem a bit confusing or mysterious! If you would like some help, do join us or come along to any of our monthly meetings.

What follows is an outline of the next six months' programme we are planning alongside monthly print or digital competitions on club nights:

- March External speaker (Hopefully!).
- April Looking at smartphone apps and add-ons, and using phones to take photos.
- May Appraisal of competition entries.
- June Trip out with cameras!
- July Review of projects.
- August Portrait session.

(Programme may be subject to changes.)

The club meets on the **second Tuesday of each month** at Highworth Community Centre (SN6 7PQ), 7:30pm. For more information please email us at highworthcamclub@gmail.com. You can also see more images taken by members of the club on our website: www.highworthcameraclub.com.



Picture of the Year 2024 by Peter Osbourne

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Meet John Williams

I was sipping a coffee in Bloomfields Deli, minding my own business, when suddenly there was a whoosh and I looked up as the door opened. I'd been caught red-handed, munching on an almond croissant, and there was no escape – I'd been John Williams-ed. Quick as a flash, he thrust out his trademark deck of bicycle playing cards, so I ordered another coffee and we were away...



John was born in 1942 in the Rhondda Valley, then a coal mining area in South Wales. "My dad was a miner. I was the only child, so I really the run of things." His flame for drama was lit by Ted, a youth club leader who took a small drama group. "I knew immediately this was what I wanted to do."

Leaving school, John's first job was as a postman. It was very hilly and one day he abandoned a street entirely, stuffing the evidence in his post bag. Not a very promising start.

He then became a hospital porter, rising to anaesthetic technician in his late 20s in Porth, and later in Swindon. It's a role he recalled in the 2020 pandemic when he penned *A Psalm for the Surgical Team*. "A psalm for the technician who operates and monitors the bypass machine during the exchange of blood from the body." His medical career advanced to 'Medical Rep' initially in Essex then in London where he met his wife, Rosemary. They moved to Potters Bar where they had two children, Alastair and Hannah. They now have four grandchildren.

Moving to Swindon, John resumed his hospital work. When the railway works closed, he had a role as tutor for the Third Age First scheme. He took the Further Education Teaching Certificate and held presentation skills classes as well as drama workshops for adults and young people, including the Marlborough Summer School.

Along the way, John's had a few stage and television roles including playing the convincing defence barrister in the

BBC TV production of *Anatomy of a Crime*. John recalls, "Next morning, I was walking up to town and Graham Fry was coming down. 'Hey John, I saw you last night on the television.' That was my famous for 15 minutes. So yes, I have performed, but I prefer directing."

It was a determined decision to study drama that led him to the Licentiate of Speech and Drama at the Royal Academy of Music. "At the examination, they said to me (how's this for luck?) 'We've got a group of students here. Could you direct them in a short scene?' Oh, I just happened to have a script with me: *'Oh What a Lovely War'* by Joan Littlewood. I was in absolute heaven." He went on to examine in England and Ireland. "Hundreds of Speech and Drama candidates have my signature on their reports."

Locally, John has directed for Highworth Amateur Dramatics Society and Lechlade Players (who folded after they lost everything in a fire at the Lechlade Memorial Hall). I've seen the results of his particular talent for nurturing young performers.

Now aged 82, his enthusiasm for drama and zest for life are undiminished. His legacy? "I think I've made a difference perhaps to people's lives, in entertainment and also with my particular skills as an examiner and as a coach."

Adrian Young



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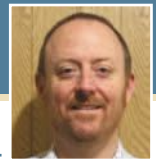
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Highworth Running Club

To celebrate HRC's Ruby Anniversary, 40 years since the first picture was taken of the inaugural pavement protagonists, the current crop re-assembled in the exact same place for a re-taking of it. We were lucky enough to be joined by some previous members as well, and for those with a keen eye, some of the original runners who featured in that first photograph (included in the previous edition of Highworth's LINK Magazine). It was though a little spooky when we realised that there were forty of us! We'll keep everyone posted on further celebrations.

As we look forward to the future there are two key dates to share with you.

Wednesday 5 March sees us launch our 'Couch to 5k' 12-week course designed to get mobile those very unused to running, and able to run continuously for 3.1 miles (the point one is very important). The course will be at the normal club meeting time of 6:30pm every Wednesday, meeting in the Brewery Street car park, and will be led by our qualified coaches separate to the normal running group. As a sneak preview, there'll only be four minutes of actual running on the first session but be prepared – there will be

homework! Namely, two other sessions prescribed for you to do on your own each week. There will be no charge for the course; the club's only aspiration is to promote the benefits and enjoyment of regular exercise. If you are interested and would like more information on what to wear, what to eat, or anything else, please email me at the address below.

On **Sunday 23 March** the club hosts its 38th spring time event, the Highworth 5 Mile Race, starting as usual from Warneford School at 11am. The event is open to both affiliated club runners and to unaffiliated runners keen to test themselves around the infamous course. Every finisher will receive a commemorative medal and there will be plenty of refreshments on sale at the Race HQ. Entries will be taken on the day, but only if the race limit hasn't been reached, so to avoid disappointment please do enter online using the link on our website.

We very much look forward to seeing you next month, whether on our beginners course or at our 5 Mile event.

Jason Daniels

E: jcdsport12@gmail.com

W: www.highworthrunningclub.co.uk



Highworth Town Walking Football Club

If your New Year resolution was to get fit and make new friends why not have a go at Walking Football with the friendly Highworth club. There are men's sessions held on **Thursdays and Sundays**, 11am to 12pm, both outdoors at Grange Leisure Centre in Stratton on their 3G pitches, and a **Friday session**, 11:30am to 12:30pm, held indoors at The Rec in Highworth. The ladies meet **Monday evening** at New College Swindon, 8:30pm to 9:30pm.

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 and pay per session. A £4 payment per Thursday and Sunday sessions, and £3.20 per Friday session; Ladies Monday sessions are £3 per session, all payable by credit/debit card only (no cash) direct to the sports centre. For more information please get in contact with me.

Graham Seeley

M: 07769 703702

E: highworthwfc@outlook.c

Swindon Croquet Club

On a bitterly cold December day, the Swindon Croquet Club held their annual Christmas event. Barbara Smith and Steven Hares won all their games and received congratulations and well-deserved prizes from Chair Clive Smith (pictured in centre).

Swindon Croquet Club are based at Moredon Sporting Hub and will be holding Open Days in 2025, so if you would like to give croquet a try please get in touch with us using the details below or find us on Facebook.

Wendy White
M: 07733 271607
E: croquetwindon@gmail.com
W: www.swindoncroquetclub.org.uk



Wrag Barn Golf Club

Winter golf isn't just about battling the elements. It's an opportunity to enjoy the beauty of a frosted course, the camaraderie of fellow winter golfers, and the satisfaction of finishing a round in a challenging environment. Winter conditions often mean slower greens, damp fairways, and stronger winds, so you need to adjust your game. Winter golf can test your skills and endurance, but with the right preparation it's as rewarding as any summer round. Dressing warmly, adapting your game, and embracing the season's unique challenges are the keys to enjoying this off-season sport. So, grab your gear, layer up, and get out there.

Stay warm.

Verity Manners
W: www.wragbarn.com

Highworth Town Football Club

As New Year arrived HTFC sat in the final league play-off place with 46 points from 26 games. December saw defeats against Westfields and Lydney Town, a draw at Pershore Town and a solitary win against Tuffley Rovers. The team still have interest in two cups, the Hellenic Challenge and Floodlit Cups, so all is still to play for.

Derek Lloyd

Shrivenham Park Golf Club

All the Christmas events took place: the Parkies Pals party; the Social Putters coffee and musical morning (followed by 21 staying on to a Christmas lunch); the Ladies Section lunch; the Club Texas 18-hole competition (and meal); the Seniors game (and meal), and the Junior party. At the latter we announced that the Junior section would appoint a captain for 2025 and this year it will be Laurence. December was a very busy month!

Now for 2025. First and foremost we wish golfers everywhere a Happy New Year. We hope for better weather and look forward to welcoming visitors and members to a pleasant year of golf. Please look at the website for special deals. Shrivenham welcomes everyone and our annual membership is very reasonable.

Ladies are very welcome at all levels of ability and we hope to build up this section this year. We have all matured together and look forward to younger players joining us. Jim, our golf coach, hopes to be running ladies golf coaching sessions so please contact the club for details; the sessions will most probably be on a **Wednesday**.

All other social and Junior coaching will continue (as follows) and we hope we do have something to whet everyone's appetite as we now boast a more user friendly entrance for all.

Juniors meet most **Saturdays** where, due to increasing numbers and abilities, there will be two ability groups: 'Experienced' and 'New Comers'. Parkies Pals will continue to meet on the **first Tuesday of each month** 10am to 12pm and our Social Putters meet twice-a-month on a Friday (see inset) when April launches our afternoon sessions. Ladies play on **Thursdays** at approximately 9:15am, and Senior Men meet on **Tuesdays and Thursdays** from 8am. Those who are only available at weekends will also find a vibrant section. The club is open and ready to greet players every day of the week.

The 2024/25 Captains have their Drive-in at the end of March where Danny and I will be handing over to Pam (a Highworthian) and club manager Stewart.

Happy Golfing everyone.

Carole Lee
T: 01793 783853

2025 SOCIAL PUTTING



AUTUMN / WINTER

Feb 14th & 28th 10 - 12pm
 Mar 14th & 28th 10 - 12pm




SPRING / SUMMER

April 11th & 25th 2 - 4pm
 May 16th & 30th 2 - 4pm
 June 13th & 27th 2 - 4pm
 July 4th & 18th 2 - 4pm
 Aug 8th & 22nd 2 - 4pm
 Sept 12th & 26th 2 - 4pm

Come along and putt a few holes and stop for a cuppa and a chat. Clubs, balls and score sheets provided. £2 per person.

Ring Carole Lee for more information : 07467 657 964.



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Hobbies

What do you like to do in your spare time? I like to draw, and I could draw for hours on end. I love art so much. What is your hobby?

A hobby is something you enjoy that can take up some of your free time. Hobbies can also be challenging; challenging hobbies are the best hobbies as they challenge our brain and tricky hobbies are fun. Here are some ideas for hobbies you could do to challenge your brain:

- Draw a picture.
- Read a book.
- Do some baking.
- Make your own dinner.
- Sew something.
- Try a new craft.
- Write a story.
- Do some gardening.
- Make something nice for a loved one.
- Do jobs you've been putting off.
- Research something that interests you.
- Go outside and admire nature.

There is so much to do – why not look away from your phone for a day and do something new and spontaneous?

Before I go, let me ask: how was your Christmas? What foods did you eat? What presents did you get? I hope you are having a good start to 2025!

Have a brilliant February and I'll see you in March!

Constance Davenport







**SATURDAY MORNING
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10AM - 12PM**

8TH FEBRUARY

Highworth Methodist Church



What's on in February?

**Café Church
Sunday, February 2nd
at 10.30am**

"Greatness"

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

Sunday Morning Worship @ 10.30am

2nd Café Church – Greatness
9th R. Phoenix-Stone
16th Rev Shirlyn Toppin
23rd Adam Longhurst

Refreshments served

**Every Friday
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www.facebook.com/HighworthMethodistChurch

3Cs – Coffee, cake & chat

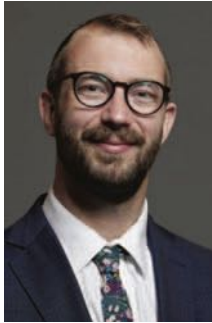
Wednesday, 11th
2.30pm

News from our New MP

As the new year begins, I'd like to use this column as an opportunity to cover some of the work I and the government have been doing, focusing on the effect on Highworth and the wider town.

Residents of Highworth have been in touch with me about concerns over policing and anti-social behaviour since I was elected last July and, as such, I joined the APPG on Policing to ensure that the policing within the UK meets the demands of Swindon North constituents. One of these demands is that the men and women who work in our police force are kept safe. There have recently been several assaults against officers which is entirely unacceptable, but these assaults also highlighted to me the need for alternative training provisions that may keep officers safe.

I've established a Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu (BJJ) training programme, led by a professional BJJ competitor, that



will be trialled in Wiltshire Police with the express aims of keeping officers and those they arrest safe. In other countries, BJJ, a technique to safely grapple opponents, has been utilised to, in some cases, reduce officer injuries by 48%. It is my hope that the programme I am working in will show similar reductions in injuries thus keeping officers safe.

Residents have also reached out to me about the negative effect of electric scooters on our communities and so I am working with the police and other partners to launch countermeasures for these issues too. The people of Highworth and Swindon North should feel safe in their communities and that remains my objective.

If you'd like to get in touch with me or my team about this issue or any other, please do so via will.stone.mp@parliament.uk.

Will Stone MP



Angel Festival Organising Committee with Julie: Helen Curtis, Diana Bores, Cynthia Fitchett, Chris Latimer



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Sponsor a Defibrillator

Highworth Town Council is urging local businesses to take an active role in safeguarding the community by sponsoring a life-saving defibrillator. Defibrillators are crucial in responding to cardiac emergencies, where every second counts. Sudden cardiac arrests can happen anywhere, and having immediate access to a defibrillator can significantly improve survival rates, potentially saving a life.

Highworth currently has 12 defibrillators, but only 7 are accessible 24/7. We are also looking for potential locations, ideally on the outside of a building which would be accessible 24 hours a day. The defibrillator will require a small amount of electricity to remain operational, but the ongoing costs are minimal. In return, your business can display a plaque or signage, showcasing your support for this vital initiative.

To ensure comprehensive coverage, we need more units available at all times, each defibrillator costs approximately £1,500.

Businesses sponsoring a defibrillator will not only be contributing to public health but also demonstrating a strong commitment to community welfare.

By stepping forward, you can make a real difference in our town, for more information or to express interest in sponsoring a defibrillator, please contact the Town Clerk at clerk@highworthtowncouncil.gov.uk. Together, we can ensure our town is equipped to handle cardiac emergencies and protect the lives of residents and visitors alike.



Highworth Events 2025

Dates For Your Diary

02
FEB Civic Service



28
MARCH The Mayors
Charity Event



03
MAY Highworth
May Day



08
MAY VE Day 80



07
NOV Highworth
Fireworks



29
NOV Highworth
Christmas Event &
Light Switch-On



The Mayor of Highworth invites you...

MAYORS CHARITY Event

Friday 28th March 2025
at Wrag Barn Golf Club
7pm until midnight

Two Course
Meal, Coffee
& Mints



Music by The
Rogues Band

Come along for a fun evening all in the aid of the Mayors Charity, Highworth Forget-Me-Not. Tickets now on sale £32 per ticket contact

Highworth Town Council

richard james

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Old Golf Course

Park Avenue

Swindon Road

REPRESENTATIVES

News from Highworth's Mayor



A huge thank you again to all the businesses and residents who supported my chosen charity, Forget-Me-Not, during the Christmas Light Switch-On and Saturday market for mince pies and mulled wine.

I have recently attended:

- The opening of United Kochi restaurant on the High Street which offers delightful tastes of South India.
- The Highworth Choral Society concert in aid of the RNLI.
- The magical Old Town Enchanted Light Trail.
- The County of Wiltshire carol service, hosted by the Lieutenancy Office.
- The Highworth Camera Club awards evening.
- The Friendship Friday Christmas party with the Forget-Me-Not group.
- The beautiful Angel Festival at Highworth Methodist Church to help celebrate 60 years of worship. The festival showcased a stunning array of angels created by 15 community groups, including two schools.

Key Notices:

- Residents are encouraged to comment on the next stage of the Neighbourhood Plan before it goes to the examiner. You can read more on page 39.
- Tickets are now on sale for the Mayor's Charity Event to support Highworth Forget-Me-Not at Wrag Barn on **Friday 28 March**. Highworth and District Lions will be providing a minibus. Tickets are £32 which includes a two-course roast meal, coffee, mints and a five-piece covers band. Tickets are available from Highworth Town Council, 3 Gilbert's Lane, or by calling 01793 762377.

Dates for your diary:

- **Saturday 3 May:** Highworth's May Day Festival.
- **Thursday 8 May:** Highworth's VE Day celebrations from 12 noon to 9:30pm.

If you would like me to attend an event or you would like to donate to my chosen charity, the Forget-Me-Not group who support people struggling with the effects of dementia, forgetfulness or loneliness, please contact my secretary at admin@highworthtowncouncil.gov.uk

Julie Murphy, Mayor

HIGHWORTH TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN MAYOR & CHAIRMAN

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

DEPUTY MAYOR & VICE-CHAIRMAN

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01793 266473 Mob: 07880 793062
anthony.houghton@highworthtowncouncil.gov.uk

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07850 468095 simon.apps@highworthtowncouncil.gov.uk

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07743 859874 gemma.dennis@highworthtowncouncil.gov.uk

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07821 937159 ian.durninduffy@highworthtowncouncil.gov.uk

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Steve Weisinger, 8 Barra Close SN6 7HX
01793 764668 Mob: 07791 122843
sweisinger@swindon.gov.uk

Richard Williams, 7 Park Avenue SN6 7AW
07789 781151 richard.williams@highworthtowncouncil.gov.uk

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ngardiner3@swindon.gov.uk

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Public Consultation



**Available to view
Fri 13th Dec 2024 - Fri 7th Feb 2025**

Have your say on important planning policies that will shape the future of Highworth, Sevenhampton & Hampton

This is a Public Consultation by Swindon Borough Council and is the next stage of our Neighbourhood Plan.

Highworth Town Council as the relevant qualifying body has prepared and submitted a neighbourhood development plan proposal under Part 5 Regulation 15 of The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) for Highworth Neighbourhood Plan area. Please note that Highworth currently has a made Neighbourhood Development Plan but have reviewed this plan which has been identified as Highworth Neighbourhood Development Plan 2.

Consultation on the submitted Highworth Neighbourhood Plan 2 is open from Friday 13th December 2024 to Friday 7th February 2025.

For details on submitting your representations visit:

www.swindon.gov.uk/info/20019/consultations_engagement_and_surveys
or email forwardplanning@swindon.gov.uk

Alternatively, written letters can be handed into Highworth Council Offices

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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 held during this service, with refreshments being served after the service.

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.

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

Jane Bateman	Duncan Baylis
Stella Chapman	Patricia (Ann) Cox
Raymond Stratford	George Seagroatt
Andrew Wicks	

We welcome in Holy Baptism

Amari Holmes

Praying for the roads in the town

02 Feb	Bute Close and Bydemill Gardens
09 Feb	Cherry Orchard and Church View
16 Feb	Coffin Close and Copper Beeches
23 Feb	Cotswold Way and Crane Furlong

St. Leonard's Parish Church Stanton Fitzwarren

2 February	Morning Praise, 9:30am
9 February	Family Service, 11am
16 February	Team Service (Please check website for place and time.)
23 February	Holy Communion, 9:30am

Stanton Coffee Morning will be held on **Wednesday 12 February**, from 10:15am, at Stanton House Hotel. Our speaker this month is Charlotte Stansfield. Everyone welcome.

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

Please go to www.stantonchurch.info for updates.



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



*31/1/25
David Cox*

*Remembering a dearly loved husband and father.
From Shirley, Nicola and Neil*

*7/2/25 – 9/2/25
Clive Angood*

*In loving memory of Clive Angood on his
birthday weekend
Loved and missed by Christine and family*

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 31 January for the March publication.

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

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USEFUL CONTACTS

LOCAL CONTACTS

EMERGENCY

Police, Fire, Ambulance	Emergency 999
Gas	Emergency 0800 111999
Electricity	Emergency 105
Water	Emergency 0800 3169 800

NON-EMERGENCY

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

BUSES

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

COLLEGES

Cirencester College	01285 640994
New College Swindon, Queens Road Campus	01793 611470
Swindon College Campus	01793 491591

LAW & ORDER

Crimestoppers	0800 555111
Victim Supportline	0808 16 89 111
Action Fraud	0300 123 2030

COUNCILS

Highworth Town Council	01793 762377
Swindon Borough Council	01793 463000
Streetsmart	01793 445501

FIRE SAFETY

Home fire safety check	0800 389 7849
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DOCTORS AND HOSPITALS

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

LIBRARY

Highworth Library	01793 463500
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RECREATION

Highworth Rec	01793 762602
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PHARMACIES

Highworth Pharmacy	01793 762220
Home Farm Pharmacy	01793 861392
Jones Graham Pharmacy (Shrivenham)	01793 783336

PRESCHOOL/NURSERY

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

SCHOOLS

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

TAXIS

Veezu	01793 701701
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TRAINS

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

OTHER SERVICES

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

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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.

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