

# *Highworth***LINK**

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



April 2025



# COTSWOLD LUXURY KITCHENS

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## Dear Reader

Back in October, my (long-suffering) husband and I planted 200 daffodil bulbs in our front lawn. He's used to my harebrained schemes, but even for me this was slightly grandiose. You see, we live in a small house with a patch of grass at the front and side, and I had this romanticised vision of a field of daffodils sprouting up right in front of the kitchen window. I mean, daffodils are just so friendly, aren't they?

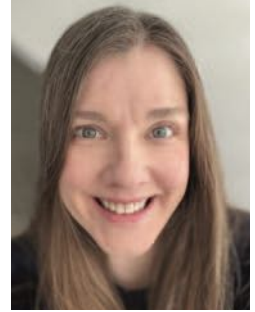
Adopting the Monty Don approach to planting bulbs, we duly tossed them randomly across the grass and planted them where they landed. We developed a good rhythm: Mr. Smith made the hole with the bulb planter and I dropped a bulb in the hole, back-filling it with the plug of soil. Poor Mr. Smith developed blisters and I had backache, but I'm delighted to report that the daffodils are indeed friendly and making me very happy.

The interesting part of this story is that, unbeknownst to me, not all the bulbs were planted. Only the other day I found a rogue bulb which had been lying all

winter at the base of the hedge without soil or water. And yet, miraculously, the bulb had sprouted. Packed inside every bulb is the desire to grow. A bit of warmth, a bit more light, and all the growing cells had been switched on to do what they've been made to do. Nonetheless, without nourishment, the dormant daffodil didn't get very far. Most of its planted siblings are around 30cm tall whilst this forgotten one is standing on its tiptoes to get to 7cm.

My point is this: Whilst we contain the basic elements to grow in this life, we can't flourish without nourishment. We need the right conditions to be the best we can be. Bulbs need soil, water, heat and light, whereas people arguably need aspirations, community, love and a sense of value. Thriving, not just surviving.

As this spring sunshine warms the air, take a bit of time to read this issue of LINK and see if there's a place where you can set down your roots to flourish.



*Rachael*



Services at  
St Michael's Church

**6th April**  
10.15am Morning Worship

**13th April - Palm Sunday**  
10.15am Holy Communion

**16th April**  
11am Midweek Holy Communion  
*Coffee and cake served  
from 10.15am prior to the service*

**17th April**  
7pm Maundy Thursday

**20th April - Easter Sunday**  
10.15am Holy Communion

**27th April**  
10.15am Morning Worship

## Highworth and District Probus Club

We meet at The Cold Harbour in Blunsdon on alternative Tuesdays at 10:30am and welcome retired professional and business men. We also welcome visitors as guests at any of our meetings.

On 1 April we have Brian Paulton with us to talk about 'Before and After Hercules'. 15 April sees Michael Colley as our guest with his presentation 'It's in the Blood'; and Toby Leathart will be with us on 29 April talking about 'Coincidence or Not'.

You would be so welcome to join us. In the meantime, take a look at our website for more information: [www.highworthprobus.co.uk](http://www.highworthprobus.co.uk).

*George North*

Front Cover image: Congerdesign from Pixabay

## See Things in a New Light

**“My ears have heard of you, but now my eyes have seen you.”**

These are the words of Job, a Bible character who featured in a recent school assembly. Job suffered greatly as a test of his loyalty to God.

Job's fate seems cruel. He's a good man who has everything but suddenly loses his family, his business, his home, his health and his reputation and even his commitment to his faith is questioned by his well-meaning but unwise friends.

When I talk to people about God, one of the most common responses goes something like: "I'd love to believe in God, but He can't be real because, if He was, bad things would not happen in this world/to my loved ones". There is something about suffering that makes us ask ultimate questions and even form ultimate conclusions. But perhaps there is another way of looking at this?



April brings with it Easter, a time where Christians remember and celebrate the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. In the death of Jesus, horrific as it was, we see that God was not immune from suffering, but gave up His Son. God was so determined to restore His relationship with His creatures that He came himself, in the person of Jesus, to put right what we had got wrong, so that we could have a restored relationship with Him.

It was after Job had suffered, and had a conversation with God about the meaning and purpose of his life, that he was able to say that he had encountered God in a new way. Enduring suffering and processing it with God had somehow made his faith in God more real than it was before.

This Easter, I invite you to not just to hear the story of Jesus' death and resurrection, but to see it through new eyes.

*Jon Hares, Highworth Community Church*

## Championship Cat Club Show



Join us on Saturday 10 May for the 23rd Championship show of the Black and White Cat Club in Wootton Bassett Memorial Hall, Station Road, Royal Wootton Bassett SN4 8EN.

This show caters for Persians, Exotics, British Shorthairs/ Longhairs, Selkirk Rex and

Chartreux in all patterns and colours. Also non-pedigree cats in any colour.

We will be open from 12:30pm to 4pm with good refreshments, very varied stalls and a raffle. There really is something for everyone, not only cat-lovers!

Don't miss this show! Adult tickets are £4, concessions £2 – cash only please. There is plenty of parking available. All enquiries to Show Manager Barbara McEwan on 01362 562135 or email pennydown.cats@btinternet.com.

*Bryony Duncan*



Highworth Twinning Association

**Visit to our Twin Town of  
Pontorson**

**Thursday 29th May to Monday 1st  
June 2025**

**£225 per person including ferry from  
Portsmouth**

If you would like more details, please contact Richard Pearce on 07513 009044 or rjinpearcehta@gmail.com

## Big Highworth Community Foundation

On Saturday 29 March we held our inaugural Annual Community Awards at Wrag Barn and it was a splendid evening. We will share photos from the event in a future edition of LINK Magazine. We were delighted and humbled to have gained sponsorship for the Awards from:

Wiltshire Windows; Wrag Barn; Hilliers Funeral Services; Keith Davidson Photography; Minuteman Press, and Eco Signs.

Join us for our May Day Stall in Highworth on **Saturday 3 May**. This year we have a medieval themed Lego stall with a draw to win some fabulous prizes. Any children attending our stall dressed in medieval dress will receive a little something. We need volunteers on the day to fill various slots from 8am to 5:30pm, so if you can give a little of your time please email [highhighworthevents@gmail.com](mailto:highhighworthevents@gmail.com) or send us a message via our Facebook page.



Remember our goal as a community charity is to support all charitable activities within Highworth. The more we raise the more we can give to support locally. What comes into us goes out to you! One way to support us and find out about what's going on is to follow us on Facebook.

Finally, it is time to say goodbye to one of our founding trustees and our treasurer, Russ – we will all miss him on the team. Russ has been an exceptional treasurer and we thank him for all he has done to help us get Big Highworth off the ground. He hands over the role of treasurer to our new trustee Jayne and we welcome Jayne to the team and know our charity remains in excellent hands.

We are looking forward to a great 2025 and we thank you all for your continued support.

*Alison Cross-Jones*

## Highworth Flower Club

On Thursday 3 April we will be hosting our Competition Night, with drinks and nibbles, at Warneford School, 7:30pm.

Learn something new and enter one, two, or three competitions at an informal and fun evening. If you just want to watch and chat over a drink that's fine too.

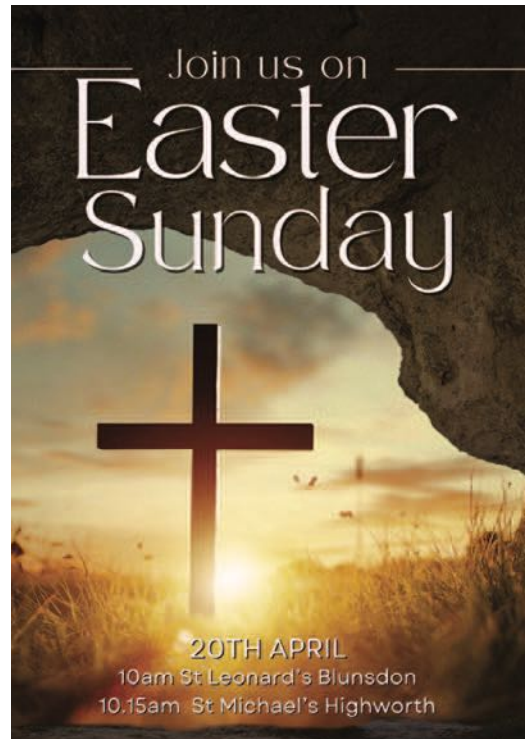
The competitions are:

1. Bring a ready arrangement of any design, max. size 30x30x30cm, to be viewed all round.
2. Do leaf manipulation on the night with help from Margaret.
3. Make a miniature arrangement on the night with help from Teresa.

A list of simple requirements for competitions 2 and 3 are available on our website: [www.highworthfloralarts.co.uk](http://www.highworthfloralarts.co.uk).

Doors open at 7pm, with plenty of space in the school car park. Visitors are welcome at a cost of £7.

For more information contact Brenda on 07781 6790130.



## From the Rector's Pen



**As a person who struggles with words and remembering names, I am also fascinated by them.**

The word 'Easter', for example, is an interesting one. Initially thought to derive from the name of the Anglo-Saxon goddess Eostre – goddess of spring and fertility, whose symbol was a rabbit which laid eggs (that's where our Easter eggs come from) – that idea has largely been debunked and instead most scholars believe the word comes from a Latin word for 'dawn' (meaning 'resurrection' or 'new life'). Eostur-monap (Easter month) was the Anglo-Saxon name of the month which we now called April, so the festival of Easter may just be named after the month it usually fell in. I much prefer the French word 'Pesach' which is derived from the Hebrew word for Passover; a festival which Jews hold to celebrate the release of the ancient

Israelites from Egyptian enslavement, as they remember the Holy Spirit passing over their homes before their escape from captivity.

It was also at the Jewish festival of Passover that Jesus was arrested, tortured, and slain on a cross, taking upon himself the sins of the whole world and setting us free by paying the price for our wrongdoings. Then on the third day he was raised by God from the tomb, demonstrating God's power over sin and death.

However you choose to celebrate Easter this year (20 April in case you need to mark your calendar), take a moment to reflect on both the good and bad things you might have done; and where you could ask for and receive forgiveness.

"Joyeuses Pâques," or, as the Greeks say, "Καλό Πάσχα."

*Rev. Phil Goodey*

*Rector for Highworth, Broad Blunsdon and Hannington*

## Enjoy Literature with Swindon u3a

**Do you love literature? There are several u3a groups which could interest you.**

If you enjoy reading you might like to join a book group; each group has a different approach. Typically members choose a variety of books and meet monthly to discuss them. The various reactions to the books make for lively discussions, all in an atmosphere of fun and friendship. Reel Books watch films based on their chosen books. The fortnightly Literature Group follows an Open University course on a 19th century novel and its legacy.

Perhaps you are interested in drama. If so, the Play Reading Group could be for you. Members take the

roles of characters in a play and read out loud from the scripts. A wide variety of period and modern plays are covered and you don't need experience in drama to join, just an interest in plays and theatre.



The Poetry Appreciation Group enjoys reading poems aloud and discussing them. Members choose poems to a set theme or form (such as narrative, sonnet, sad or funny) and also discuss the life and times of the poets. And at the Reading Shakespeare Group members enjoy and learn more about Shakespeare's writing.

If you like writing, why not try our Creative Writing Group? Members are encouraged to write something on a particular theme each month and read it to the group. Supportive feedback is given so that everyone can learn from each other, all helped by tea and biscuits, of course!

The u3a is an organisation for people no longer in full-time employment. To learn more about it and the 120+ leisure activities it offers, visit [www.swindonu3a.org.uk](http://www.swindonu3a.org.uk) or telephone the office on 01793 614629 between 10am and noon on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Or visit our Facebook page.

*Sue Mazzoleni*



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VISIT APRIL - OCTOBER  
THURSDAYS, FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS  
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[kelmscottmanor.org.uk](http://kelmscottmanor.org.uk)

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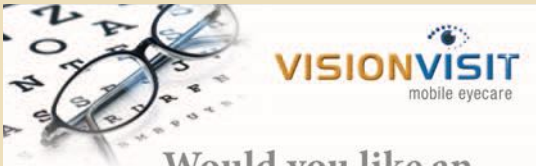


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We regret that, due to consolidation of the company, we have now closed the doors of our Highworth branch.

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

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## Meet Venkat

Fresh from his studies in International Business Management at Preston, Venkat moved from the Lake District to Highworth in December 2023, taking on management of our rebranded High Street general store Londis (formerly McColl's) just when the refurbishment started. After three weeks of frantic fitting out, Londis opened its (new) front door to astonished customers.

I was one of the many who had not really used the store much before. To be honest, I'd found it a depressing place. The front door handle was always loose and sometimes fell off. Everything about the old store said 'starved of investment'. And then Londis arrived. I was impressed to learn that Londis, with some 2,300 UK outlets, scooped the Retail Awards in 2024 as Symbol/Franchise Group of the Year. Londis is backed by the UK's largest wholesaler, Booker Group.

Shop assistant Alison is well known to customers, having worked at this site for four years; arriving a while after McColl's was blighted by a fire. As she showed me around, her big smile revealed her pride in this place. I was rather gobsmacked by the chilled drinks room. And the carefully co-ordinated display space for general store items is impressive too. It's all logically arranged; even a bloke can easily shop here!

Strong on shopkeeping, Alison had a list of what they offer, so here goes...

The basics are covered; groceries, household goods, fresh fruit and vegetables, eggs, bread, dairy, cakes,



Shop assistant Alison and store manager Venkat

Photo: Adrian Young

chocolates, sweets, newspapers, magazines and greeting cards. And for the snackers; prepared sandwiches, hot dogs and sausage rolls. They've squeezed in an Amazon Pick-up Point and you can send parcels with PayPoint, pay bills and top-up your mobile phone. They offer newspaper deliveries and National Lottery sales are coming soon. It's a lot but it's miraculously spacious and uncluttered. "What about home deliveries?" I asked. "Yes," Venkat replied quick as a flash, "we can arrange that with Just Eat."

Londis shows how easy it is to live well in Highworth by supporting our diverse range of entrepreneurial town centre traders. Look out in particular for those stores, like Londis, that are investing in our fine town.

Adrian Young

## South Marston Gardening Club

**On Monday 7 April speaker Nick Gilbert will give a presentation on 'The Gilberts Dahlia Year'. Get an insight into what goes on throughout the year to produce, grow and care for wonderful dahlias. If you have any questions on dahlias, Nick will be able and happy to answer them for you. At the end of the evening dahlias will available to buy.**

Remember we have our summer Produce Show on **Saturday 16 August** where you can showcase your own dahlias!

New members are always welcome for an annual membership fee of just £15 or you can pay £5 at the door for a one-off visit. Refreshments are included and there is an optional raffle.

We meet at South Marston Village Hall and there is parking available on Old Vicarage Lane, next to the school.

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

## A Term of Flames, Fun, and Fantastic Performances

As we wrap up another exciting and enriching term at Eastrop Infant School, we'd like to tell you about some of our highlights. From engaging in historical explorations to hands-on learning experiences, the children have made significant strides in their academic journeys.

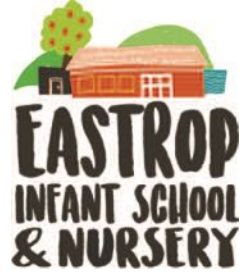
### A Journey into History: The Great Fire of London

This term, the children embarked on an immersive learning experience focused on one of the most important events in British history; The Great Fire of London. Through a series of interactive lessons, they uncovered the causes, effects and aftermath of the fire that devastated London in 1666. Through reenactments and creative projects, the children were able to grasp the scope of the disaster while appreciating the resilience of the people who helped rebuild the city.

### The Fire Truck Visit: Learning Through Action

One of the most exhilarating experiences of Term 3 was the visit from the local fire department. The

children were given the unique opportunity to explore a real fire truck up close and personal. The highlight of this visit was when the students got to try their hand at using the fire hoses, working together in teams to aim and spray water. It was a fantastic way to connect their learning about fire safety and the Great Fire of London to real-life firefighting practices.



### Squirrels and Foxes Class Performances: A Creative Take on History

Two incredible performances brought the story of The Great Fire of London to the stage. Both Squirrels and Foxes classes performed outstanding assemblies in front of their parents, showcasing their creativity and newfound knowledge of the historical event. The children were involved in every aspect of the performance, from writing scripts to creating costumes and props. They brought the story of the Fire to life with vivid scenes depicting the chaotic moments of the blaze, the efforts of Londoners to escape and the eventual rebuilding of the city.

It's been another fantastic term filled with learning, laughter and lasting memories. We are incredibly proud of the students' efforts and look forward to seeing what they will achieve in the future!

*Julie Warburton, Executive Head Teacher*

A poster for Allsorts Dance Classes. At the top, it says 'Highworth Northview Community Centre'. Below that is a logo for 'Allsorts DANCE' featuring stylized figures in grey and orange. A red starburst graphic contains the text 'Come along and give it a try. It's Fun!'. Underneath, it lists 'CLASSES' and provides details for two classes: 'Adult Mixed Ability Tap' on Thursdays from 6:00 - 6:40pm, and 'Adult Mixed Ability Ballet' on Thursdays from 6:50 - 7:50pm. At the bottom, it says 'For more information contact Gemma on j\_turland@hotmail.co.uk'.

**Highworth Northview Community Centre**

**Allsorts DANCE**

**CLASSES**

– PAY AT THE DOOR FOR YOUR FIRST CLASS –

THURSDAY  
**Adult Mixed Ability Tap**  
6:00 - 6:40pm

THURSDAY  
**Adult Mixed Ability Ballet**  
6:50 - 7:50pm

For more information contact Gemma on  
[j\\_turland@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:j_turland@hotmail.co.uk)

### Team Effort from Scouts and Cider Project

First Highworth Scout Group would like to express its thanks to the Highworth Community Cider Project following its generous cash donation to the Scout Group.

The Scouts have previously helped collect apples to support the Cider Project and had a great time doing it. It is a great example of local organisations working together to help and support each other.

*Phil Kruse, Chair of Trustees  
1st Highworth Scout Group*

## Run for Parkinson's UK

On Sunday 27 April I will be running the London Marathon, raising money for Parkinson's UK. This is a charity that I have a strong personal connection with as my dad was diagnosed with Parkinson's around eight years ago.

Parkinson's is a very complex condition with a multitude of varying symptoms. It seems to affect both the young and old, and the progression varies from person to person. It is therefore crucial to continue the research into the disease and to hopefully one day find a cure.

I am hoping to raise as much money as possible to ensure that this charity continues its vital work and support for people like my dad. If you would like to donate, please visit my fundraising page <https://events.parkinsons.org.uk/fundraisers/HelenJones/london-marathon-2025>.

Thank you!

*Helen Jones*



## North Wiltshire Royal Aeronautical Society

**Are you interested in the history, current and future, of aviation? If science, engineering exploration, or history interests you, why not come along? We welcome all ages from 14 upwards.**

The North Wiltshire branch of the Royal Aeronautical Society (RAeS) meets at the Deanery C of E Academy, Peglers Way, Swindon SN1 7DA on the **first Wednesday of the month** at 7:30pm.

We are proud to have many world leading experts talk to our branch and this coming season is no exception. Annual membership costs £20 (free for under-18s). Why not come along to a lecture and see what we have to offer free of charge (one lecture), where a member of the committee would be pleased to tell you more about the branch.

Our lecture programme for 2025 is as follows:

- 2 April:** Ms. Amy Labrum – Director of Operations Apian, 'Drones and the NHS'
- 7 May:** Mr. Mark Jabbal – Principle Investigator: WingPulse, 'WingPulse: Advancing Active Flow Technologies for More Efficient Aircraft'
- 4 June:** Mr. Grant Lewis – Project Manager Lockheed Martin. 'Space in the UK.'

- 2 July:** Mr. Gianluca Maestri – Senior Master Planner Heathrow, 'Future Heathrow Infrastructure'
- 3 September:** Dr. Johnathan Ayling – 'First Waltz-Building Blue Danube: Britain's First Atomic Bomb'
- 1 October:** Mr. Russel Porter – Head of Future Flight Engagement NATS, 'The Future of Flight over the UK'
- 5 November:** Sqd. Ldr. (Ret'd) Wally Epton – British Business and General Aviation Representative, 'Corporate Flying'
- 3 December:** Mr. Nathan James – Chief of Aerostructures, 'Cranfield Aerospace Solutions, Project Fresson: Hydrogen and Aerospace'

Interested in coming along? Contact our membership secretary Howard Chandler at [howard.chandler@raes-volunteer.org](mailto:howard.chandler@raes-volunteer.org).

*Colin Irvin, Lecture Facilitator North Wiltshire Royal Aeronautical Society*

## Jane Bateman, 1945 to 2025

**Relatives and friends of Jane Bateman were very saddened to hear that she had passed away suddenly on New Year's Day at her home.**

A Service of Thanksgiving for her life was held at Kingsdown Crematorium on Friday 31 January, led by the Rev. Stuart Fisher, and the eulogy was given by her son Simon along with his brother Matthew. Both were overwhelmed to see so many people present.

Jane had recently joined the group from St. Michael's Church monthly Communion Service and she

regularly helped with refreshments.

Jane had been a dedicated volunteer who helped at the schools the children attended. She also joined the Speed Watch team in Highworth, and enjoyed knitting poppies for the beautiful display in St. Michael's Church in November.

Jane was a very kind and loyal friend to many and will be greatly missed.

Our thoughts are with her husband Keith, her two sons Simon and Matthew, two daughters-in-law, and her grandchildren.

*Mair Huband*



## New Book Club Brings Local Readers Together

Literature lovers in Highworth have a new hub for discussion and discovery with the launch of the Highworth Book Club. Led by local resident Dan Head, the club held its first official meeting on Thursday 20 February at Chloe's Bakery on Highworth's High Street, marking the start of an exciting new chapter for local book enthusiasts.

The group's first book choice, Beautiful Ugly by Alice Feeney, sparked lively discussion among attendees, with members sharing their thoughts on the novel's twists, themes and characters. The club is open to readers of all ages and backgrounds, whether they are seasoned bookworms or looking to rekindle their passion for literature.

Dan Head, the club's founder, expressed his enthusiasm for the initiative; "Highworth has a fantastic community spirit and a book club is the perfect way to bring people together. Whether you enjoy thrillers, classics, or contemporary fiction, this is a space for everyone to share their love of reading and discover new books along the way."

Moving forward, the community-led initiative will meet regularly to discuss a new book each month with members having the opportunity to nominate and vote on selections. The group also plans to explore themed discussions, author events and collaborations



with local businesses to further enrich Highworth's literary scene.

Anyone interested in learning more about the Highworth Book Club can join the conversation via the club's Facebook and WhatsApp groups. Alternatively, email [dan@love-struck.com](mailto:dan@love-struck.com) for more details. New members are always welcome!

*Dan Head*



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## Should Children Wear Uniforms at School?



Year 5 children from Southfield Junior School have worked incredibly hard this term preparing a thought-provoking debate on the topic of whether children should be required to wear school uniforms.

Their efforts were showcased at a competition held at Haydonleigh Primary School in Swindon, where they presented their arguments against school uniform to other schools within the Grove Learning Trust (of which Southfield is a part). The children not only demonstrated excellent oracy skills but also engaged with other schools by asking insightful, challenging questions during their debates. The afternoon was a fantastic opportunity for the children to confidently communicate with peers they had never met before, showcasing their ability to



Children from Southfield Junior School with Mrs. O'Sullivan (l) and Miss Painter (r)

think critically, display their excellent oracy skills and work as a team. It was a truly memorable and rewarding experience for all involved.

*Miss Painter (year 5 /6 teacher)*

## 11th Lechlade Annual Vintage Rally and Country Show

You're warmly invited to our Rally, Country Show and Craft Fair between **Saturday 3 and Monday 5 May** at Langley Farm, Langley Lane, Clanfield OX18 2RZ. Open from 10am each day.

Come and see: Classic cars and motorcycles; commercial vehicles; collections; children's fun fair; tractors; model tent; classic caravans; craft tent; military vehicles; craft fair; trade stands; auto jumble; and a car boot sale. Refreshments will be available all day along with a raffle and tombola.

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In the Ring on **Saturday 3 May** will be Angels for Animals Fun Dog Show and Britannia Majorettes. Highworth Silver Band will be playing in the beer tent. On **Sunday 4 May**, the National Animal Welfare Trust Fun Dog Show will be performing in the Ring, whilst on **Monday 5 May** the National Animal Welfare Trust will have plenty for you to see and you'll be able to listen to the toe-tapping music of Kencot Ukulele Players in the beer tent.

Car parking is free and well-behaved dogs on leads are welcome.

We are also able to offer all weekend camping for £18 per night which includes free entry to the rally. To book, go to the website ([www.lechladedcollectorsclub.co.uk](http://www.lechladedcollectorsclub.co.uk)) or email us for a form at [info@lechladedcollectorsclub.co.uk](mailto:info@lechladedcollectorsclub.co.uk). You can also contact us on the telephone at 01993 843221.

Admission is £6 for adults, £4 concessions; and under-16s gain entry free of charge with a paying adult.

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*Margaret Gruber  
Rally Co-organiser*

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## Life as a Military Spy

Upper Thames and Ridgeway National Trust Association (UTRNNTA) invites you to a talk on 'Life as a Military Spy' presented by Peter Williams, on Thursday 17 April, 2:30pm, at Lechlade Memorial Hall.

Peter Williams spent four years in Berlin in the 1980s as an officer in BRIXMIS, the British Military Liaison Mission to the Soviet army in East Germany. At that time and throughout the Cold War British, American and French liaison teams took part in unarmed three-man patrols which took great risks to check on the readiness for war of the Soviet and East German armed forces beyond the Iron Curtain. Peter will describe extraordinary activities that were shrouded in secrecy at the time but which have been declassified and revealed to the public in recent years.

£5 for UTRNNTA members, £6 for visitors. For more details, check our website: [www.utrnnta.co.uk](http://www.utrnnta.co.uk).

Do you wonder what we do? Why not join us and find out? Come along to our coffee morning on **Monday 7 April**, 10:30am, at Hilliers Garden Centre, Lechlade.



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## Highworth Climate Talks

Our group has been going since October 2023 and we have hosted some fantastic speakers covering a wide range of subjects, from sewage pollution and the venality of the water companies, to our speaker last month from FarmEd who provided a fascinating insight into British bees and butterflies, their lifecycles, and how essential they are as pollinators of our food crops.

We have a surprise speaker for April but you can be assured of the quality of the information and following discussion.

Along with Joy Corrigan and John Ranford, we set up the talks as we became aware that more and more people were increasingly concerned about climate change and biodiversity loss and wanted to make changes but were unsure what would be most effective or convenient for them and their lifestyles. There is much greenwash around products and it can be very unclear which lifestyle modifications will prevent the most carbon emissions. What is clear is that everyone can do something and no matter if it seems like a drop in the ocean, the ripples spread and together we can have a great impact.

If you are looking for good news on the energy transition, this 20-minute YouTube video by Simon Clark is great to watch, but we must not become complacent: [www.youtube.be/h1jOqyjC04g](http://www.youtube.be/h1jOqyjC04g)

Highworth Climate Talks are held on the **third Tuesday of the month** at Highworth Methodist Church and are free to attend, although donations are always gratefully accepted. Refreshments are available from 7pm and the talks start at 7:30pm, finishing around 9pm. We look forward to seeing you there.

*Helen Harris (07775 362132)*

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## Spring into Nature with the National Trust

In keeping with the joy and opportunity spring brings, there is plenty to explore and take part in at the National Trust this April.

Ashdown House is now open. Explore the grounds and take in the ornamental garden and landscaping. Our guided stairs and roof tours take place on **Wednesdays and Saturdays**. See Elizabeth of Bohemia's family portraits and views across three counties. Please book through our website.

Take a tour of Coleshill and see it in a new light. There is a new guided tour this year: 'Secrets of Coleshill'. Bookings are open for tours starting on **Thursday 17 April**, running from 1pm and 2:30pm on Thursdays and Saturdays. Discover secrets of the estate's history and have a behind-the-scenes look at the Heritage and Rural Skills Centre. Please be aware the walk includes a long incline.

Come along on **Sunday 13 April** to our Village Open Day and learn about what Coleshill has to offer.

Take in the hidden British wartime history with the replica WW2 operational base. Take a tour of the Victorian farm history and see the exhibition about craftspeople inspired by and from Coleshill; see how it is being kept alive by our current craftspeople. No need to pre-book.

Families are invited to take the Easter Trail at Chastleton (near Stow), open from **Friday 18 to Sunday 20 April**. Or be 'Inspired by Nature' at Chastleton House. See the floral designs in the house that were inspired by the natural world. The trail is running until **Sunday 27 April**.

For your calendar: 1940s Day at Coleshill is **Saturday 6 September** this year.

We look forward to seeing you there!

AS, Marketing Volunteer





## Save The Date...

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### 10am - 12noon

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## Successful Year for Highworth Community Larder

I am delighted to report another successful year for HCL: The Charity Commission accepted our application to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation; we have saved over 23,000kg of food from landfill; and we are now planning to expand.

Highworth Town Council has kindly agreed to HCL using a room on a Wednesday morning as a drop-in café, offering a warm and welcoming space to visitors. It will also give us the opportunity to offer any surplus food left from our Tuesday larder.

Needless to say, expansion means more helpers are required. We are looking for volunteers to collect donations from supermarkets (Friday to Mondays), help in the larder (Tuesday morning between 7:15am and 10:30am) and eventually help in the drop-in café (Wednesday morning between 9am and 12 noon).

If you are able to offer any help or would like further information, please contact us in person at the larder or by email at [highworthcommunitylarder@gmail.com](mailto:highworthcommunitylarder@gmail.com).

Please note a change in hours from **Tuesday 8 April**. The larder will be open every Tuesday morning at Westrop School from 8am to 10am.



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## Gregory's Books Lives On

Many of you were saddened to hear about the closure of our pop-up shop, Gregory's Books. It's safe to say we're missing you all! Whilst our charity shops have secondhand books to buy, we know Gregory's Books was popular for having that singular focus.

Did you know that books are available to purchase at the Community Centre down on The Dormers? If you've never been, take a diversion on your way home and drop in to see the hundreds of books available.

There are some incredibly kind people in Highworth and lovely Rob from The Old Bakery is one of them. He's offered to have some of our books on the shelves in the café, so next time you're on the High Street and passing The Old Bakery pop in for a look.

All books are priced at 50p and you can simply drop your payment in the honesty box. Remember all the money raised goes to support local community initiatives.

*Keith Smith and Rachael Laing Smith*

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## Swing Birds Celebrate a Decade of Music

Join Swindon's only all-female big band for a live performance in aid of the Prospect Hospice at The Deanery CE Academy, Swindon on Sunday 27 April.

The idea for Swing Birds was hatched in 2014 by local musician Mo Squires. Her intention was to bring together local musicians and fulfil her lifelong ambition of playing in an all-female lineup, inspired by bands such as Ivy Benson's. What began as a one-off performance quickly gained popularity with both the band and audiences. Ten years later Swing Birds are still together, boasting a loyal and enthusiastic following and having a fantastic time!

In June 2024, Mo sadly lost her battle with endometrial cancer. The Prospect Hospice were compassionate and supportive and provided Mo with exceptional care during her final months at home, in hospital and in her

**IT'S BEAN 10 YEARS!**

Join Swing Birds as they celebrate their 10th Anniversary. Their spontaneous energy & seamless blend of classic, traditional & blue tunes create an engaging experience for every audience. Whether you're an old hand jazz aficionado or a musically curious first-time listener, you'll find part of the story & leave with a big smile!

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final hours at the hospice in Wroughton.

Consequently, when Swing Birds decided to organise an annual birthday concert in her memory, choosing Prospect Hospice as this year's charity was an easy decision.

Every member of Swing Birds has experienced Prospect's incredible assistance in one way or another and they are immensely thankful for the care their Bird-in-Chief received.

On the night, Swing Birds will revisit their favourite music from the past ten years, including some of Mo's favourites and a couple of new numbers to keep everyone on their toes. Also

appearing on the stage will be some very special guests; some who have played with them before, some new to the Birds' audience. As well as tried and tested big band melodies, Swing Birds are delighted to feature exceptional arrangements by talented local musicians, with new pieces being premiered at this event.

Tickets are available at £12.50 and can be purchased online at [www.ticketsource.co.uk/stardustevents](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/stardustevents). There will be plenty of parking on site. Fully accessible (flat access) front row seats will be available in the auditorium. For more details leading up to the event follow Swing Birds on Facebook. Whether you're a regular Bird Watcher or new to their sound, the evening promises something for everyone! Come along for an unforgettable evening of live music, delivered with the unique flair, elegance and humour that only Swing Birds can offer!

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## What is the Rotary Club?

**Rotary is one of the largest and most successful membership and humanitarian service organisations in the world. It has 1.2 million members in over 200 countries and began in 1905 in Chicago.**

The first Rotary Club in Swindon was chartered in 1926 and 40 years later a second Club was formed: the Rotary Club of North Wiltshire. Its first meeting was held in the Blunsdon House Hotel and it still meets there today, now called the Rotary Club of Swindon North and Thamesdown.

What does Rotary do locally? It has supported the Prospect Hospice ever since its formation in 1980 and it kicked off the £3m appeal for Prospect's new building in Wroughton in 1994. It contributed £1m towards the £3m Brighter Futures Appeal for the Radiotherapy Centre at the Great Western Hospital and has organised seven Poppy Balls at STEAM, raising tens of thousands of pounds for the Royal British Legion and other charities. It has also supported hundred's of local charities.



Around the world, Rotary promotes goodwill, understanding and fellowship by bridging cultures and connecting continents. In the last 100 years, the Rotary Foundation (Rotary's own charity) has spent five billion US Dollars on life-changing, sustainable projects all over the world.

Rotary's global community responds rapidly when human and natural disasters strike. It is fighting disease in developing countries; its key humanitarian priority since 1985 has been to rid the world of polio. Then there were over 1,000 cases a day paralysing and killing children in 125 countries, but thanks to Rotary's 'End Polio Now' campaign the number of cases today is down by 99.9%.

Rotary fulfils its purpose and achieves its goals thanks to the dedication of its members. If Rotary interests you, please get in touch by telephone: 07710 228697 (Ken), email: [rotaryswindonnorth@gmail.com](mailto:rotaryswindonnorth@gmail.com), or take a look at our website: [www.rotaryswindonnorth.org.uk](http://www.rotaryswindonnorth.org.uk).

*Ken Winslow*

## Highworth Historical Society

**Our next talk is on Wednesday 23 April when Jon Radcliffe is our speaker. He will speak on 'Plans for Swindon Which Never Happened'.**

A local photographer, Jon delves into the plans for Swindon that didn't make it to the drawing board, from Victorian New Swindon modernisation and post-Second World War grand boulevards to the bold visions of the present day. Be taken on a tour of some very different ideas for the town that's always got change on its mind.

As usual we will meet in St. Michael's Church with the talk starting at 7.30pm. Visitors are always welcome for a charge of £3 (cash please) at the door. Tea and coffee are available. Our own publications are on sale along with second hand history books.

If you need more details contact Chris on 01793 764811.

*Chris Suter*

## Do you have an Hour a Month to Spare?

The Highworth LINK Magazine has been at the heart of this community for over 50 years. We rely solely on volunteers to ensure the magazine is delivered to every home in Highworth and the outlying areas. In fact, you wouldn't be reading this if it weren't for the small army of people who are committed to ensuring the magazine is delivered free of charge.

We're all so busy these days, I get it, but if you fancy feeling warm and fuzzy knowing you're involved with something which makes a difference to so many, get in touch with me at [editor@highworthlink.co.uk](mailto:editor@highworthlink.co.uk). I'd love to have you on board.

We really need you.

*Rachael, Editor*



# Charity Success for Roxi Foundation

We're thrilled to announce that The Roxi Foundation is now officially a registered charity! This is a huge step forward in our mission to support children and families impacted by autism and ADHD in Swindon.

At The Roxi Foundation we believe that every child deserves access to the right support, no matter their circumstances. That's why we focus on funding private assessments for autism and ADHD, reducing long wait times and ensuring families can access the diagnoses they need to unlock vital support services. Alongside this, we're passionate about community events, advocacy and promoting understanding and acceptance of neurodiversity.

But we can't do it alone, and that's where you come in!

We're looking for individuals and local businesses to get involved by hosting



(l to r) John, Matt and Rachael

fundraising events, sponsoring initiatives, or taking part in exciting challenges to help us reach even more children in need. Whether it's a charity event, a sponsored run, or a corporate partnership, your support will make a direct impact on families in our community.

Supporting The Roxi Foundation isn't just about giving back – it's about being part of a movement that's changing lives.

Businesses that partner with us can showcase their commitment to social responsibility, engage with the local community and make a real difference where it matters most.

Want to get involved? We'd love to hear from you! Contact us at [contactus@theroxifoundation.co.uk](mailto:contactus@theroxifoundation.co.uk) and let's create something amazing together.

*Matt, John and Rachael*



# Overwhelming Support for VHL

The committee and volunteers of Visit Highworth say a huge thank you to the amazing people who have made financial donations to enable us to continue to provide the tourist and information service and to all of the hundreds of residents who signed the petition following the withdrawal of funding by Highworth Town Council.

We hope that you will continue to support us by coming in for information or to browse the lovely crafts, become a regular supporter, or volunteer. Please email [info@visithighworth.co.uk](mailto:info@visithighworth.co.uk) for further information on how to get involved.

Following our very popular Paint and Prosecco

workshops we will soon be introducing a range of one-off and four-week courses in watercolours and acrylic painting, photography, crocheting and jewellery making. Please call in or email for further information.

We also have Art and Literature Festival information coming very soon!

Once again, thank you for your support – it is good to feel so appreciated!



*Iona Sadler*

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## A Fantastic Start to 2025 for Lions Charity Shop

In January, after the volunteers all had a well-deserved break over Christmas and New Year, we held a fabulous toy sale generating a huge amount of interest with sales going through the roof! February was also a winner with our Valentine's promotion; all our lovely donations – Valentine's cards, hearts and flowers, and beautiful ornaments – sold out very quickly.

Thursday 6 March featured our ever-successful World Book Day, with free books for children for the whole week; and we're now looking forward to an excellent Easter promotion with bunnies and baskets galore.

A huge thank you to Carol Barrett for our fantastic window displays, and to our volunteers and drivers of the Lions minibus as they continue to support Forget-Me-Not with their luncheon clubs and additional outings.

Recent Lions support:

- CAP donation – £600
- St. Michael's Church Boxes of Hope – £500
- LCI Disaster Flood appeal (Spain/America International) – £1,000
- Highworth Sports Centre Diving Club (new winch support) – £1,120
- LCI Stoves for Ukraine – £1,500
- Christmas vouchers for the elderly in Highworth – £5,000
- CAP local family support for white goods – £200
- Air Ambulance – £1,500



We are also helping with clothes for Ukraine, delivering to SHAP (Swindon Humanitarian Aid Partnership) and children's books to 'Heart for Philippines' where we have an outlet to deliver books to the schools.

*Sue Subow*

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## Heartwarming Act of Kindness from Just Gents

On 7 February, Just Gents in Highworth, run by the amazing Richard Wilson, held a charity event called 'Cut for a Cause'. The whole community came together, and it was nothing short of inspiring!

Just Gents is known for offering affordable haircuts for men, women and kids, with the bonus of free parking nearby. But what makes it extra special is how welcoming Richard is – especially for neurodivergent families. With his own lived experience, he understands how stressful haircuts can be for some people and always makes sure his clients feel comfortable and at ease.

For this event, Richard generously donated every penny from haircuts and tips to The Roxi Foundation, a local charity that helps fund private ADHD and autism assessments. His motivation? His own journey as a dad to two wonderful boys, aged 7 and 9, both diagnosed with autism. After facing long NHS waiting times for assessments, Richard and his wife, Laura, saw firsthand how the right support changed their sons' lives. Now, they want to help other families access the same opportunities.

"The community's support has been overwhelming," said Richard. "It's been amazing seeing everyone come together for such an important cause."

The shop was buzzing all day with people getting haircuts, knowing their money was going towards something truly meaningful. The event raised over £327, making a real difference in spreading awareness and supporting families.



Richard Wilson with the cheque for Roxi

Keep an eye on The Roxi Foundation's website ([www.theroxifoundation.co.uk](http://www.theroxifoundation.co.uk)) and Facebook page for more fantastic events. And if you missed this one, don't worry – there are still ways to support our mission.

A huge thank you to everyone who made this day so special. Highworth, you've outdone yourselves!

*John Morgan, Co-founder*

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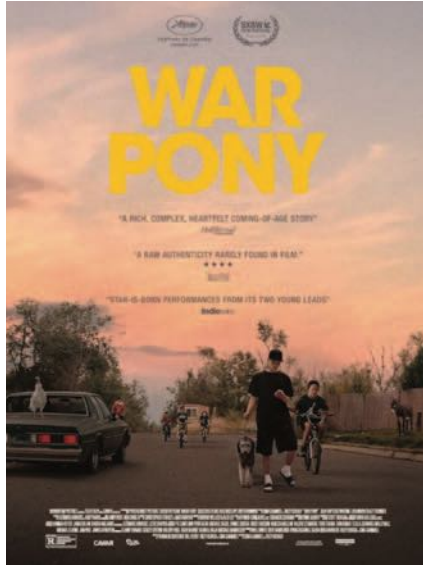
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website - [www.highworthchoral.org.uk](http://www.highworthchoral.org.uk)

## Highworth Community Cinema

Our current season comes to an end in April with the showing of *War Pony*. We will then be spending the summer putting together the programme for the new season commencing in September. If there is a film you would like to see please send us an email with your suggestions for our consideration.

Join us on **Friday 25 April** at the United Reformed Church, High Street, for a 7:45pm start.

Stunning and utterly compelling, *War Pony* (cert. 15) tells the interlocking stories of two Oglala Lakota men coming of age on the Pine Ridge Reservation. At 23, Bill just wants to make something of himself. Whether it's syphoning gas, delivering goods or breeding poodles, he is determined to carve his way to the 'American Dream'. Meanwhile, 12-year-old Matho can't wait to become a



man. Desperate for approval from his young, unavailable father, a series of destructive decisions turns Matho's life upside-down and he finds himself unequipped to deal with the harsh realities of the adult world. Featuring spellbinding performances from first-time actors Jojo Bapteste Whiting and LaDainian Crazy Thunder, and created over a period of four years in collaboration with members of the Pine Ridge Reservation. From debut directors Riley Keough and Gina Gammell.

Doors open at 7:15pm. There is no membership fee but an admission of £6 on the door. 50p for tea, coffee, and biscuits.

For more details contact Debbie on 01793 763907, email [highworthfilms@gmail.com](mailto:highworthfilms@gmail.com) or see our website: [www.highworthfilms.org.uk](http://www.highworthfilms.org.uk).

## Go Wilde with The Arts Society Upper Thames

We would be so pleased to welcome you as a visitor to our April Lecture in Lechlade Memorial Hall on **Thursday 10 April, 2pm, entitled 'Wilde about Oscar: Famous and Infamous', with Simon Whitehouse.**

This lecture examines the extraordinary life and dramatic times of Oscar Wilde, from his Irish roots to his days as a student at Oxford and his meteoric rise to the heights of celebrity. We travel with him to the United States and examine his starring role within the artistic and theatrical worlds of late 19th century London. We visit his home in bohemian Chelsea and some of his favourite West End haunts. Finally, we learn how "tired of being in the heights, he plunged into the depths" and became famous for being infamous...

Simon Whitehouse is a (recovering) actor, lecturer, presenter, Alexander Technique and voice teacher, and award winning London Blue Badge guide. He has worked as a Guide Lecturer In-House at Shakespeare's Globe, the Royal Opera House, the BBC and the National Gallery, guiding both public and private

tours. He is on the faculty of Ithaca College and also lectures for the Blue Badge Guide training course on the performing arts and English literature. Simon's specialisms and passions are theatre, literature, fashion and art history but whatever the subject, Simon will weave a wonderful story from it.



Oscar Wilde

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

*Rodney Mountford*

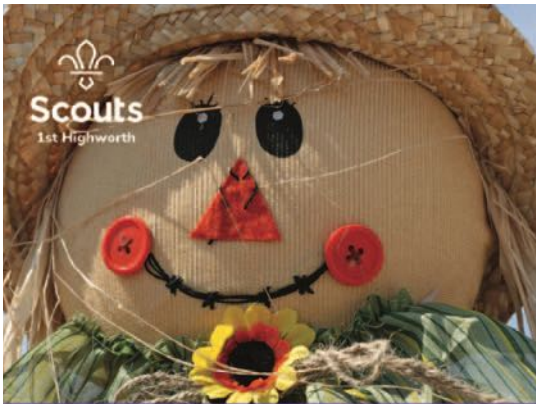
## Highworth Artists' Society



Members of HAS present a cheque to Dressability

As many of you may know, Highworth Artists' Society supports a nominated local charity each year. Over the course of the year we collect money from sales of refreshments at exhibitions, raffles held on artist demonstration days, sales of art equipment

that has been donated to us, and money in lieu of Christmas cards within our group. If you have attended any of our events you will probably have contributed to this cause as well as supporting us as an art group, so we are very grateful!



### 1st Highworth Scarecrow Trail 2025

5th - 21st April

HighworthScouts.org.uk/Fundraising

Our annual Scarecrow Trail is returning this Easter with the theme of Fairy Tales and Nursery Rhymes so why not explore our town and see how many scarecrows you can find?

Trail booklets will be on sale for £3 available from 1st April at Allen & Harris, Visit Highworth and The Saracens Head.

Our charity for 2024 was Dressability, a Swindon-based charity that adapts clothing for anyone with a disability or need for clothing to be made easier and more practical to use. We were delighted to welcome Claire Bouverie Brine from Dressability to present her with a cheque for £300. Claire thanked everyone involved and said that the charity was extremely grateful for the support.

Our Spring Exhibition is fast approaching, and will be opening to coincide with the Highworth May Day Fair on **Saturday 3 May, remaining open until Saturday 10 May**. Please drop in to see us in the Council Community Room and see what's on offer – not just beautiful art for sale, but also teas and cakes to refresh you during the day. We will be open 10am to 4pm every day that week.

Hilary Sinclair

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## Highworth Camera Club

We will meet on **Tuesday 8 April** to look at using mobile phones for photography. Here's hoping that the weather will be kind for us to get out and about over the Easter holidays to put what we learn into practice!

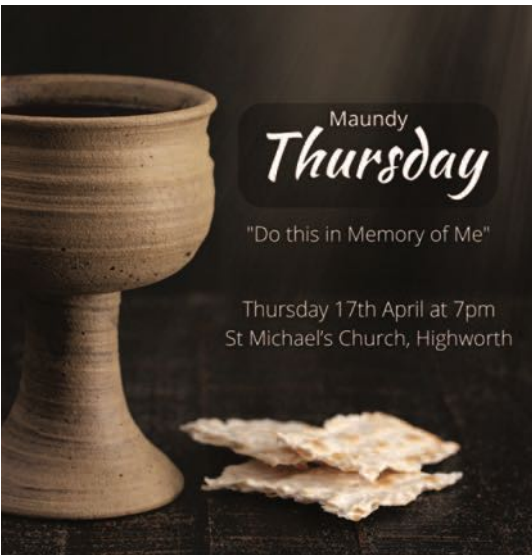
Club members are also working on projects this year. The aim is to produce a panel of three or five images on a chosen theme or subject.

There will be a display of club members' pictures in the library this month. We hope you are able have a look at these – they will give you a good idea about what we do. If you like the idea of sharing your images, or want some ideas on how to take better pictures or a different style of pictures, why not come and join us.

Later in the year there will be members' competitions judged by an external judge, an outing, a chance to try studio-type portraits, an external speaker to share their work and experience, our annual exhibition, friendly chats and always a good cup of tea!

We meet every **second Tuesday of the month**. Check out the website ([www.highworthcameraclub.com](http://www.highworthcameraclub.com)) or email ([highworthcamclub@gmail.com](mailto:highworthcamclub@gmail.com)) for more information, or just turn up for 7:30pm on a club night.

*Hilary Beach*





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## SUCCESSFUL WRDE UP (2014-2023) COMMUNITY FUND APPLICATIONS

**Funding still remains available for anyone wanting to submit an application.**

**No cause is too small, we can consider applications up to £5k.**

**Please email  
c.laken@btinternet.com to request an application form.**



This year I applied to have funding to create a games room – many tenants at Newburgh house are immobile or of limited mobility and the chance to play games is limited. A few tenants and I discussed this and the popular old style 'bar games' were mentioned.

The WRDE UP committee were happy to support this and donated £500. The collection of games seen in the photo are large 'garden' varieties and table top sized varieties all of which can be used and adapted for Newburgh house tenants of all abilities to use. Newburgh house also aims to introduce a 'challenge day' with a neighbouring local school to get the children over for a games afternoon.

**We can't thank WRDE UP enough for delivering all the donations and hanging around for a photo!**

**Adam Henly  
Scheme Manager**

**WRDE UP hitting the right notes with local piano students!**



Local Highworth secondary school students are the recent beneficiaries of a wonderful donation.

£3000 was donated towards this fantastic Yamaha U1 upright piano worth over £3500, to Highworth Warneford school Music department by the WRDE UP music festival committee. The piano will benefit all students across years 7-11 including piano students who can now be taught on an industry standard instrument.

Mr Hanson, head of Music at Warneford and Janet Hodgson, piano teacher would like to publicly thank the committee for this amazing gift which will benefit students at the school for many generations to come.

Pictured in the photo are piano students (from left to right) – Emma Hudson, Lydia Prior-Carter, Harriet Matthews, Samukelo Mthimunya, Oliver Dix and Lance Draper. Also in the photo is our additional piano teacher Aniel Zylinski.

Piano lessons are available at the school or privately by contacting Aniel at [anielaz@hotmail.com](mailto:anielaz@hotmail.com)





*If you have a sport story email [jcdsport12@gmail.com](mailto:jcdsport12@gmail.com)*

## Swindon & District Motorcycle Club

Back in February, the S&DMCC returned to the Old Station Yard near Hannington to host the Brian Freeguard motorcycle trial. On a cold Sunday morning, almost 60 riders unloaded their very clean bikes and waded through mud to the gazebo to check-in. As usual, each rider securely taped a number to the front of their bike and the back of their crash helmet so the weather-immune observers could score each of the rider's efforts over four laps of ten great sections.

Over the course of the next few hours fallen tree trunks were ridden over, steep embankments scaled, streams crossed and tumbledown walls used for slalom, all in an ever-growing cauldron of mud. In attempts to get as much grip as possible tyre pressures were so low that the tyres were almost flat, and at frequent intervals riders waiting at sections could be seen with sticks, poking out clumps of mud from their rear wheels. One section was on the side of a woodland hill with a natural spring running down it, causing two-wheeled-



*A-Class winner Lee Hassall*

slides as riders skated for the exit. By the last lap just riding between the sections felt like actual sections (to me). But, as well as mud on the rider's faces, there were plenty of smiles proving you're never too old to play in puddles.

Despite all these welcome challenges and the icy drizzle that sporadically fell sections were completed and scores kept by the stoic observers, meaning efforts could be compared and on-course banter settled. Those who scored the lowest penalty points of the day for their respective categories were Lee Hassall, Jason Cole/Stephen Oram (tied), Edwin Maslin, David Stanley and Fred Warner. There were only two

riders who finished in the Adult Green category so we can overlook giving that winner a mention. We should though mention the organisers and the observers who put on another fantastic and enjoyable meeting – thank you. For further information on upcoming events please find the club on Facebook or take a look at their website.

*Jason Daniels*  
[www.sdmcc.org.uk](http://www.sdmcc.org.uk)

## Shrivenham Cricket Club

Our AGM held in February witnessed a few major changes in the structure of the club. Three senior positions were affected, resulting in a new Chairperson, Secretary, and Treasurer. Thanks were afforded the retiring, long-serving members and two Captains were elected; for the 1st XI (Martin Hammond) and the 2nd XI (Richard Kewell), together with a new Groundsman (Jamie Pollard). The two teams will play in Divisions 5 and 10 respectively of The Wiltshire County Cricket League.

Indoor net sessions have already commenced for **Wednesdays starting at 8pm** for an hour at Pinewood School, Bourton and will continue through to the start

of the outdoor season on 26 April. The three sessions already attended were well supported but there is always room for more aspiring cricketers to join our ranks. Shrivenham Cricket Club has flourished since 1854 and, despite waxes and wanes, we are still operating despite Covid! Our facilities are good with a good square, a mobile net and (recently purchased) covers together with a recently built pavilion. Junior coaching sessions will be announced via the ECB All Stars & Dynamos. To review, there will now be a home game of cricket every Saturday instead of every other Saturday. Aren't you all fortunate!

*Julian Stevens*  
[www.shrivenham.play-cricket.com/home](http://www.shrivenham.play-cricket.com/home)

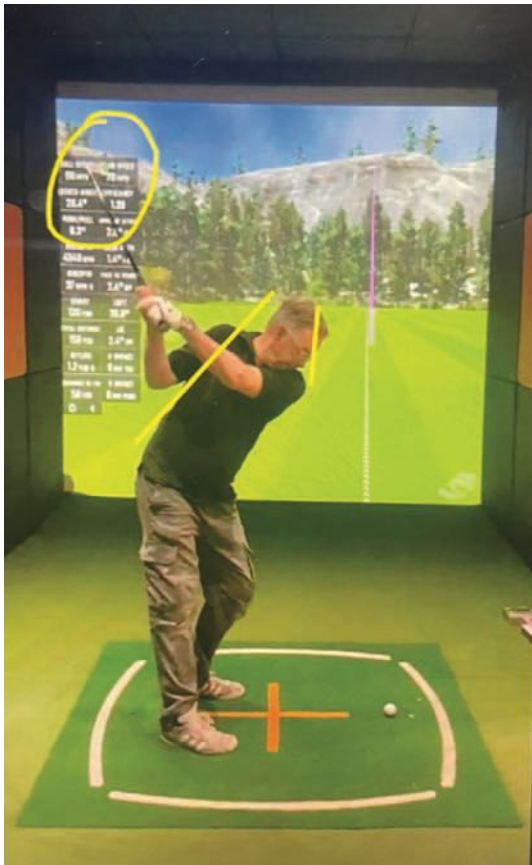
## Wrag Barn Golf Club

The start of the season! The beginning of the golf season is usually in April with the warmer weather, longer days and encouragement from Augusta in the form of the Masters. Our Pros have been busy giving lessons all winter and helping our members and visitors improve their game with lessons, club fittings and in-depth analysis using the latest technology.

We all have to start somewhere and we are holding lessons for beginners this summer that include tea and coffee on **Thursdays, 11am to 12pm** (Ladies), 1pm to 2pm (Men), and **Sundays 10am to 11am** (Ladies and Men). The cost is £10 per session, all equipment will be provided, and no experience is necessary – just come and have a go!

To speak to our teaching Pros (Ian, Dave, Jack, and Richard) or discuss our beginners sessions, please contact the shop.

*Verity Manners*  
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## Highworth Running Club

Last month, (if all things went to plan — this was written in February) we held our annual spring-time race and hopefully there were plenty of residents circulating around the five-mile course. Results can be found on the club's website for those interested in seeing their official time and position. We'll try to do a more comprehensive write-up next month.

March also saw the launch of the weekly, 12-week Couch-to-5k course, which will continue throughout April and run until the end of May. For those who might consider themselves somewhere between the couch and running 5000 metres, you'd be more than welcome any Wednesday, meeting in the Brewery Street car park at 6:30pm. The more the merrier.

*Jason Daniels*  
[www.highworthrunningclub.co.uk](http://www.highworthrunningclub.co.uk)



LECHLADE  
CRICKET CLUB

## Fancy playing cricket this Summer?

### JUNIOR CRICKET

- Pre-season nets for all age groups through April
- All Stars and Dynamos kicks off on May 16th
- Junior nets on a Friday evening throughout the Summer with experienced Level 2 coaches
- Junior matches from May onwards at U9, U11, U13 and U15 age groups

### ADULT CRICKET

- Pre-season nets through April
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- T20 on a Wednesday
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*We're also looking for Scorers, Umpires and Volunteers*

For further details please contact -  
<https://lechlade.play-cricket.com/>  
 Phone : Jon on 07484337189  
 Email : [info@lechladecc.org](mailto:info@lechladecc.org)

Can you spare  
us a few hours  
a month?



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## HIGHWORTH BOWLS CLUB

### BOWLS BIG WEEKEND

24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> MAY 2025

Open from 11 a.m.

EVERYONE  
WELCOME



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WHERE ARE WE?  
OPPOSITE THE SHELL GARAGE

## Shrivenham Park Golf Club

Here we are at the beginning of another month, Easter will soon be here! Life at Shrivenham Park is moving on fast. Thanks to Adi Betterton for decorating our main lounge area; allowing us to reposition the contents of both the lounge and dining room areas, include some new items and remarkably create more space. Along with plans to spruce up other areas of the clubhouse, we'll be ready for the summer season, as will Pam Bannister who has already 'Driven in' as Lady Captain and will be flying the flag for the Ladies; we look forward to supporting her efforts.

As well as the amazing achievements of our Junior Section who continue under Jim Boyes' tutelage, a new Ladies' initiative is being held to encourage lady golfers to come forward and learn the skills of golf, taking place on **Wednesday afternoons** (2pm to 4pm). Please don't be shy; if you're interested in learning or returning to golf please get in contact or simply turn up. Refreshments and some equipment will be

supplied but please bring golf or flat soled shoes. On the subject of new initiatives, our Senior Men have started inviting Senior Ladies to join them on Tuesdays and Fridays.

**11 April** will be a busy day for us as our Parkies Pals will be crowning a new Putting Champion between 2pm and 4pm, please come and take part. Contact Kerry (07875 416236) for more details. Cream teas will be on offer. On the same day, at 2pm, our Social Putters launch the start of their summer season, where £2 includes 9 holes or more of putting and tea – a lovely social way to make friends and one that's open to all. All equipment and scorecards provided.

For more information on any of our events, please get in touch (01793 783853). Shrivenham welcomes all (Groupon and Societies included), green fees are always available and we invite you to come and play 9 or 18 holes, enjoy our refreshments at the bar, enjoy our new menus and feel healthy and achieving. Happiness all round, happy golfers and of course, Happy Easter.

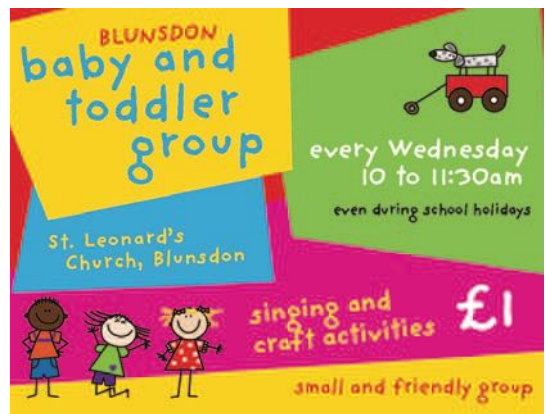
Carole Lee

[www.shrivenhampark.co.uk](http://www.shrivenhampark.co.uk)

## Highworth Town Football Club

With five games to play, HTFC remained in the final play-off place as February came to an end. Despite a defeat at Wootton Bassett and a home draw with Fairford, another ten points would see the end of season knock-out phase reached for the second successive season. Pershore (currently 8th in the league) and leaders Hartpury have to visit the Save On Tyres Stadium whilst we have away games at Lydney (sat 18th in the table), Malmesbury (bottom) and Hereford Pegasus (in 13th) yet to come. Follow us on social media for more information.

Derek Lloyd



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[www.highworthlink.co.uk](http://www.highworthlink.co.uk)



## Highworth Town Walking Football Club

At the different location of Beaconsfield FC's ground at the end of February, the Highworth Over-65's had a nervy final game which they needed to win. Thankfully, after a determined performance, they managed a 1-0 victory over Hemel Hempstead to be crowned champions of the Thames Valley Over-65's Division 1 for the second season running! Against much stronger opposition this season Highworth didn't have it all their own way but still managed to come out on top, winning the league by two points over Bracknell Town. Well done to the whole squad who have played over the season – a great achievement.

If you are interested in playing social walking football, 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 evenings** 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. £4 Payment per Thursday and Sunday sessions are £3.20 per Friday sessions, and ladies' Monday sessions are £3 per session, all payable by credit/debit card only, no cash, direct to the sports centre.

For more details please do get in touch.

*Graham Seeley  
highworthwfc@outlook.com*



*Preparing the courts*

## Swindon Croquet Club

SCC's four league teams were soon into their 2024 season visiting locations including Bradford on Avon, Bath, and Cheltenham. The competitive league season culminated in a trip to Budleigh Salterton in Devon in September where Swindon Croquet Club achieved a close win over Budleigh Salterton to finish the season as the South West Champions of Golf Croquet, Level Play 5+ league. 2024 also heralded the opening of Moredon Sporting Hub. The weather was kind on the Hub opening day and our members were pleased to share the sport they enjoy with so many visitors keen to give croquet a try.

Our volunteer grounds team have been hard at work preparing the courts for the 2025 season which begins on 1 April. On **5 April** we will be hosting our nearest neighbours, Kington Langley, as part of a National Charity event in aid of the Alzheimer's Society.

The first major event of the season will be an Open Day on **4 May** from 10:30am to 3:30pm and everyone is welcome to visit and try croquet. For more information please feel free to email or find us on Facebook.

*Wendy White  
croquetwindon@gmail.com*



*Champions again*



# REPRESENTATIVES

## News from Will Stone MP

Residents of Swindon Street in Highworth have noted to me their concerns over the new town council Neighbourhood Plan, specifically around the changes to parking in the area. I have seen the plans and, whilst I fully support Highworth Town Council's (HTC) aims of improving greenery and access to shade in the area making the High Street more attractive and tourist-prone, I also recognise the concerns residents have raised about reductions in parking for residents, potential pollution, and general quality of life.



listened to and their concerns addressed, and with 92% of residents in Highworth visiting the High Street at least once a week, it's important we get it right.

Beyond concerns over the changes to the High Street, I have written to Environmental Health about the influx of rats on the High Street and I am pleased the department is now proactively working alongside local shops and residents to address the issue and reduce vermin in the area. One of the primary concerns has been effective management and storage of waste, particularly encouraging businesses and residents to only place rubbish on the streets on the day of bin collection or the night before.

As this plan is now with the Borough Council for approval, I have written to the Borough Council to request the opportunity to work with them and HTC to develop an outcome and, where necessary, make amendments to the Neighbourhood Plan which supports the aims of HTC to: increase the beauty of the High Street; make the High Street more attractive to tourists to boost the local economy, as well as provide reasonable parking for residents who live on or near the High Street. My focus is ensuring that residents are

If you'd like to share your thoughts on the Neighbourhood Plan or indeed raise any other Highworth-specific concerns (or issues from the outlying villages and towns), please contact me at [Will.Stone.MP@Parliament.uk](mailto:Will.Stone.MP@Parliament.uk).

*Will Stone MP*

# Highworth Methodist Church



## What's on in April?

**Café Church**  
**Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup>**  
**at 10.30am**



**Sunday @ 10.30**

6 Café Church - Val  
 13 Palm Sunday - Robin Phoenix-Stone  
 20 Easter Sunday - Rev Mike Dilly  
 27 Morning Worship - Jenny Corkett  
 Tuesday, 1st Afternoon Communion 2pm



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



**Every Friday**  
 9.30-11.15 am

JAM

CLUB

**Craft Group**

Tuesday, 1st & 15<sup>th</sup>  
 10am-1pm



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 Website:  
[www.highworthmethodistchurch.org.uk](http://www.highworthmethodistchurch.org.uk)  
[www.facebook.com/HighworthMethodistChurch](https://www.facebook.com/HighworthMethodistChurch)

**3Cs – Coffee, cake & chat**

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



## Highworth Events 2025

### Dates For Your Diary

- 03 MAY** Highworth May Day 
- 08 MAY** Highworth VE Day 80 
- 12 JULY** Highworth Skate Event 
- 07 NOV** Highworth Fireworks 
- 09 NOV** Highworth Remembrance Sunday 
- 29 NOV** Highworth Christmas Event & Light Switch-On 




## Highworth Town Council MEDIEVAL MAY DAY EVENT

Saturday 3rd May 2025  
10am - 4pm




Licensed Bar & Food Outlets, Live Music, Elias Performing Arts, May Pole, Morris Dancers & Jack in The Green

Over 60 independent stalls

The College of Chivalry are providing a Medieval Living Area, this includes, have a go Archery, a Knights Space, a Carpentry Tent, a Weaving/Spinning Demo, Calligraphy, a Barbers/Surgeons Space & Wooden Stocks

A re-enactment of a knights battle




## SMASH

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SMASH has been mentoring children and young people in and around Swindon and North Wiltshire for over 20 years



**Highworth Town Council is pleased to be funding the services of SMASH**

SMASH work with young people to help them access support, amplify their voice and reach their potential

Amy and Tim from SMASH will be out and about in the local Community connecting with young people to create a youth work offer for the young people of Highworth.

If you see them in their blue coats, do say hello as they would love to chat to you.



[www.smashyouthproject.co.uk](http://www.smashyouthproject.co.uk)



## Highworth Town Council Parish Precept is £721,500 for 2025/2026



Per Band D household this is £228.50 per annum - £19.04 per month.  
This is an additional £0.98 per month or a 5.4% increase.

## News from Highworth's Mayor



On Sunday 2 February, I hosted the Civic Service marking a special occasion filled with gratitude. The sun was shining brightly and the church bells rang out as attendees gathered for the Procession; welcoming Deputy Lieutenant James Arkell, Colonel Rambo from

USAF Fairford, the CEO of Swindon Borough Council and Mayors from surrounding towns. The Procession included the Royal British Legion, Councillors, Cadets and Brownies, all of whom added to the sense of celebration.

As the procession made its way to the church, the Silver Band played. The service itself was held in a packed church along with flag bearers and the Westrop School Choir sang two beautiful songs whilst we gave thanks to all our wonderful volunteers. Following the service, guests were treated to freshly baked cakes from the Royal British Legion, which added a warm and personal touch to the gathering.

The Civic Service was a wonderful occasion, bringing together people from all walks of life to honour the volunteers and individuals who contribute to the heart of our community. You can see photographs from the event in last month's issue of Highworth's LINK Magazine.

This month I have been particularly busy organising the Wrag Barn Charity Event and fundraising for the Highworth Forget-Me-Not, who celebrated their five-year anniversary. Finishing touches are also coming along for May Day and VE Day.

### Save the Dates

**Saturday 3 May** is our May Day fair, this year with a Medieval theme, and on **Thursday 8 May** we will have our VE Day 1940s-themed celebration.

If you would like me to attend any functions please don't hesitate to email my secretary at [admin@highworthtowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:admin@highworthtowncouncil.gov.uk).

*Julie Murphy,  
Mayor and Chair of Highworth Town Council*

## HIGHWORTH TOWN COUNCIL

### TOWN MAYOR & CHAIRMAN

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

### DEPUTY MAYOR & VICE-CHAIRMAN

**Anthony Houghton**, 40 The Dormers, Highworth SN6 7NZ  
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**Richard Williams**, 7 Park Avenue SN6 7AW  
07789 781151 [richard.williams@highworthtowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:richard.williams@highworthtowncouncil.gov.uk)

### SWINDON BOROUGH COUNCILLORS

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07545 429367 [vmanro3@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:vmanro3@swindon.gov.uk)

**Steve Weisinger**, 8 Barra Close SN6 7HX  
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[sweisinger@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:sweisinger@swindon.gov.uk)

**Council Offices**  
3 Gilberts Lane, Highworth SN6 7FB  
Tel. 01793 762377 / 763511

## St. Michael's Church Highworth

The church is open daily for private prayer.

### 10:15am Sunday Service

We meet in St. Michael's Church and groups for children and youth are held during this service, with refreshments being served after the service.

The service is streamed live at [www.twitch.tv/stmichaelshighworth](http://www.twitch.tv/stmichaelshighworth) or on YouTube by searching 'St Michaels Church Highworth'.

Morning Worship is held on the **first, third and fifth Sundays of the month**. Holy Communion is held on the **second and fourth Sundays of the month**.

### 8:45am Holy Communion

On the **first and third Sunday of the month**.

### 10:15am Midweek Communion

On the **third Wednesday of each month**, from 11am. Coffee and cake will be served from 10:15am.

### Prayers

**Tuesday Prayers** from 9am.

**Friday Blessings** from 9:15am.

The **second and fourth Mondays**; see Prayer Hour in the Church Room at 7:30pm (excluding bank holidays).

### We welcome in Holy Baptism

Sophie-Ann Cackett

### Praying for the roads in the town

**06 April** Folly Crescent and Folly Drive

**13 April** Folly Way and Gilberts Lane

**20 April** Gilmore Court and Glebe Place

**27 April** Goodson Lane and Grange Close

## St. Leonard's Parish Church Stanton Fitzwarren

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

**13 April** Palm Sunday, Family Service, 11am

**18 April** Good Friday, Hour at the Cross: a time to reflect, 2pm

**20 April** Easter Day Communion, 11:30am

**27 April** Holy Communion, 9:30am  
Followed by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting to elect Churchwardens and PCC

Come on **Saturday 19 April, 2pm**, and help decorate the church for Easter Day.

Stanton Coffee morning meets montly at Stanton House Hotel, 10:15am for coffee and chat, and then we have a speaker at 11am. On **Wednesday 23 April** our speakers are Liz and Roger Hillman.

The church building will be **open every Wednesday in school term time** from 10am to 4pm, or telephone Liz and Roger (01793 762935) to organise for the building to be open for you to visit. Please go to [www.stantonchurch.info](http://www.stantonchurch.info) for updates.

### To advertise in The Highworth Link contact

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



21/4/25  
Cyril Knight

*It's 20 years since you left us, Dad. We talk about  
you often, remembering happy times.  
Love you and miss you*

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

*All submissions to the Church Office by Wednesday 26 March for the May publication.*

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

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<b>Electricity</b>	<b>Emergency 105</b>
<b>Water</b>	<b>Emergency 0800 3169 800</b>

### NON-EMERGENCY

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

### BUSES

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

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#### 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, 8 Sheep Street, Highworth.

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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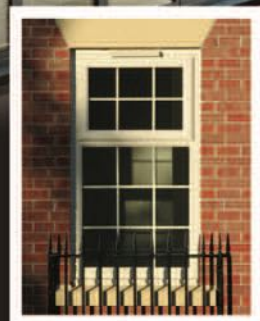
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