HighworthLINK

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July/August 2025



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EDITORIAL

Dear Reader

Cake!

That got your attention, didn't it?

Wouldn't it be great if creating community was as simple as making a cake? Thinking about it, it's not about how easy it is – it's more about choosing the right ingredients and having the patience to let it all come together naturally. Like a cake, a community needs a mix of flavours to hit the sweet spot. If one ingredient overpowers the others, the balance is lost.

The *location* is like the baking tin; it gives the community its shape and framework. *The people* are the main ingredients, bringing their own uniqueness and contributions to the mix. *Relationships?* They're like the eggs or flour that hold everything together. *Shared beliefs and practices* add the spice, giving the community its personality. *Organisation* is the baking powder, helping it grow into something amazing, while the *sense of belonging* brings the sweetness that makes it all worth it. And *enthusiasm?* That's the heat



that turns all those ingredients into something truly special.

It takes time and care to get it right. Adjustments might be needed, and sometimes you have to start over if the recipe doesn't quite work out. But when everything finally clicks, you end up with a community



that supports and uplifts everyone involved – something truly satisfying.

Highworth isn't short of cake: The coffee shops have it aplenty and the sweetness of community is evident. Read through any issue of LINK Magazine and you'll see all the ingredients come together. So why not join us from **Monday 15 September** to **Saturday 20 September** for Highworth's Volunteers' Week, as we decide to put other people before ourselves and go the extra mile to make someone else's life better. Whether it be litter picking, gardening, delivering groceries, helping in a charity shop, or something else, you have what it takes to enhance the flavour of our community. Get in touch if you'd like to be involved.

achael

P.S. You can read more about Highworth's Volunteers' Week on page13 or contact me at editor@highworthlink.co.uk for a copy of our brochure.



Front cover image: Mayor Julie Murphy delights Forget-Me-Not group. See page 17 for more.

Sowing Seeds of Kindness

Summer is here along with school holidays; long and hopefully sunny days, a time to be enjoyed by all. At St. Leonard's Church in Blunsdon we are also hoping for approval for our Reordering Project which is looking to open the church to more community events and be a wider part of the heart of the community. And this led me on to thinking about how we grow our communities: What we can do this summer?

Paul in the Bible tells us that the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control, and of course we have the words of Jesus who, when asked, "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" said, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And the second is like it: "You shall love your neighbour as yourself."" So how do we build a stronger community through the Spirit? I think this is through sowing seeds of kindness as often as we can, at every opportunity. Think about what small acts of kindness you can perform during the summer. Check on an elderly neighbour, offer help to someone, or simply



engage in friendly conversations. We all have a part to play in being part of the wider community and growing the community through love for our neighbours.

I hope you have a wonderful summer, and that the community feels the love so desperately needed in the world today.

Paul Morris, Licensed Lay Minister, St Leonard's Church, Blunsdon

Highworth Community Larder Expansion Plans

Highworth Community Larder continues to thrive. Since we opened on 31 January 2023, we have saved 27,764 kg of surplus food from landfill and distributed it to between 90 and 110 visitors a week.

We will continue to open the larder **every Tuesday morning** from 8am to 10am at Westrop School, but we also have an exciting new venture. Thanks to Highworth Town Council who have offered us the use of a room, we plan to open a drop-in café once a month on the **third Wednesday in the month** between 9:30am and 11:30am. The café will take place in the Council Rooms starting on **Wednesday 17 September**. This will provide a warm and welcoming space for visitors to meet friends, enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit, and maybe collect any surplus food left over from our Tuesday larder.

We are lucky enough to have a wonderful team of volunteers but can always use more. If you would like any further information on the Larder or are able to help us with:

- · Collections from supermarkets (Friday to Mondays),
- Staffing the larder (Tuesday mornings from 7:15am to 10:30am), or
- · Staffing the drop-in café (Wednesdays 9am to 12noon)

please contact us at highworthcommunitylarder@gmail.com or drop into the Larder on a Tuesday morning to meet us.

Portraits with Highworth Camera Club

On 8 July we will welcome visitors to hear our guest speaker from Dorset, Jack Lodge. If you miss that you'd be welcome at the club's meeting on 12 August when we are hoping to run a practical session trying out some portraiture with visiting members of HADS (Highworth Amateur Dramatic Society) who will pose for us.

Next in the club's calendar of events will be our annual exhibition in the Council Offices, Gilbert's Lane, from **19 to 20 September**. Please do drop in and have a look at our photographs and chat to club members.

New members are always welcome to attend our meetings on the **second Tuesday of the month** at the Highworth Community Centre, The Dormers, from 7:30pm. Further details are available from highworthcamclub@gmail.com or check out the club website at www.highworthcameraclub.com.

Hilary Beach

Sue Morison

Fight for Old Golf Course Continues

After four years, the fight to keep our Old Golf Course as undeveloped open green space still continues, encountering ups and downs along the way.

On Wednesday 4 June, hundreds of supporters attended a Swindon Borough Council (SBC) cabinet meeting at SBC offices in Swindon. Another incredible turnout on the night saw the Council chamber, public gallery and two side rooms filled to the brim with residents from across Swindon Borough wishing to make their strength of feeling known to SBC councillors and officers.

Despite heartfelt pleas, impassioned speeches and searching questions from our Highworth Town Council (HTC) and Borough Council representatives, and the public, SBC Cabinet members still voted to progress a plan to now build up to 700 houses on the upper, most accessible part of our land. They now intend to begin pre-application considerations of the plan.

Hugely disappointingly, the vote was allowed to even take place despite several councillors admitting to having not read all the supporting paperwork, the ecological report they commissioned having clearly



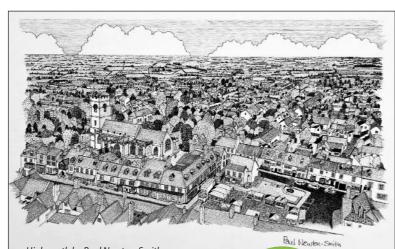
been ignored, and effective admissions several times that they had in fact decided how to vote before the meeting – 'predetermination' in legal terms.

Attendees and observers were left angered and shocked by SBC's blatant ignoring of their electorate. However, the fight continues with both HTC and the Action Group for Saving Highworth's Old Golf Course determined to fight on to protect this amazing green space for future generations. Watch this space for further updates.

Rob New



Visit Highworth



Highworth by Paul Newton-Smith

We have had a very busy few months at Visit Highworth putting together our workshop programme and developing a new website.

June saw a 'Paint and Prosecco' workshop and our first jewellery making workshop, 'Sensational Spirals'. A programme for the autumn workshops including crochet, cardmaking, jewellery making, and our ever-popular 'Paint and Prosecco' evening, will be available in August and featured on our website. Our 'Meet the Maker' sessions will take place on the **first Saturday of every month** starting in September.

Permissions Secured for Barra Close Play Area

Highworth Town Council is pleased to confirm that all necessary permissions are now in place for the redevelopment of the Barra Close play area. We are working with our chosen provider to progress installation and are confident the new play area will be completed by the end of 2025.

Once equipment lead times are confirmed, we'll share a more detailed timeline. This project marks a significant investment in our community, and we thank residents for their patience and support. For updates, visit www.highworthtowncouncil.gov.uk/play-area-barraclose/ The new VHL website is now up and running with some areas still being developed. Local groups can enter their contact details directly onto the site so we can publicise your organisation, and there is lots of information about events organised by VHL and many that are happening in the town or in the local area. We also have information about the craft artists and local businesses in the area which make us a fabulous town to visit.

The extremely talented Paul Newton-Smith has produced

an amazing ink drawing of Highworth which you may have seen featured on Facebook. These signed, limited edition prints in A3 and A4 are now on sale in VHL.

And finally put a date in your diary for an evening of music with the Brewery Street Buskers on **Saturday 20 September** at Highworth Community Centre. Tickets are priced at £10 and there will be a bar and raffle to raise money for the continuation of the Visitor Centre. Call in to VHL on the High Street to pick up your tickets before they sell out!

Highworth Flower Club

On Thursday 10 July, 7.30pm, at Warneford School we are hosting a flower demonstration by Andrew Lloyd entitled 'Mid-Summer Madness'.

Andrew Lloyd is known for his entertaining and educational demonstrations that highlight his skills and technique with flowers.

We hope you will join us in the school hall. Doors open at 7pm with plenty of parking in the school car park. Visitors are welcome for £7. Please contact Michelle for more information on 07798 817249 or see our website: www.highworthfloralarts.co.uk.

There is no meeting in August.

Deanne Rose, Town Clerk

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Highworth Emporium Wins Again

Highworth Emporium has done it again, proudly bringing home The Greats Gift Retailer Award for Best Independent Gift Retailer in the South West for the second time. Shop owner Aga Marsden and her team couldn't be more thrilled to share the good news with the people who made it all possible: You and all their other wonderful customers.

"We always say The Greats are

the Oscars of the gift world," says Aga. "To even be shortlisted is an honour. To win... it's beyond words. When Kate announced Highworth Emporium as the winner, I was absolutely floored. I didn't expect it at all!"

THE GIFT AWARDS

Since taking over the shop in 2016, Aga and her team have poured heart and soul into building a truly special shopping experience; one that clearly resonates. This recent win marks the fourth Greats Award for Highworth Emporium, with previous titles including Best Newcomer and Best Retail Initiative.

"We're so proud of this moment and we know none of it would have been possible

without the continued loyalty of our wonderful customers and the incredible support from our Highworth community," says Aga. "This win belongs to you, too."

Local Rotary Club Raises Thousands

This photograph was taken at a special meeting we held recently when we donated £5,875 to some local charities. Representatives from Prospect Hospice, Wiltshire Treehouse, Youth Adventure Trust, Samaritans, and Swindon Carers attended to receive their cheques in person. These five charities received a combined total of £4,500.

Most of the funds were raised by means of our Christmas Santa Sleigh Collection held in December outside Asda West Swindon, Morrisons Dorcan, and the Tesco Superstore.



Owens World Foundation was also one of the beneficiaries from the Christmas Sleigh Collection. In March we funded their purchase of two Bleed Control Kits costing £250 each. Additionally, two representatives from MIND, Motor Neurone Disease, the North Wiltshire Association, attended the meeting



to receive a cheque for £875 from the fundraising Quiz and Ploughman's Supper we held in March.

There is more information on our website. Go to www.rotaryswindonnorth.org.uk and click on 'Special Presentation Meeting'. If joining a Rotary Club interests you, please get in touch.

Email rotaryswindonnorth@gmail.com or phone 07710 228697 (Ken) or 07712 078942 (Chris).

Ken Winslow

Big Band Bash in Blunsdon

North Swindon Big Band (NSBB) will be entertaining visitors at St. Leonard's Church in Blunsdon, Swindon, on the evening of Saturday 5 July, starting at 7.30pm. The concert will raise funds to support refurbishment of the church.

NSBB is a much sought after Swindon big band that regularly plays at a range of venues, both locally and in the wider community. The foundation of the band's repertoire is based firmly in the classic swing era and the golden age of the Great American Songbook, further complemented by a diverse collection of well-known vocal and instrumental contemporary numbers.

Concert goers at St. Leonard's will enjoy a feast of jazz and swing music, as well as selections from the NSBB's extensive dance repertoire, which is guaranteed to get toes tapping!

NSBB Musical Director, Karen Cordon, said, "We are delighted be invited to play at St. Leonard's in Blunsdon. We hope as many people as possible will come along to enjoy a terrific evening's entertainment and help raise funds for the church."



Tickets for the event cost just £10 each (to include an interval drink) and can be purchased either from the Churchwarden (griff9999@btinternet.com) or from Blunsdon Village Shop (cash only).

For more information about NSBB contact David Hide at davidhide@hotmail.co.uk or telephone 07887 932253. Also check out their website: www.northswindonbigband.co.uk.

David Hide

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From the Rector's Pen



It seems crazy that only a few weeks ago we were celebrating Christmas, and Easter has come and gone. Life seems to be either full-on or, as they say in the army, 'hurry-up-and-wait'.

For decades my wife Sandra and I have taken our summer

break during the school holidays. As we have had either children or grandchildren living with us it made sense. Now we are empty-nesters we have the freedom to holiday at a different time of the year, yet somehow I can't seem to break the habit of having time out in the summer.

Change in the Church of England (and I'm sure other denominations), nationally and locally, moves at a glacial pace, which is rather ironic given that Jesus came into the world to change the way we see things and to give us a bigger perspective on life, one that includes the spiritual and not just our continuing mundane existence. Our lives are always a mixture of fast and slow, and trying to make a habit of doing new things is always an uphill battle.

Christians understand God as being the creator and sustainer of the world with all its natural flow of seasons, but also Jesus as part of God who came into the world to bring us new life, not just as individuals but also within our families and communities – changing our hearts and minds, enabling us to embrace a relationship with God through Him and His sacrifice on the cross.

As we journey through this summer season, enjoying warmer weather and hopefully with time to rest and recuperate, let's take a moment to reflect on both the continuity and change that God inspires within His wonderful creation.

Rev. Phil Goodey, St. Michael's Church

Highworth Climate Talks

In July we're going to be walking the talk. It's important that we work together for a more beautiful, thriving and vibrant Highworth, so we're taking time to get to know each other more.

We're heading out across our beloved Old Golf Course to enjoy each other's company and experience what we treasure so much – the nature around us – and we'll probably have the occasional natter about how we want to make Highworth a better place for all.

All are welcome to come along at 7pm on **Thursday 17 July** at the Old Golf Course entrance via the football pitch car park. See you there!



Be A Somebody

This is a story about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody. There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that, because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it, but Nobody realised Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have.

Volunteering is one of the most meaningful ways we can contribute to our community, fostering connections that bring people together and strengthen our collective spirit. By offering our time and skills, we not only help others but also create a ripple effect of kindness, inspiring those around us to do the same.

When individuals step forward to lend a hand, barriers that might otherwise divide us – be it age, background, or belief – start to dissolve. Whether it's organising a local clean-up, mentoring young

minds, or simply offering companionship to those who feel isolated, every act of volunteering reminds us of our shared humanity. It's in these moments of service that communities transform from groups of individuals into unified networks of mutual support.

The beauty of volunteering lies in how it benefits everyone involved. For those receiving help, it can bring relief, joy or even a fresh start. For the volunteers, the act fosters a sense of accomplishment, belonging and personal growth. Studies have shown that volunteering can even have tangible health benefits, such as reducing stress and enhancing overall wellbeing.

Yet, beyond the immediate impact of the tasks performed, volunteering builds bridges. People from different walks of life connect over shared goals, learning from one another and creating lasting relationships. These connections make communities resilient, ready to face challenges with solidarity and hope.

The story of Everybody, Somebody, Anybody, and



Nobody serves as a gentle reminder that each one of us has a role to play. Instead of waiting for someone else to take charge, let's be the ones to act. Together, through small yet meaningful contributions, we can create a stronger, more unified community – one in which nobody is left behind and everybody feels valued.

Volunteering isn't just about giving; it's about building. It's about creating a future where kindness is the foundation and collaboration is the framework. So, let's join hands, step forward and make a difference, for it is through helping one another that we truly find our strength as a community.

> Join with us from Monday 15 September to Saturday 20 September as we pull together for Highworth's first Volunteers' Week. If you're a business, encourage your staff to help this amazing community. If you're a community organisation, promote your need for volunteers. If you're a school, how can you encourage your students to focus more on the needs of others? It may be clichéd, but together we really can make a difference.

> > Contact Rachael at editor@highworthlink.co.uk for more information about how to get involved.



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FERS

Learn, laugh and live with Swindon u3a

The u3a is all about friendship, fellowship and fun. It's for people who have reached that stage in their life when they have more free time to enjoy themselves. Without the pressure of work or exams you can relax in the company of good friends, while taking part in exciting new activities together.

The u3a has around 150 interest groups covering a huge range of activities including arts and crafts, music, games, walking and sports, science and technology, languages, literature, gardening, travel, history, socialising, and current affairs.

As well as all the interest groups - taking place all over

Swindon and beyond – there are also day trips, monthly meetings with interesting talks, theatre and concert outings, and summer and



Christmas parties. There's never a dull day with the u3a!

The annual membership fee is £10 plus a contribution towards the costs associated with the groups you join (e.g. room hire). To find out how to join and all that is on offer go to www.swindonu3a.org.uk. Alternatively you can phone the office on 01793 614629 between 10am to noon on Monday, Wednesday or Friday.

We look forward to welcoming you!

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What will you do to help change lives?



Check out the July/August edition of LINK Magazine for more information.



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Rock 'n' Roll Afternoon Brings Joy

Highworth's Mayor Julie Murphy hosted an unforgettable afternoon of fun, music and dancing for local residents and attendees of the Highworth Forget-Me-Not Café – all with a rock 'n' roll twist!

On Saturday 17 May, guests gathered at St. Michael's where they were treated to a toe-tapping set of rock 'n' roll classics performed by local musician Tony M. The music had everyone on their feet, dancing the afternoon away, and filling the room with laughter and joy.

The event, organised by Mayor Julie Murphy, was a heartfelt celebration marking the end of her mayoral year and what better way to wrap it up than by supporting her chosen charity, Highworth Forget-Me-Not Café, a local organisation offering vital dementia and friendship support to the community.

"It was a truly touching occasion," said Julie. "To celebrate the culmination of my mayoral year surrounded by such energy, love and togetherness was deeply meaningful and something I will always treasure." The afternoon was made even more special thanks to the generous contributions from local businesses. Raffle prizes were kindly donated by the Co-op, Andrews Butchers, Tap & Tiffin, Spice Kitchen, Smarts Fish and Chips, King and Queen pub, The Old Bakery, Bloomfields, and Roves Farm, with all proceeds going directly to support the Forget-Me-Not Café.

A special thank you goes to Domino's Pizza for providing a delicious treat for everyone attending and to the wonderful volunteers who made sure the event ran smoothly... and that no one ran out of tea!

On behalf of Highworth Forget-Me-Not Café, we extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who made the afternoon such a roaring success, and especially to our fantastic Mayor, Julie Murphy, for her unwavering support over the past year and for giving us an afternoon to remember.

Rock on, Highworth!

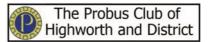
Kevin O'Donoghue



Highworth and District Probus Club

We would love to welcome you to The Cold Harbour in Blunsdon on alternate Tuesdays at 10:30 am. All retired professional and business men are welcome to join us. We are also pleased to have visitors as guests at any of our meetings. For further information please email info@highworthprobus.co.uk.

On **Tuesday 8 July** Geoff King will be presenting 'New Zealand', whilst Mike Grigg will be talking about "The Spanish Civil War" on **Tuesday 22 July**. Two weeks later



on **Tuesday 5 August**, David Reed will be giving a presentation titled 'Little Boys Dreams' and on **Tuesday 19 August** Peter Foot will talking about 'International Military Education'.

We look forward to seeing you there.

George North

New Scarf Presentation from Royal British Legion

On Sunday 1 June, during the morning service, Rev. Phil Goodey gratefully accepted a new priest's scarf on behalf of St. Michael's and All Angels Church, presented by Gerry Evans, Chairman of the Highworth & District Branch of the Royal British Legion.

This was in recognition of the support given by the church to the annual Remembrance Service and other memorable occasions over the years and for facilitating the laying-up of two redundant RBL standards currently hanging in the church.

Funding for the scarf came from resources remaining from the former Highworth Women's Branch, whose standard is one of those previously mentioned. It was decided during a branch meeting to use the funds to benefit the residents of Highworth who so generously support the RBL at Remembrancetide, the May Day Fair, and other town events. After having unboxed the scarf, Phil proudly wore it for the remainder of the service. It will be used at the next Remembrance Service and remain a church asset for all future clergy to make use of.

Gerry Evans, RBL Chairman, Branch 2585



A D V E R T O R I A L

Boating Season in Buscot

Have you ever fancied hiring a boat but not really known how to go about it? Cotswold Boat Hire in Buscot makes it easy to get out on the water and into the fresh air.

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Lions Club

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Three Highworth Lions who were instrumental at the beginning of the Lions charity shop over 25 years ago were presented with a letter of appreciation. There will also be a certificate to follow from Lions International for their combined achievements over the years.

Brian Bradbury Pratt, Rodney Davis, and Jack Thornton have collectively served the community for 147 years – a real testament to the success of the Highworth and District Lions and the Lions charity shop.

As we are now in July, it will be 'schools-out' for all the children very soon! At the Lions charity shop we are once again helping families in the area with school uniforms, some at only £1 per item. We also have some lovely summer clothes for all ages kindly donated by our recycling heroes.

This is a reminder to the men of Highworth to book a simple blood test for

detecting signs of prostate cancer, taking place on **Saturday 12 July** at Highworth Community Centre. The event is being sponsored by Highworth Lions together CHAPS (a men's health charity) and Highworth Town Council. To book your appointment go to www.chaps-uk.org/book-event-main.



Pelham Court, London Road, Marlborough, Wiltshire. SN8 2AG Telephone 01672 516797



Our recent pledges and donations:

- Christians Against Poverty (CAP): emergency cover support, £600.
- Highworth Town Council: new defibrillator, £1.500.
- Support to SHAPS with goods and clothing.
- Support to Heart for Philippines with clothing and books.
- Ongoing community support with the Highworth Lions minibus.

To advertise in The Highworth Link contact

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There's a New Kid in Town

If you're anything like me, you can't help but be curious when someone new moves into the area. To be honest, when that person is someone such as a church minister then I become positively nosey! Revd Ian Mead is joining our Methodist Church here in Highworth as their new leader and I thought it would be good for us to get to know him a little. If you see him around give him a friendly 'hi' and make him feel welcome! – Rachael



What sorts of things might people be interested to know about you, lan?

I grew up in Southampton and before I became a minister I went to the University of the West of England to study law before heading up to Edinburgh to work at a hostel for the homeless. My time at the hostel was challenging and rewarding as we offered emergency accommodation to people off the streets and supported them as they looked for the appropriate next step. Some went on to a supported tenancy, others went to a place in a rehabilitation house. After two years in Edinburgh I went to train for the Methodist ministry at Queen's College in Birmingham. In my final year I spent three months in South India studying at a Christian seminary. I visited various projects in the surrounding area, including a prison chaplaincy and youth work, and saw the church ministering in a different culture.

Why have you chosen to move to Highworth?

In the Methodist Church, a minister is stationed to an appointment after a 'match making' process which connects churches and ministers, and I'm delighted to have been matched with Highworth! I will be combining my ministry at Highworth and Shrivenham with a day a week at the

Benedictine Abbey in Worcestershire where I am a member. At the Abbey we offer retreats and quiet days to people from a variety of Christian traditions who come to recharge their batteries and experience God through the services, the silence and the beauty of the grounds.

What are your hopes for your time here?

I'm looking forward to getting to know the people of Highworth and Shrivenham, as well as exploring the surrounding area. Ministry is about connecting with the church and the community, and I have always found it a great privilege to be alongside people in whatever they are facing, making friends, and seeing where God is at work.

Commissions for Community Shed

The Highworth Community Shed continues to grow and has received some great commissions lately.

We made lots of bookshelves for Chastleton House (National Trust property), and if you visit go to their bookshop and have a look! We were also recently asked to make a communal picnic bench for some of the allotment holders in Park Avenue, Highworth. Pictured is Margaret Robbins trying out the bench when it was delivered.

We welcome new members so if you are interested in 'trying before you join' make contact with us and you can have two sessions free of charge. Call Gary (Shed Manager) on 07776 671703 or Sue Dobbs (member and Chair of Trustees) on 07729 030688.



The Highworth Community Shed is a local charity run entirely by volunteers.

Sue Dodds, Chair of Trustees

New Judges for Big Highworth Awards

At Big Highworth Community Foundation we have unveiled our next Community Awards, celebrating outstanding contributions within the Highworth community area.

This year's categories are set to inspire and honour individuals and groups alike, with awards including: Charity of the Year; Volunteer of the Year; Community Team of the Year: Citizen of the Year, and Young Citizen 16-18 of the Year. These accolades aim to shine a spotlight on those whose dedication and passion make a profound difference in the community.

We are honoured, delighted and humbled that Fiona from Scott Media, John from

JL Mindset Performance and Howard from Number Crunchers have graciously agreed to judge our awards for a second year. Their experience and insight are invaluable in celebrating excellence within our community. We also have three new judges: Aga from the Highworth Emporium;

Dave from Southby & Co Financial Planners, and Mike from Nickel Design, who all bring fresh perspectives and expertise to the panel. Together, this







distinguished group of judges will help us shine a welldeserved spotlight on the incredible individuals and organisations that make Highworth a better place for all.

Mike said, "Supporting the local community is very important to Nickel Design and to me personally. What better cause than to champion people and organisations in Highworth who have made a difference, given their time to others, and gone above and beyond."

Send your Community Award nominations to us by closing of 31 July 2025.

> We're busy organising our other fundraising activities and events and we cannot wait for the upcoming Volunteers'Week in Highworth this coming September. Our thanks go to Highworth's LINK Magazine for organising this event.

Aaa from To keep yourself updated hworth Emporium with our work, please follow

us on social media. Big Highworth Community Foundation is a registered charity based in Highworth.

Dave from Southby & Co

Financial Planners





Highworth Historical Society

A big thank you to everyone who has supported us over the last year. Last September started with a series of problems, but these are now behind us and we are looking forward to our next season.

On Wednesday 24 September we will be holding our very short AGM. Following this there will be a lighthearted guiz to test your knowledge of Highworth.

We meet at St. Michael's Church, Highworth, at 7pm. If you are thinking that you might like to join the Society, please come along. Just £3 for a visitor.

For more information about us visit our website: www.highworthhistoricalsociety.co.uk.

Chris Suter



Eastrop Infants Celebrate VE Day

Eastrop Infant School celebrated a truly special day as we joined the nation in marking 80 years since VE Day – a day of reflection, remembrance and celebration. The children



came together with the wider community to honour this historic moment in British history.

Our Year 1 and Year 2 children had the fantastic opportunity to visit the High Street where the celebrations were in full swing. The atmosphere was buzzing with energy as families, schools and community groups gathered to pay tribute to the bravery and sacrifice of those who lived through the Second World War. The children took part in a wide range of activities, including the challenge of cracking a message written in Morse Code and exploring the display of military vehicles, sparking guestions and curiosity about what life was like in 1945. One of the biggest highlights for the children was receiving their very own Spitfire model kits to build. Back at school, the celebrations continued where our Reception class enjoyed decorating biscuits in red, white and blue, while our Nursery children made and painted their own VE Day flags to wave and display.

Julie Warburton, Executive Headteacher

EFT HAND



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www.shrivenhamlanguagecentre.co.uk Tel: 01793 784881

2405-3312

National Trust Reflections

Firstly, we want to say how proud we were to be part of Highworth's VE Day celebrations. Thank you to all who dropped by for a chat or to buy a book.

Now the bluebells have gone over, we can say that they were blooming beautiful again this year, making Badbury a popular spot for visitors. Thank you to all of those who came to visit and kept to the paths. Did you know that once a bluebell has been stepped on it can take over five years for the plant to recover? This is why we are so protective of this delicate, protected species. A huge thank you to the teams of staff and volunteers who spent the weeks at Badbury welcoming hundreds of visitors to the site.

The Earth Summit was a four-day event in May, with 13 Swindon Borough schools, including Westrop Primary School, taking part and 466 Year 5 students in total. All efforts were in the pursuit of empowering the next generation to become planetary superheroes. With 12 workshops, 140 flower bombs, and 360 squares of material for beeswax wraps, this year has been a great success. We were supported by Coleshill Organics, WeSET Energy, and the RHS.



July sees our usual offer of the 'Secrets of Coleshill' tours, and the Open Day is on **Sunday 13 July**.

Meanwhile the team are gearing up for the summer holidays and the 1940s Day in September. Booking is now open. The weekend will be an immersive experience complete with a pop-up museum and 1940s themed activities. Book in advance to save on the ticket price.

We look forward to seeing you whenever you come!

South Marston Gardening Club

Over the summer months we have a series of events planned. Why not join us?

On **Monday 7 July**, 7:30pm to 9:30pm, Geoff Hodge will talk about 'Scented Plants and the Scented Garden'. Geoff is no stranger to the Gardening Club and his visits are always a highlight. He is an accomplished gardening author, broadcaster and editor, and brings nearly three decades of hands-on experience in the horticultural world. Geoff will be taking us on a sensory journey through some of the most fragrant and evocative plants you can grow. Expect practical tips, beautiful inspiration and a talk that will leave your senses blooming.

Saturday 16 August is our annual Flower and Produce Show. Whether you're a seasoned grower, an enthusiastic baker, or a crafty creator, there's a class for everyone to showcase their talents. From stunning floral displays and homegrown vegetables to homemade jams, cakes and creative crafts, the show celebrates the best of local skills and passion. Registration to enter any of the classes will take place on **Friday 15 August**, from 6pm to 7:30pm at South Marston Village Hall.

And finally, on **Monday 1 September**, 7:30pm to 9:30pm, we will have Stewart Linford with us who will talk about 'Artisans of English Woodlands in Victorian Times'. Step back in time with this master storyteller as he takes us deep into the heart of England's Victorian woodlands. In this fascinating and visually rich talk, Stewart uses historic images and authentic props to bring to life the once-thriving industries hidden within our native forests up to 200 years ago.

All the events are held at South Marston Village Hall.

Entrance is £5 and refreshments will be available at each event. For more information or to request a copy of the Flower and Produce Show schedule email angelanewton01@gmail.com or call or text on 07789 068340.

Angela Newton

Serenade to Summer with RWBO

Join the Royal Wootton Bassett Orchestra on Saturday 12 July, 7.30pm, in the Sixth Form Centre of RWB Academy, SN4 7HG, for an uplifting and relaxing evening capturing the essence of summer. 'Serenade to Summer' is guaranteed to put you in the holiday mood.

The concert features an orchestral showcase of music from well-known classics, film, musicals and pop. Wine and chilled soft drinks will be served in the interval.



For a friendly, reliable and efficient service call: 01793 765063 (Mobile: 07767 663560) Andy Belcher, 60 Queens Road, Hannington, Swindon SN6 7SX Get your feet tapping to Grease and the Latin rhythms of Conga del Fuego, sing along with the Sound of Music medley and songs from your summer playlist including Mr. Blue Sky and Walking on Sunshine. Highlights include well-known classics such as Bizet's Carmen and the Intermezzo from Mascagni's Cavalleria Rusticana. Members of the orchestra feature as soloists in Bruch's Concerto for clarinet, viola and orchestra. Bruch is known for his violin concerto but this less played work is a beautiful romantic showcase for two of the most mellow and rich instruments in the orchestra. Also included in the programme is a trumpet solo in a clever arrangement of What a Wonderful World.

Tickets are £10 for adults, under-16's free, and are available from our website www.rwbo.org.uk. We do hope you will join us.

RWBO is a well-established local orchestra who, under the guidance of Musical Director Nicola Ashton, performs at least three concerts a year. Our last concert, A Tale of Two Cities, held in March in Malmesbury Abbey. and featuring Alexander Harris playing the Richard Strauss Horn Concerto, was a sellout success.

To find out more about the orchestra please visit our website or follow us on Facebook or Instagram.



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Inclusive Learning at Southfield Junior School

Rainforests

Our Years 3 and 4 classes have been roaming the rainforests this term. As well as learning about the position of rainforests in the world and their climate and geographical features, we have explored the flora and fauna in the four different layers of a rainforest and, as teams, made dioramas to represent each layer.



We met lots of different rainforest animals, some of us in person as well as during a remote workshop with Guy who has travelled the world visiting many rainforests, and meeting the amazing creatures that live there. He introduced us to a giant cricket, spiney stick insect, a Central American cockroach called 'Russell', a beautiful emerald cockroach, blue beetles (that play dead when touched), a scorpion, tarantula, a South African millipede, 'Gary' a crested gecko, 'Darlowe' a blue tongued skink and a royal python called 'Jesmond'. We learned about how each of these animals has adapted to its environment with its colour. shape, or size. They were amazing to see so close and it was great to hear which layer of the rainforest they live in. We have enjoyed exploring the rainforests and wonder where our learning adventures will take us next.

Teamability

Along with pupils from Eastrop Infants School, we have recently taken part in a series of inspiring Teamability workshops aimed at promoting inclusivity in everyday life. The sessions provided hands-on experiences and practical knowledge, helping students understand the challenges

faced by people with different abilities and how to create a more inclusive environment for all.

The workshops explored a wide range of topics, including signing and lip-reading – valuable tools that help improve communication with those who are deaf or hard of hearing. Pupils also learned about adaptive toys and assistive technology, discovering how these tools can support play and learning for children with physical or cognitive challenges.

The experience was eye-opening and empowering, encouraging empathy, awareness and a proactive approach to inclusivity. We are incredibly proud of all our pupils for their enthusiasm and commitment to building a more understanding and inclusive community. Thank you to Becky and Abi from Teamability!







We gained feedback from some of the children:

"I thought that it was interesting and helpful to learn about different people and what we can do in our lives to include everyone whilst having fun. It was an enjoyable and memorable experience with an important meaning, learning things that we take for granted that other people struggle with but it can all be adapted." – Lydia, age 11.

"I thought every activity was great! I enjoyed learning how to do sign language and writing a fact file about Ben Fox. I learned all about how things can be adapted for disabled people and this is important so that they can have fun and do every day activities." – Jesse, age 10.

"This was an eye-opening experience seeing the life of a disabled person and how we can adapt to include them." – Matthew, age 11.

Kimberley O'Sullivan, Head of School



HIGHWORTH WALKING COMPETITION Do you have a favourite walk in the Highworth area?

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Get Ready for This Year's Family Fun Fiesta

Following last year's fantastic event, The Roxi Foundation is bringing back the Family Fun Fiesta for another day of music, games and community fun at The King and Queen in Highworth on Saturday 2 August.

This family-friendly festival is free to attend, but it's also a charity fundraiser – last year's event raised an incredible $\pm 1,700$ to fund neurodiversity assessments to support individuals in need. Let's make this year even bigger.

Enjoy non-stop live performances, featuring local talent and engaging sets to keep the energy high throughout the day, but since inclusivity is at the heart of The Roxi Foundation, the Sensory Zone will return, providing a quiet, comfortable space with calming activities, sensory lighting and cosy seating for anyone needing a break from the excitement.

Get involved in classic fete games like lucky dip, hook-a-duck, and smack-a-rat, plus an exciting tombola and raffle with amazing prizes donated by local



TOGETHER, WE'RE BUILDING A BRIGHTER TOMORROW



businesses. From doughnuts and sweets to jacket potatoes and ice cream, enjoy a variety of tasty treats from local vendors. Last year saw beloved characters like Bluey, Belle and Ariel delighting attendees. Expect more surprises and plenty of photo-worthy moments this time around.

> Whether you're here for the music, food, games, or simply to soak up the atmosphere, this inclusive, community-driven event is one you don't want to miss.

> Help us make a meaningful difference by attending, donating, or simply spreading the word. See you on **Saturday 2 August** at The King and Queen, High Street, Highworth.

Find out more at www.theroxifoundation.co.uk

Dear Rachael...

I parked my car in the High Street yesterday to pop into the Hardware Store to get some tools sharpened. When I got back to my car it wouldn't start – completely dead! I saw a young chap standing outside The Old Bakery on his phone and when he finished his call I asked for his assistance. His name is Ben and he was so lovely and helpful. He got his van from another car park but he didn't have any jump leads, so he suggested I try the Hardware Store. So I went back in and spoke to lain the owner. He didn't have any jump leads I could borrow but he was happy to help with a push start. Because I was parked facing The Highworth, lain used all his strength to turn the steering wheel (no power

steering as the battery was dead) and both Ben and lain got my car turned round and then pushed me down towards The Saracens Head and, thank heavens, the car started!

I just want to thank Ben and Iain who helped a lady in distress (my husband was away and I didn't have any breakdown cover). It just goes to show that people are more than happy to help when called upon. Thank you chaps – you were my knights in shining armour.

PS. I have called the garage to get the car booked in for a new battery!

Jackie Jolly

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ARTS

Highworth Artists' Society

Our Spring Exhibition opening fell on the early May bank holiday weekend and we were happy that so many visitors took the time to come and see our artworks. Lots of encouragement and praise, and sales too, which is a great reward to members!

The exhibition was opened by Mayor Julie Murphy who chose joint winners for her favourite paintings. Pictured here with Mayor Julie are Pam Hague and John Sirrelle, who are sharing the Rose Bowl trophy for the coming year. The visitor vote for the week was 'Birdwatch' by Maggie Errington. Midweek, the VE Day celebrations also brought in a bumper number of visitors. Thanks to everyone who came over the whole week - we really appreciated it!

We had an inspiring coach trip for our annual visit to the London Mall Galleries in April to see the Royal Watercolour Painters exhibition. Something for everyone, the trips are always popular and well attended.



Over the summer we will continue with outside painting sessions on location, projects and monthly themes. Please visit our Facebook page for the results or see our website for more information (www.highworthartistssociety.com).

Hilary Sinclair

LAS Open Studio and Annual Exhibition

Nine members of Lechlade Art Society (LAS) took part in an Open Studio event at Buscot House from 3 to 11 May. Lord Faringdon is the Society's patron and kindly allowed the artists to use the squash court.

Open Studio meant that, in addition to an exhibition

of work, the nine members were also demonstrating

and able to chat to the public. Visitors were very

complimentary and many purchased art work and greetings cards. It was a very successful event enjoyed

by all and the Art Society has a few new echlade

members.

The annual exhibition is over the August bank holiday weekend (22 to 25 August) where over half the membership exhibits

and sells work. This is a very popular event in Lechlade with the addition of cakes, tea and coffee. It will be in the Memorial Hall from 10am to 6pm, Friday to Sunday, but closing at the earlier time of 3pm on Monday. Please come and visit.

Zoe Hing





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



Highworth Bowls Club

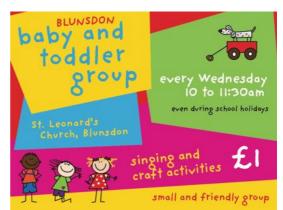
Renowned for its exemplary green and role as a pivotal hub for important tournaments, HBC celebrated yet another milestone by hosting the prestigious Wiltshire Under-25's tournament in May. This event saw participation from talented young teams across Worcester, Oxford, Gloucester and Wiltshire, all converging to showcase their skills in a series of hotly contested matches. The day was filled with palpable excitement and high spirits as teams competed fervently for the coveted title. Spectators were treated to a display of remarkable precision and strategy, reflecting the promising future of lawn bowls.

Gloucester emerged as the triumphant team, demonstrating exceptional prowess and sportsmanship. Their victory was a testament to the skill and dedication of these budding stars who are set to make significant contributions to the sport in the years to come. The success of this tournament further cements HBC's reputation as a premier venue for lawn bowls, attracting top-tier talent and fostering a sense of community and excellence. The club looks forward to hosting more such events and continuing its tradition of promoting the sport. In conclusion, the Wiltshire Under-25's tournament was not only a celebration of young athletic talent but also a showcase of the enduring spirit and camaraderie that lawn bowls fosters. HBC stands proud in its role as a beacon of excellence and a nurturing ground for future champions.

In other news, our Mystery Day Out started with bacon rolls, tea and coffee in the clubhouse, and a competition to guess the destination whilst the coach was loaded with the bowls bags and cool boxes for lunch. As we sailed past the Bristol and Portbury exits of the M4, only a few were still in the running for the destination guess. We carried on through Cardiff and then, as correctly forecast by Gordon Pearce, we arrived in Swansea to a warm welcome from our hosts, the Swansea Bowling Club. Drinks in hand and lunch rolls purchased, we all changed into the blue-on-blue Highworth kit to gather on the green, meet our opposition, and learn who was playing with whom on which rinks.

After a narrow loss of 10 points, a few drinks and some words of thanks from their President and Captain for the day and our club President Neil Biles, we boarded the coach and said farewell to Swansea. The mystery tour continued, however, with a much anticipated stop for a meal in Cardiff before reboarding and enjoying a game of bingo that Pauline Shelly won. A great day out, leaving everyone thinking, "Where will we be going next year?"

Kevin Brown www.highworthbowlsclub.org



Shrivenham Park Golf Club

Summer is flying by fast but many events are happening including the Captain's Fun Day (raising money for their chosen charities, both dementia and Alzheimer's) with a team event in the morning followed by fun activities in the afternoon. Who can resist putting through string on the green or chipping into a paddling pool with food available and all sections of the club represented? one joining us as a member. Jim, our Junior coach is organising more ladies' coaching sessions on **Wednesday afternoons** between 1pm and 2pm; please call us for dates.

Social Putters meet on **4 and 18 July**. Anyone can come and enjoy the afternoon session; you don't have to be a member (or golfer)! It is great fun and very addictive. Parkies Pals continue to meet on the **first Tuesday of each month**.

The men have played some Central Sevens matches after their promotion last year and are enjoying the challenge. The ladies have played some of their competitions and Denise Shurmer has been in winning form. It was great to see some new ladies come to the club for lessons,



The Oxfordshire Junior girls are holding their summer meeting at our club on **Wednesday 23 July** and we look forward to welcoming them. The Junior Open is on **Wednesday 6 August** and we look forward to receiving entries. *Carole Lee* 01793 783 853

Wrag Barn Golf Club

After weeks of dry weather and recent intensive rainstorms, the task of presenting the course for the Toyota Fish Brothers sponsored 'Men's Champs' wasn't without its challenges. The second May bank holiday weekend is the traditional date for the event as it gives everyone a chance to recover before work on Tuesday. The smart money was on Guy Drayton to win the trophy as he shot five under his handicap only a few weeks previously to beat the course record off the yellow tees. However, the overnight leader was Lee Parker on 74, whose coach Tom Watson was thrilled to see the results of hard-working grit and determination. Lee's second round of 87 knocked him off the top spot but was good enough to earn him third place in the best nett score.

	The Results		
DAY ONE			
	Gross	Nett	
1st	Daniel Pullham	Aaron Allnut	
2nd	Andrew Watts	Alan Kavanagh	
3rd	Matr Simpkins	Lee 'I'hrush	
DAY TWO			
	Gross	Nett	
Overall	Louis McDiarmird	Nigel Baker	
	Gross	Nett	
Overall Winners	Guy Drayton (Score 147)	Andy Bright (Score 143)	

Sunday was a different day, and the order of merit took a bit of a dance, with Guy shooting gross 72 and a total score of 147 which put him eight shots ahead of Ben Paines on 155. Lee was awarded third nett and didn't receive a prize for his initial success as only one prize is awarded to each person. Next year's Club Captain Andy Bright won the nett prize on nett 143 with Guy in second place, but the prize went to Roger Hunt on 145.

Never underestimate the achievements of these golfers; the wind was brutal and some of the pin positions were very tricky. Thank you to the team who ran the competition, the clubhouse staff who kept

everyone fed and watered and listened to the tales of 'could've, should've, would've', and last but not least the greens staff who worked really hard to present the course so well for the competition.

> Verity Manners www.wragbarn.com



Shrivenham Cricket Club

Our season has started very positively with good weather, good results and a rejuvenated spirit. We began with the First XI match at home to Wroughton Wranglers in Division 5 in April where the home team chose to bat first, scoring 220 for 7 in their 45 overs. Wroughton Wranglers were unsuccessful in their run chase, scoring 148 for 10 in 34.1 overs, and so Shrivenham had their first win by 72 runs.

Their second game was away to Beckington and the home side chose to bat on another glorious, sunny day making 267 for 8 in their allotted 45 overs. A good try by Shrivenham saw us reach 247 all-out in 43.5 overs, thus losing by 20 runs.

In May, we were home to Spye Park, and naturally elected to bat first (in such good weather), amassing 378 for 3 in 45 overs. Spye Park fell well short when their reply ended on 101 all-out in just 30.1 overs. A second win of the season by 277 runs put us top of the league before another home match against Swindon Hunters. We scored 218 all-out in 38.3 overs (Simon Carr 47; Matt Haywood 44; Israr Shirzad 44) and Hunters replied with 166 all-out in 41.1 overs

Highworth Town Football Club

The off-season does not mean any respite for the hard working HTFC Committee and supporters. The Annual 6-A-Side competition was held in late May providing hundreds of youngsters with the chance to show off their skills. With no football income at this time, the club has provided a popular location for numerous events thus keeping finances ticking over.

The pitch has had its annual maintenance although there is still much to do. Hopefully, by the time you read this, a final decision will have been made on the proposed 4G pitch which will totally change what facilities will be available to youth football in Highworth in particular. Follow the club on social media or get in touch if you want to get involved. We never have enough volunteers.

> Derek Lloyd www.pitchero.com/clubs/highworthtown/

(Giridharan Vasudevan 4 for 36) to give us our third win (by 52 runs) and enabling us to remain top of Division 5.

Meanwhile, our newly formed Second XI have also begun their 2025 season in Division 10, with a home match against Melksham 2 in which Melksham 2, batting first, scored 70 all-out in just 22 overs. We successfully passed this total with 71 for 6 in only 17 overs and using six bowlers where the wickets were fairly evenly distributed. Our first win and by a conclusive 4 wickets!

In their second match, the team had to travel 43 miles to Beckington to play their Second XI. Winning the toss, we chose to bat on a lovely warm, sunny day and were able to post a goodly total of 181 all-out in 32.4 overs. Beckington 2 began their innings with determination and progressed guite well until wickets began to fall. The game was played in a good friendly spirit by both teams which was a credit to the attitude of both teams and their captains. When 13-year-olds came in to bat the bowlers spontaneously resorted to slower bowling which was good to see. Beckington 2 finally capitulated on 136 all-out in 31.3 overs which gave us two wins in two games. Again, we used nine bowlers and both teams ensured that all their players contributed and enjoyed the experience. It was a pleasure to watch and umpire how cricket should be enjoyed.

Finally, and away to Calne 4, we posted 170 for 7 (Jeremy Samson 32 not-out; Helal Qazikhel 49 not-out; Extras 38) but they were able to reply with 174 for 8 in 36 overs to win by 2 wickets, (Robert Smith 4 for 27).

> Julian Stevens www.shrivenham.play-cricket.com

AFTERNOON

✓ New to Highworth?
 ✓ Want to meet and make new friends?
 ✓ Prefer to stay at home on dark evenings?
 …Then we are just for you ✓

We are a friendly group with speakers, refreshments, raffle, luncheon club, outings and social events. We meet on the first Wednesday of the month in the Council Offices in Gilberts Lane at 2.15pm. New members are always welcome. Contact: Margaret 07843 967260 / Ann 07789 360514



Highworth Running Club

Now the summer is here (according to the calendar) the Highworth Running Club takes its Wednesday evening social runs on the road to meet at a different location each week in and around our neighbouring towns and villages. This gives us the wonderful opportunity to explore different towpaths, bridleways, woodland and, possibly more importantly, choose some different venues for post-run refreshments. With a variety of distances available and a greater variety of abilities to run with, the club would love to see some new faces this summer so please look us up on our website (www.highworthrunningclub.co.uk) or Facebook group to find out where we are. It's no secret, but you'll be amazed at the locations we pop up in!

> Jason Daniels Photograph credit: Andrea



HIGHWORTH TOWN COUNCIL



Let's Clean Up Highworth



IS BACK!!

THE 1ST SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH!

Meet us at the Council Offices in Gilberts Lane, all equipment will be provided to clean up and make a difference! We'll work together to collect litter, sort recyclables, and help create a cleaner, greener environment.

Next Litter Picks SUNDAY 6TH JULY 2025 SUNDAY 3RD AUG 2025 TIME: 10AM

hworth

Friday 7th November

Gates Open 6pm

Fireworks 7.30pm

Tickets will be on sale in October 2025.

Check our social media and website for updates

www.highworthtowncouncil.gov.uk

The Highworth Town Community Garden Reopens with Vibrant New Planting & Community workshops

Highworth Town Council is excited to announce the grand reopening of the

beloved Town Gardens following a stunning transformation. The revitalised gardens now feature a vibrant new planting scheme and beautifully crafted planters created by the council's dedicated grounds team and are ready to welcome residents and visitors alike.

The newly planted garden has been designed with the unique aspects of the

space in mind, with seasonal colour, a sensory grass area, and a planting

scheme aimed at supporting pollinators and encouraging local biodiversity. Sustainable, low-maintenance plants have been selected to ensure the garden flourishes year after year.

This exciting revamp isn't just about the plants—it's about creating a vibrant community space for people to cone together. A series of free workshops and events will take place throughout the season, offering everything from seed planting and composting to children's gardening activities and sustainable gardening tips. Whether you're a seasoned gardener or a beginner, there's something for everyone!



REPRESENTATIVES

News from Highworth's Mayor



It is with great pleasure that I share the news of my reelection as Mayor of Highworth for another year. I am deeply honoured to continue serving our wonderful community and am grateful for the trust and support I've received.

Since my last update, we

rounded off the previous mayoral year with a fantastic evening at the Mayor's Forget-Me-Not 'Rock 'n' Roll' event. It was an incredible afternoon; the perfect way to close a memorable year while raising awareness for a cause close to my heart.

This new term has already begun at full speed. One of the most pressing issues we're tackling is the campaign to save the Old Golf Course. It's a significant part of Highworth's landscape and we have all been working hard to secure its future for the benefit of our town. However, it hasn't all been smooth sailing. I must express my frustration over the delays in our Neighbourhood Plan due to issues caused by Swindon Borough Council. Rest assured we have a way forward and hope to go back to examination soon.

On a brighter note, it was a pleasure to officially open the new Greggs at Budgens Service Station and I was honoured to represent Highworth at the Evensong in Malmesbury.

Looking ahead, I will soon be announcing the total funds raised for Forget-Me-Not, my mayoral charity. At the time of writing there's one major event still to come – my parachute jump, scheduled for the **27 June**! It promises to be an exhilarating way to support a meaningful cause and I can't wait to share the final fundraising total with you all.

I look forward to seeing you all involved at our first Volunteers'Week in September when we will come together, putting others before ourselves. Contact editor@highworthlink.co.uk for more information.

Thank you again for the continued support. Here's to another year of service, action and community spirit in Highworth.

Julie Murphy, Mayor of Highworth

HIGHWORTH TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN MAYOR & CHAIRMAN

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



Come anc join us!



Community Groups Keep Fit/Slimming Classes Hobby & Craft Groups • Dance Classes Children's Groups • Plus much more ...



Details of our wide and varied activities are on our website

www.highworthCommunityCentre.Co.uk

01793 765408

bookings@highworthCommunityCentre.Co.uk

St Leonard's Church, Blunsdon invites you to

SWING INTO SUMMER

with



Saturday 5th July 2025 at 7.30 pm St Leonard's Church, Blunsdon SN26 7DG

Tickets £10 (to include interval drink) may be purchased from the Churchwarden (griff9999@btinternet.com) or from Blunsdon Village Shop (cash only).

Concert and raffle to support refurbishment of our medieval parish church. Don't miss this evening of great music!

CHURCHES

St. Michael's Church Highworth

The church is open daily for private prayer.

10:15am Sunday Service

We meet in St. Michael's Church and groups for children and youth are 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'.

8:30am Holy Communion On the first and third Sunday of the month. No 8:30am Communion during August.

11am 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 Mervyn Little

Michael Bran

We welcome in Holy Baptism

Evelyn Watson

We congratulate on their Marriage

Hud Bartlett and Margaretha Mathews

Praying for the roads in the town

6 July Lismore Road and The Mews
13 July Middi Haines Court and Newburgh House
20 July Newburgh Place and North View
27 July Our church family who live outside Highworth
3 August Oak Drive and Orange Close
10 August The Paddock and Park Avenue
17 August Parsonage Court and Pentylands Close
24 August Pentylands Lane and Pound Road
31 August Priory Green and Quarry Crescent

To advertise in the Highworth Link contact

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

St. Leonard's Parish Church Stanton Fitzwarren

6 July No service at St. Leonard's. We will join everyone at St Margaret's Stratton, Rev. Charlotte Stansfield to preside at Holy Communion after her licensing, 11am. This will be followed by lunch in the church/community hall.

- **13 July** Family Service, Godparent Sunday, 11am.
- 20 July Team Service at St. Mary Magdalen, 10am.
- 27 July Holy Communion, 9:30am.
- 3 August Holy Communion, 9:30am.
- 10 August Family Service, 'Creation', 11am.
- **17 August** Eco-Team Service at St Margaret Stratton, 10am.
- 24 August Team Service at Coleview Community Centre, 11am.
- 31 August Holy Communion, 9:30am.

Stanton Coffee Morning will be taking a break for the summer. Next meeting on **Wednesday 17 September** at Stanton House Hotel, meeting at 10:15am for coffee and chat.

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

Please go to www.stantonchurch.info for updates.



CHURCHES



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



13/7/25

Heather Gunn – On the first anniversary of your passing, we remember our dearly loved Wife, Mum and Nan. We love and miss you and you are always in our thoughts. Colin, David, Caroline, Dawn, Daniel, Mia, Emily, Alfie & Katie xxx

18/7/25

Barbara Knight - Thinking of you on your birthday Mum. Miss you lots and speak of you often. Lots of love Lyn, Ruth, Patrick and all of your family xxxx

25-29/7/2025

Ruby Gibbard - In loving memory of my dear Mum on what would have been her 97th birthday on the 26th. Forever in my thoughts Jill

1/8/25

Elizabeth Shurmer – Five years ago today you left us heartbroken, we miss you every day. Love Alf, Heather and families xx

20/8/25

Sally Shurmer – Five years ago today you left us heartbroken, we miss you every day. Love Dad, Heather and families xx

27/8/25

Barbara Knight – I can't believe it is 15 years since we lost you. We all miss you very much and talk of Nanny Cuckoo often. Lots of love Lyn, Ruth, Patrick and all of us xxxx

28/8/25

Sally Shurmer – Happy birthday 'Sal'. Another year has flown by. I know you will be partying somewhere with Mum. Love Dad, Heather, Josh and families xx

Floodlighting forms are available from St. Michael's Church office, Vicarage Lane, or the Church website at www.stmichaelshighworth.co.uk/floodlighting. Your dedication will appear in an issue of Highworth's LINK Magazine. E: office@stmichaelshighworth.co.uk • www.stmichaelshighworth.co.uk



USEFUL CONTACTS

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

Contributions:

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

Email is preferred, otherwise deliver to The Bridge Centre, 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.

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