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October 2025



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Dear Reader

There's something truly magical about autumn, isn't there? As the leaves turn from vibrant green to shades of amber, gold, and russet, there's a gentle shift in the air that signals not just the arrival of crisp mornings and cosy jumpers, but also a time to reconnect with one another. It's the season when we swap out lazy summer afternoons for bustling community venues, lively school corridors, and the warm embrace of community groups coming back to life after the holidays.

After the long stretch of summer, autumn brings with it a sense of new beginnings. Already our schools have swung open their doors, welcoming back students (and parents!) with open arms and timetables full of promise.

But the spirit of togetherness doesn't end at the classroom door. Across our town and outlying villages, our community groups have reunited with a full programme of new and exciting events, all of them ready to welcome you as you look for fresh friendships and interests.

From book clubs and art groups to history societies and fundraising events, there's something for everyone to get stuck into. It's in these gatherings, over cups of tea and shared laughter, that we rediscover the power of community and the simple joy of being together.



So, as we settle into autumn's rhythm, let's celebrate the events, the people, and the everyday moments that bring us closer. Here's to a season filled with connection, collaboration, and the warm glow of community spirit!

Rachael



Highworth Twinning Association

**Dinner at Wrag Barn with
visitors from Wassenberg**

Sunday 19th October 2025

Everyone welcome

**£30 per person for a 3 course carvery
including fish and vegetarian options**

Tickets will be available from Visit Highworth in October or
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Foundations

It has been almost two years since I arrived here in the parish. Sometimes time rushes by, and other times it seems like we are waiting forever at the bus stop.

Unbelievably we are already into October: the time of harvest and getting ready for the run down to Christmas. However, as I travelled around the country during August, I noticed that many fields had already been harvested, the blackberries were ripe, and apples were falling from the trees.

Much has changed over the last two years since I first moved to the area. There have been far too many funerals and an incredible number of baptisms – not to mention the weddings.



Foundations are important; I feel I have put down good foundations here. Jesus talks about building foundations on sand and on rock (Matthew 7:24-27). Without good foundations nothing can be built that lasts. Although the seasons change and time moves on, I remain firm in my trust in God.

Over the last few months I have taken to wearing my FROG bracelet – I first had it as a new Christian. It reminds me that I need to be 'Fully Reliant On God' as it says in Isaiah 41:10-13, and I commend this idea to you. In times of trouble, concern and anxiety, God is the foundation that will not be moved.

Rev. Phil Goodey

Listening – It's at the Heart of Samaritans

Can you join us to be there for someone who is struggling?

Listening is at the heart of what Samaritans do. Our volunteers offer a safe, confidential space for people to talk about whatever they're going through – without judgement or giving advice. Listening means more than just hearing the words. It involves active, empathetic engagement, allowing callers to feel truly heard and understood.

Samaritans' training and mentoring enables listening without interrupting, guiding or trying to 'fix' the situation. Our volunteers use techniques such as open-



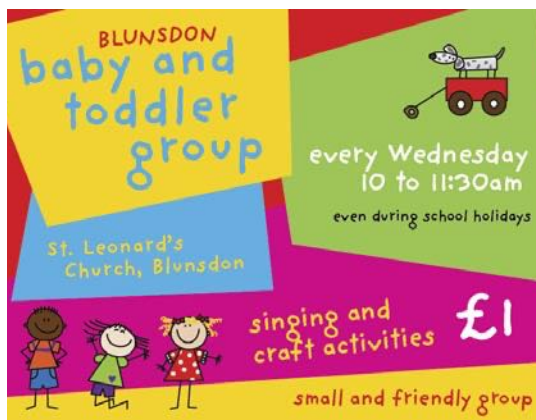
ended questions, reflective listening and gentle prompting to encourage callers to open up and feel less alone. Silence is also an important tool; it gives people time to think and share at their own pace.

At Samaritans, the goal isn't to offer solutions but to empower people to explore their own thoughts and feelings. Often, the simple act of being listened to with compassion and respect can make a significant difference in helping put things in perspective, to help somebody feel more positive about their future and less alone. In essence, listening at Samaritans is about presence, patience and emotional availability – offering human connection in moments of despair or crisis.

If you feel this is something you'd like to know more about, please go to:

www.samaritans.org/support-us/volunteer or email Swindon.BranchRecruitment@samaritans.org

Maggie Gill, Listening Coordinator



Community Challenge for Society Without Abuse

A Swindon charity is marking the culmination of its 50th anniversary by challenging supporters to do '50 for 50'.

Society Without Abuse (SWA), then known as Swindon Women's Aid, opened the first refuge in Swindon on 25 August 1975. At the time, the refuge in Park North was not just the only place for women to seek help from domestic abuse, but it was one of the first in the country. Since then, SWA has continued to lead the way in supporting victims and survivors, as well as implementing programmes to stop the behaviours at the root cause of domestic abuse.

The '50 for 50' fundraising drive enables supporters to choose their own challenge to raise much needed funds to continue developing and expanding the vital services that the charity offers.

"It's a great way for people to get involved and do something to help victims of domestic abuse



Members of SWA celebrate the launch of 50 for 50

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in a lasting way," explained SWA Operations Manager Natasha Moyles. "The challenge will be live for 50 days from the anniversary of the first refuge opening and so people have until **Wednesday 15 October** to help us make a difference to the future of women, men and children across Swindon who are, or may one day be victims of domestic abuse.

"With one in four people predicted to be a victim of domestic abuse at some point in their life, our work through prevention, education, and early intervention could improve the lives of thousands of people in our community. By pledging to raise £50, do something 50 times, or committing to a larger challenge together we can work towards a society without abuse.

"So, whether it's baking and selling 50 cakes, hosting a dinner or wine tasting, or even running the Swindon Half, there's so much opportunity to take part. Even the smallest activity will help us make a big difference."

For more information and to sign up, visit www.givengain.com/campaign/support-society-without-abuse or alternatively email office@societywithoutabuse.org.uk or find SWA on Facebook and Instagram.

Mandy Hooper

Please Don't Freeze This Winter

The Highworth and District branch of Christians Against Poverty (CAP), based at The Bridge Centre and run by the churches of Highworth, is offering free debt help to local people struggling with energy prices or facing other money problems.

CAP's latest report revealed that 43% of those the charity helps UK-wide had energy arrears before they sought debt help. Over half (51%) have gone without heating their home and 27% have done so on a weekly basis.

Kathryn Ford who runs the Highworth CAP Debt Centre, says: "We visit families and individuals in their homes to provide debt help, and it's heartbreaking to see that so many aren't able to afford the basic essentials we all need to live.

"We've met people who regularly avoid putting the heating on because they simply can't afford it, even on freezing cold days in winter. We see many skipping meals on a weekly or even daily basis because they don't have the money to fill their cupboards, let alone cook a hot meal. That's why we want to raise urgent awareness of the free debt help we offer via The Bridge

Centre through our Christians Against Poverty Debt Centre.

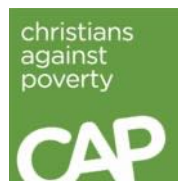
"Getting free support now can make a huge difference and it means that we'll be able to help people keep their homes warm, have enough to eat and keep the lights on.

"Our team is here to help with debt problems through our CAP Debt Help service, and, because we're local, we can also support practically too. This includes linking people up with local food banks, arranging emergency shops and fuel top-ups, and providing emotional support, encouragement and a friendly face. We don't want anyone worrying about how they'll manage to stay warm this winter."

If you're struggling with your finances, you can find out more about the services CAP offers in your area by visiting www.capuk.org/help or calling 0800 328 0006.

For more information on a wider range of free help available, visit www.moneyhelper.org.uk.

Kathryn Ford, CAP Centre Manager



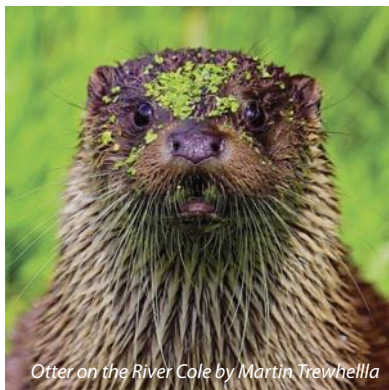
The National Trust Butterfly Effect

Did you notice the high numbers of butterflies this year? Our nature project has revealed that Small Tortoiseshell, Silver-washed Fritillary and Clouded Yellow have been recorded for the first time.

Butterflies do not tend to fly in the rain which made last year's wet summer less hospitable. However, dry summers affect plants and in turn the butterflies as food sources will be depleted. The weather we had this summer has a knock-on effect for next year, as plants vulnerable to drought are needed for laying eggs.

The nature project's focus on birds has seen a breeding pair of lapwings, as well as curlew with their young. Other species of note include the greenshank, cuckoo, and lesser spotted woodpecker. Monitoring means we can understand what we have on the estate. We are monitoring mammals through water vole and

otter surveys, as well as audio monitor installation as part of the National Barbastelle and Bechstein's Survey. Barbastelle and Bechstein are rare species of bats that thrive in ancient woodlands. Our volunteer, Martin Trehwella, captured this amazing photo of an otter on the River Cole.



Otter on the River Cole by Martin Trehwella

The final village open day in Coleshill is **Saturday 12 October**. Come along between 2pm and 5pm and see our exhibition on the legacy of creatives that are connected to the Coleshill estate.

Our social media has regular updates on events and activities, so do make sure to follow us on Facebook - we are The Buscot and Coleshill Estates NT.

Sarah Hannis, Senior Volunteering and Community Officer

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FROM ANCHOR

Become a Friend of Rotary

If Rotary interests you but you can't commit to the membership requirements, it's not a problem.

We enjoy sharing our fellowship and community service with like-minded people who, for one reason or another, are not able to offer the time and commitment required of members. We call them 'Friends of Rotary'.

Friends of Rotary are people who support the values and activities of a Rotary club without becoming full members. They share our ideals and objectives without the responsibility or commitment required from a full member.

Friends:

- Help us with our projects and fundraising events
- Join our social gatherings and fellowship activities
- Support our local and international service initiatives
- Come to some of our speaker meetings
- Friends don't pay any membership fees and don't come to all our regular club meetings.



Some of our activities are not just to raise funds. They can be to assist in a hands-on working way, or they can be just to socialise. Rotarians call this fellowship. It's an opportunity to enjoy activities in each other's company, catch up with old friends and make or develop new ones.

Being a Friend of Rotary is a flexible way to get involved in community service, fellowship and events. It's ideal for those who may not have the time or ability to commit to regular meetings or responsibilities. They just contribute when they can.

To find out more, email rotaryswindonnorth@gmail.com, or telephone 07710 228697 (Ken) or 07923 473261 (Kathy).

Ken Winslow

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New Pastor for Community Church

Hi! Nice to meet you. I'm Heather, the new Children's Pastor at Highworth Community Church (HCC).

For the last year, I've been doing an internship with HCC to gain experience and train in children and families ministry. I've grown up in Highworth, attending Eastrop, Southfield and Warneford Schools and have also been a member of Highworth Community Church for my whole life. After a few years away at university, and then in Bradford working for Christians Against Poverty (CAP), returning to Highworth felt so special.

If you have children in primary school in Highworth, they've probably already seen me doing an assembly



or running a Christmas or Easter workshop. I love being creative, so you'll normally find me telling stories, making something, or playing music. I'm passionate about creating safe and welcoming spaces for children to explore the idea of faith in Jesus and what that means for them.



Catch me on a Sunday morning at HCC (10:30am at Warneford School), or out and about in Highworth – probably carrying a bag of random craft materials or kids toys!

Heather Wilson

Highworth Flower Club

On Thursday 8 October, 7:30pm, at Warneford School, Michael Bowyer MBE will be joining us.

A national demonstrator and president of the southwest area of NAFAS, he recently created the wonderful 'Spirit of Water' Flower Festival at Salisbury Cathedral that many of us visited.

This is a special evening and 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, £7.

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

In Memory of Julia Bishop

We were deeply saddened to learn of the recent passing of Julia Bishop. Alongside her many civic duties in Highworth, Julia was, for over 50 years, an active and devoted member of the Flower Club. Her remarkable talent for flower arranging and design was evident at all our major events, with particularly memorable contributions such as 'Fiddler on the Roof' for one festival. Only last year, with the support of her family, she created one of her most impressive designs for 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe'. Banks of white flowers filled a breathtaking winter wonderland, enhanced by hundreds of sparkling crystals – all

arranged by Julia from her wheelchair.

Julia was always cheerful and smiling, bearing her later years of ill health with great courage. She was truly a remarkable individual and will be greatly missed by all of us.

Shirley



Gardening Success for Eastrop Infants

We are delighted that Eastrop Infants School was awarded the Swindon Allotments and Leisure Gardens Association (SALGA) Schools Trophy – this was the highest honour in this year's SALGA Schools Garden Competition, and has been awarded for the fantastic garden that our Reception children cared for during the summer term.

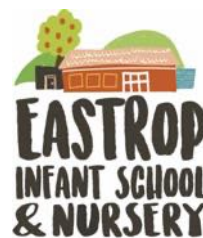
The award not only recognises this year's garden but the outstanding quality, care and consistency of our school garden over a period of time. SALGA explain: "The space has flourished year after year and continues to inspire. Our garden is not just beautiful; it is a living, thriving testament to what can be achieved through the long-term dedication, skill and passion of teaching staff. This award is not only a recognition of our garden as it is today, but also of the long journey, care and effort that have made it what it is – a beacon of excellence in school gardening."

The SALGA judges were particularly struck by the high standard maintained across every area of the garden – even in the heatwave – the biodiversity it supports, and the way it continues to involve and engage our pupils.

SALGA also asked that a very special mention go to Mrs. Payne whose "unwavering dedication over a number of years has made this sustained success possible. Her commitment, vision and leadership have created something truly rare: a school garden that not only grows plants, but also cultivates confidence, responsibility, and joy in young people year after year."

Well done Mrs. Payne. We couldn't agree more!

Julie Warburton, Executive Headteacher



**The Probus Club of
Highworth and District**

Highworth and District Probus Club

We meet at The Cold Harbour in Blunsdon on alternate Tuesdays at 10:30am. Welcoming retired professional and business men (with no upper age limit), we also welcome visitors as guests at any of our meetings.

On **Tuesday 14 October**, Robert MacLachan will be giving a presentation about Cuba. Two weeks later, on **Tuesday 28 October**, Mike Grigg will be talking about The Falkland War. Martin Collinson will be with us on **Tuesday 11 November** telling us all about William Marshall.

For further information please email info@highworthprobus.co.uk or visit our website at www.highworthprobus1.wordpress.com.

George North



£703 Raised for Prospect Hospice

Highworth Support Group for Prospect raised a whopping £703 at their Tea In The Garden event on 21 August.

Many thanks to everyone who came and donated so generously. Also thanks to Ken and Sue Hooper for allowing us to host it in their beautiful garden

Paul Speller

Highworth and District Lions

Being a small part of a truly international charitable organisation, we can boast of some of the impressive deeds that have been achieved. The Lions claim that globally 255 million people were supported in the last year (2024/25).

Nationally between 2 and 5 million people were served – not all the clubs offer a report, so it could be a lot more! That said, there is still so much more to do and a great many community projects we can assist.

All Lions achievements are reliant on volunteers helping raise funds and supporting their communities: locally and further afield. We are always keen for new faces to get involved so please get in touch if you're interested: sue@highworthlions.co.uk.

Our recent pledges and contributions:

- Barra Close playground: £4600
- Bench for Barra Close: £800
- Christmas vouchers: Final sum to be decided
- Help with the Bob Cook Disabled Games
- Christians Against Poverty (CAP): £200 to £600 for Family Help
- SHAP: Support for Ukraine
- Philippines: £200 for boxes and distribution of books to the new library



- Continuous minibus service and help by our volunteer drivers.
- ROSHI: £2000. This project centre was originally supported by Highworth Lions in 1998 with a small sum of £500 to help children with neurological conditions. There were 24 children at the beginning, and now there are 450! The centre continues to thrive and benefits from an intern from Manchester Metropolitan University. Former Lion Jack Thornton (pictured), together with his wife Jill, made trips across to India to help get the project started.

Sue Subow
sue@highworthlions.co.uk

Highworth & District Lions Club Christmas Vouchers 2025

This year, the Lions Club will again offer Christmas Vouchers to residents in the Highworth & District Lions Club area. To receive a voucher, you must be over 66 years of age. One voucher per household.



Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Signature _____

Date _____

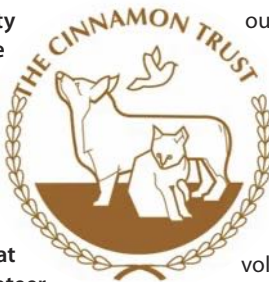
Please return this completed form to The Lions Charity Shop, Newburgh Place before **Wednesday 12 November 2025**. The number of vouchers is limited and Highworth & District Lions Club Charity Trust Fund (285690) reserves the right to close this offer early.

Dog Walkers Needed

The Cinnamon Trust is the national charity whose wonderful volunteers help people over retirement age and those in the latter stages of a terminal illness by offering all kinds of free pet care. We thought it would be good to introduce

ourselves to those of you who missed us at this year's Volunteer Expo.

Many elderly or ill pet owners worry about their ability to provide proper care for their animals and start looking to rehome what may be their only companion. This is where



Susanne from Pixabay

our national network of dedicated volunteers step in to offer support enabling them to stay together. We'll walk the dog for a housebound owner, we'll foster pets when owners need hospital or hospice care, and even clean out the bird cage or litter trays.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer to help someone in Highworth, you can download our volunteer registration form from our website www.cinnamon.org.uk or email us at appeals@cinnamon.org.uk. If you would like to have a more in-depth chat about becoming a volunteer, please call us during office hours (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm) on 01736 758701, or you can check out our website www.cinnamon.org.uk for more details.

Sally Collins

Lechlade History Society

On Monday 20 October, 7pm for 7:30pm, in the Memorial Hall, Lechlade we have 'The History of Stroud' told to us by either Ian Mackintosh or Ann Taylor.

In the opinion of a Gloucestershire archivist, Stroud, like Topsy, "just grew". Originally it was part of Bisley parish, but in 1304 the Composition of Stroud created 'The Limitation of Stroud', centred on what is now the church and marketplace.

Over the centuries Stroud outgrew Bisley and became a parish in its own right and "a sort of capital of the clothing villages".

This talk traces and explains the origins of the town and talks about some of Stroud's past characters.

Ros Godden

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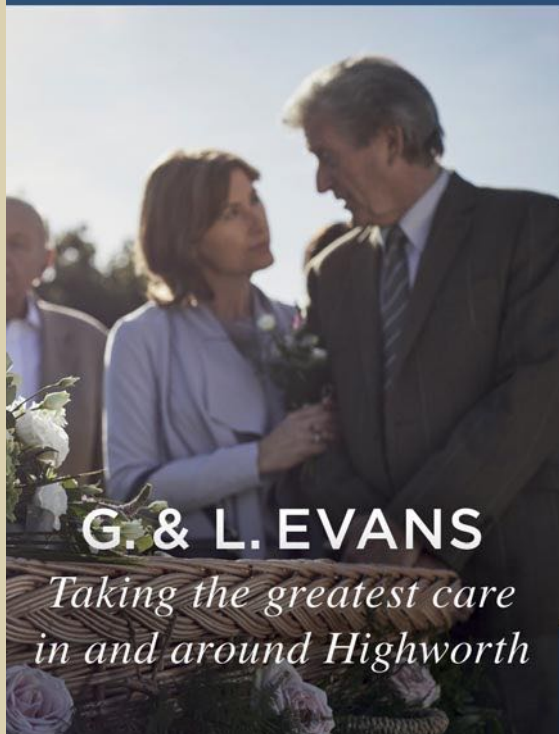
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Hope for Philippines

A touching story of global connection and a shared love for reading has come to life in Naga City, Philippines, with the grand opening of the Children's Community Library.

This milestone was made possible by the generosity of donors from Swindon. The opening ceremony was made even more special by the presence of distinguished guests, including Leni Robredo – the city's current mayor and former Vice President of the Philippines – whose attendance added great significance to the event.

The library's shelves are filled with books donated by households in Swindon and organisations like Highworth Lions Charity Shop and Sustainable Shrivenham, and local schools like Pinewood School, Watchfield Primary, Eastrop Infants and Westrop Primary. These once-loved books now inspire a new generation of young readers.

The project is the vision of Heart for Philippines, a UK-based charity founded by Jamie and Zobel Starritt, with its roots in Highworth, and is a volunteer-driven



charity supporting education, disaster relief and hunger alleviation in the Philippines. The charity works to uplift communities by equipping children with the tools they need to succeed and thrive. From distributing school supplies to rebuilding homes after natural disasters, their efforts span both immediate relief and long-term development. The opening of

this library is just one example of their ongoing commitment to improve lives in the Philippines.

The charity's core belief is that a better future begins with education. By providing access to books and learning materials, Heart for Philippines inspires a love of reading and lifelong learning. This library marks just one of many initiatives set to unfold this year, with small reading corners already sprouting across the Philippines.

To learn more about Heart for Philippines and ways to get involved, visit their Facebook page. With continued support, the future holds great promise for the youth of the Philippines.

Zobel Starritt



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Julia Bishop

St Michael's Church was full on Tuesday 26 August for the Thanksgiving Service of Julia Bishop, who died on Saturday 26 July, aged 85.

Julia was a devoted wife to Alan, mum and grandma; she and Alan would have celebrated 65 years of marriage this September. Julia was immensely proud of her family: sons Richard and Jason, daughter-in-law Suzanne, and five grandchildren: Elliott, Grace, Emma, Charlotte, and Katy. Julia found last year very hard as she lost two of her brothers and daughter-in-law Debbie.

Jason spoke about Julia's great love of flower arranging; fittingly her very last outing was to arrange flowers in St Michael's Church. Julia was a member of the Highworth Flower Club for over 50 years, and her display for last autumn's Flower Festival was memorable.

Alan and Julia both loved Highworth and gave a lot to the town, both serving on the town council, and Julia



was twice mayor. Current Mayor Julie Murphy told us how much Julia had encouraged her to stand for the council, and former MP Justin Tomlinson also spoke, describing Julia as someone who "made things happen," who loved organising things, raising money for charities and serving the community with energy and humour. She was also a magistrate for decades. All this as well as running her own hairdressing business and caring for the family!

Julia's Christian faith was important to her, and she loved being part of St. Michael's Church, mainly the monthly Midweek Communion in recent years which always included time to chat first over coffee and cake.

Julia had chosen the hymns for her thanksgiving service including the hymn ending "In life in death, O Lord, abide with me." We give thanks for Julia and continue to pray for Alan and the family as they mourn.

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Help is at Hand

Do you need help shopping, getting to the doctors' surgery, visiting hospital, or taking outings?

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Stanton Coffee Mornings Celebrates Forty Years

It was June 1985 when a few mums living in Stanton Fitzwarren got together to pray and consider how they could best serve our small village community. The inspiration for this was a local mission 'Alive 85' organised by our then Rector as a follow-on from Billy Graham's 1984 Mission England.

We decided to reach out to mums with small children who, at that time, were often marooned in the village as their husbands took the family car to work in Swindon or further afield. And so from there the Stanton Coffee Morning (spreading Christ's message) was born.

Meeting once a month in different homes, we started with coffee and a chat and provided a space for the children to play and colour next month's invites. The children were often cared for by some of the older people while their mothers had a break. A speaker would then share something of their own story and how their faith influenced their life and work.

Over the 40 years, 202 speakers have shared their stories: mothers, fathers, teachers, police officers, nurses, doctors, homeless people, farmers, squadron leaders, prison chaplains, curates, vicars, bishops. All

have inspired us, blessed us and challenged us. We have laughed till tears moistened our eyes and shed tears at the moving stories.

Over the years things have changed. We have all grown older, some have moved, some have died, and the children are now middle-aged. Most of us are retired. New people have joined. Travel is easier and people come from a wider area. Although it is 'Stanton Coffee Morning' not everyone lives in the village or parish. Some of our speakers have enjoyed their welcome and now come regularly to catch up and listen to others.

We meet as a family, giving thanks to God without whom we would have no purpose to meet except to drink coffee... which we can do anywhere. Covid forced us to stop meeting in people's homes, so we now meet at Stanton House Hotel with better access, parking and comfort. Everyone is welcome and everyone has a story to tell – are you prepared to share yours?

If you would like to know more about the coffee morning, just contact Liz Hillman on 01793 762935.

Liz Hillman and Liz Gardner

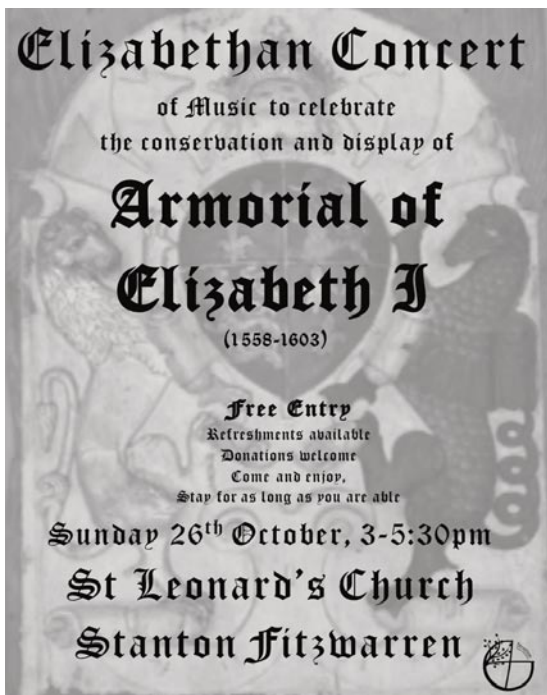
Mystery Find at St. Leonard's Church

Imagine our surprise when we found what looked like a historic armorial in a cupboard in the vestry at St. Leonard's Church Stanton Fitzwarren!

We decided to make enquiries about it and applied for funding to see if it was original and if it could be conserved. To our delight, experts confirmed that it was a genuine armorial from the time of Elizabeth I, and so we were able to obtain sponsors to fund the conservation work.

Inspired by this wonderful find, we will be hosting a celebration of all things Elizabethan on **Sunday 26 October**, 3pm to 5:30pm. Come and see the armorial for yourself, expect lots of Elizabethan music, a presentation about the armorial, and refreshments. Best of all, there's no charge to attend!


We look forward to seeing you in our beautiful church.



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Warneford School Celebrates Impressive Results

Staff and students from Warneford School celebrated their GCSE and VTQ results with students securing an impressive haul of combined GCSE results across the Trust's secondary schools.

Headteacher Sophie Hesten said, "I am delighted that our students have yet again gained a fantastic set of exam results. They have worked incredibly hard and I know they will go on to achieve amazing things in the future. Congratulations to them all and thank you to the whole school community, including staff and parents, for supporting them to do so well."



Shay Singh (pictured with his mum) achieved nine GCSEs, including five at Grade 9



All smiles for Molly, George and Kacey (l to r)



South Marston Gardening Club

Join us on Monday 6 October, 7:30pm to 9:30pm, to hear our speaker, Hugh Warwick, delight us with his talk, 'Why Did the Hedgehog Cross the Road?'

In his illustrated talk, Hugh will not only tackle that age-old question, but also share insights into the lives, habits and challenges facing hedgehogs today.

Hugh is an ecologist, author of three books on hedgehogs (so far!) and a passionate advocate for their protection. He is the spokesperson for the British Hedgehog Preservation Society, helps lead the Hedgehog Street campaign, and is a Visiting Fellow at Oxford Brookes University.

Whether you're a wildlife lover, have a curious mind, or are simply fond of prickly creatures, this is a talk not to be missed!

We meet at South Marston Village Hall, Old Vicarage Lane SN3 4SH. Parking is available in Old Vicarage Lane, next to the school.

Whether you're just dropping in for the evening on a one-off visit and pay just £5, or considering joining us as a full member at £15 Annual Membership, you're very welcome! Enjoy a warm, friendly atmosphere with refreshments and delicious homemade cakes, great company and inspiring talks that celebrate all things gardening and beyond.

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Events at Visit Highworth

Visit Highworth has an exciting range of workshops and events coming up in the autumn giving you even more reasons to pop into the Visitor Centre.

You are invited to come along to Visit Highworth on the first Saturday of each month between 11am and 1pm to meet some of the artists and crafters whose work we sell.

On **Saturday 4 October** we will have Janine Illes from Kitch'n Wych'n; Rhiannon Beardsall will join us on **Saturday 1 November**; and both Christine Purdy and Ann Hughes will be with us on **Saturday 6 December**.

Get Hooked on Crochet will be hosting a series of workshops. How about joining our Beginners group on **Monday 29 September**, 2pm to 4pm, or **Wednesday 8 October**, 7pm to 9pm? If you're a little more experienced, our Next Steps group is for you. Join us on either **Monday 13 October**, 2pm to 4pm, or **Wednesday 22 October**, 7pm to 9pm. Places are priced at £30.

Working towards Christmas, we have our Christmas Blanket Project – a four-week course **each Wednesday evening in November**, 7pm to 9pm. Tickets cost £80.

And in December we'll be making different crochet

creatures! Places cost £35. **Monday 1 December**, 2pm to 5pm; **Wednesday 3 December**, 7pm to 10pm; **Monday 8 December**, 2pm to 5pm, and **Wednesday 10 December**, 7pm to 10pm.

Prices include all materials and tools, plus coffee and cake!

Join artist Christine Purdy on **Wednesday 29 October**, 7pm to 9pm, for an enjoyable evening of Paint and Prosecco. Places are £35.

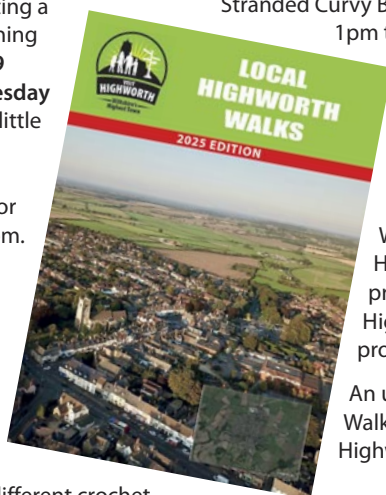
Learn how to make Dorset Buttons on **Monday 3 November**, 1pm to 2:30pm; Gold Leaf Baubles on **Monday 10 November**, 1pm to 3pm, or a Double Stranded Curvy Bracelet on **Monday 24 November**, 1pm to 2:30pm. All places cost £20 and include materials and tools needed.

Call in to Visit Highworth for full details of the programme where you can also book your places.

We are now selling the 'Wildlife of Highworth's Old Golf Course' calendars, priced £13 (cash only) and the Visit Highworth calendar with pictures provided by Highworth Camera Club.

An updated version of 'Local Highworth Walks', containing eight walks around Highworth, is now on sale at £4.

Iona Sadler, Chair of Visit Highworth Ltd.



Highworth Historical Society

Our talk on **Wednesday 22 October** will be presented by Peter Williams who will tell us more about the Crimean War. Probably, for most of us, the Crimean War just means Florence Nightingale and her lamp, but our speaker will give us a wider picture of this conflict.

For Highworth the end of the war brought great rejoicing.

'The High Street was decorated with arches of foliage and flowers. All the buildings sported flags and foliage. Tables and chairs were placed along the street and the poor of the parish were given a good dinner of roast beef. A band played and the food was served by the

clergy, gentry and respectable tradesmen. The following day any leftover food was given to people with large families. In the evening the band played for dancing in the Market Place.'

As usual we meet in St. Michael's Church. The doors open at 7pm for a 7:30pm start, and visitors are always welcome for a charge of £3. Cash please.

For more information about the society see our website or telephone Chris on 01793 764811.

Chris Suter



Big Fun with Big Highworth

We are delighted to welcome Hannah Edwards to our team as a new charity trustee. Hannah is a business owner and has a BA Hons in business and marketing management. We are still looking for more trustees and would love to hear from you.

"I'm delighted and humbled my application has been accepted to become a trustee of Big Highworth. This charity does amazing work and I'm so excited to be a part of it and to support their growth and the charities that will be able to be supported by them," said Hannah.

Thank you to everyone who came and visited us at our stall at the Highworth Volunteer Expo on Saturday 20 September. This was part of Highworth's first Volunteers' Week and it was wonderful to be involved with an important event celebrating volunteering in Highworth which also aligns with our charitable objects. Thank you to Highworth's LINK Magazine for organising this.

On **Saturday 4 October** we will be present at the Craft Fair at St. Michael's Church, 9:30am to 1:30pm, then on **Saturday 14 November** we'll be hosting our



Christmas-themed Quiz Night at Highworth Town Football Club, along with a fun raffle, for £5 per person. Tickets available from us or via Eventbrite.



Richard Hadfield

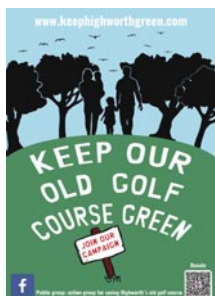
Our Christmas Charity Concert featuring the amazing Richard Hadfield is set for **Saturday 22 November** at St. Michael's Church. Doors open at 6:30pm with a bar, raffle and handmade charity cards available on the night. Again, tickets are available direct from us or via Eventbrite.

At Highworth's amazing Lights Switch-On event we will be back with our ever-popular Lego and brand new gift tombola. See you on **Saturday 29 November**!

To follow Big Highworth, volunteer and/or support our journey – you can follow us on Facebook. Alternatively email us at BHCF2023@outlook.com.

Alison Cross-Jones, Chair

Highworth Old Golf Course Wildlife Calendar



Two of Highworth's finest wildlife photographers, Keith Davidson and Kevin O'Donoghue, have generously produced a Highworth Old Golf Course Wildlife Calendar, with all proceeds going directly into the Action Group's fundraising pot.

The first batch sold out in no time, and a second print run of 150 calendars is now available. Calendars will be on sale at Visit Highworth, who have kindly agreed to support us by stocking them. Over the coming weeks, Action Group members will also be in the Market Square on some

Saturday mornings, where you'll be able to pick up a copy. If you're unable to get to the Market Square, you can order directly by emailing rob@highworthtower.co.uk or by texting/WhatsApp 07799 602370. Local delivery can be arranged where possible.



Each calendar is priced at £13, with every penny going to support our cause. They make a wonderful Christmas gift while helping to protect a much-loved local space.

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Delve into History with Swindon u3a

Are you interested in history? If so, you could find like-minded people in the u3a. The u3a is an organisation for people retired from full-time employment. It has over 130 interest groups meeting all around Swindon and surrounding areas. Several of these groups are devoted to the study of history in various forms.

The British History group researches and discusses the rich field of British history and is currently studying the late Victorian era; but if it's military history you're interested in, then the Military History group is for you. There are talks from members and guest speakers and trips are organised to museums and military venues.

Or perhaps art history is more for you. The Art Appreciation Group explores all aspect of art history including painting, sculpture, architecture, furniture, and other decorative objects. Members research and

give presentations of their chosen topics or on themes such as 'Couples in Art' and 'Images that Convey Beauty'.

The Archaeology Group meets monthly to study topics ranging from Neolithic to Victorian eras. Typically there will be a talk and news updates with visits to local digs in the summer. Or what about learning about your own family history? Members of the Family History Group pool their knowledge to research individual family histories.

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

u3a

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Wars Rage at Highworth Camera Club

The club had a busy summer, including a visit to the club by HADS members; an 'image battle' with Lambourn Camera club (a very close contest – a win by one point to Lambourn); the club's AGM; and an extended exhibition over two days in September.

I hope you were able to make a visit and perhaps were inspired to join us. The club meetings are every **second Tuesday of the month** at 7:30pm.

We are now looking forward to the end of year competitions, Christmas party and contemplations for 2026.

The club supplied local pictures for the 2026 Visit Highworth calendar which is now available from Visit Highworth in the High Street.



Photo session with Highworth Amateur Dramatic Society

If you would like any further information about the Camera Club, you can email highworthcamclub@gmail.com.

Hilary Beach

Lechlade Art Society Annual Exhibition

The August Bank Holiday weekend is the time for the Lechlade Art Society annual exhibition. This is a celebration of the work created by its members and also an opportunity for people to purchase original artwork.

The society's patron, Lord Faringdon, came along to the private view on the Friday evening and officially

opened the exhibition. In a short speech he praised the quality of work on display. He encouraged members to keep up the high



Lady and Lord Faringdon with Patron's award winner Brian Britton

standard and chose Brian Britton's print entitled 'Evening Farm' for the Patron's Award.

In addition to the work in the exhibition, the members of the Society produced small pictures (8" x 8") which were sold to support Prospect Hospice. Sales were once again brisk and over £1,000 raised for the hospice.

Footfall was steady throughout the weekend and much of the art was sold. If you missed the event you can see all of the exhibits on the society's website: www.lechladeartsociety.co.uk/exhibition.

There will be another opportunity to purchase artwork at the Pop Up sale on **Saturday 6 December** in the Lechlade Memorial Hall.

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Highworth Artists' Society



As you read
this, our
Autumn
Exhibition
will still be live.

It's running 4

October to 11 October, and as usual
will be in the Council Community
room on Gilberts Lane.

Thank you to everyone who has
visited or is planning to come along;
we appreciate every person as it's
good to be busy! Original paintings
and cards and refreshments are
available, with the proceeds from
refreshments going to the
Highworth Forget-Me-Not Café.

Did you see us at Highworth's third annual Volunteer
Expo? We were thrilled to display our paintings
representing a song title – did you get it right? Thanks
to the LINK Magazine for organising this event which is
all about community.

In the spirit of the Expo, our theme for October will be



'helping and support' and we hope to show you
paintings soon.

Here are a couple of photos from our days out painting
over the summer. We had good weather each time and
hopefully may have made another trip by the time you
are reading this!

Hilary Sinclair

Highworth Community Cinema

On Friday 24 October we will be
showing *The Critic*, a
suspenseful thriller starring Sir
Ian McKellen as a powerful
London theatre critic, and co-
starring Gemma Arterton, Mark
Strong, and Lesley Manville.

London, 1934. Jimmy Erskine
(McKellen) is the most feared
theatre critic of the age. He lives
as flamboyantly as he writes and
takes pleasure in savagely taking
down any actor who fails to meet
his standards. When the owner of
the Daily Chronicle newspaper
dies, and his son David Brooke
(Strong) takes over, Jimmy quickly
finds himself at odds with his new
boss and his position under
threat. In an attempt to preserve
the power and influence he holds
so sacred, Jimmy strikes a



Faustian pact with struggling
actress Nina Land (Arterton),
entangling them and Brooke in a
thrilling but deadly web of desire,
blackmail and betrayal.

We meet at the United Reformed
Church, 26 High Street, Highworth
SN6 7AG. Doors open at 7:15pm for
a 7:45pm showing.

101 mins Cert 15.

There is no membership fee.
Admission £6 on the door. 50p for
tea, coffee and biscuits.

For more information telephone
01793 763907, email
highworthfilms@gmail.com or see
our website:
www.highworthfilms.org.uk.

Debbie



*Simon Dowling finishing Section 8.
Photo Credit: Byron Muldowney*

Swindon & District Motorcycle Club

The sweet aroma of Silkolene had barely left the air at the old station yard in Hannington following the summer's Wooster Trial when the bikes gathered again in Broad Town, Wootton Bassett, for the Maslin Trial. Nearly 50 riders unloaded, checked in, fixed one number to the front of their bike and the other to the back of their crash helmet, and assembled for the pre-meeting brief. Under a ripening sun the riders were told there were to be four laps of ten sections, all with different coloured flags mapping out their routes. Yellow and green route riders were told to head to Section Four to begin their day, whilst red, white and blue route riders were to start from Section One.

A cacophony of exhaust noise then filled the air as the bikes buzzed off into the woodland to find their first Section before an eerie silence as each rider carefully walked their routes to memorise its cunning features.

Highworth Town Football Club

As August ended the new-look First Team was finding its feet with a run of three games unbeaten. A league record of one win, four draws and three losses could have been improved if not for conceding added-time goals at Fairford (1-1), at home to Pegasus (1-2) and a pair of goalless draws which could easily have gone

Steep drops into streams that disturbed silt and hid a multitude of bricks, blocks and rubble lurking beneath. Equally rubble-laden drainage gullies, steep banks and exposed tree roots making the climb out to the exit just as herculean. Tight slaloms through trees, stepped hillocks, mounds of loose earth to scale, and more visits in and out of the stream; fun could be found everywhere you pointed a front wheel.

On the few occasions a rider had to queue for a Section, helmets were removed, engines switched off and the air wafted liberally as the searing weather delivered as much of a challenge as the

obstacles beneath the wheels. As each rider completed their 40th and final Section, bikes were loaded and cold refreshments enjoyed leaving the officials to gather the scoresheets and recognise those circulating with the least amount of penalty points for putting a foot down. Taking a bow in their respective categories were Tom Culliford, Graham Wignall, Martin Wilmore, Adrian Steele, Dave Stevens, Thomas Plank and Molly Hassall.

Thanks of course are offered to the organisers and the observers for hosting yet another cracking event. All attention will now be on the next and final Trial of the year, the Jack Croston Trial taking place on **19 October** (10:30am start) down at the Old Station Yard in Hannington again.

Jason Daniels
www.sdmcc.org.uk

our way. Our FA Cup trip to Hallen also saw a 1-0 defeat to a late deflected free kick! With plenty of home games this side of the year end, we are looking for plenty of support as the team look to push on. Follow us on the usual social media networks.

Derek Lloyd

Wrag Barn Golf Club

The annual championships were a summer to remember, packed with competitive golf, great stories and a few surprise twists along the way. Across the four Club Championships – Men's, Ladies', Juniors and the main Club Championships – our members put on a brilliant display of skill, determination and sportsmanship.

What a day for the Club Championships! 89 Competitors took on 36 holes in glorious sunshine and

showed us all the best of Wrag Barn golf. The day was made even more special thanks to our sponsors RCM Catering, our competition organisers, greenkeeping team and the staff who kept everyone fuelled and refreshed. There was drama in the Nett competition when Ruben Chauhan-Drane had done enough to win, but

as he also picked up the third gross prize, the trophy passed to his dad Brian in true sporting spirit. After a software hiccup during the presentation, we're now delighted to properly celebrate Christian Stevens who superbly tied on 142. The big title went to last year's Junior Captain Louis McDiarmid, who is now our 2025 Club Champion! A fantastic achievement and thoroughly deserved. As if that wasn't enough, the Red Arrows treated us to a fly-past during the prizegiving, giving us a perfect ending.

Our Men's Championships saw a full field of 100 players battle through two tough days, and this time, the weather didn't play ball. After weeks of dry conditions the rain and wind arrived just in time to test every shot.

23 Ladies took to the course for their 36 hole championship, also played over two days, but this time the sunshine was back, and so was the quality golf. Thanks go to the Ladies Committee for running the event, our catering team for a brilliant cream tea and our greenkeepers for setting up the course beautifully.

The main event of Junior Week is the Junior Championships and this year it was as exciting as ever. Defending champion Riley Banks found himself six shots behind at the halfway stage but produced a level-par afternoon round to storm back and retain the trophy. In the nett competition, congratulations to Eddie Keen, this year's Nett Champion with Ittai Sibanda in second; celebrating a spectacular hole-in-one on the 12th.

Reflecting on our summer of champions, with its nail-biting finishes, family silverware, aerobic displays, this year will be remembered for years to come. A huge thank you to our sponsors, volunteers, committees, staff and of course the players who made it all happen. Here's to another year of fantastic golf at Wrag Barn.

Verity Manners
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[email teresaudell@icloud.com](mailto:teresaudell@icloud.com)

Highworth Bowls Club

HBC's Traders Day welcomed business leaders, local companies, community organisations and sports clubs to the inaugural Traders Day bowls event, kindly sponsored by Howden Insurance, on a sun-soaked July Sunday. Aimed at those with little or no experience of bowls, this fun event attracted 20 local teams, including: Highworth Paving Services, Weigh It Up, Richard James, Highworth Juniors FC, Highworth Hotel, Andrews Quality Meats, Hillier Funeral Services, Coventry Building Society, Howden Insurance, Highworth Walking FC, and Highworth Town Council, all guided and playing with the support of an experienced club bowler.

Played in a rinks format split across two groups, all sides played three randomly drawn matches of six ends. The top team from each group, based on the highest number of points won, progressed to the final. A total of 30 group matches played over six hours contested in great spirit by all teams, saw Builders United winning Group 1, and the Highworth Recreation Centre Team emerging as winners of Group 2 on shot difference.

The final, well supported by other teams, saw the ladies from the Highworth Recreation Centre outscore the builders. The Rec team were rightly delighted with their winning performances throughout the day, finishing with a 100% record. Visitors to The Rec will have seen that they quickly mounted photographs and displayed a winner's trophy in the reception area.



Traders Day required a massive team effort, probably more so than any other club event in recent times, and the club are very fortunate to have the willing support of a loyal band of volunteers – with thanks to Andrews Quality Meats for providing delicious produce prepared by our kitchen team. The event was a great success with positive feedback from those who took part on the day; some of the participants have already joined the club as bowling members, with others suggesting interest for next season. We look forward to hosting another Traders Day in 2026.

Kevin Brown

www.highworthbowlsclub.org



Colin Brain in action against Camerton & Peasdown

Swindon Croquet Club

In the final game of their season against Worcester Norton, Swindon's 'Handicap' team won 12-2 in a match that was shortened due to the very hot weather on the day. Swindon finished joint league winners with Cheltenham but conceded the title through hoop difference. Captain Clive Smith commented, "Another excellent season for the club but we are disappointed to miss out on top spot. Congratulations to all the players for their brilliant play."

In the 'Level Play' league, Swindon came out 12-8 winners in this end of season finale against Camerton & Peasdown. Player of the Day was Fiona Hancock who remained unbeaten in all her games. Non-playing Captain, Terry Clements, thanked everyone for their efforts throughout the season saying, "Every player has shown tremendous skill and application in a very competitive league. We look forward to 2026."

Wendy White

www.swindoncroquetclub.org.uk

Shrivenham Cricket Club

August started matchless for our first XI as our would-be opponents had dropped out of the league before a forfeit win against Heytesbury & Sutton Veny who were unable to raise a team. But our away match against Westbury 2 was very exciting. Westbury batted first and made 263 runs (losing seven wickets) in their allotted 45 overs – a good score with Naveed Akram taking three wickets for only 35 runs. We then matched their 263 runs (Simon Carr 56 runs, S Gunasekara 48, Adam Woods 61 and Helal Qazikhel 58) to gain a nail-biting tie.

The final match of Division 5 against Christian Malford away at the end of August was a crunch match by virtue of us both being tied on 288 points at the top of the standings, but ended as a damp squib. Christian Malford scored a good 183 runs, losing only four wickets when the match had to be abandoned

| Shrivenham Cricket Club Results | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|--------|--------|-----|------|-------|-----------|----------------|
| Wiltshire County Cricket League | | Played | Won | Lost | Drawn | Cancelled | Final Position |
| First XI | DIV 5 | 16 | 11 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 297 |
| Second XI | DIV 10 | 18 | 13 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 326 |
| | | | | | | | 1st / 10 |

because of rain. Consequently, they got ten points, we only nine, leaving Shrivenham beaten to the top position by a single point.

Our second XI, campaigning in Division 10 had a very successful summer, taking the league title with one match to spare courtesy of home wins against Swindon 5 (210/6 vs 136/all-out), Bradford-upon-Avon 3 (155/7 vs 151/all-out) and away wins against Chippenham 6 (167/all-out vs 152/all-out) and Westbury 3 (193/6 vs 113/all-out).

Away from our weekend cricketers, the club is represented in a midweek league (by our Midweek XI), more of this in the next edition! A truly notable season though for the Shrivenham Cricket Club.

Julian Stevens
www.shrivenham.play-cricket.com/home

Shrivenham Park Golf Club

Another sunny month was enjoyed before autumn crept in, causing early leaf-fall and our green keeping staff to include their clearance as part of their regular schedule much sooner than normal. With all this hard work going on in the background the Junior Open attracted 18 golfers from a variety of clubs, including a number for 'Procision Golf' based in Abingdon, the juniors giving us some excellent scoring and we look forward to hosting next year.

Junior Holiday week was a great success with Jim providing his coaching sessions that culminated with an 18-hole championship (won by Austen) and a 9-hole sixes competition (won by Rupert). There was a 3-hole game played from special short holes for those who took their first steps on the golf course, with Jim walking with them on every hole. Our members, committee members, Lady Captain, bar teams, and green keepers ball spotted and acted as walking scorers – a great club effort. Courtesy of Courtney, our coach's daughter, we were able to present certificates to all the players and prizes to the overall winners in the clubhouse before a barbeque was enjoyed. Thanks to everyone who was involved.

With lots of competitions at SPGC for members in the diary, our Tex Mex competition over August's Bank Holiday weekend to name but one, it is best to book a

tee time as our course is so full these days. I have been working as a marshal at a number of events this summer, the Sunningdale Senior Open, Belfry for the British Masters and the BMW PGA at Wentworth to keep me busy and I, and the rest of the club, will have been heavily distracted by the Ryder Cup last month hoping for European success.

Golf is a great game for all ages or abilities and we're particularly proud of our new lady member Lin who has been enjoying great success – well done! If interested, please come and visit us or give us a call, you're always welcome at Shrivenham Park Golf Club.

Carole Lee
 01793 783 853




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- ★ Wedding Receptions
- ★ Meetings and other events

£12.50 per hour
OR £35 per children's party

★ Kitchen, tables & chairs are available ★

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

History and Ice Cream

In August my family and I went to Boscastle in Cornwall. We stayed in a cottage at the top of a very steep hill and had to walk down to the harbour and then drag ourselves all the way back up again! I found if you distracted yourself when walking (such as with an ice cream) it made hiking up the hill a little bit easier.

Boscastle is located northeast of Tintagel. It's known for having a beautiful harbour, which is certainly does. The sea was the perfect shade of clear blue and the waves were huge. My sister and I were cheering every time a huge wave burst out of a cave. Sadly, Boscastle suffered a severe flood in 2004. In some buildings they have a plaque to show how high the water reached, which was nearly to the ground floor ceiling in some places.

We also went to the Eden Project which was constructed constructed in an old clay mine in 2001. It's home to two biodomes: one with a rainforest



environment, and a mediterranean one. Both domes are filled with plants from all over the world that wouldn't survive in our regular UK climate. The latter is my favourite as it reminds me of family holidays in the Canary Islands.

We also went for a trip to Tintagel which you may well have heard of in relation to the legend of King Arthur. The town even has a sword in a stone! There is also a National Trust managed medieval building in the centre of the town. The building started life filled with cattle and eventually became a post office.

Add to that trips to the beach and having an ice cream every day (cherry is the best flavour) I can certainly recommend Cornwall as a great destination for your holidays next summer!

Have an awesome October, and see you next month.

Constance Davenport



'Highworth Sings Handel'

Come and join Highworth Choral Society and their Musical Director, Jackie Padden, at our 'Come and Sing' event on Saturday 18th October from 10am – 5pm in St. Michael's Church, Highworth, SN6 7NA

Help us to fill the church with the sound of music by George Frideric Handel. Celebrate music from his Chandos Anthems, CoronaRon Anthems to choruses from Messiah and Samson.

All voices welcome!

Sessions as follows:

10am: Register and Coffee

10.30am: Choral Session 1

12.30pm: Lunch

1.15pm: Choral Session 2

2.45pm: Comfort Break

3.00pm: Choral Session 3

4.00pm: Tea and Cake

4.30pm: Informal Performance (Friends and family welcome as audience)

Registraron Fee: £22.50 to include music booklet (£12.50 HCS members and students)

Please visit www.highworthchoral.co.uk Registered charity 1096246 to complete a booking form and secure your place.

SUPERMARINE LADIES RFC

Tuesday and Wednesday - 7pm

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Supermarine Ladies



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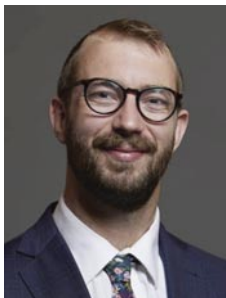
info@supermarineladiesrfc.co.uk

REPRESENTATIVES

News from Will Stone MP

At the recent Swindon Borough Full Council meeting on the 24 July, I listened as residents of Highworth presented a petition regarding the use of Shrivenham Road by heavy goods vehicles (HGVs), a matter which is causing concern among residents. These vehicles are coming from a number of companies operating out of the South Marston Industrial Estate.

Upon meeting with residents personally, they expressed their concerns to me, not just about the potential damage to Highworth's infrastructure or village atmosphere, but also the potential direct danger posed by HGVs to pedestrians and children attending Warneford and Southfield Schools. Reviewing the evidence compiled by residents, I agree that the use of Shrivenham Road by these companies is a potential risk, and so, following this meeting, I wrote to all those companies that operate using Shrivenham Road and requested they seek alternative routes.



I was pleased to receive initial feedback from some of the companies I contacted, such as Evri who have stated they will be changing routes to avoid Shrivenham Road and instructing their drivers and any contractors operating with them to do the same. Other companies have provided suggestions that may prevent future drivers opting to use Highworth as a short cut for preferred routes.

I am pleased with these initial steps and will be engaging further with the Council and companies across the town to ensure that HGVs do not operate on roads that may be unsafe for their use or which could cause endangerment to pedestrians.

Please do reach out to me at will.stone.mp@parliament.uk if you'd like to raise any local issues or require some assistance with casework.

Will Stone MP

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HIGHWORTH TOWN COUNCIL



**HIGHWORTH TOWN COUNCIL
PRESENTS**

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FRIDAY 7TH NOVEMBER 2025
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FIREWORKS 7.30PM

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£8.00 each**

**YOUNG PERSON
5yrs to 16yrs
£5.00 each**

TICKET LOCATIONS:
HTC Office Gilberts Lane: Cash/Card
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Visit Highworth (VHL): Cash only

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✔ Food Outlet ✔ Drinks Outlet ✔ Danter's Fair



Highworth Remembrance Service Sunday 9th November 2025

Check our website & social media pages for more details



www.highworthtowncouncil.gov.uk



Highworth Christmas Event & Light Switch-On

**SATURDAY 29TH NOVEMBER 2025
10AM UNTIL 5.30PM**

Our much-loved celebration returns
as we light-up Highworth
and launch the festive season.

**70 Independent Stalls, Bar, Food Outlets,
Live Music, Christmas Raffle, School Choirs,
Fun Fair, Father Christmas
& more**



Check our social
media pages for
further updates.

www.highworthtowncouncil.gov.uk

News from Highworth's Mayor



As I write, and summer draws to a close and the first hints of autumn fill the air, I hope you've all had a chance to enjoy some rest and time with family and friends.

While the school holidays may have slowed the pace for some, the work of the Town Council has been as busy as

ever, with some significant projects moving forward.

The Highworth Neighbourhood Plan has reached another important stage and, at the time of writing, Swindon Borough Council (SBC) is preparing to hold a six-week consultation before it returns to the examiner. For more details, please visit the Highworth Town Council website.

Work to create the new Barra Close Play Area is now in full swing – pun very much intended! Meanwhile, the Town Council has unanimously agreed to instigate legal proceedings with SBC regarding the old golf course, an important issue for our community. We are also imminently awaiting the outcome of the planning application for a 3G all-weather pitch. Should it be approved, the project will return to the Football Association for final funding. If successful, this facility will become a valuable asset for Highworth, backed by significant investment from the Football Association.

My mayoral duties have continued throughout the summer while nursing a broken wrist. I had the pleasure of attending The Roxi Foundation Summer Fiesta, supporting their invaluable work in providing assessments for autism. I also joined the congregation at the Methodist Church for the welcome service of Reverend Ian Mead, who I know will be warmly received in our community.

Dates for your diary:

- **7 November:** Highworth Fireworks
- **9 November:** Remembrance Service
- **29 November:** Christmas Light Switch-On

As the leaves turn and autumn settles in, I look forward to continuing to work together to make our town thrive.

Julie Murphy, Mayor of Highworth

HIGHWORTH TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN MAYOR & CHAIRMAN

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and leave a message

bookings@highworthcommunitycentre.co.uk

St. Michael's Church

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**.

11am Midweek Communion

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

Harvest Services

- 5 October 10:15am St Michael's Highworth
- 12 October 4:30pm St John the Baptist Hannington
- 12 October 6pm St James Sevenhampton

Prayers

Tuesday Prayers from 9am.

Thursday Prayers at 10am and 4:30pm.

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

Julia Bishop

We welcome in Holy Baptism

Caleb Jackson

We congratulate on their Marriage

Aaron West and Annabel Peapell

Tom Calvert and Tiffany Franklin

Praying for the roads in the town

- 5 October Shrivensham Road and Skye Close
- 12 October Spa Close and Squires Court
- 19 October St. Michael's Avenue and Stapleton Close
- 26 October Station Road and Stonefield Drive

To advertise in The Highworth Link contact

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

St. Leonard's Parish Church Stanton Fitzwarren

- 5 October Morning Worship, 9:30am
- 12 October Family Harvest Service, 11am
- 19 October Team Service at St. Margaret's Stratton, 10am (Boys Brigade Parade)
- 26 October Holy Communion, 9:30am

Stanton Coffee Morning will be meeting on **Wednesday 15 October** at Stanton House Hotel. We will meet at 10:15am for coffee and chat then Rev. Phil Goodey will be our speaker from 11am.

Thank you to everyone who rode, walked or welcomed for the Wiltshire Historic Churches Sponsored Ride and Stride.

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

Please see our website at www.stantonchurch.info for updates.



THE WONKY VEG CLUB

COME AND JOIN US **OPEN TO ALL**

SUNDAYS 2PM - 4PM

THURSDAYS 9AM - 12PM

ROVES FARM SN6 7QG

We are a community garden project which aims to provide an outreach space for the local community and support groups, and individuals who would find benefit in joining us. The Wonky Veg Club is a place to come and socialise, learn and enjoy working on the land.

Our weekly volunteer drop in sessions are open to all. So if you want to come along then we would love to see you.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CHECK OUT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

www.facebook.com/wonkyvegclub



Highworth Community Church

You're invited

come as you are

Experience the presence
of God with us.

Mark 16: 1-8 (NIV)

"But when they looked up, they saw
which were very large, had been rolled
away. They saw a young man
sitting on the right side."

Sunday Gatherings

📍 Warneford School Hall, SN6 7BZ

☕ Refreshments from 9:45am

🕒 Main Gathering starts at 10:30am

vibrant worship

prayer

community

spiritual encouragement



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



19/09/2025

Joyce Ryder

*Missing a special Mum and Nan today and everyday.
Forever in our hearts and thoughts.*

*Love from Janice and Pas, Louisa and Chris, Pep, Amy and
Carina xxxx*

2/10/25

Five years since I lost my darling Julie.

*I still welcome the tears and pain. It's the only way I can show
my deep, deep love.*

5/10/2025

Eric Ryder

*Remembering a dearly loved Dad and Bamp
on his 100th birthday.*

Always in our hearts and thoughts.

*Love from Janice and Pas, Louisa and Chris, Pep, Amy and
Carina xxxx*

*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
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| Gas | Emergency 0800 111999 |
| Electricity | Emergency 105 |
| Water | Emergency 0800 3169 800 |

NON-EMERGENCY

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
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| NHS | Non-Emergency 111 |
| Pest Control | Non-Emergency 07789 781151 |

BUSES

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| Thamesdown Transport | 01793 428400 |
| Dial-a-Ride | 01793 616050 |
| Community Transport | 01793 617828 |
| Traveline | 0871 200 2233 |

COLLEGES

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|----------------------|--------------|
| Cirencester College | 01285 640994 |
| New College Swindon, | |
| Queens Drive Campus | 01793 611470 |
| North Star Campus | 01793 491591 |

LAW & ORDER

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

COUNCILS

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

FIRE SAFETY

| | |
|------------------------|---------------|
| Home fire safety check | 0800 038 2323 |
|------------------------|---------------|

DOCTORS AND HOSPITALS

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|--------------------------------|--------------|
| 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

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|---------------|--------------|
| Highworth Rec | 01793 762602 |
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PHARMACIES

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|------------------------------------|--------------|
| 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

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| Veezu | 01793 701701 |
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TRAINS

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

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|--|----------------|
| 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 |
| Root & Branch (Mental Health Therapeutic Centre) | 01793 782999 |

Highworth LINK magazine Published under the auspices of Highworth Churches Together.

Published by Highworth LINK Magazine Community Interest Company, which operates to provide a benefit to the community it serves.

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8a Sheep Street, Highworth SN6 7AA

Highworth LINK magazine is published monthly except in January and August.

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