

HighworthLINK

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



June 2025



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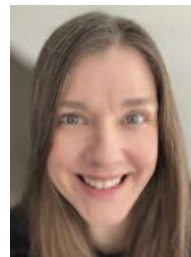
Dear Reader

"Do you remember going to Blackpool Illuminations?" my dad recently asked me. Of course I remember. For me it was the annual announcement of autumn! As children, we never knew what day we'd be going, but as soon as we saw the unusual sight of Dad's car parked outside our school gates we knew *that* was the day.

The thrill of going somewhere still wearing our school uniforms was heady enough, but to then be heading to the north-west's Las Vegas made us giddy! By the time we'd taken that hour-long drive to Blackpool in October it was already dark, and so we'd slowly crawl the length of that mesmeric coastal road oohing and aahing at the static displays and the technicoloured trams travelling past. Perhaps the bigger delight was eating newspaper-wrapped salt and vinegar chips in the car. (We weren't allowed to eat in the car at any other time!)

Amazingly, scientists believe our memory banks are probably limitless. Some memories are too painful to

willingly recall; others are fleeting and only sit in our working memory long enough for us to get to the cash machine muttering our PIN that we're always inclined to forget. Yet other memories we revisit often as they raise a smile or bring us comfort.



Making memories is one of the things that makes us human. It can be delightful to first experience good things and then at a later time recall how we felt and what we saw – having those delightful experiences with other people can make them super-charged. If you were in Highworth for the May Day Festival or the VE Day celebrations, perhaps you've found yourself repeatedly remembering those events. Let the photos in this month's issue remind you of those exceptional days.

Life is never dull in the 'Worth! And there are more memories yet to be made as this issue ushers in the summer months and all that's in store.

Rachael

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Highworth Twinning Association

Safari Lunch

Safari Lunch: a meal where each course is prepared and eaten at the home of different hosts in Highworth, finally coming together for dessert at a single venue.

Everyone welcome!

Sunday 29 June, 12 noon
Tickets: £23

Available from **Visit Highworth**
Limited number, last date for purchase 14 June
Any questions? Call Jan on 01793 979271

Front Cover image: Paul Newton-Smith and Ann Marie Murphy at Highworth's May Day Festival

A Time for Renewal and Growth

As we step into the month of June, we are reminded of the vibrancy and fullness of life that this season brings. The warmth of summer invites us to pause and reflect on the blessings that surround us, family, friends, and the beauty of creation. It also inspires us to embrace growth and renewal in our lives and in our community.

Renewal brings hope, the assurance that even in seasons of difficulty we can rise anew, refreshed by God's grace. Just as springtime restores the beauty of nature after a harsh winter, renewal in faith revitalises our spirit and reminds us of His everlasting promise of love and redemption.

Growth goes hand-in-hand with renewal; it is the fruit that flourishes from a restored spirit. Growth in faith is about becoming more rooted in God's Word, more

compassionate in our interactions, and more confident in living out our purpose. It's not always visible or measurable; it might be the courage to forgive, the patience to endure, or the wisdom to trust God's timing.

Let us step into this month with hearts open to serve one another, embodying kindness, patience, and compassion. As the days grow longer and brighter, may we carry that same light into the lives of those around us. Whether through prayer, fellowship, or acts of service, let us be living testaments to God's grace and goodness. Let us rejoice together in His blessings and look forward to the ways He will work through us in this season of life.

*Revd Shirlyn Toppin
Highworth Methodist Church*

Highworth Mums' Afternoon Tea a Blooming Success!

Three local mums recently organised a delightful afternoon tea at The Old Bakery in Highworth, raising a fantastic £160 for Friends Of Eastrop and Southfield (FOES). The event, held on the evening of Saturday 29 March, saw the community come together in a show of generosity and support.

The Old Bakery's owner, Rob, kindly donated his café for the evening, providing a warm and welcoming atmosphere for all attendees. Guests were treated to a delicious spread of tea, coffee, and prosecco, alongside a mouth-watering array of donated treats.

Local businesses truly embraced the spirit of the event, showcasing Highworth's incredible community spirit. Chloe's Bakery donated decadent brownies; Andrew's Butchers provided savoury sausage rolls; Bloomfields Deli contributed two delicious quiches; the Co-op generously donated scones and jam; Tesco provided a

selection of cakes, and Aldi supplied the clotted cream. Highworth Florists added a touch of elegance with beautiful posies adorning the tables.

"We were overwhelmed by the generosity of local businesses and the community," said one of the organisers. "Highworth truly has a wonderful

community spirit, and we feel fortunate to be a part of it. A huge thank you to Rob at The Old Bakery for providing the venue and to everyone who donated or attended."

The event was a resounding success, with everyone enjoying a lovely afternoon while supporting a worthy cause. The £160 raised will go towards the next chosen project across both Eastrop and Southfield schools. The organisers hope this event will inspire others to get involved in community fundraising. They have proven that with a little teamwork and a lot of community spirit anything is possible!

Sarah Harrison

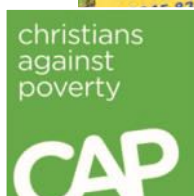


CAP Receives Generous Local Donation

The Highworth and District CAP Centre is delighted to continue to receive support from the local Lions charity.

Most months the Lions provide support for specific needs. In May, CAP received an amazingly generous donation of £600 towards the bankruptcy fee for one elderly couple who have a very low pension income and health issues. Even with their relatively small amount of debt it would still take them nine years to repay. They are extremely grateful to CAP and the Lions for the help to have this weight of debt lifted.

The Lions also supported our Christmas event so that many who are working hard at living on a tight budget



l to r: Hilary Stokes, Sue Subow, Margaret, Brenda and Kathryn Ford

were able to come and enjoy a social event with food and fun for the whole family.

Kathryn Ford, CAP Centre Manager

Learn to Dance with u3a!

Dancing is a wonderful and fun way of keeping active and fit. If you enjoy dancing you might like to explore what the u3a has to offer. The u3a is a national organisation, particularly active in Swindon, for people who are no longer in full-time employment. It offers over 130 different groups on all kinds of leisure activities and its dancing groups are some of the most popular.

If you join the English Country Dance group you will enjoy yourself by keeping alive the rich tradition of English social folk dancing whilst having fun and gentle exercise, all in an informal atmosphere. Some of the dances are newly composed while some have been enjoyed from as far back as the 16th century. You do not need to come with a partner and all the dances are guided by an experienced caller.

There is much fun, laughter, and exercise to be had in our very popular Barn Dancing group. So party on down!

Latin Line Dance is a beginner's Latin style dance group with a mix of music from Latin America and modern pop. You will have fun and enjoy the music

with the added bonus of keeping fit and improving your memory. The dances can be quite energetic so you need a moderate level of fitness.

For a full list of all the u3a's activity groups and all the other things it does, visit www.swindonu3a.org.uk, telephone the office on 01793 614629 between 10am and noon on Monday, Wednesday, or Friday, or visit the u3a Facebook page.

Sue Mazzoleni



Save the Old Golf Course this June

"...you don't know what you've got till it's gone. They paved paradise and put up a parking lot." So said Joni Mitchell.

Last October, a survey found that around 500 people a day visited the Old Golf Course, with many arriving by car from nearby towns.

This spring, our Old Golf Course looks so beautiful and thousands of people every week continue to gain the invaluable benefits this natural treasure gives.

Highworth Town Council (with the Action Group and Wiltshire Wildlife Trust) have put forward a fully costed proposal for the Old Golf Course to become an income-generating community nature park, including the upper, easily-accessible section, to become designated as a 'Local Green Space'.

This would also feature:

- A nature-themed café
- Nature walkways and trails
- A wetland area
- Wildflower and tree planting
- Improved hedgerows
- A play park and picnic area
- Outdoor schooling activities
- A natural burial ground.

Swindon has opposed this plan, stating that the Old Golf Course was not a 'special' asset and keeping it would restrict further development. An independent examiner has been appointed to review the plan and well over 200 residents wrote in support of keeping the site green. As this article goes to press, we are awaiting his decision.

Swindon Borough Council (SBC) are meeting on **Wednesday 4 June** to vote on the three options:

1. For the whole of the site to become a nature park
2. For 400 houses and the remainder to be a nature park
3. For 700 houses and the remainder to be a nature park.

Highworth has approximately 3,500 houses, and in the building or planning stages there are currently between



Highworth's Old Golf Course



1,000 - 1,500 new homes (without the proposed building on the Old Golf Course).

With the increase in population, our local parks will become even more vital.

We will be organising attendance at SBC's meeting on 4 June to show them our strength of feeling, including a bus for those who cannot drive there.

We hope to see Highworth's residents out in force to show them how special this green space is to the community and what an asset it is to Swindon and North Wiltshire.

Once it's gone, it's gone forever.

To register your interest, email rob@highworthtower.co.uk.

Rob New

Gardening Club Plant Sale

On Monday 2 June, South Marston Gardening Club will be hosting a Plant Sale at South Marston Village Hall, from 7:30pm to 8:30pm.

Annuals, fruit plants, potted flowerpots, herbs, houseplants, perennials, shrubs, and vegetable plants will be available, all very reasonably priced. Pop along and enjoy chatting with Gardening Club members. And don't forget to bring bags or boxes!

Please note this is a cash only event. Refreshments and homemade cakes are also available.

Parking is available on Old Vicarage Lane, next to the school.

Angela Newton

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Thursday	10 - 3 pm
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Saturday	10 - 1 pm



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Refurbishment at The Rec

When the community works together great things can happen! We are pleased to announce we have refurbished our accessible swimming pool changing area with the help of Halo Leisure, the Wrde Up committee funding, and the hard work of centre volunteer Andy Davies.

The money for the refurbishment came from a community fund set up by the outgoing committee of Wrde Up Festival. After the successful festival in 2022 the committee decided to hand over the festival to local events specialist Tom Falding at Fandangos. Leftover monies were used to set up a community fund and local community groups and registered charities were invited to apply for funding for various legacy projects.

Highworth Recreation Centre was successful in securing £5,000 to refurbish our accessible changing room in the swimming pool changing village. This fresh, clean, and bright new changing and shower area will enhance the experience for our customers with

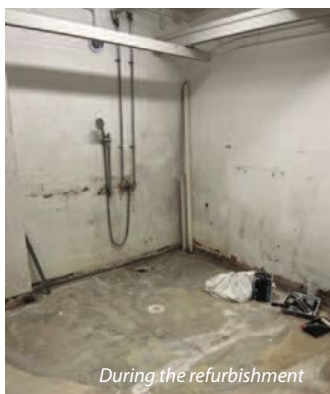
accessibility needs.

At the centre we offer swimming sessions for all ages and abilities and I can think of no better way to keep fit, relax, and unwind in our warm bright sunny 25 metre pool.

We offer swimming lessons for anyone aged four years and up from £36 per month, including free social swim sessions.

We would like to thank the outgoing Wrde Up committee for this generous gift and Andy Davies for his time and energy.

Corina O'Keefe, General Manager



During the refurbishment



The finished accessible changing room

Louts Return to Winning Ways in Scouts Quiz

We had 23 teams taking part in this year's quiz, the most we have had for many years.

It was The Louts who came out on top, repeating their victory of 2017. Last year's winners, The Toddletons,

were two points back in second place with One and A Dupe in third place. The real winners were the Scout group.

Thanks to donations of raffle prizes from parents and The Highworth, plus a spa voucher from Cowley Manor which we auctioned off, we raised over £900. Thanks to everybody who came and helped create the usual unique atmosphere at the scout hall. The final thanks go to Simpsons Cars for once again sponsoring the whole evening, as they have done for many years.

The photograph shows The Louts (Ed and Liz Lott, and Christine and Alan Lutman) being presented with the winners trophy by Peter Jenkins of Simpsons Cars.



The Louts

David Roblin

From Transylvania to Highworth

I believe that most of us have fond memories of going to the market as children with our parents and grandparents to buy necessities and returning home with our favourite sweets or toys. Today, I get the same joy whether I'm there as a consumer or selling my own items, and I am pleased to be able to sell my products in such a vibrant place as the Highworth Market.

On the first day, I had the impression that all of the vendors knew one another and were like a big happy family. Along with other sellers offering bread, cheese, honey, souvenirs, and baklava, I have a tiny booth where I sell wooden crafts in an attempt to maintain a century's-old tradition that is common to many cultures: painting on wood.

My name is Emilia and I was born in Sighisoara, in the enchanting region of Transylvania –we have the most well-preserved medieval fortresses in Eastern Europe and it is the birthplace of Vlad Tepes, the real-life figure who inspired the legend of Count Dracula.

I enjoy painting traditional Transylvanian motifs on wooden boxes, spoons, crates, trays, bookmarks, chairs, and wardrobes. I combine traditional Romanian themes with those of the Saxon inhabitants who came to



Emilia Balut

Transylvania in 1241 and were very talented craftsmen.

I believe traditions can provide a sense of stability and comfort, offering a link to the past, and a sense of continuity in a changing world. It is such a great gift to be able to share the wisdom, values, and stories of previous generations. If you appreciate art and are searching for a one-of-a-kind present, stop and say hello while shopping at one of Wiltshire's most vibrant markets.

Emilia Balut

See pages 24 and 25 to learn about the history of Highworth's market.

Highworth with Shrivenham Good Afternoon Choir

Do you love to sing? Then why not join the Highworth with Shrivenham community Good Afternoon Choir, led by the talented Sarah Summers, which meets on Wednesdays from 1pm-3pm in Highworth Community Centre.

Sarah said, "Our Good Afternoon Choir has no auditions and is perfect for people who love to sing. We have a great repertoire of popular music and there is no charge for your first rehearsal. Come along and meet me and the rest of the folks for a good afternoon."

Bath music man Grenville Jones started the first Good

Afternoon Choirs back in 2009 in his home city of Bath. Now there are 34 Good Afternoon Choirs across South West England, South Wales, and London.

"Our singers come from all walks of life and we differ from other community choirs as we sing in the afternoon where the emphasis is on singing and having fun. Why not come along to a Wednesday rehearsal, your first session is free!" says Grenville.

For more details on all of our Good Afternoon Choirs please see www.goodafternoonchoir.org.

See you on Wednesday!

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www.goodafternoonchoir.org

Ian Webb (1948 to 2025)

Ian was born in Edmonton, London in March 1948 and attended the local primary and secondary schools. Whilst at secondary school, together with other friends, one of whom was his future wife Joan, he helped to build a 9-hole crazy golf course and a Take Your Pick stall for North Middlesex Hospital for their fetes.

Ian married Joan in 1969 and they lived in Enfield. He worked for the Union Castle Line where he completed his transport exams, eventually moving to Swindon, as many Londoners did at the time, and he continued to work for transport companies both in Swindon and Faringdon.

A brief move to Devon saw the couple running a newsagents, but they returned to live in Highworth where they have been for 45 years and raised two children, Claire and Paul.

It is in Highworth where Ian began to be involved more and more in voluntary work, being on the PTA, along with Joan, at both Westrop Primary School and Warneford School. At the time, I was head teacher of Crowdys Hill, a special educational needs school, and my bursar was Joan. At some point Ian was appointed



as governor to the school, eventually becoming Chair. He was the ideal governor because at all times he put the children first. He was hands-on helping at fetes, attending meetings regularly, present at all school events, and encouraging the children. He was also a member of the Education Board established when Swindon Borough Council failed its Ofsted.

Later, Ian joined me at the Highworth Community Centre, eventually becoming a trustee; he was the Friday receptionist. The clients loved him because he enjoyed a chat with them and also offered a helping hand... or made a cup of tea or another cup of tea! He became part of Highworth

Community Partnership Group and was pivotal in setting up Visit Highworth, eventually becoming Chair. He also became the administrator at Highworth United Charities.

Ian was the volunteer that everyone values; he was always there to help, would not let you down, and had a permanently cheerful smile. He will be sorely missed by so many organisations. His service to Highworth has been priceless and always with a cup of tea.

Keith Smith



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Highworth's Volunteers' Week

Have you heard the secret? Volunteering is good for the body and soul!

Volunteering simply means 'stepping up' to help other people. No matter your circumstances, I know you have the skills, heart, and time to step up to make a difference to this community.

With that in mind, Highworth is hosting its very first Volunteers' Week from **Monday 15 September to Saturday 20 September**. Businesses, schools, churches, and community groups will come together in a united effort to focus on community.

More information will follow, but be thinking now how you can get

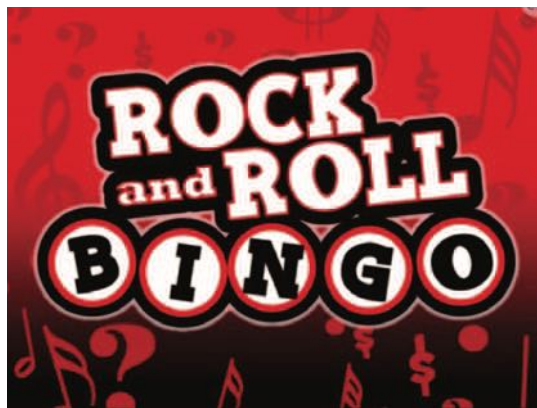
involved. Are you a local business owner who can

support staff into using their time for others? Perhaps you work at one of the schools and can organise class groups to serve others. Are you a community group looking for new volunteers? Or maybe you're a member of the community hoping to use some of your time and skills to benefit others.

You can contact me at editor@highworthlink.co.uk or look out for details in our next issue. If you'd like a copy of the Volunteers' Week brochure which also contains more information, just give me a shout and I'll get one to you.



Rock and Roll Bingo



Rock and Roll Bingo is a fun twist on the classic game of bingo, where instead of numbers players mark off songs on their bingo cards as they hear them played. In addition to the Rock and Roll Bingo there will be a Cryptic Music Quiz and a Heads and Tails competition.

Organised by the Rotary Club of Swindon North the event is a fundraising event in support of the Swindon Food Collective and other local charities chosen by the club.

Join us on **Saturday 28 June**, with doors opening at 6:30pm for a 7pm start. Drinks will be available from a cash bar



For tickets at £10 each, visit the Rotary Club's website: www.rotary-ribi.org/clubs, or send an email to Rotarian Mike Helyer at mhelyer51@gmail.com.

Don't miss out on this fantastic opportunity to have fun and support a great cause. We hope to see you there!

If joining a Rotary Club interests you, please get in touch by emailing rotaryswindonnorth@gmail.com or telephone 07710 228697 (Ken) or 07712 078942 (Chris).

Ken Winslow

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Meet Simon Rose: Anti-Litter Bug

It all started during lockdown in 2020. Like many others, Simon and his wife Debbie took to walking the deserted roads. Remember then? It was eerie, wasn't it? Walking along, he noticed the litter, debris discarded from long-passed cars. And so began what's turned into a hobby: walking the roads and collecting litter.

It's a complete contrast to Simon's profession as Technical Manager of Metallurgy at a Stroud company. (Metallurgy is about the properties of metals and their production and purification.) The only common ground I suppose is the metal drink tins hurled out of car windows.

Simon prefers a circular route. "I'll walk down the Swindon Road, left at Supermarine, through Sevenhampton, up the hill, down the Fresden Road, then home along the Coleshill Road," he says. That's about seven miles, which he does in four hours. In his rucksack he carries five waste sacks that he fills with litter along the way, leaving for later collection in his car. He has an arrangement with Highworth Town Council who take it all for recycling.

His other routes include all the entrance roads into Highworth, except the Cricklade Road to Blunsdon, which he says is too dangerous. He also patrols Roundhills Mead and has walked as far as Tadpole

Surgery in Blunsdon. He explained that the borough seems to confine its litter activities to 30mph roads, mainly to protect worker safety.

He finds that litter comprises tins and glass drink containers, fast food boxes, fly-tipped waste, as well as various unmentionables. He deals mainly with the vast number of food and drink items.



Simon Rose

Although he clearly gets satisfaction in the pursuit of his anti-litter hobby, there are aspects that trouble him. "It perplexes me that this culture is like it is." He's litter picked around the Warneford School site. "Why don't they get the kids to pick it up?" he wonders. "And do all the alcohol tins and bottles point towards a lot of drink driving?" We agreed that litter, like the many other anti-social behaviours, is regarded as 'low-level' – an inconsiderate action that we ignore at our peril.

Although sometimes accompanied by a family member, Simon's walks are usually solitary. But you might consider volunteering for Highworth Town Council's community litter pick. It's held on the **first Sunday of each month**, meeting at 10am outside the Council Offices, Gilberts Lane. All equipment is provided. See you **Sunday 1 June**?

Adrian Young

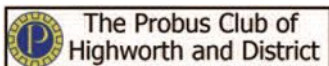
Highworth and District Probus Club

We meet at The Cold Harbour in Blunsdon on alternate Tuesdays at

10:30am. We welcome retired professional and business men with no upper age limit, and welcome visitors as guests at any of our meetings.

On **Tuesday 10 June** we will be hearing about 'Highworth Oddities' as presented by Bryan Lawton, and then on **Tuesday 24 June** David Holden will be with us talking about 'The History of Playing Cards'.

Please see our website (www.highworthprobus.co.uk) for more information.



George North



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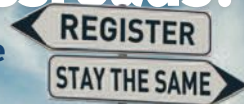
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Richard Digance Delights Highworth Once Again



On Saturday 26 April, everyone enjoyed an 'Evening with Richard Digance'. His banter and wit flowed in between each song as he related stories about the lyrics. Books were on sale including his latest novel about Isambard Kingdom Brunel, and he even showed everyone Florence Nightingale's signature.

We raised £1,130 for British Heart Foundation for which we thank you most sincerely. We have booked **Saturday 18 April 2026** for his next visit to Highworth. Save the date!

Joan Webb, Treasurer

Building the Future of Football

Highworth Town Junior Football Club has been serving the Highworth community for over 50 years and is still a beacon for young football enthusiasts. With 29 teams ready for the 26/27 season, the club prides itself on providing quality coaching and fostering a love for the game among children of all ages. With a rich history of accolades, the club continues to inspire and nurture budding talent.

We would like to thank all of the coaches, managers, and volunteers who continue to allow the club to provide a safe haven for hundreds of children from Highworth and the surrounding areas. Using football to encourage exercise, healthy eating, social skills, team building, independence, and confidence in all of the children.

We are always on the lookout for more volunteers so we can set up more teams. If you are interested in working with us to cater for even more children then please reach out to the club via our website

www.highworthtownjuniors.co.uk. These positions are vital for the club to expand its reach and cater to more children eager to play football.

Additionally, if you have a child who would like to join our training sessions or join a team then let us know and, where possible, we will get you started straightaway. Whether your child is a seasoned player already or a beginner, Highworth Town Junior FC invites you to be part of its vibrant community. Joining the club not only offers an opportunity to develop football skills but also build friendships.

We even involve your three and four year olds; it's great to see them running around outside learning new skills each week. We've set up four new under-seven teams for next season already, but have space for more if your son/daughter is interested in trying out for free.


What do you think? Would you like to get involved?

Kelly Preston, Secretary

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200 Not Out!

Sounds a pretty good score? Not a cricket score, but the age this year of Zion Chapel in the High Street, belonging to the United Reformed Church. That is the age of the building – the congregation can trace its roots back nearly another 50 years beyond that.

It was in September 1825 that the chapel was completed at a cost of just over £600, and at the time it could seat 300 people. Nowadays, with no gallery and comfortable chairs, the limit is about 100. From the outside the Georgian fascia is impressive, and inside the chapel is equally attractive. We are also proud of our well-tended front garden which is the only one on the High Street. In short, a building to cherish.

The congregation plan to celebrate this bicentenary with a special guest service at 10:45am on **Sunday 28 September**. As always, this service is open to all.

Bryan Elkington



Highworth Flower Club

Spring has been busy for the Flower Club. 30 members took part in three competitions creating excellent designs during our April club night.

We also attended a full-day workshop at the Highworth Community Centre with master florist Hans Haverkamp, crafting two spectacular willow designs: an Easter Egg, and a heart filled with flowers. 18 members had a very enjoyable day.

On **Thursday 5 June**, 7:30pm, at Warneford School, we

look forward to relaxing with a flower demonstration by Christine Ramsey entitled 'Home Grown'. We hope you will join us in the school hall. Doors open at 7pm with plenty of space for parking in the school car park. Visitors are welcome for £7 payable at the door.

For more information contact Michele on 07798 817249, or see our website: www.highworthfloralarts.co.uk.



Some of the club members



Hans Haverkamp assesses some designs



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Highworth Twinning Association Needs Your Help



Pipers marching along Highworth Lane, Wassenberg, opened in 2022

On Friday 17 October this year we will be welcoming a group from Wassenberg, our twin town in Germany. We usually have up to 20 visitors, but this year it is likely to be 30... hence the need for help please.

The weekend is over three nights which effectively means two days. Arrival will be late afternoon or early evening on the Friday and our guests will depart on Monday morning. There will be an undemanding programme of events which will include a dinner at Wrag Barn Golf Club on the Sunday evening, and

probably some sightseeing on Saturday. If you have accommodation available and would like to host one or two guests (or more!) over the weekend, please contact me.

You don't have to speak German as in general our visitors speak good English, but of course it's a great opportunity to refresh or develop German speaking skills. We try to match interests if we can.

We would be delighted to hear from you.

Richard Pearce



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Gardening and Football at Eastrop School



In Reception, we have been busy planting seeds in our garden. The children started by planting seeds in pots that we kept on the windowsill in the classroom.

This was important because it was too cold to plant them in the garden, and it also meant that we could water them, make sure that they were kept at the correct temperature, and observe any changes. As the plants started to grow, the children cleared the raised beds in the garden so that they were ready for our plants.

This year, we have planted peas, carrots, lettuce, sweet peas, potatoes, runner beans, radishes, sunflowers, and nasturtiums. The children have been so excited to see the changes that have already taken place and they are continuing to help by watering the plants. They can't wait to sample our vegetables when they are fully grown.

In Year 1 we are looking at plants in our local environment, and Fox class have been busy getting outside in their wellies and spotting the signs of spring. During Science they have had lots of visitors to help them learn about food chains and life cycles. The children have enjoyed getting to hold a giant African land snail called Mercury, Corel the leopard gecko, and

hundreds of mealworms!

One child said, "I loved getting up close to the snail, I've never seen one that big!" Another child said, "I liked it when we learned new facts about living creatures and how we can look after them."

Eastrop FC (the school football team) recently participated in an exhilarating Football Festival with other schools across Swindon. The event was a

fantastic opportunity for our young athletes to showcase their skills, teamwork, and sportsmanship. One of the highlights of the day was the spirit of fair play shown by all participants. The children made new friends, learned valuable lessons in teamwork, and experienced the joy of playing football in a supportive and fun environment. Parents and teachers were immensely proud of the effort and dedication shown by Eastrop FC. It was a memorable day for everyone involved. Go Eastrop FC!



Julie Warburton, Executive Headteacher

Highworth Historical Society

'The Abandoned Ships of Purton' is the title of our talk on Wednesday 25 June. Paul Barnett is the speaker.

Over a period of 40 years, Paul Barnett, a maritime historian from Gloucester with academic accreditation from many universities, has researched and photographed most of the known hulks on the River Severn. His book is a historical record of 120 ships that have been laid to rest along the banks of the Severn, including barges and trows listed while in service. Their remains are at



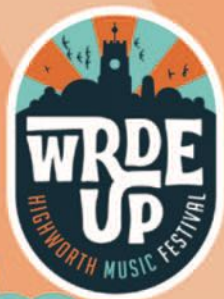
Purton, Lydney, Sharpness, and upriver to the now derelict Droitwich canal.

He has given guided tours at Purton and has appeared on the TV programme 'Tales from the Riverbank' with Claire Balding.

We meet at St. Michael's Church, Highworth, at 7pm with the talk starting at 7:30pm. Visitors are always

welcome for a charge of £3 – cash please.

Jayne Stephens



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THE UP AND DOWN HISTORY OF HIGHWORTH MARKET

Every wondered about the history of your local market? Paul Newton-Smith from the Highworth Historical Society is here to help.

Highworth was given a Market and Fairs Charter in 1206, and this is the first known charter giving the right to hold a weekly Wednesday market and an annual fair at Highworth. It was to be held on the vigil and feast day of St. Michael (29 September) and was given by King John to Warin, son of Gerold, on 20 April 1206. This was followed by a further charter giving the right to hold an annual fair on the vigil, feast, and morrow of Peter ad Vincula and was granted to his descendant, Baldwin de Redvers, by King Henry III on 12 June 1257.

Ownership of markets was considered to be a profitable investment and the right to collect tolls at markets and fairs was a valuable perquisite which could be bought and sold. In 1686, Thomas Freke of Hannington bought the rights for Highworth's market for £800. The Freke family retained the rights and in 1725 commissioned a 'Survey of the Profits'. The survey reveals that the charge for traders setting up stalls was 1p, the toll for sheep was 4p per score, for cattle 2p, for horses 4p, and for pigs 1p. Further income came from the use of the Market House and the rooms over it (taken down in the early 19th century to facilitate the movement of traffic through the town). The income to the Freke family for the markets and fairs was said to be £50 per annum (equivalent to £14,167 at today's prices).

The ownership of the markets and fairs continued in the hands of the Freke family until 13 October 1843 when Colonel

Henry John Freke sold them for £300 (equivalent to £48,710 today) to Thomas Ackling, corn dealer, and Thomas Yeates, butcher, both of Highworth. Records show that in 1845 ownership had moved to the Phipps family.

Although initially successful, market towns started to decline, and in Wiltshire the number dropped from 59 in 1493 to only 16 in 1586. However, the late 16th and early 17th centuries saw a marked resurgence. During this period, market towns became important centres of evangelical Puritanism and extra sermons were given to the people thronging on market days. Some markets became more specialised dealing in horn, wool, yarn, or cattle, and it appears that Highworth had moved towards a more specialised form of market dealing with cattle.

At about this time, Highworth began to decline, like many other towns, at the expense of the growth in the industrial towns. The new Great Western Railway works opened in Swindon in 1843 providing work and transportation to the growing market in Swindon. On top of this, agricultural mechanisations led to high unemployment and a drift away from the land towards the industrial towns. Emigration from Highworth also occurred, some going to Swindon with others moving further afield to America, Canada, and Australia. At its peak, up to 100 people left the town every year.

During 1925, the market picked up slightly but in 1926 it appears that only two markets were held: one in February, the other in

September. Finally, an outbreak of foot and mouth disease in December that year spread over north-east Wiltshire and into west Berkshire. Livestock movement was prohibited in the area and the market failed to survive this last set-back.

Rules were quite strict during the time of the fairs. For instance, nobody else was allowed to trade and all the shops in the town were closed for business – this led to very bitter feelings amongst the townspeople. During the markets and fairs, ale was allowed to be sold from bush houses, identified by a bunch of greenery hung outside. Highworth had at least two bush houses, located in Sheep Street and at the east end of the High Street.

In 1970, the market place was sold to Highworth Rural District Council. There was a movement in 1980 to revive the market and a petition in support was organised by Councillor Mrs. Haines which was signed by some 500 people. A street market was planned for Saturdays, and on 30 May 1981 the Highworth Street Market was opened.

Highworth's Local Market 2025 – A True Community Treasure

Highworth's local market is a hidden gem that continues to flourish, offering something for everyone: from fresh produce, delicious treats, handmade goods, and much more.

Held every Saturday in the heart of town, the market has become a favourite destination for both residents and visitors. But it is more than just a place to shop; it is a vibrant community hub where people come together, catch up with familiar faces, and enjoy the welcoming atmosphere. With a delightful mix of long-standing traders and exciting new stalls, there is always something new to discover.

Highworth Town Council warmly invites everyone to experience the market for themselves. Whether you are looking to attend, become a trader, or simply want to learn more, we would love to hear from you.

Email us at admin@highworthtowncouncil.gov.uk or telephone 01793 762377.



Highworth's market place, 1870s



Mrs. Hazel opening the market, 30 May 1981



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In April, I featured in Highworth's LINK Magazine highlighting my fundraising effort running the London Marathon for Parkinson's UK. Well, I did it!

It was a really hot day, so it took me a little longer to complete than I had hoped, but the cheering of the crowds along the route in London and the atmosphere on the day really helped me get around the 26.2 miles. Most importantly though, I got to the finish line on The Mall and got the medal to show my achievement.

It was also a big motivation knowing that I had raised nearly £2,000 for Parkinson's UK. I would just like to say thank you so much to everyone who donated and helped me raise this amount.

If you would still like to make a donation, my fundraising page remains open until the end of June. Please go to the link which will take you to my fundraising page:

www.events.parkinsons.org.uk/fundraisers/HelenJones/london-marathon-2025

Thank you once again.

Helen Jones



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May Day 2025

HIGHWORTH & DISTRICT LION'S CLUB

Photographs taken by: Aga Marsden, Christine Dunster, Alison Cross-Jones, Daisy Capistrano, Rachael Laing-Smith, Emma Bull, Eva Millard, Hannah Mobbs, Kai Sawicki and Sue Subow

May Day 2025

Highworth & District Branch 2585
Highworth & District Branch 2585

HIGHWORTH & DISTRICT LION'S CLUB

Photographs taken by: Aga Marsden, Christine Dunster, Alison Cross-Jones, Daisy Capistrano, Rachael Laing-Smith, Emma Bull, Eva Millard, Hannah Mobbs, Kai Sawicki and Sue Subow

READERS' LETTERS

Dear Rachael...

I'm writing to you to say a big 'Thank You' to the Council's Grounds Team who do the grass cutting, public bin emptying, and today I saw them putting up the flags for the forthcoming May Day Market.

They do a great job and Highworth is looking very resplendent in the spring sunshine. We are all so lucky living in this pretty part of the country!

Yours

Berit Aherne



I thought you may be interested in this photograph taken on St. George's Day in Sevenhampton. I believe it is over 50 years since a flag flew at the top of the tower of St. James' Church.

For some months Paul Mortier and I have been working on addressing a number of issues that were raised in last year's architect inspection of the church (called a Quinquennial). Part of this work involved clearing the gutters and renewing the sealant on the tower roof. While doing this, we noticed that there was a flag pole bracket but no flag pole. A suitable pole was acquired and fitted, just in time to raise the St. George's Cross on St. Georges Day.

Regards.

Mark Birtwistle

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Celebrating Success: Southfield Maintains its 'Good' Ofsted Rating



Kimberley O'Sullivan (l) pictured with a number of Southfield children, Julie Warburton (Executive Headteacher), and Abby Spencer (Deputy Head)



Southfield Junior School is delighted to share the outcome of our recent Ofsted inspection – a moment of pride for our entire school community. Following a rigorous two-day ungraded inspection, the report confirms that we have successfully maintained the high standards set at our previous visit. We are proud to say that we continue to be recognised as a 'Good' school.

The inspection report highlights a number of strengths within our school, from the dedication of our staff and the quality of our teaching to the enthusiasm and resilience of our pupils. Just as importantly, it offers clear guidance on areas for further development, insight that closely aligns with our existing Academy Improvement Plan and ongoing self-evaluation processes.

This result is a powerful reflection of the commitment and teamwork that define our school. It's a shared achievement driven by the hard work of our staff, the positive attitude of our students, and the invaluable support of our parents and carers.

Kimberley O'Sullivan, Head of School

Support for Sight Loss: Closer Than You Think

If you or someone you care about is living with sight loss, you're not alone. Wiltshire Sight is your local sight loss charity, offering free, friendly support to help you stay independent, informed, and connected.

We work across Wiltshire and Swindon offering a monthly Sight Loss Advice Hub where you can:

- Speak to your local Sight Loss Advisor who will offer information and tailored advice.
- Try out useful equipment and resources to help with daily life.
- Get one-to-one technology support.

Your local hub takes place at Highworth Library on the first Thursday of each month.

Appointments are available between 10:15am to 12:15pm. Please contact us in advance to book your session. Family and friends are welcome to attend with you. Other hubs across the region offer drop-in sessions and a social group in Wroughton if you'd prefer a more flexible setting. We're always happy to welcome new volunteers to support these local hubs and groups.

To find out more, book your appointment, or discover our other services, get in touch by phone (01380 723682), email (info@wiltshiresight.org), or by checking out our website at www.wiltshiresight.org.



Claire Davenport

Scarecrow Trail Success

During the Easter holidays, 1st Highworth Scouts ran their Annual Scarecrow Trail, and this year we had an incredible 60 submissions from within the local community.

Selling close to 300 trail booklets, which were kindly printed by Print Clever and sold by Allen and Harris, The Saracens Head, and Visit Highworth, we have raised the fantastic sum of £794 which will benefit the Beavers, Cubs, and Scouts of Highworth.

Of all the submissions this year I had several personal favourites: 'Hickory Dickory Dock', for not only its humour, but also the inclusion of sound effects; I enjoyed the narrative of the 'Tortoise and the Hare' playing out their participation in their own Scout fundraising event; 'Rapunzel' needed to be admired for her glorious blonde locks, but as voted by those who returned their trail booklets the winner was 'Three Little Kittens'.

Prizes were kindly donated by local businesses



Three Little Kittens, winner of this year's Community Favourite

Highworth Emporium, Weigh It Up, The Highworth, and Andrews Quality Meats. All winners have now been notified.

Nora Enderby

Girls Aloud Delights Highworth

St. Michael's Church in Highworth was filled with music at the recent Girls Aloud concert, featuring the Thamesdown Ladies Choir, Splash of Red (Fairford), and Shrivenham Ladies Choir.

Kathleen Spindler, a member of Thamesdown Ladies, sent in a poem to celebrate the evening's fundraiser for The Breast Centre at Great Western Hospital.



*It all took place like clockwork,
The singing was just great,
Three choirs all did their very best,
All stepped up to the plate.*

*A wonderful night of singing
With Fairford's Splash of Red,
Shrivenham Ladies all took part
And grateful thanks were said.*

*A musical night to remember,
The Breast Centre benefits too,
£1100 for their cause,
All were proud to make it through.*

*I think the audience enjoyed it,
It gave them all much pleasure
To listen to such varied tunes,
Memories for all to treasure.*

*So to the music of Thamesdown Ladies
With songs to warm the heart,
Certainly makes you lift your voice
I'm proud to be a part.*



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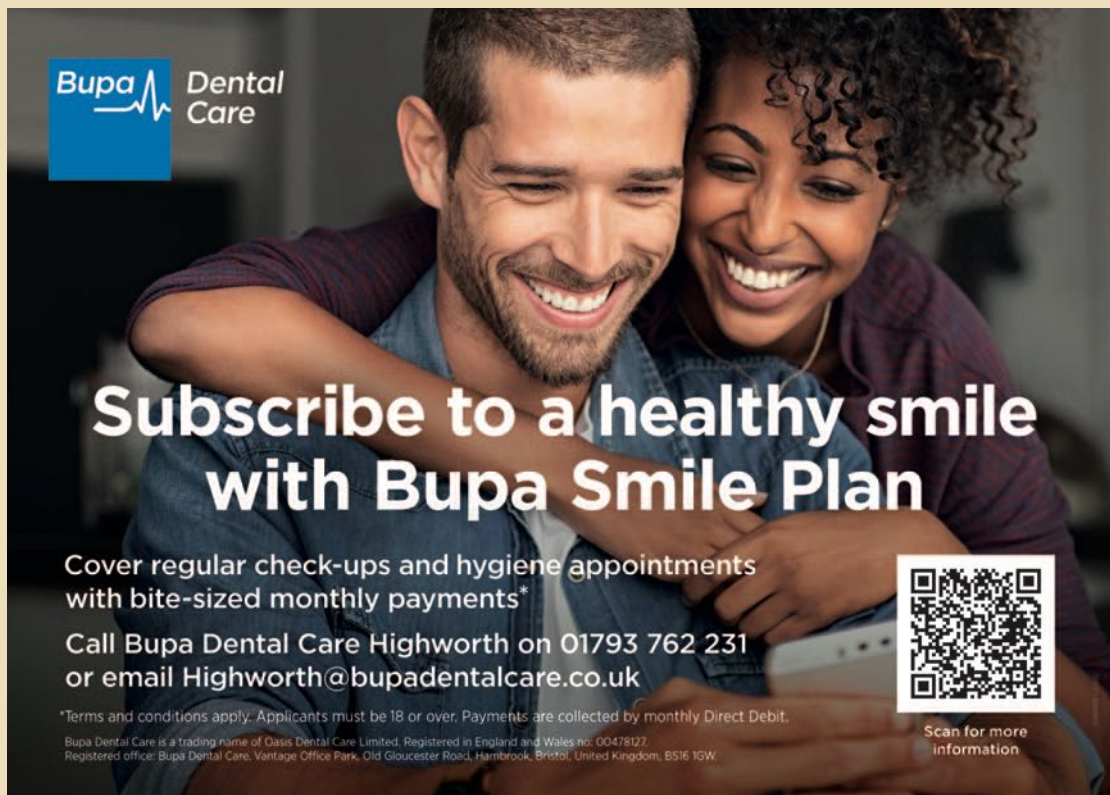
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**Scan for more
information**

Highworth and District Lions

We have an exciting June ahead at the Lions charity shop!

Prom Day is fast approaching for many of our young ladies and gentlemen to look their best. We have a variety of lovely colourful examples to choose from as you can see in our photos, so come along to have a look.

From the beginning of June we will be selling tickets for our ever-popular seniors trip to Weston-Super-Mare, taking place on **Monday 8 September**.

We've kept the price the same as last year with tickets selling for £10 (cash only) and available from the Lions charity shop. This trip always sells out fast so pop into the shop to book your seat.



The Highworth and District Lions are also working closely with Highworth Town Council and the men's health charity CHAP to deliver a PSA testing programme for prostate cancer which will be held on **12 July**. See the advertisement on page 19 for more information, and the article about this event in last month's issue of LINK Magazine.

Our donations this month:

- Highworth's Mayor's Appeal: £150.
- Vision Screening Project: £1,000.
- Barra Close playground project: £4,500.
- Defibrillators (Highworth area): £1,600.





W Lions' Over 60's Outing

Weston-super-Mare

Monday 8th September 2025

TICKETS FROM THE LIONS CHARITY SHOP
23 NEWBURGH PLACE, SN67DN
Depart - 9am Turnpike Road (top end)
Depart - 9.15am Goldfinger Car Park
Coach Departs Weston 5pm for return

ONLY
£10
 Per Person
CASH ONLY










Charity #285690

Highworth Methodist Church



What's on in June?

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

Every Saturday



Charity



Coffee Morning

10.30 – 12 noon
Fresh Fairtrade filtered
Coffee and cake



Every Friday

9.30-11.15 am



For parents, carers and their
children under school age.
Toys, crafts, music and snacks

Craft Group

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



Make new friends
Learn new skills
All welcome

Sunday Worship @ 10.30

1
8
15
22
29



Refreshments served
after the service

Afternoon Communion
Tuesday, 3rd 2pm

3Cs – Coffee,
cake & chat

Wednesday, 11th at
2.30pm

Join us for a Chat, cake
and a cuppa (and some
singing!)



Just come along!



LECHLADE
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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
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- Junior matches from May onwards at U9, U11, U13 and U15 age groups

ADULT CRICKET

- Pre-season nets through April
- League cricket on a Saturday
- T20 on a Wednesday
- Occasional Sunday friendlies

We're also looking for Scorers, Umpires and Volunteers

For further details please contact -
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Highworth Methodist Church

Coffee Morning

In aid of Friends of Angel's Orphanage



All the usual coffee/tea,
cake and lively chat!

Plus:

Table Top Sale of mixed
items as well as Lovely Dee's delicious
marmalades and jams!

plus Table Tennis games in the back room
for the energetic of all ages!

10.30am - 12pm

Saturday 7th June 2025

Highworth Methodist Church SN6 7HG

In aid of:



FRIENDS OF
ANGEL'S ORPHANAGE
every little helps, every penny counts!

Friends of Angel's Orphanage is a local charity - set up to help support their sponsored 'family' of homeless children in Nepal. All proceeds from our events go directly to help finance the children's housing, educational and well-being needs.

The Arts Society Upper Thames

We would be pleased to welcome you as a visitor to our June Lecture, 'The Art of the Japanese Garden – from Tradition to Modernity' with Marie Conte Helm, on Thursday 12 June.

This lecture introduces some of Japan's most famous gardens and provides a context for understanding the principles of Japanese garden design as it has evolved through the ages. The Japanese love of nature and the changing seasons has manifested itself in the subject matter of paintings and in the intimate and grand-scale gardens surrounding aristocratic palaces and Buddhist temples, as well as Zen-inspired dry landscape gardens with their strikingly symbolic content. Nature and artifice are intriguingly combined in such examples to capture the very essence of the landscape.

Professor Marie Conte-Helm is a long-established Arts Society Lecturer with a BA in History of Art and an MA

in Asian Art and is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts. She was Director General of the Daiwa Anglo-Japanese Foundation from 1999-2011 and has held senior academic posts at various UK universities. She has most recently served as Executive Director of the UK-Japan 21st Century Group, and as a member of the Board of Governors of the University for the Creative Arts. She is widely published and has lectured throughout the UK and abroad. She is also an experienced cruise speaker and a Resident Historian with Viking Ocean Cruises, lecturing on many aspects of Asian Art and East-West Encounters.

We meet at Lechlade Memorial Hall at 2pm. Non-members are very welcome but please arrive by 1:50pm, and pay £7.50 with the correct amount on the door, and please register first at info@tasupperthames.org.uk.

Rodney Mountford

The Community Centre

*Actually it's not far off,
A ten-minute walk and a spit and a cough.*

What goes on?

*Petanque, but that's difficult to rhyme
To be frank.*

*Bumps2Babies – now there's a sight,
And chariots to fall over, left and right.
Tired mums who no longer brag.
"Here, have him, I'm off for a fag (and a coffee)."*

*Fitsteps – at 97 decibels and full of sweat,
60s music to remind you yet
Of years gone by, you'll ne'er forget.*

*Pilates, yoga, and gentle dance.
Don't wake them up from their trance –
snoring.
Believe me the Centre is anything but boring!*

Keith Smith

Highworth Camera Club

The Camera Club will be out and about for this month's meeting. If you are reading this before our meeting on Tuesday 11 June and you would like to join us, please do email highworthcamclub@gmail.com to find out where we will be.

Next month, **Tuesday 8 July** at 7:30pm, we are hosting landscape and nature photographer Jack Lodge. Jack hails from Dorset and his presentation is titled 'Changing Woodlands'. His stunning images can be seen on his website at www.jacklodge.co.uk – worth a look! You would be so welcome to come along and hear Jack. There will be a charge of £5 for non-members. We meet at the Highworth Community Centre, SN6 7PQ.

You can see images produced by club members on our website: www.highworthcameraclub.com.

Hilary Beach

Moving Fast with Highworth Amateur Dramatics Society

We are pleased to announce our next production will be 'The Swift Show – HADS Presents Nine Little Pieces of Nonsense'.

Production dates are **4 and 5 July**, and tickets will be available both online and at the Highworth Emporium. Go to our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/HADSHighworth) for more details, or keep your eyes peeled for posters in the area.

Elanor



If you have a sport story email jcdsport12@gmail.com

Bowmoor Sailing Club

Bowmoor helms will be on hand to take potential new members for a sail on our lake. Visitors are advised to bring a change of clothing and a towel just in case they get wet. Come and chat to members of the club (all ages) to find out more; whether it's training, social sailing, enjoying the fresh air on a fine day or competitive racing. We also cater for windsurfing! Please go to our website to see more and to register (www.bowmoor.com).

Doug Roberts
Membership@bowmoor.com



Laughs on the lake

Wrag Barn Golf Club

Our Wrag Barn Juniors travelled to Carlisle Golf Club for the Junior Home Nations Final. We arrived on Wednesday 9 April and managed to squeeze in an afternoon practice round – well worth it. Carlisle is a stunning course, full of elevation changes and sweeping doglegs. It's a real test of accuracy and shot-making right from the first tee. After our practice round, it was a quick check-in at the hotel, then out to catch the football before heading for an early night ahead of the big day.

Thursday kicked off with our first match against Whitecraig from Scotland. A strong start set the tone,

and we secured the half point needed to seal the win 4.5 to 1.5. At the same time, the Stableford Trophy got underway, with our Vice Captain Jake Kavanagh putting in a standout performance, scoring 39 points (the best round of the day).

A quick lunch, then back out for a 2pm tee time against Drumpellier. Another tight contest; we just missed the half point we needed to clinch the win, so the match ended in a draw. But a brilliant 40 points from Gethin Jones saw us take the lead in the Stableford Trophy.

Friday's final match was against tournament leaders Waterfront. We needed a win to take the overall title, but they showed why they were top. A tough side who never let us settle. Gethin delivered another strong performance to win his match but we fell short overall, finishing runners-up. A strong showing from Ruben in the Stableford Trophy (36 points) gave us hope, but we lost on countback.

All in all, a fantastic few days. Great golf, a great experience, and great company. We'll be back next year!

Alan Kavanagh
www.wragbarn.com



Wrag Barn Juniors

Highworth Town Walking Football Club

Highworth Town Walking Football Club provides footballing opportunities for men and women. The men's team has three age groups: Over-50s, over-60s, and over-65s. The Ladies team encourages players who are over-40 to participate.

All teams play in competitive but friendly leagues in Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, and the Thames Valley area throughout the year, along with national cups that take us a little further afield.

Why should you come along? Walking football is a great way to meet new people and to get a little fitter through physical activity. The laws of walking football are very similar to regular football however, running, physical contact, and kicking the ball above head height results in a free kick. All you need to play is some sports clothing, appropriate footwear for playing on Astroturf, and a



Our over-50 champs in Chippenham

keenness to get involved and have some fun. If you would like to know more please drop us an email at highworthwfc@outlook.com.

Graham Seeley

Highworth Town FC

So that's it for HTFC's First Team this season. For a second successive season, the promotion play-offs proved a step too far. Having beaten Roman Glass St. George in the semi-final, a trip to SC Inkberrow in Worcestershire for the final saw the team fall to a 1-0 defeat in a tight game. Please visit the club throughout the summer and follow us on social media.

Derek Lloyd

Shrivenham Cricket Club

With our off-season seeing us purchase covers and a portable net, we start this season on a crest at last as we look forward to running two league teams on Saturdays in the Wiltshire Cricket Leagues (Divisions 5 and 10), and also a midweek team in the Swindon and District Cricket League. This of course means a home match every Saturday from now until the end of August!

Beginning last month, we're running our ECB All Stars and Dynamos Junior coaching sessions on **Friday evenings** between 5:30pm and 6:30pm (please book via the website at www.shrivenham.play-cricket.com) followed immediately by our Senior net practice sessions. Whether Junior or Senior, if interested in learning or playing cricket please do get in touch.

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Swindon Croquet Club

The croquet season traditionally starts with a One Ball competition for charity. This year the chosen charity is the Alzheimer's Society and all players were asked to wear blue – the Society's colours.

Swindon and Kington Langley Croquet Club join together for this annual event which, this year, was held in Swindon with competitors from both clubs. Competitors and others make donations and this year raised a staggering £250 for the chosen charity, demonstrating the commitment of members of both clubs to community action.

One Ball is a fun game combining both croquet codes (Association and Golf) with players playing with one ball rather than the usual colour pairing. This year the competition took place under clear blue skies (appropriate as the Alzheimer's Society colour) but with a cold, easterly wind frequently gusting to gale force making life somewhat difficult for the players. After six rounds of very close and competitive play, two players (Ted Crossley from Kington Langley and Tony Mayer from Swindon) were on five wins with Ted slightly ahead on hoop difference. Third place went to Terry Theobald from Swindon with four wins. This was an excellent performance as Terry had previously only had an hour or two's practice having never played this variation of the game before.

Having raised more than £200 entitles Swindon and Kington Langley to three places in the Southern Final. Ted and Tony will be there but with Terry otherwise committed, the third place goes to Julia Cook from Kington Langley with three wins by virtue of having the best hoop difference and head-to-head result.

Thanks to all the players from both clubs, the Swindon ladies who provided the catering throughout the day, plus other spectators for braving the cold wind. It was a fun day enjoyed by all and in aid of a very good cause.

Aside from One Ball Croquet, there is a spring Short Croquet tournament held at Nailsea which celebrated its 25th anniversary this year. After losing in a penalty shoot-out last year, this year we tried to go one better. Tied again, we entered the penalty shoot-out, this time coming out victorious. The successful team comprised Andy Smith, Tony Mayer, Mike Graham, and Alan Braunton. Well done! Hopefully this will encourage more members to try their hand at the short game.

Wendy White
www.swindoncroquetclub.org.uk

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

Shrivenham Park Golf Club

The members are enjoying plans to upgrade and refurbish the club, both internally and externally. Menu choices have widened and seating is being enhanced, with our sun umbrellas on the patio looking sparkling in the sunshine. What can be better than a pre-round drink, then 9/18 hole breakfast and coffee, or an après meal and a drink to celebrate the good play, or commiserate on what might have been! Let the internet work out the results after entering your scores, and the winner's name will automatically appear. Everyone is welcome at SPGC: all ages, all abilities, and all days.

In terms of competitions held recently, Tommy Tuck and Sarah Hannon took first place in the American Greensomes ahead of Dave Spicer and Debbie Elbourn who ended the day as runners-up, and the first bank holiday of May saw (yet to be reported on) our Cha Cha Cha tournament, where foursomes played a three hole rotation and winners were awarded a tea cup and teapot.

A new venture for our ever increasing number of Juniors who hold CDH (Central Database of Handicaps) handicaps was the 18 hole Stableford competition. This will be played several times throughout the season and on the inaugural occasion. Laurence and Deacon shared first place with 44 points and both reduced their

Shrivenham Park Golf Club
Junior Open Wednesday 6th August 2025
(Entry fee £10 for 18 hole OR £5 for 9 hole event) payable on the day
Boys and Girls
All Juniors welcome up to age 18 (1st January 2025)
First Tee time expected to be 12 noon
(Times will be advised by text)
18 hole qualifying competition
Jim Boyes Trophy for best 18 hole score
(2 handicap categories depending on players entered, you will be advised before the day)

XX

9 holes (SIXES STABLEFORD SCORING) HOLES 10 TO 18
Suitable for those working on their CDH and less experienced high CDH players CDH 45 and above

XX

Prizes - 1st place and runner up in each section, plus Birdie prizes!!
Food available before and after play at own cost
Enter by texting
Junior Organiser, Carole Lee on 07467 657 964

**COME AND ENJOY SHRIVENHAM HOSPITALITY,
WE CATER FOR ALL ABILITIES AND AGES ON
OUR TREE LINED COURSE! SEE YOU THERE!**

handicaps. A small trophy (kindly donated by Fay Forster) will be held by the winner until the next time it is played.

Carole Lee
www.shrivenhampark.co.uk

Highworth Bowls Club

As the days grow longer and the temperatures rise, the Highworth Bowls Club Ladies embrace the pre-season with enthusiasm. This friendly match, played among the club members themselves, is more than just a game; it is a cherished tradition that marks the beginning of the bowling season. It provides an opportunity for the ladies to reconnect, hone their skills, and enjoy each other's company in a laid-back setting. Please see our website for more information:
www.highworthbowlsclub.org.

Kevin Brown



A pre-season tradition

HIGHWORTH TOWN COUNCIL

Highworth Town Council Secures £50,000 National Lottery Grant for Barra Close Play Area Redevelopment



Highworth Town Council is thrilled to announce that it has been awarded an incredible £50,000 grant from The National Lottery to help bring an exciting new vision for Barra Close Play Area to life!

After years of extensive consultation with our community, including feedback from local families, young people, and residents, the plans for the redevelopment of the Barra Close Play Area and Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) have now been officially submitted to Swindon Borough Council's Planning Department. We anticipate the planning process will take around eight weeks, with a decision expected by the end of May 2025.

Once planning permission is secured, the council will move swiftly to order the new play equipment and begin works to transform the park into a vibrant, inclusive, and accessible space for all. This project will create a much-needed community hub where children and families can enjoy outdoor activities, sports, and play for many years to come.

Chair of the Play Area Working Party Councillor Natalie Key said "We are absolutely delighted to receive this generous support from The National Lottery. This redevelopment is a fantastic example of how community voices can shape real, lasting improvements in Highworth. We can't wait to see Barra Close Play Area buzzing with activity and excitement once the new facilities are in place!"

Highworth Town Council extends its heartfelt thanks to everyone who participated in the consultation and to The National Lottery who have made this project possible.

Stay tuned for further updates as we move closer to making this dream a reality!

PRESS RELEASE



Highworth Town Council
3 Gilberts Lane
Highworth
SN6 7FB

Tel: 01793 762377

admin@highworthtowncouncil.gov.uk
www.highworthtowncouncil.gov.uk



HIGHWORTH SKATEPARK EVENT

**SATURDAY
12TH JULY 2025
11AM - 2PM**

**A JAMMED PACKED SESSION WITH
MUSIC AND A PA SYSTEM.
FREE TUITION, GAMES,
COMPETITIONS.**

**3 HOURS FOR SCOOTER RIDERS
AND SKATEBOARDERS.
PRIZES AND GIVE AWAY
GOODIES IN COMPETITIONS,
THROW OUTS AND SNACKS.**

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EQUIPMENT FOR
EVERYONE
TO USE.**



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**HIGHWORTH TOWN COUNCIL supports
ALL YOURS here in Highworth**

All Yours have provided us with sanitary wear to distribute to those in Highworth who are struggling to afford or access period products each month. If you or someone you know is in need then just pop into our offices in Gilberts Lane where we will be happy to help



News from Highworth's Mayor



I hope you enjoyed our recent events. Our May Day celebration transported us back to the 14th century with a Medieval-themed event, brought to life by the College of Chivalry.

Just five days later we marked the 80th anniversary of VE Day, commemorating the end

of the war in Europe. It was a poignant opportunity to remember all those who served and to acknowledge the brave men and women who continued to fight in Japan, my father among them.

Highworth's High Street was transformed back to the 1940s, complete with an afternoon tea for residents, live music by Chelsea Millard, a full-size replica Spitfire, a Spitfire simulator, and army vehicles of the era alongside static stalls. The day concluded with the lighting of the beacon – a fitting tribute to a remarkable generation.

I am delighted to announce an exciting new collaboration with Highworth Lions who are subsidising prostate cancer testing for men in our community. This important initiative will take place on **Saturday 12 July** at Highworth Community Centre. For booking details, please refer to the advertisement on page 19 of this issue.

On a personal note, I have booked a tandem skydive for **Friday 27 June** in Salisbury to raise funds for Highworth's Forget-Me-Not. If you would like to show your support, donations can be made via the link on the Highworth Town Council Facebook page or by calling the Town Council office at 01793 762377.

Finally, as my mayoral year will have concluded by the time you read this, I would like to offer my heartfelt thanks to all the businesses and individuals who have supported my fundraising efforts. I look forward to updating you on the total raised following my parachute jump. Serving as your mayor has been an immense honour.

Julie Murphy, Mayor and Chair

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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07743 859874 gemma.dennis@highworthtowncouncil.gov.uk

Ian Durnin Duffy, 78A Westrop, Highworth SN6 7HJ
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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 live service can be found on YouTube by searching 'St Michaels Church Highworth'.

8:45am Holy Communion

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

11:00am 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 we love and miss

Norman Broome

We welcome in Holy Baptism

Imogen Sheldrick

We congratulate on their Marriage

Michael Pritchard and Emma Glead

Praying for the roads in the town

1 June	Henley Drive and High Street
8 June	Hannington, Sevenhampton, and Inglesham
15 June	Home Farm and Islay Crescent
22 June	Kilda Road and Kings Avenue
29 June	Knowlands and Lechlade Road

St. Leonard's Parish Church Stanton Fitzwarren

1 June	Morning Praise, 9:30am
8 June	Pentecost, Family Service, 11am
15 June	Team Service here at St. Leonard's, 10am
22 June	Morning Worship, 9:30am
29 June	Team Service at St. Margaret's, Stratton, 10am

Stanton Coffee Morning meets monthly at Stanton House Hotel, 10:15am for coffee and chat, and then we

have a speaker at 11am. On **Wednesday 18 June** our topic will be '40 Years of Coffee Mornings'.

The church 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 for updates.



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



25 June

*Twenty years since you left us.
You remain much loved and missed.
Forever in our hearts,
Sue, Liz, Hannah and Alex xx*

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

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

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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 Drive Campus	01793 611470
North Star Campus	01793 491591

LAW & ORDER

Crimestoppers	0800 555111
Victim Supportline	0800 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
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.

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

Contributions:

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

Email is preferred; otherwise deliver to The Bridge Centre, 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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