

*Highworth*LINK

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



November 2025



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Dear Reader

I just love this time of year! And I'm thrilled to welcome you to this penultimate edition of Highworth's LINK Magazine for 2025 – a vibrant celebration of the people, events and initiatives that make our community such a special place in which to live, work, and grow. At its heart are dedicated individuals and groups whose contributions shape our shared experience. In this issue we're highlighting some of their outstanding efforts.

We're shining a spotlight on recent school achievements, their special projects, and the dedicated teachers making a real difference. We hope you enjoy reading about their innovative programmes and the talented students who continue to shine.

We're also bringing you memories from our Volunteers' Week and Volunteer Expo. This was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the many volunteers who selflessly give their time and energy to support our community. To every volunteer – thank you for all that you do. And if you joined in by volunteering or attending our Expo, thank you for getting involved.

Our community groups are thriving, offering a range of activities that bring people together and help build lasting friendships. Whether you're a familiar face or new to the area, we invite you to get involved, share your ideas, and discover the many ways you can make a difference. In this issue, you'll find stories from these remarkable groups that demonstrate the power of teamwork and community spirit.

Thank you for reading and for being an active part of our vibrant community. We hope this magazine inspires you, informs you, and makes you proud to call this place home.

Rachael



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Front cover image: Cecilia Johnston from Highworth Community Cider (see page 24)

Find Better Ways to Live

November is a month with quite a variety of special days to consider; some come to our mind quite easily while others, I am sure, you may never have heard of.

I guess that All Saints Day is one of the days lots of people remember, as well as Guy Fawkes and Remembrance Day. But how many of you have heard of *World Jelly Fish Day* (3 November), *Anti-Bullying Week* (from 10 November), *World Kindness Day* (13 November), or *World Hello Day* (21 November)? Just to name a few.

Having a special day, or a set apart day, is not something strange to people of faith. A day to gather with other believers, for coming together and worshipping, often sharing a meal – a way of affirming our belonging, of being part of something larger than ourselves. These set-apart-days play a vital role in our lives.

There are also other days which only mean something to a few people but are there because there is a need

to draw attention to a particular situation. *World Jelly Fish Day* simply reminds me of the times when I was stung by one as a child. Not a fond memory, but it didn't change my life. I think *Anti-Bullying Week* is worth keeping, particularly as we are living in a time where lots of bullying is going on, be it in politics, our social lives, schools, or at work. It's terrible to be bullied and it should never be condoned.

It would be good if we lived in such a way that all days are God's days as we hope to reflect that every day is significant and has a purpose. Don't you think this would be a better way to live our days, no matter what we believe or how we express our beliefs?

May this November be a time to find better ways to live life, not for a few only, but for all people. Let's try to work on this and keep going. It can all start with a simple "Hello." So, to each of you, from us: Hello.

Rev. Robert H. Jordan, Highworth URC

Double Celebration for URC

The United Reformed Church in Highworth has recently had two reasons to celebrate.

At the end of September we clocked up 200 years in our present building and marked it with a splendid guest service led by the minister, Rev. Robert Jordan. Among the congregation were Mayor Julie Murphy and the Moderator of the URC's South Western Synod, Rev. David Downing. We also welcomed representatives from the other Highworth churches, our sister church at Upham Road and many others who came to support us.

The church looked a picture with superb flowers arranged by Annie Crabtree, and the hymn singing was heard all down the High Street – a day to remember.

The other recent celebration was that Mrs. Mary Newman, a retired Elder, achieved a total of 70 years as a member of this same church where she was baptised and brought up. Many people in Highworth know Mary, and we all have reasons to be grateful for the service she has given and continues to give to the church and the wider town.

Bryan Elkington



Rotary Awards £250 Grant to Student

Jessica Pryor is a Year 11 student at the Deanery Academy in Swindon who is going to Zanzibar next July on a Global Action programme. She needs to raise the total cost of the trip which is £3,750, and she is pictured here with our Club President Terry Williams (Highworth).

Jessica told us that not only has she been the head student at the Deanery, but she has also contributed to various school events, including the *Festival of Tomorrow*, and she has completed several challenges and awards such as the Faraday Challenge, Young Leaders award, Duke of Edinburgh bronze, and Brightside STEM mentoring.

The Global Action programmes offer students diverse learning opportunities in marine conservation, terrestrial conservation and alternative livelihoods, focusing on sustainable management, natural resource protection and poverty reduction through sustainable resources. Jessica said, "I'm really looking forward to being pushed out of my comfort zone!"

The tropical island of Zanzibar, off the coast of Tanzania, is known for its unique ecosystem and alternative ways of life. Its spectacular coral reefs, sandy beaches and coastal forests support many endemic and critically endangered species, so it offers a unique opportunity to learn about conservation and biodiversity.

During the 15-day trip, Jessica will snorkel in coral reefs, conduct observational surveys, learn about critically endangered animals like the Red Colobus Monkey, work alongside female seaweed farmers, and explore sustainable solutions.



Jessica Pryor receiving her award from Club President Terry Williams



The Global Action project is an ASDAN (Award Scheme Development and Accreditation Network) which is a UK-based educational and awarding charity that designs and accredits programmes to help learners develop personal, social and employability skills.

Supporting local youngsters is just one aspect of Rotary's contribution in our community. If joining Rotary interests you, please use the 'contact us' link on our website: rotaryswindonnorth.org.uk.

Ken Winslow

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Wednesday 5th November is Stress Awareness Day. Stress is harmful to health, relationships and work. Physical signs of stress, increased heart rate, BP and muscle strain are well known. The extensive list of less obvious symptoms like poor digestion, hormonal imbalances and impaired cognitive function are just as damaging. Too much stress is problematic and for most the daily routine is challenging. Finding time to relax is difficult but crucial to remain fit and healthy.

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Light in the Darkness

Well, it's five months since I started my new role as Curate here at St Michael's. Thank you so much to many of you for your words of welcome and encouragement.

The nights have drawn in, the clocks have gone back, the temperatures have dropped. Winter is coming with all the challenges this brings to so many of us.

One of my favourite parts of the Bible are the Psalms. They are 150 poems and songs which reflect human experience – life in all its fullness, as Jesus once said. One of my favourites is Psalm 139 where the writer has been reflecting on the fact that we are always in God's presence, even in the darkest of times.

"But even in darkness I cannot hide from you. To you the night shines as bright as day. Darkness and light are the same to you." (Psalm 139:12, *New Living Translation*)

The good news is that, although winter is fast approaching, Christmas is not far away! Jesus has come – he is the Light of the World. When we put our trust in Jesus he gives us light to live by, so that even when things are tough and when all seems dark we can know his comfort, his forgiveness and his light. All the churches in Highworth invite you this month to discover the light that only Jesus offers.

"I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won't have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life." (John 8:12, *NLT*)

Rev. Andy Bissex



Building the Future of Football

Highworth Town Junior Football Club has been serving the Highworth community for over 50 years and is still a beacon for young football enthusiasts.

Already with 29 teams ready for the 26/27 season, the club prides itself on providing quality coaching and fostering a love for the game among children of all ages. With a rich history of accolades, the club continues to inspire and nurture budding talent.

We would like to thank all the coaches, managers and volunteers who continue to allow the club to provide a safe haven for hundreds of children from Highworth and the surrounding areas. Using football to encourage exercise, healthy eating, social skills, team building, independence and confidence in all of the children, we couldn't continue to provide these opportunities without the dedication of the volunteers.

We are always on the lookout for more volunteers so we can set up more teams. If you are interested in working with us to cater for even more children, please reach out to the club via our website: www.highworthtownjuniors.co.uk. These positions are vital for the club to expand its reach and cater for more

children eager to play football. Whether you're an experienced coach or someone new to the field, the club offers support and resources to help you thrive in these roles.



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

We even involve your three and four-year-olds! It's great to see them running around outside and learning new skills each week. We've set up four new under-seven teams for next season already, but have space for more. Come and try in a free session.

What do you think? Would you like to get involved? Contact us for more information (htjfkelly@gmail.com).

Kelly Preston



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Latest News from Big Highworth Foundation

Trustees

We say goodbye and thank you to trustee Chris Kent who has completed his term of office and was with us through our application for charitable status. We are now looking for three more trustees. If you are interested in joining us please email BHCF2023@outlook.com for more information.



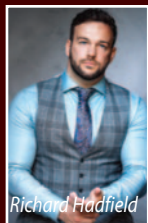
Chris Kent

Awards

Our Community Award judges – Fiona Scott, Dave Southby, Mike Land, Aga Marsden, John Lewis and Howard Smith – recently finalised our Community Award shortlist and winners. Fiona Scott, head judge, said, "The quality of nominations received this year was very high." If you nominated an individual or a group and your nominee did not make the shortlist, remember there is always next year!

Events

Thank you to everyone who came along to support our Craft Fair on **Saturday 4 October** at St. Michael's Church. We are always thankful to our sellers and attendees – your support makes what we do possible.



Richard Hadfield

We have a number of events coming up. On **Saturday 14 November** we will be holding our Christmas-themed Quiz Night at Highworth Town Football Club, including a fun raffle, tickets priced at £5 per person. Our Christmas Charity Concert will be held on Saturday 22 November with the amazing Richard Hadfield. Join us at St. Michael's Church when the doors open at 6:30pm. There will be a bar, raffle and handmade charity cards on the night. Tickets for both events are available directly from us or via Eventbrite. And we'll be back with our Lego and brand-new-gift tombola on **Saturday 29 November** at Highworth's Lights Switch-on event. Please pay us a visit and see if you win a prize!

We are pleased to announce the Big Highworth Festive 5 on **Sunday 7 December**. Participants in this 5K run can fundraise for a charity of their choice by registering for £10 either directly us or via Eventbrite. A sponsor sheet will be provided upon registration. All entrants will receive a medal and there will be prizes for the best dressed adult, teen, child, and pet. Refreshments will also be available. The event hopes to bring together the



Mike Land, Fiona Scott, John Lewis, Howard Smith, Aga Marsden and Dave Southby

community in support of charitable causes, schools and community groups in and around Highworth.

Community Grant Fund

We have recently awarded grants from our Community Grant Fund 2025 to Heart for Philippines and Root and Branch.

We awarded £600 to the Heart for Philippines project, and Zobel Staritt, co-founder of the charity, said: "We are truly grateful to the Big Highworth Community Foundation for their generous support which has made our From the Heart: Afternoon Tea for Highworth Elders project a reality."

Root and Branch were thrilled to receive £528. A charity spokesperson explained: "Everyone at Root and Branch wishes to extend a massive thank you to the Big Highworth Community Foundation for supporting us with this grant which will enable the purchase of four sturdy tall stools for our new Pottery and Glass Art Workshop."

To follow Big Highworth, volunteer and support our journey, you can follow us on Facebook (search 'BigHighworthCommunityFoundation'). Donations can be made at www.localgiving.org/charity/big-highworth-community-foundation.



Root and Branch representatives (r) with Big Highworth trustees Alison and Nigel



Zobel Staritt (centre) with Alison and Nigel from Big Highworth

Southfield Pupils Set Sail



Children at Southfield have made a fantastic start to the new school year with an exciting whole-school project themed around *A Moment in Time*.

The journey began in 1912 as pupils stepped back into history to explore what life was like more than a century ago. Pupils then embarked on a clue hunt, piecing together information to uncover the major historical event they would be studying – the story of the Titanic. This hands-on approach sparked curiosity and excitement, setting the scene for a term of rich and memorable learning.

As part of their studies, children have investigated the Titanic's route, explored who was travelling on board

and learned about the different class systems that shaped passengers' experiences. They concluded by reflecting on the events of that fateful night when the Titanic struck an iceberg and sank.

The project has not only deepened pupils' historical knowledge but also inspired them to extend their learning beyond the classroom. Many have gone home eager to create their own non-chronological reports, while others have constructed impressive Lego models

of the ship – some so enormous they rival classroom displays!

Teachers at Southfield have been delighted with the enthusiasm and creativity shown by pupils. The *A Moment in Time* project has truly

brought history to life, capturing imaginations and setting a positive, inspiring tone for the year ahead.

Mrs. O'Sullivan, Head of School



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Highworth and District Lions

Autumn leaves are falling and everywhere has a lovely golden hue. But along with the seasonal change there is now a bit of a chill in the air and it's time to release those woolly-pullies from summer storage!

The Lions Charity Shop has a wonderful selection of warm winter clothes at bargain prices for you to browse through, plus lots of fancy dress costumes for the children.

Everyone who joined us for the trip to Weston-super-Mare had a fabulous time; it was a great success. Sun, sea, ice cream and fish and chips – a brilliant day out indeed! Due to popular demand we will be taking another trip next year.



We're looking forward to the *Highworth Christmas Lights Switch-on* taking place on **Saturday 29 November**. Children, get ready, as Father Christmas will be paying us a visit, and the Lions will have a tombola stall with a *Guess the name of the teddy* competition, along with free games on the day kindly donated by Charles Baxter.

Our recent donations and pledges are as follows:

- Highworth Warneford School: New furniture (sum to be decided)
- New choir platform: NexGen, £2,000
- Complete bedroom set kindly donated and delivered to a family in need
- Sight Save and Water Aid Programme through LCI: £2,000
- SHAP (Help for Ukraine) delivery to Newbury and South Wales
- Philippines: Ongoing help with books and clothes
- Christmas vouchers for the elderly: Ongoing

Our fabulous volunteer drivers are continuing with minibus trips, but we really need some more drivers. Please contact transport@highworthlions.co.uk if you feel you can help.

And lastly, we need some more elves! We would really appreciate some additional collectors during Santa's Sleigh Walkabouts in and around the Highworth area. We are short on youngsters or anyone with a bit of extra energy looking to have some fun and help out following Santa's Sleigh routes in December. We will firm up on dates in next month's Highworth LINK Magazine. So, if you're up for some festive fun for a great cause then please contact me at sue@highworthlions.co.uk

Sue Subow

Lechlade History Society

Following our AGM on Monday 17 November, 7pm for 7:30pm, we will hear a talk, *Cotswolds Cornucopia*, by Sean Gallery.

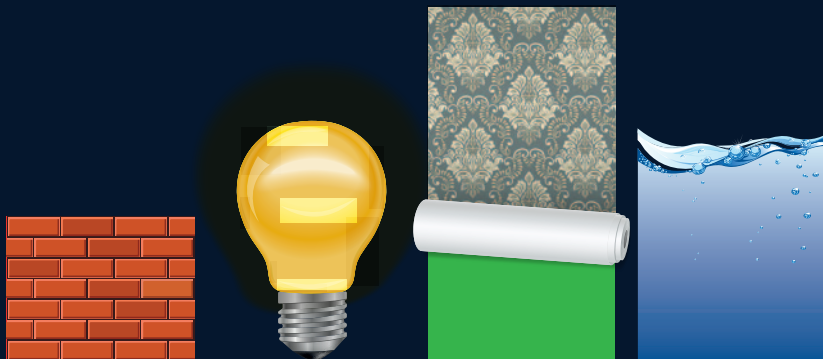
The Cotswolds is one of Britain's most scenic areas where rolling green hills are speckled with honey-coloured stone villages, each one having its own story. For this area was once the heart of the English

economy and its landscape is now regarded as one of the treasures of Britain.

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Ros Godden



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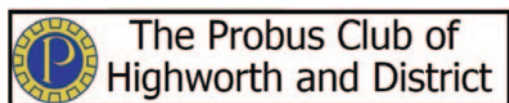
Highworth and District Probus Club

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

On **Tuesday 28 October**, Mike Grigg will be talking about *The Falklands War*, and on **Tuesday 11 November** Martin Collinson will bring a presentation on *William Marshall*. Our final presentation of the year will be on **Tuesday 25 November** when we'll hear about *The Ocean Liners at War* from Douglas Butler.

For further information, please email info@highworthprobust.co.uk or visit our website at www.highworthprobust1.wordpress.com.

George North



Volunteer to Deliver LINK Magazine!

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Let's spread the word together!

Celebrating our second anniversary

Hello everyone.

On July 31st this year, Veale's Wheels Transfers celebrated its 2nd Anniversary of successful operation.

Thanks then must be extended to the wonderful residents of Highworth, and the surrounding areas, who have chosen to use the service: some, many times over. The time seems to have simply flown by since the service's first customer was taken to Terminal 5 at Heathrow back in 2023. Simply put, without you, Veale's Wheels Transfers could not have grown and developed as it has during this second year of operation.

So it goes without saying, my team of trusted business associates and I look forward to being of service again in the year ahead, gladly welcoming new customers too, should you have an upcoming travel need of any distance.

To Highworth and beyond!

Blessings, Peter

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Thanks, Highworth Community Shed!

Here at Westrop Primary we have a lovely garden space behind our den building which is used for our nurture clubs. The children love playing, exploring and sometimes learning in the garden, and we wanted to make it more exciting for them.

We put a shout out to Highworth Community Shed to see if they were able to help out – luckily for us they were more than happy to lend a hand, and what a fab team of volunteers they are. We sent some pictures of ideas we were thinking would work for our children: a teepee and a train!



Over the summer holidays Team HCS worked their magic and created the most beautiful outdoor wooden teepees and a Westrop bus. Their helpfulness, craftsmanship and all-round energy has been amazing.

We would like to thank Warneford Secondary School for donating the blue chairs, Fred Fairchild and Richard Williams for the donation of wood, and Dan at Swindon Metal Recycling for donating the steering

wheel, with a special thanks to the team at Highworth Community Shed who have been involved in this project. Your enthusiasm and dedication has been gratefully received and you have enabled us to turn the garden into an interesting sanctuary.

We will share more photos with an update once our garden is complete and all the equipment is in place.

A great community effort all round – thank you!

Mrs. Jaynes and Mrs. Nolan

A Winner at Andrews



Winner Paul Donohoe receiving his prize

On behalf of Andrews Quality Meats Highworth we congratulate our Prospect Hospice raffle winner, Paul Donohoe!

A huge thank you to Peter Thurgood who donated this classy magnum of wine and to all who supported this fantastic cause. Your generosity managed to raise a fantastic £300. Our customers are just the best! We are so grateful of your continued support and we are proud to post this massive achievement.

Being part of this community is so important to us. Over the years we have raised literally thousands towards multiple sclerosis, Brighter Futures (radio therapy unit), the Air Ambulance, Alzheimer's and Parkinsons. We also raised funds for a local young lady receiving treatment for cancer in America. The list goes on!

In the run up to Christmas, we will be continuing our support for the Prospect Hospice with our annual luxury Christmas hamper stuffed full of goodies. Please feel free to pop in and purchase a raffle ticket or two. The draw is open to everyone, not just our customers.

Andy, Jo and the team at Andrews Quality Meats

Busy Times at Visit Highworth

We have been very busy here at Visit Highworth.

Our *Meet the Maker* sessions have proved very popular and these will continue in the new year. The Brewery Street Buskers fundraising concert at the Community Centre was a fabulous, fun-filled evening and raised significant funds for our ongoing work. We also had our first book signing in September with Rosa Matheson, and her books are available to purchase. There is still time to sign up to some of our workshops running in November and December, but you probably need to get your skates on!

Once again, we are promoting a Christmas Craft Fayre in St. Michael's Church on **Saturday 29 November** from 10am to 4pm as part of Highworth Town Council's Christmas Light Switch-on. We have over 20 local crafters and artists, some familiar and some new ones, who will be attending. We look forward to seeing you and hope you find some unique and lovely gifts for friends and family. There will also be a café serving tea, coffee and a delicious selection of cakes. We would love



some help with this, so if you have an hour to spare please let us know by emailing info@visithighworth.co.uk.

We now have a range of seasonal items in stock, so why not pop in and find that perfect gift. We still have some of the limited edition Highworth prints drawn by Paul Newton-Smith, both A3 and A4, which would make perfect presents.

Highworth Calendars are available for sale and feature a range of photographs by members of Highworth Camera Club. You can purchase these at Visit Highworth or at the Christmas Craft Fayre.

Lots of events and workshops are being planned for 2026, including the Highworth Art and Literature Festival in June! If you would like to be the first to know what we are doing, please join our mailing list by emailing info@visithighworth.co.uk.

We look forward to seeing you.

Iona Sadler, Chair

Upper Thames and Ridgeway National Trust Association

This group meets for talks in the winter months in Highworth, Lechlade and Cirencester and enjoys outings and an organised holiday in the summer months.

Our next meeting will be on **Saturday 15 November** at 2:30pm in Cirencester Baptist Church GL7 1YE, when Stewart Smith will talk about *Lord Lovell, Lovell Minster and the Chartists* where three became one (Minster Lovell). We'll be meeting a saint, the cat, the rat, Lovell the dog and that Chartist bloke, Feargus O'Conner. Intrigued?

Further details on www.utrnta.co.uk.

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Visit Highworth

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Monday 3rd November 13:00 - 14:30
Learn how to make a Cartwheel Dorset Button

GOLD LEAF BAUBLES
Monday 10th November 13:00 - 14:30
Learn how to gild and decorate ceramic baubles in gold, silver or copper leaf to match your festive décor.

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Scouts Christmas Post

The Scouts Christmas stamps go on sale in the Highworth Emporium on 1 November. The post box will be situated there eventually but cannot be set up until 21 November.

The cost of a stamp has increased to 45p, which is almost half the price of a second class stamp. **The last date for posting is Tuesday 16 December** and cards will be delivered the following weekend.

We are again grateful to the marvellous team at the Emporium for selling the stamps, and as you can see they are looking forward to doing it again:

"We're delighted to be selling the Scout stamps again this year at Highworth Emporium. The attractive price of the Scout stamps encourages more people to send cards at Christmas – and we all know how much joy a card can bring. Last year was such a wonderful experience, and we loved playing a part in this great community tradition. It's always a joy to support the Scouts and help serve our local community."

This is our biggest fundraiser of the year and we hope you will support it as you have done for many years.

David Roblin

Beavers Fun Adventure

Early one Saturday morning in the middle of September, the two minibuses belonging to 1st Highworth Scout Group headed off down the M4 to Woodhouse Park Activity Centre near Bristol for a Beavers Adventure Day.

27 Beavers from both Huron and Hudson Colonies, together with nine leaders and Young Leaders, took part in activities from A to Z – Abseiling to Zorbing –

including climbing, caving, laser tag, snowtubing, crate stacking, frisbee golf, pedal karting, wheelbarrow races, soft archery, crossbows and tomahawk throwing, circus skills and more!



When we left Highworth the weather forecast was for heavy showers all day, but we were very lucky and only had a little light rain right at the end of the afternoon.

We are very grateful to everyone who supported our fundraising efforts throughout the year. We held coffee mornings and a toy and book sale on the podium, and some of the leaders volunteered at the Swindon Scouts fireworks display at Lydiard Park. Due to the success of all of the fundraising we were able to subsidise the trip for all the Beavers, so thank you all.

Everyone had a great time and we're all looking forward to going again next year!

Jane Dobson, Beaver Leader



Support the Bobby Van Trust this Christmas

Shoppers can plunge themselves into the Christmas spirit amid atmospheric surroundings at the Bowood Festive Food and Gift Fair on Monday 1 December and Tuesday 2 December.

"This popular annual fair takes place in the Kerry Suite at the Bowood Hotel Spa and Golf Resort between Calne and Chippenham. It is not only a place to find unique gifts and locally produced food and drink, it also raises vital funds for the Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust," says Director Jennie Shaw.



Shoppers at last year's Bowood Festive Food and Gift Fair

The charity works in partnership with Wiltshire Police, with three operators visiting homes across Wiltshire and Swindon to offer free practical home security measures for people over 60, those at risk of domestic abuse, or over 18 with a registered disability.

It also has a team of Stay Safe Online volunteers who visit clients in their homes and give talks to groups

Highworth Choral Society

Our Christmas concert this year will be on **Saturday 6 December in St. Michael's Church.**

We'll be singing Part One of Handel's Messiah plus the 'Hallelujah' Chorus, and Vaughan Williams's *Fantasia on Christmas Carols*. We'll be ably assisted by four soloists – it promises to be a wonderful evening as Advent gets under way and preparations for the festive season start to fill many people's thoughts.

Why not come and join us for this celebration of the season?

Keep an eye out for posters around the town and on social media with more details. Tickets will be available from a few weeks beforehand from Visit Highworth and from choir members.

Neil George, Chair



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about preventing online fraud.

"The money raised by the fair will go such a long way to continuing to support the safety and wellbeing of older people and will allow them to enjoy the festive period too," explains Jennie.

"As ever we are blessed with a full range of amazing stall holders selling a wide variety of products. Whether you're looking for stocking fillers, leather goods, festive food, inspiration for important family members or just to spoil yourself, then rest assured we have thought of everything.

"We are indebted to Bowood and the Lansdowne family for their continued support of this event – it really is one of the highlights of our calendar."

Tickets are available online at www.wiltshirebobbyvan.org.uk/future-events with a special two-for-one offer on £5 tickets for Tuesday 2 December.

Gary Lawrence



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Creativity with Swindon u3a

Are you feeling creative? Do you want to share your interest with new friends in a relaxed, supportive group? Well, the u3a could be for you. We have many different groups to inspire you to take up a new art or craft, or pursue an existing one.

You can make a garment of your choice at the Dressmaking Group which includes all levels of ability. Or how about Sewing for Pleasure where you can make personal items for yourself, your family or your home. The Crochet and Knitting Group makes items to help local hospitals and charities while enjoying each other's company and ideas. All abilities are welcome at the Embroidery and Needlework Group and there is always someone to help if you need it.

Or perhaps you prefer to paint. The Easy Painting, Painting for Fun, Painting Together and Painting, Pastels and Mixed Media Groups all provide a friendly, relaxed and encouraging environment for those who enjoy painting with whatever medium you like and however good (or not!) you are.

If you would like to express yourself with flowers, the Flower Arranging Group will help you under the

leadership of a creative tutor. Members bring their own flowers and foliage and create arrangements ranging from traditional to modern.

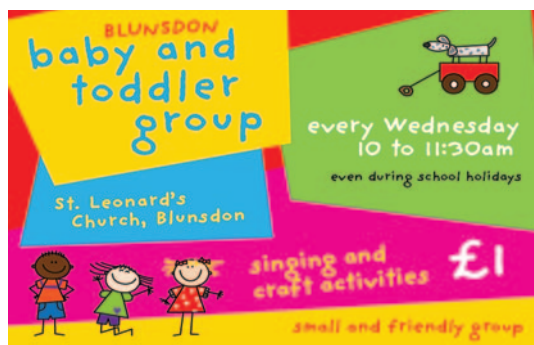
u3a

Three Craft Groups (one in Highworth) give you the opportunity to share skills and learn from each other, whatever your craft and level. Craft as You Like enables you to learn different crafts such as beading, card making and kuminimo.

The Cartonnage Group enables you to make your own bespoke fabric-covered boxes. Make a pen pot, a set of drawers, a gift box or a box with a magnetic lid. Card is covered in fabric and glued. No stitching is needed.

There's also an Upholstery Group, a Scrapbooking Group and a Digital Photography Group.

The u3a is for people no longer in full-time employment. To learn more about it and all the other activities it offers, visit www.swindonu3a.org.uk, telephone the office on 01793 614629 between 10am and noon on Monday, Wednesday and Friday or visit our Facebook page.



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JEZ LOWE

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VOLUNTEERS' WEEK

Volunteers' Week: Celebrating Kindness



Mid-September burst into life as Highworth's LINK Magazine proudly

launched the town's very first Volunteers' Week in spectacular fashion. The High Street was a riot of colour with vibrant flags fluttering overhead and eye-catching banners, lovingly crafted by the Yarny Ninjas, transforming the podium into a true centrepiece.

Local businesses jumped at the chance to get stuck in, teaming up with community groups and forging brilliant partnerships that promise to last well beyond the week itself. The spirit of collaboration was palpable, with new friendships blossoming and a genuine buzz in the air.

A definite highlight was Highworth Emporium's inspiring Thinking of You initiative. In a heartwarming display, the Emporium joined forces with local schools and the Scouts, rallying volunteers to deliver a staggering 1,000 handwritten cards to residents facing loneliness, ill health or those simply needing a bit of a lift. The joy and encouragement these cards brought was truly infectious.

The excitement didn't go unnoticed either – BBC Radio and television descended on the town, shining a spotlight on the festivities and sharing the uplifting stories across the region. Highworth was the talk of the town!

Saturday saw the culmination of the week, the Volunteer Expo, take over St. Michael's Church. The event brought

together an impressive range of local charities, clubs and community groups, each eager to showcase their work and welcome new volunteers. Residents of all ages flocked to the Expo, chatting with representatives, discovering new ways to get involved, and signing up to lend a hand. The lively atmosphere was filled with enthusiasm and a real sense of community pride as everyone came together to celebrate volunteering and the positive impact it has on Highworth and the surrounding areas.

Huge thanks goes to Cecilia Johnston and her merry band of crafters at the Yarny Ninjas, whose creativity brought the event to life, and to Aga Marsden and her incredible team at Highworth Emporium for their energy and dedication. Thanks too to the Grounds Team who made sure the flags were hung safely in place, and to the Lions, Keith Smith and Ken Saunders for their help on Expo day.

It was a week to remember, filled with community spirit, laughter, and the warm glow of making a real difference.

Rachael Laing Smith, Editor



Apples to Cider

Thanks to Volunteers' Week, the Highworth Community Cider were invited to Southfield School to collect their apples. Several pupils helped collect the apples and were shocked to find out that battered and bruised apples were very usable.

In return, the group thanked the children with a bag of dehydrated apple slices, which was enjoyed by all. As a further thank you, Highworth Community Cider were pleased to announce they will be donating £100 to the school.

Southfield Junior School and Highworth Community Cider





Thinking of You Week Warms Hearts

Thinking of You Week, which ran alongside Highworth Volunteers' Week this September, has been an overwhelming success thanks to the incredible support of our customers, local schools and the wider community.

At Highworth Emporium we set up a card-writing station

and were truly touched by the response. Customers loved the idea of writing uplifting messages for others, and pupils from both Southfield Junior School and Westrop Primary School joined in with enthusiasm, creating hundreds of thoughtful cards.

The initiative quickly caught wider attention too, with BBC Radio Wiltshire, BBC Points West TV News, and Greatest Hits Radio Swindon all helping to spread the word.

Together, we managed to write and deliver over 1,000 cards. These were distributed by our team at Highworth Emporium and the Highworth Scouts to many care homes, community groups and local residents.

The response from recipients has been nothing short of heart-warming. People loved receiving the cards, and the comments have been fabulous. It was a real joy to see how something as simple as a handwritten card can bring

so much happiness and connection. We are so grateful to everyone who wrote, delivered or supported this project. Together, we truly created a wave of kindness across Highworth.



With Christmas fast approaching, it's worth remembering that in a world of emails, texts and WhatsApp messages, a handwritten card is still one of the most powerful ways to show someone you care. Sending a card at Christmas isn't just a tradition – it's a tangible act of love and kindness. It can brighten someone's day, especially for those who may be feeling a little forgotten. If you're out of the habit of sending a card, why not give it a go this Christmas?

Aga Marsden, Highworth Emporium

VOLUNTEERS' WEEK

School Shows Community Kindness



During Highworth's Volunteers' Week we were absolutely thrilled to volunteer our time to take part in *Thinking of You Week*: a heartwarming initiative that celebrates the simple, yet powerful, act of reaching out to others with kindness. In collaboration with Aga, Amy and the wonderful team at the Highworth Emporium, our children embraced the opportunity to spread positivity and connection through handwritten cards.

Each child carefully crafted a message and picture filled with joy, kindness and encouragement – small notes with the power to brighten someone's day. These cards were then delivered to people who might need a little extra love and support, reminding them they are thought of and cared for.

In a world that often feels fast-paced and overwhelming, *Thinking of You Week* was a beautiful reminder that kindness doesn't have to be complicated. Sometimes, it's as simple as taking the time to write a few words that can lift a spirit and spark



a smile. Hearing and seeing the grateful recipients' reactions on BBC Wiltshire radio and news proved this!

We couldn't be prouder of the children for the thought, care and creativity they poured into their cards. Their actions remind us all that kindness is contagious, and even the smallest gestures can make a big difference.

Mrs. O'Sullivan, Head of School

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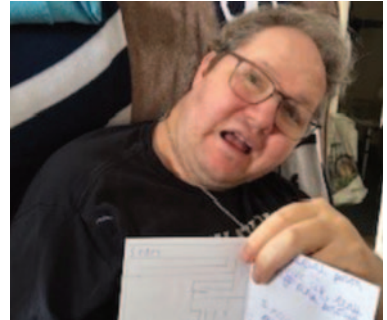
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Dear Rachael



I just wanted to share these photos from the recent Highworth Emporium event. I delivered about 70 cards to tenants in Swindon Borough Council's sheltered housing at Middi Haines Court and Newburgh House. It was a great morning full of joy and thankfulness, bringing so many smiles!



With permission from the tenants, I have taken some photos that we hope you can use to show how great a thing this was to do and be involved in.

Adam Henly, Residential Sheltered Housing Officer



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Monday 13th October - 14:00 - 16:00 or
Wednesday 22nd October - 19:00 - 21:00

CHRISTMAS BLANKET - £80.00 - 4 week project course
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A Window On The Town

Volunteers and members of the public, led by Carol Barrett, designed a wonderful window display for the Lions Charity Shop in Newburgh Place.

The display, entitled *Highworth, A Snapshot in Time*, had on show photographs and memorabilia from the last hundred years of the town's rich history. Photographs from Highworth's Edwardian era and images of the mat factory workers, along with so many reminders of what the town was like during the twentieth century and continuing right up to the present day, were shown.

Thank you to all those who have helped and contributed to this trip down memory lane. It was a great way for those of a younger generation to see how the town has changed over the years. Several children had great fun spotting their grandparents in photographs – it was wonderful to witness the lineage of our wonderful town.

Sue Subow



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 _____

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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.



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Highworth Artists' Society

Autumn has brought us lots of inspiration with glorious colours and textures of leaves and changing skies.

Our exhibition in October is one of our main calendar events, and we'd like to thank everyone who visited us over the week. There will be more news next month, including sales and the winner of the favourite painting chosen by Kevin and Laila from the Forget-Me-Not Café, our charity of the year.

On Saturday 20 September we took part in the Highworth Volunteer Expo, with members Pam Hague and Lyn Armstrong managing our stall. Paintings of song titles completed by some of our artists generated conversation and debate – the well of potential songs to be 'painted' is endless! The morning was enjoyable and new connections were made.

Member Ann March offered her expertise in acrylics to run a successful workshop in painting with acrylics. We hope that all who attended will continue their journey and use the techniques that Ann demonstrated.

And for anyone who has ever thought about painting their own Christmas card design but not known where to start, we have just the painting event for you! This free event, inspired by the Volunteers' Week, will be held on **Saturday 15 November**, 10:30am to 1pm, in the Council Offices Community Room. We will have



The HAS stall at September's Volunteer Expo

ideas and materials ready for you to use, or you are welcome to bring your own ideas and use our materials to create your own design. Please see the event poster for details of how to reserve yourself a place.

Finally, if you are interested in becoming a member, please do email us at highworthartistsociety@gmail.com to find out more about the Society or to arrange a Tuesday when you can drop in to find out more about us and meet some members.

Hilary Sinclair

Highworth Choral Society

Our Christmas concert this year will be on **Saturday 6 December** in St. Michael's Church.

We'll be singing Part One of Handel's *Messiah* plus the 'Hallelujah' Chorus, and Vaughan Williams's *Fantasia* on Christmas Carols. We'll be ably assisted by four soloists – it promises to be a wonderful evening as Advent gets under way and preparations for the festive season start to fill many people's thoughts.

Why not come and join us for this celebration of the season?

Keep an eye out for posters around the town and on social media with more details. Tickets will be available from a few weeks beforehand from Visit Highworth and from choir members.

Neil George, Chair

HIGHWORTH

AFTERNOON

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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

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The Highworth Link contact**
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or visit www.highworthlink.co.uk

Highworth Community Cinema

We invite you to join us on Friday 28 November for the showing of *Small Things Like These* (Cert 12) at the United Reformed Church, High Street, Highworth SN6 7AG.

Small Things Like These is a quiet Irish drama set in 1985, following coal merchant Bill Furlong (Cillian Murphy) who discovers young women are being held against their will in a local convent's Magdalene Laundry. As Bill wrestles with the moral implications and the risks to his family and business, the story explores his personal journey, his past trauma, and the broader societal complicity that allowed such abuses to persist in Ireland. The film is a character study centred on Bill's quiet defiance against



the power of the church and the secrets of his community.

Doors open at 7:15pm for a 7:45pm showing. There is no membership fee. Admission is £6 on the door, 50p for tea or coffee and biscuits.

We will be holding our AGM before the film showing, which we anticipate lasting no longer than 20 minutes. Agenda and papers are available on the night.

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

Debbie

Lechlade Art Society

Our visit focusing on *Nature in Art* was a new initiative for members and took place at the start of September. The venue is a former Edwardian shooting lodge set in its own grounds near to Gloucester and is dedicated to housing a substantial collection of art and sculpture, much of which is on show in five dedicated showrooms and the sculpture park.

Ten LAS members visited and spent an hour or so viewing the comprehensive collection, much of which is unique. The centre highlights work that is of worldwide renown and in a variety of media: paintings both modern and old, photography, textiles, ceramics



Artists in action

and glassware, to name but a few. We came away marvelling at such an eclectic collection of work.

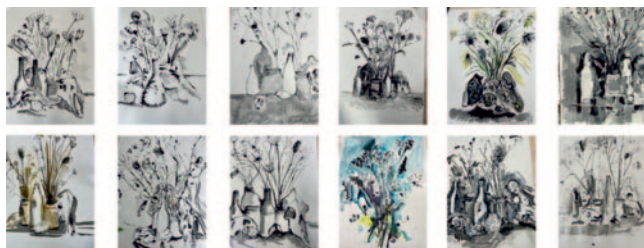
The centre has a dedicated studio which is used by visiting artists who demonstrate their work and engage with the public. There is also a large well-equipped studio for general use and courses for the

public. This had been reserved for us, so we had a most enjoyable two hours drawing a large still life using homemade bamboo pens and Indian ink inspired by a recent LAS demonstration by Gemma Hastilow.

The group all enjoyed the visit to view the collection and enjoy the surroundings. This is a venue that we hope to use again as it offers a unique opportunity to explore the work of leading artists and work creatively together.

The picture is a collection of still life images of the work produced by the group members. More details can be found on the website – www.lechladeartsociety.co.uk/painting-days

Zoe Hing



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Time to Thrive



Highworth Artists' Society

FREE CHRISTMAS EVENT

Paint your own Christmas card!

When: Saturday November 15th 10am-1pm
Where: Council Offices Community Room
Gilberts Lane, Highworth

For information and to reserve your place please email
highworthartistsociety@gmail.com

All materials supplied! We will have 2 or 3 ideas for designs, or you can bring your own and we'll help you to paint or draw your idea.

Regrettably, we are only able to welcome adults to this event.

Camera Club Celebrates Exhibition Success

The annual exhibition of the club members' pictures was a great success! Held over two days, with an evening event for members and invited guests, we welcomed about 150 visitors.

At the evening event, Mayor Julie Murphy opened our exhibition and was invited to select her favourite photograph. The winner was Steve Fowler – well done, Steve! We do hope that everyone who called in enjoyed the images on display.

If you were able to come along perhaps you were inspired to join us on a club night. We meet on the **second Tuesday of each month** at the Community Centre from 7:30pm. All levels of picture-takers are welcome – beginners and the more experienced, we can all help each other.

There will shortly be a new programme for 2026 which will include a return visit in June from professional photographer Jack Lord and many opportunities to share our own photographs. In December it will be time to celebrate our club winners at the Christmas party.

Have you bought a calendar for next year yet? Visit Highworth's 2026 calendar has local images from club members, so do take a look.



Mayor Julie Murphy (r) presents the Mayor's Choice award to Steve Fowler (l) – Photo Simon Apps

For more information see our website www.highworthcameraclub.com or email highworthcamclub@gmail.com.

Hilary Beach

Christmas with HADS

Greetings from Highworth Amateur Dramatics Society (HADS)! We're pleased to announce our latest production, *The Great Christmas Cracker Heist*.

Join us at the Highworth Community Centre on **12 and 13 December**. Keep your eyes peeled for signs around Highworth, and check our Facebook page for the link to buy tickets online.

If you're interested in joining our group or would like more information, please email us at hadshighworth@gmail.com and we'll get back to you as soon as possible.

Elanor



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Highworth Town Juniors Football Club

We're proud to share that HTJFC's Gary Laken has been named *Wiltshire's Football Welfare Officer of the Year* by the Wiltshire Football Association, a tremendous honour that reflects his outstanding dedication to safeguarding and wellbeing in grass roots football.

Gary has been the quiet force behind our club's commitment to creating a safe, inclusive and supportive environment for every child, parent, coach and volunteer.



Welfare Officer of the Year, Gary Laken

His tireless work ensures that football at Highworth Town Juniors is not only fun but also respectful and secure for all involved. Please join us in congratulating Gary on this well-earned recognition, and in thanking him for everything he does behind the scenes to make Highworth Town Juniors a place where young players can thrive.

If you're interested in joining us, contact me at htjfcKelly@gmail.com, or see our website: www.highworthtownjuniorsfc.co.uk.

Kelly Preston

Shrivenham Cricket Club

A very successful 2025 season for us in both Wiltshire Saturday leagues.

Gaining promotion for both teams in 2026, we focus now on our team playing in Monahans Swindon Midweek Cricket league, currently consisting of four divisions with the top two divisions playing on Thursdays and the two lower divisions playing on Tuesdays. The format is 15 overs of eight balls. This provides a chance for individuals who are not able to commit to the longer game on Saturdays to join the club and show their cricket ability.

The season ran from mid-May to the end of August and we featured in Division Four with eight teams competing. Shrivenham Sharks managed to win five, losing nine with two abandoned from their 16 scheduled games. Standout performances worth a mention were Ziaullah Tokhi, picking up ten wickets and scoring 221 runs with the bat, also Helal Qazikhel who contributed the highest individual score across the season of 73 not out.

We completed our season with a club social evening at our Sports Pavilion at the end of September where awards and trophies were presented.

Julian Stevens

Highworth Town Walking Football Club

The Over-65's competed in the National WFA Cup Finals in Nottingham in September against stiff opposition with a couple of the other teams containing members of the England squad! After winning one, drawing one and three losses, the team ended up fifth place in the country, still a great achievement. Well done to all the squad involved in this years' competition.

However, the manager of the Highworth ladies team has stepped down, and as no-one has offered to take on the role it means that they will sadly fold. Some of the existing players have already transferred to other local teams to enable them to continue playing.

If you are interested in playing social walking football, there are men's sessions for Over-50's held on **Thursdays and Sundays** (11am to 12pm), both outdoors at Grange Leisure Centre in Stratton on their 3G pitches, and a **Friday session** (11:30am to 12:30pm) held indoors at The Rec in Highworth. For more details, please do get in touch with me via email (highworthwfc@outlook.com) or by telephone on 07769 703702.

Graham Seeley

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Sparkling autumn days at Wrag Barn

Wrag Barn Golf Club

As fireworks light up the sky on Bonfire Night, autumn brings its own sparkle to Wrag Barn. Mornings are misty, the trees glow in shades of red and yellow, and evenings bring that golden-hour light across the course – the kind that makes you reach for a camera, even though the photo never quite matches the view.

Tim and the greenkeeping team have been busy reseeding fairways to bring them back to full grass coverage. There is a winter programme of tree surgery to manage ash dieback and the aftermath of high winds and, as always, winter is a time for projects such as extending paths and improving the tees, greens and bunkers – all part of the rolling maintenance plan.

Inside the clubhouse, preparations are underway for Christmas parties which begin at the end of November. Downstairs in the Spike Bar, golfers gather to warm up with coffee, something stronger, or a hearty lunch, swapping stories of the putt that

wouldn't drop or the one shot that somehow went in! The winter competition series and knockouts include players of all handicaps, while our teaching pros work with clients on their winter programmes at the driving range. Wrag Barn is open to all, whether you'd like to join us for coffee, book a festive gathering, or mark a life event in a welcoming space.

For more information, visit us online (www.wragbarn.com) or in simply pop in to see us.

Verity Manners

Highworth Town Football Club

The league is now well underway this season, with HTFC suffering several single goal defeats – goals conceded late by our significantly changed side (from last season). Ten points from 13 games does not reflect the effort being put in, but it is fair to say the lack of goals up front is a cause for concern.

Our home fixtures conclude in February in anticipation of the ground refurbishment starting shortly thereafter. As a result, we have numerous home games coming up and the lads would welcome as much support as possible.

Derek Lloyd

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with us we would really love to see you.

Shrivenham Park Golf Club

A Macmillan coffee morning was held at the club on the last Friday of September, the charity's traditional day for fundraising. Our Lady Captain, Pam, kindly donated a home baked decorated cake for the Guess the Weight of the Cake competition, which was won by one of our Social Putters and raising £260 for the event.

The Social Putters are now in their winter period and meet in the mornings between 10am and 12pm, embracing the indoor coffee and chat occasions. The dates this month are 7 and 21 November, with a small charge of £2 per session. If you are interested in joining us round our fire, please do come to SPGC or contact me (07467 657964) if you have any questions.

If you are interested in learning to play golf, there are lessons available with Jim our coach at times to suit



you. The ladies who attend the Social Putters group don't all play golf, instead favouring the putting green in the summer! If you're interested in more information on coaching, please give the club a call.

Our approach to coaching Juniors means we have a thriving section that takes place on Saturday mornings, and those with CDH handicaps join in with club competitions. Using the fun GolfSixes (pairs) format, cards are put in and marked by myself and parents who are encouraged to walk the fairways supporting their youngsters and helping them with ball spotting. We will be having a Christmas game in place of a party for the Juniors

who attend coaching or are members at the club. Details will be on our noticeboard or I'm happy to share if you reach out to me. You can also see our website: www.shrivenhampark.co.uk.

Carole Lee

Highworth Methodist Church

Welcome

What's on in November?

Every Saturday Charity Coffee Morning

10.30 – 12.00

Fresh Fairtrade filtered Coffee and cake

Christmas
BAZAAR

Saturday, November 15th
10.00am -12.30pm

All the usual stalls
Refreshments served

Every Friday 9.30-11.15 am

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10am-1pm

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All welcome

Sunday Worship @ 10.30

2 Rev Shirlyn Toppin Refreshments served

9 Remembrance @ 10am – Rev Ian Mead

16 Own arrangement

23 Church Anniversary – Rev Roger Faulkner

30 Rev David Gray – Gift Service

Afternoon Communion Tuesday, 4th @ 2pm

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 Website: www.highworthmethodistchurch.org.uk
www.facebook.com/HighworthMethodistChurch

3Cs – Coffee, cake & chat

Wednesday, 19th
2.30pm

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

Just come along!

Highworth Through History



Highworth's Victorian Train Station (Courtesy of Highworth Historical Society)

Do you know that in the Domesday Book Highworth was called Wrde?

In our school History lessons we are learning about the Normans and how, when William the Conqueror became king, he decided to create the Domesday Book to record what people owned, who was in their family and what job they had. The Domesday Book is similar to the Census we now have.

In 1206, King John granted Highworth the right to hold a charter market every Saturday, and by the 17th Century it had become the most important livestock market in all of Wiltshire.

Have you heard of the English Civil War? It was a war in the Stuart era between the Cavillers and the Roundheads. King Charles I was in charge of the Cavillers who were royalists and Oliver Cromwell was

in charge of the puritan Roundheads who were parliamentarians. St. Michael's Church in Highworth has a hole in the outside wall caused by the Roundheads when they invaded Highworth. The canon ball is on display inside the church!

Highworth was one of the rural areas which benefitted from the dawning of the Industrial Revolution. The Victorian Industrial Revolution saw steam-powered engines created, so then machines were invented to make manufacturing easier. Areas in the countryside became the big cities we see today, making them more popular. At one time, Highworth was bigger than Swindon!

I hope you have an amazing November, and I'll see you next month!

Constance Davenport

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Memorial Inspections at Highworth Cemetery



During September and October 2025, memorial inspections have been conducted at Highworth Cemetery by trained staff. Each memorial has been carefully assessed by hand.

Where a memorial is found to be unstable or at immediate risk of falling, it has been temporarily supported with a stake. If staking proved insufficient, the memorial has been laid flat to ensure public safety.

We are committed to contacting the Exclusive Rights Holder for any memorial that did not meet safety standards. If you are the grave owner, or have knowledge of the owner, we kindly ask that you contact us to discuss the matter and provide up-to-date contact information.

We understand this is a sensitive matter and assure you that all inspections are carried out with care and respect.



Highworth Christmas Event & Light Switch-On

10AM UNTIL 5.30PM
SATURDAY 29TH NOVEMBER 2025

Join us as we launch the festive season!!



Highworth Remembrance Service Sunday 9th November 2025

Check our website & social media pages for more details



www.highworthtowncouncil.gov.uk

News from Highworth's Mayor



November brings reflection, festivities and exciting developments for the town.

November is always a busy month as we begin with a bang with the popular Fireworks Night on **Friday 7 November**, then pause to reflect at the Remembrance Service on **Sunday 9 November**

when our community comes together to honour those who gave their lives. To finish the month, dare I mention the "C" word when we welcome the festive season with the ever-popular Christmas Lights Switch-On on **Saturday 29 November**.

I'm delighted to report progress on two important town projects.

The Barra Close Play Park Redevelopment is nearly complete – details of the official opening will be shared on social media, on posters, and at the market shortly. We are also a step closer to delivering the long-awaited 3G football pitch. With planning approval now granted, we now await confirmation of final funding from the Football Association which, if successful, will be a fantastic asset for the town.

Since my last update I've been busy supporting a wide range of community events:

- Organising sponsors and entertainment for the Lights Switch-on.
- Compiling a response to the Swindon Local Plan.
- Participating in the brilliant Volunteer Expo: thanks to Rachael Laing Smith for organising the event.
- Joining United Kochi to celebrate Onam.
- Supporting the Emporium's *Thinking of You* initiative, which delivered over 1,000 cards to residents to bring a smile to their faces.
- Attending the first Wednesday Welcome Café, hosted by the Highworth Community Larder.
- Officially opening the Highworth Camera Club Exhibition

A special thanks to Hanley's Estate Agents, Deacons Jewellers and David Wilson/Barratt Homes for sponsoring our Christmas Lights Switch-on in support of my fundraising for Highworth Forget-Me-Not Café.

If you would like me to attend your event or can support my charity, please contact my secretary via email at admin@highworthtowncouncil.gov.uk.

Julie Murphy

HIGHWORTH TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN MAYOR & CHAIRMAN

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**Thursday 14 May to Sunday 17th May
2026**

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**Highworth Forget-Me-Not Café
welcomes**

Bill Eteson
1960s music

Wednesday 26th November 2-4pm
Highworth Community Centre

For info or if you would like to volunteer please contact us

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St. Michael's Church Highworth

The church is open daily for private prayer.

10:15am Sunday Service

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

The 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.

Remembrance Sunday Services

St. Michael's Highworth, 10am

St. Leonard's Broad Blunsdon, 10am

St. John the Baptist Hannington, 10:15am

The *In Loving Memory* service being held at St. Michael's Highworth has moved to **Sunday 2**

November at 3pm. All are welcome to join us for this service of remembrance for our loved ones.

Prayers

Tuesday Prayers at 9am and 4:30pm.

Friday Blessings from 9:15am.

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

We remember those we love and miss

Michael Milsom

We welcome in Holy Baptism

Sidney Critchley

We congratulate on their Marriage

Madeline Matthews and Oliver Berwick

Praying for the roads in the town

2 November Stranks Close and Stroma Way

9 November Swanborough and Swindon Road

16 November Swindson Street and Turnpike Road

23 November Vicarage Lane and Vorda Road

30 November Wessex Way and Westhill Close



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



3/11/2025

Joyce Ryder

Remembering a special Mum, Nan and Great Nan on her 97 birthday. Loved and missed every day.

Janice and Pas, Louise and Chris, Pep, Amy and Carina xxx

26/11/25

Maureen Trollope

Treasured memories of a life so beautiful and so special.

Always in our hearts and missed every day.

John, Sara, Paul, Danny, Becky and Grandchildren xx

30/11/2025

Elizabeth Shurmer

Thinking of you on your birthday today.

Miss you lots and speak about you every day.

Lots of love, Alf, Heather 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.

To advertise in The Highworth Link contact

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

St. Leonard's Parish Church Stanton Fitzwarren

- 2 November** Morning Worship, 9:30am
- 9 November** No Family Service, Remembrance Sunday
A short ceremony at the War Memorial with the two-minute silence starting at 10:55am followed by a quiet reflective service in the church building, 11am
- 16 November** Team Service, St. Margaret's, Stratton, 10am
- 23 November** Holy Communion, 9:30am
- 30 November** Advent Sunday Team Service (with coffee and mince pies), 11am

Join us for Stanton Coffee Morning this month when we meet on **Wednesday 19 November** at Stanton House Hotel, 10:15am for coffee and chat followed by Joshua Hillman who will share about his early years as a police officer.

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.

Stanton Coffee Morning

Last month you may have read our article about the celebration of 40 years of coffee mornings in Stanton Fitzwarren, and we thought you might like to see a photo of the group taken in the early days compared to one taken more recently. We'd love to see you there!



hcc Highworth Community Church

*You're invited
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Sunday Gatherings

- Warneford School Hall, SN6 7BZ
- Refreshments from 9:45am
- Main Gathering starts at 10:30am

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

NON-EMERGENCY

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

BUSES

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

COLLEGES

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

LAW & ORDER

Crimestoppers	0800 555111
Victim Supportline	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
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DOCTORS AND HOSPITALS

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

LIBRARY

Highworth Library	01793 463500
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RECREATION

Highworth Rec	01793 762602
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PHARMACIES

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

PRESCHOOL/NURSERY

Eastrop Nursery	01793 763772
Westrop Nursery	01793 762897
South Marston Pre-school	01793 823379

SCHOOLS

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

TAXIS

Veezu	01793 701701
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TRAINS

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

OTHER SERVICES

Citizens Advice Bureau	08444 994114
Trading Standards (business)	0207 830 6000
Trading Standards (consumers)	03454 04 05 06
Alcohol and Drug Service	01793 695405
Samaritans	01793 537373
Women's Refuge	01793 610610
Root & Branch (Mental Health Therapeutic Centre)	01793 782999

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

Email is preferred, otherwise deliver to The Bridge Centre, 8 Sheep Street, Highworth.

Make sure you are writing for a general audience, not just your own organisation. News stories should not exceed 200 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.

Submission Deadlines:

First day of the month preceding publication.

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