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April 2026



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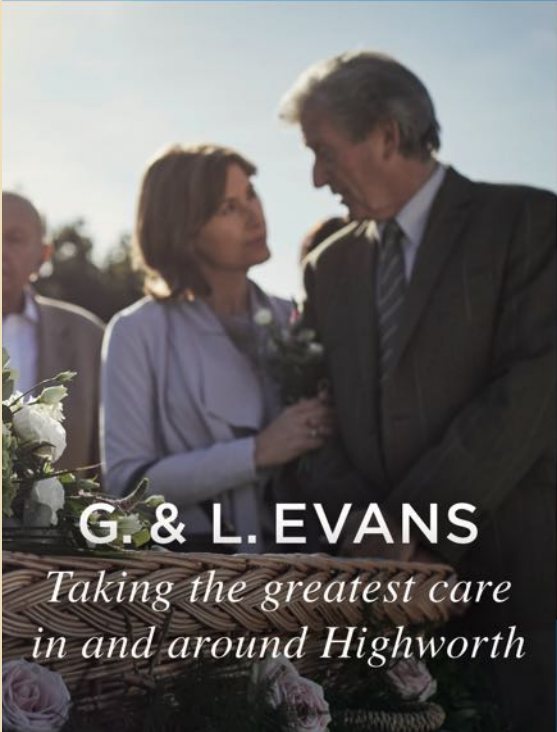
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Dear Reader

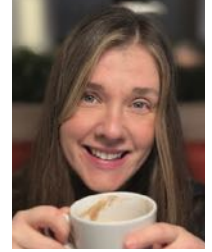
I know for many, springtime marks the beginning of exam season, starting with mock exams.

In my house we're already experiencing the pressures of tests and assessments. And so, as I reflect on what to share with you this month, I wonder if you'll indulge me as I suggest that mock exams serve as a timely metaphor for the wider community

Just as these practice tests offer a safe space to explore strengths, address weaknesses and gain confidence for the real challenge ahead, so too a thriving community provides its members with an environment to learn, experiment and grow together. In both cases, mistakes are not failures but lessons, and progress is built collectively, shaped by encouragement, feedback and shared experience. The journey through mock exams reflects how communities face challenges – supporting each other, celebrating effort, and preparing, side by side, for whatever lies ahead.

I know the world feels a bit crazy and uncertain at the moment, but here at home in this corner of Wiltshire I see people standing together and reassuring one another as they learn a sense of togetherness through curiosity and interest. Many people are finding relief through the creative arts, sports and other social activities. Others are gaining, or regaining, a sense of peace by connecting with church communities. Flick through the pages of this issue and you're sure to find details, and perhaps connect with groups who can help encourage and support you.

Get the kettle on, put your feet up, and dive into this good news issue.



Rachael

JOIN THE HIGHWORTH LINK TEAM

Distribution Coordinator

We're looking for a proactive and organised ***DISTRIBUTION COORDINATOR** to join our dedicated team, ensuring seamless delivery operations across Highworth and the surrounding areas.

Can you work as part of team? Do you have great organisational skills, a commitment to community service, and the ability to motivate and manage volunteers? If you have ten spare hours each month, are ready to help shape the future of this vital community magazine and ensure every home receives their deliveries promptly, we want to hear from you!

For a job description or to find out more, please email editor@highworthlink.co.uk.

Closing date for applications: Monday 20 April 2026

**Sadly we have not been able to secure volunteer help for this role so this is a new paid position.*



Front cover image: An original painting by Tayla Ince. See more on Instagram @taylainceart.

April is a Fascinating Month

April falls in the middle of spring but it has changed its place many times.

Before the introduction of the Julian Calendar by Julius Caesar in 46BC which fixed its current position, months and dates would move around depending on the whims of Pontifex Maximus and the College of Pontiffs.

13 April is National Scrabble Day, and 14 April is National Moment of Laughter Day. Americans celebrate National Librarian Day on 16 April which is also when Easter Day occurs this year. In Holland they celebrate Bloemencorso Bollenstreek: a week-long celebration involving decorating floats with a massive number of flowers to mark the end of World War II.



Here in the UK, Easter will pass unremarked about by most, except by people receiving chocolate eggs and by Christians gathering inside and outside church buildings to celebrate the most important event in history. The repercussions of Christ's resurrection from the dead continue to echo through the world even more than two thousand years on.

I intend to celebrate Christ rising from the dead very early on the morning of Sunday

16 April, continuing throughout the day – not with chocolate, eggs or flowers, but by acknowledging that Christ is Lord of my life and the world, and by worshipping him.

Rev. Phil Goodey, St. Michael's Church

Black and White Cat Club Show

Head on down to the Wootton Bassett Memorial Hall on Saturday 9 May for the Black and White Cat Club Show.

Open from 12:30pm to 4pm, this is a show for pedigree and non-pedigree cats alike. There will be good refreshments, various stalls and a raffle too. There really is something for everyone, not only cat lovers. Tickets are priced at £4 for adults, £2 concessions. Cash only please.

If you wish to enter your cat into the competition or find out more information, go to www.gccfcats.org/show-calendar/black-white-cat-club-4 or contact the Show Manager, Barbara McEwan, on 01362 562135.

Bryony Duncan



South Marston Gardening Club

Why not come and join us? It's a wonderful way to unwind and enjoy a relaxed evening while meeting like-minded friends.

Each session includes refreshments and an optional raffle, and membership is just £15 per year, or you're very welcome to attend individual events for £5 on the door. We'd love to see you there!

On **Monday 13 April**, 7:30pm to 9:30pm, Rachel Golding Barrett will join us with her presentation titled *A Flower Farmer's Year*. Rachel will take us through a year on a working flower farm, from spring sowings to summer abundance and winter clear-up. She'll share practical growing tips, seasonal insights, and a behind-the-scenes look at preparing plants for RHS shows, including RHS Malvern and RHS Chelsea. Rooted dahlia cuttings will be available to purchase on the night.

Rachel runs the Tetbury Flower Company in the South Cotswolds and is an RHS medal winner. She grows seasonal British cut flowers and thousands of dahlias each year and is passionate about encouraging others to grow cut flowers at home.

Join us at South Marston Village Hall, Old Vicarage Lane, SN3 4SH. Parking is available on Old Vicarage Lane (next to the school). For more information, email me at angelanewton01@gmail.com or telephone 07789 068340.

Angela Newton

The Heat is on at the Methodist Church

Last October we were informed that Highworth Methodist Church's existing gas heaters had been condemned, meaning we needed to act quickly to install a new heating system. Rather than replacing them with another gas system, we chose to invest in air-to-air heat pumps as part of our commitment to environmental sustainability.

Thanks to the generous support of various grant-making bodies and many members of our own church community, we were able to raise the funds required. We are delighted to share that the new system has now been successfully installed.

As well as being more environmentally friendly, the system is easy to control via an app, and even gives us the option of providing a cool space during summer heatwaves by offering air conditioning.



Members of HMC with one of the new heaters

We give thanks to God for the generosity and support that made this possible.

Rev. Ian Mead, Highworth Methodist Church



Volunteer to Deliver LINK Magazine!

Passionate about your neighbourhood in Shrivenham and Kempford? Do you have a couple of hours to spare each month? Join us as a volunteer to deliver LINK magazine! Help share local stories, events and resources while connecting with your neighbours.

Why Volunteer?

- Make a difference in your community
- Flexible delivery times
- Meet new friends and enjoy community spirit!

Interested? Contact us at keith@xcrosskeys.co.uk or editor@highworthlink.co.uk

Let's spread the word together!



**Westrop Nursery
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Contact us to register for our open morning or to organise a visit. Telephone: 01793 762897
Email: nursery@westrop.swindon.sch.uk
Website: www.westropprimaryschool.co.uk

Amazon Supports Local Charity

The Highworth and District Christians Against Poverty (CAP) centre was glad to work together with volunteers from the local Amazon distribution centre to put together bags of donated pantry staples.

This is part of Amazon's community hub project, and the bags will be distributed to those who need them as part of the ongoing work of CAP in our community.

Deb Wathen, CAP Debt Coach, organised the collaboration with Simon Gretton, Amazon in the Community Lead. She said, 'This is a wonderful opportunity for us to provide extra food support to people we are working alongside when they are at a particularly difficult time in their lives.'

If you are 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 free of charge.

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

Deb Wathen, CAP Debt Coach

What is u3a?

No longer working full-time? Then the u3a could be for you. If you want to meet new people and pursue new interests, you could do no better than join our friendly vibrant community. Together we enjoy over 130 activity and interest groups spanning a wide variety of subjects: the arts, sciences, crafts, sports, music, history, literature, games, quizzes, languages, technology and more. We also hold talks and events where everyone can come together, share ideas and enjoy a chat over a cup of tea.

Swindon u3a is part of a nationwide movement, independent of political or religious ties. It is run by members, for members, and funded through subscriptions. Membership costs just £10 a year, plus a small fee for each group you join, mainly to cover venue hire.

Kerrie says, 'I have been a member of u3a for several years and have met some interesting people and made new friends along the way. One group I participate in is The Current Affairs Group. We meet

twice monthly on a Thursday afternoon using Google Meet, so we can join in from the comfort of our own homes. Many in the group have quite strong opinions and do not always agree with each other but we are always courteous and respectful of our members.

'I thoroughly enjoy the debates and am fascinated by the different opinions people have on the same subject. It is easy to read and watch articles that reinforce our own views, but it is interesting to have those views challenged by others who see things in a different light. There is always plenty to talk about as times right now are very interesting!'

If you would like to find out more about everything on offer, go to www.swindonu3a.org.uk or phone the u3a office on 07823 722812 or 07345 162117.





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Changes Afoot in St. Leonard's Blunsdon

St. Leonard's, Blunsdon, Parochial Church Council (PCC) is excited to announce that, after four years of consultation and planning, we have been awarded a 'Faculty' (or permission) by the Diocese of Bristol to carry out some changes to our church building.

This process has involved full participation by organisations such as Historic England, The Victorian Society and the Church Buildings Trust to ensure all changes are carried out sympathetically.

We are very excited by this news and look forward to these changes making the building accessible to many more people. It will become a space for use by the whole community, building on things like the Toddler Group, the Lego Club and monthly book sale, alongside the regular use by the church congregation and services. The changes include removal of an

obsolete gas boiler, installation of an air source heat pump, under-floor heating, insulation, new toilet and kitchen facilities, plus outside storage for community groups to use.

In order to move our project forward, we are looking for volunteers with relevant experience who might like to get involved. So if you have a background in fundraising, construction, surveying or similar, we would love to hear from you.

Perhaps you are new to the area and would like to be part of this exciting project as a way of getting involved with your community.

Please contact one of the church wardens: Paul, paulwmorris777@gmail.com, or Helen, griff9999@btinternet.com.

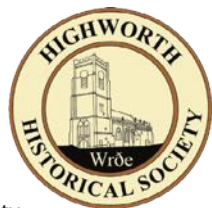
Helen Griffiths

Highworth Historical Society

Ancient, unpretentious and rooted to its rural community and landscape setting, 17th-Century Kelmscott Manor was the beloved Oxfordshire home of Victorian polymath William Morris and his family.

Largely known nowadays for his designs, Morris was also an extraordinary writer, craftsman and social thinker, and Kelmscott played a part in all aspects of his work. When the Society of Antiquaries of London took ownership in the 1960s, it was a property of international significance but in a perilous state of disrepair. A five-year programme of renovation and conservation saved it. The Manor has recently undergone another major project to preserve and re-present it, bringing the homeliness of the Manor's interiors back into focus through the research that has informed decisions at every level.

In this illustrated talk, *William Morris's Kelmscott Manor: Then and Now*, the Manor's curator, Kathy Haslam, will look at the Morris family's relationship with Kelmscott Manor and the challenges and complexities of working with a site of such fragility and significance.



Join us on **Wednesday 22 April**. As usual we meet at St. Michael's Church, Highworth. The doors open at 7pm for a 7:30pm start. Visitors are always welcome for a charge of £3: cash please. For more information, please telephone Jayne Stephens on 07583928277. If you are new to the town, come along and give us a try.

Jayne Stephens

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Born Different: Understanding Autism

By Rebekah Sellers and Rachael Laing Smith

Autism, officially called Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), is a bit like being given a special set of brain instructions – except someone misplaced the manual. It's a lifelong neurodevelopmental condition that shapes how people see the world and communicate.

You know the saying 'If you've met one autistic person, you've met... one autistic person'? That's because the 'spectrum' is less of a rainbow and more of a pick 'n' mix – no two bags are the same. Some folks might need lots of help getting through the day, while others are so independent they could probably run the local council (or at least remember everyone's birthdays without a reminder).

The classic signs of autism are all about doing things a bit differently: communication, social interaction and behaviour. For example, some autistic people find social cues as baffling as IKEA instructions, struggle with chit-chat, or interpret sarcasm as sincerely as a weather forecast in July. And don't get us started on idioms – 'It's raining cats and dogs' is frankly just alarming. Many autistic folks have unique interests (think encyclopaedic knowledge of train timetables or why penguins don't fly) and can be as attached to routines as most of us are to queuing. Loud noises and bright lights? No thank you – unless you're auditioning for *Strictly Come Sensory Overload*.

Autism isn't some flaw or malfunction; it's just another way of being. In fact, many people are finally catching on to the idea that autism comes with a whole set of superpowers: laser-like focus, honesty (sometimes brutally so – brace yourself at family dinners) and creativity. Of course, there's still a bit of confusion out there, a bit like someone trying to use chopsticks for soup, which can make life trickier than it needs to be.

The earlier the diagnosis and support, the better. Tailored help, such as speech therapy, occupational therapy and educational support can work wonders. It's about building skills and confidence, not just surviving. But above all, what really matters is acceptance. Imagine if everyone in the family, the school and the community joined in – like the world's

biggest, most supportive group hug (but no pressure if hugs aren't your thing).

Here in the UK and Ireland, autism awareness is on the up. Campaigns are shining a light on the need for accessible services and reminding everyone that neurodiversity isn't a new pop band but a celebration of different ways of thinking. By listening to autistic voices (and maybe even letting them pick the radio station for once) we're all better off. The end game? A world where everyone – autistic or not – gets a fair crack at happiness, success, and perhaps even mastering small talk at the bus stop.

I am Autistic?

I had no idea I was different. Before I started school, no one pointed it out to me, not until I was around six or so – then my peer group started to give me rubbish for it. At that point I started to realise I was different from them.

When I was around 12 I received my autism diagnosis, and wasn't sure what to do about it until I searched up 'famous autistic people from history' and I was amazed! Over the years I've mulled over what I discovered, and now I'm honestly not very surprised; if anything, I've been encouraged.

There is no shame in being born different. If we were all the same, we'd all be a bunch of cardboard clones. No, thank you.

When I was around fifteen, I was in a maths class and, thankfully, we weren't doing any maths. We were playing a game of hangman and I decided to take the spare letters that had been discarded – they spelled the words 'hot pants'! No one else seemed to spot it until I pointed it out. The whole class erupted into laughter!

Being autistic means you can spot patterns that others either miss or don't give their attention to. You can excel at certain things you're good at, and if something doesn't interest you then you'll inevitably throw it away. Maths is included.



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The Value of Apprenticeships

With spring around the corner, the prospect of making decisions for this year's school leavers is becoming ever closer. With the cost of university education mounting and interest rates on student loans making eventual repayment increasingly difficult, the opportunity provided by apprenticeships feels more relevant than ever.

There are some naysayers who say apprenticeships are just cheap labour; however, they can also provide real opportunities. Our apprentice, Kiel, arrived into a complicated world but brought with him a sunny, enthusiastic personality, a willingness to work hard and the habit of always arriving on time. He started at Wrag Barn as an apprentice chef in 2022 and embarked on a training programme with regular day release to attend New College Swindon. I have never been greeted by a downcast Kiel and his bicycle was always at Wrag Barn long before I arrived in the morning.

Thanks to guidance from our Head Chef Simon and other members of our Food and Beverage team, Kiel has acquired the skills to cook delicious food for parties and celebrations. He is unfazed by the challenge of providing food under time pressure for golfers heading to the first tee but needing immediate sustenance. We're proud of everything he has achieved and will miss him when he starts work in a business listed twentieth in the Estrella Damm Top 50 Gastropubs.



While learning to cook, Kiel has also learned to play golf and we look forward to seeing his smiling face when he returns to lower his handicap!

Verity Manners

Lechlade History Society

Join us on Monday 20 April at Lechlade Memorial Hall for an evening with Gillian Cane.

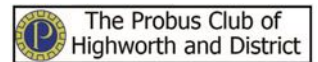
Gillian will talk about *Those Mitford Sisters*, six sisters who were, by anyone's standards, outrageous! They continue to shock us, even today, and for good reason. From becoming a Duchess to being an intimate confidante and financial supporter of Hitler, from fighting in the Spanish Civil War for the Communists to being jailed in solitary confinement, they all made their mark in history in some way. They were never boring!

Doors open at 7pm for a 7:30pm start.
Refreshments are available.

Rosamund Godden

Highworth and District Probus Club

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



On Tuesday 31 March

David Roblin will be giving a presentation on the *Accountancy Incidents*. On Tuesday 14 April John Farrow will give a talk titled *British Canal Wonders*, and on Tuesday 28 April there will be a presentation called *The Other Thomas Hardy (Kismet, Anybody?)* by George North.

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

George North

Outdoor Yoga in Highworth

Join our free yoga classes in the garden at 82 Westrop in Highworth on Saturday mornings, 9:30am to 10:30am, from 2 May until 26 September.

These fun classes will be accessible to everyone, and all money will go to Root and Branch, a fantastic



Vicki Silk

charity based just outside Highworth offering a therapeutic garden and rural craft centre to adults experiencing significant mental health difficulties. The power of the outdoors and nature is central to the work of Root and Branch and this will be the focus of our weekly yoga classes.

All you need is comfortable clothing and a yoga mat.

Everybody is welcome!

Visit www.silkyoga.co.uk for more information, to book your spot and donate to Root and Branch if you are able.



Vicki Silk

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Reminder To Mark Your Calendars

Prostate Cancer Screening only £15.00
9.30am to 1.30pm – Saturday 25 April
Highworth Community Centre



Book on-line at chaps-uk.org

Select "Book an Event"

Location: Highworth Date: April 25th





Your prostate cancer screening event is fast approaching, on 25 April, at the Highworth Community Centre. This subsidised test (£15.00, normally £35.00, thanks to Highworth Lions) is open to all Highworth residents and nearby villages like Blunsdon, Shrivenham, and Inglesham.

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Teresa Triggs



Tracey Kassulke

Teresa Triggs and Tracey Kassulke developed Barton Court Therapies from their individual counselling practices into a collaborative centre offering a wide range of client-centred therapeutic services.

Therapists provide counselling support for children (11+), young people, adults, and couples, alongside hypnotherapy, Emotional Freedom Technique (EFT), and nutrition guidance, ensuring each client receives the right support tailored to their needs.



Bonny Prim



Teresa Udell



Ed Hopgood



Zoe Dixon-Saunders



Susie Richards

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The Yin and Yang of Sax

Imagine St. Michael's Church in February, arranged in cabaret style – that's tables and chairs for you and me – dim atmospheric lighting and a relaxed setting for the *Unification* concert with two of the UK's premier stars of jazz saxophone.

The concert featured Kim Cypher's energetic stage presence, her infectious smile and trademark red beret, together with Simon Spillet, truly a technical master of the tenor saxophone and consummate professional. Kim's quartet comprised keyboard maestro Alex Steel, Mike Green driving the double bass, and Kim's husband Mike Cypher 'caressing the drum skins'.

Unification celebrated the 30th anniversary of Simon's first professional jazz gig.

Kim performed on her tenor sax, alto sax (the feisty little sister of Simon's earthy tenor) and her soprano saxophone (a bit like a clarinet but with more bling and 'bits'). The concert featured a few of Kim's and Simon's original compositions: Simon's *Hoody Doody* and *Yin Yang*, and Kim's *Red Beret*. Listen out on Jazz FM soon for Kim's *Blues for David Freeman*. It was such fun to enjoy the repartee between these two jazz maestros. Kim asked, 'What's yin and yang anyway?' Quick as a flash Simon answered, 'Kim and yang.'



Simon Spillet and Kim Cypher

promoted by resident jazz enthusiasts Martin Wellsted and Ray Stephens. Ray explains how they distribute receipts: 'The festival is not-for-profit with all monies going to the performing artists and any spare cash sent to a musicians' charity.'

This year's festival runs on **Saturday 6 June** and is spread across five venues centred around the High Street. They will draw together some 20 UK and international artists including established names such as Ray Gelato, Marcia Bamberg and the incredible Mark Cotgrove (aka Snowboy) bringing Latin dance to Highworth. 'It will bring a wide spectrum of jazz from swing to modern and everything in between. It's going to be awesome,' says Martin. You can book now at www.highworthjazzfestival.com.

2026 is the third year for the Highworth Jazz Festival,

Adrian Young



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Highworth Gardening Club

Highworth Gardening Club first opened its doors in the spring of 2007, and continues to thrive to this day. The club meets on the third Thursday of each month at the Highworth Community Centre, with a guest speaker, raffle and refreshments.

Forthcoming subjects covered by our speakers are: *Historic Gardens* (April), *Defensive Gardening at a time of Climate Change* (May), and *Beyond the Garden Gate: a guide to Cotswold Gardens* (June).

The club also has trips each year, often to notable gardens. This year we are heading to the RHS Badminton Flower Show (July), and the RHS Wisley gardens (September). The majority of our trips include coach travel.

Whether you are a keen gardener, someone who wishes to improve their knowledge, or merely looking



Credit: Maria Kray

to belong to a local club to widen your social circle, the Gardening Club may well be for you.

If you would like to know more, please call either Trish or Norman on 01793 762805 for a chat.

Norman Jeffery, Chairman

Visit Highworth

Spring has finally sprung, and now would be a good time to book a *Wildlife Walk* with Neil George and discover the wonders and beauty of Pentylands. Just pop into Visit Highworth on the High Street to arrange a date.

Our new website, www.visithighworth.co.uk, is now up and running. We have an abundance of information about our workshops and events, as well as places to visit, stay and eat, a gallery of the artists whose work is displayed and for sale in our shop, and a directory of clubs and societies in the town. You can also check out our blog!

Neil George will be exhibiting his photographs during April and will be in the Centre holding a *Meet the Maker* session on **Saturday 4 April**.

As part of the Highworth May Day celebrations, on **Monday 2 May** we will be holding a craft fair in St. Michael's Church from 10am to 4pm. Pop in and treat yourself or someone you love. This will be a great opportunity to check out our new merchandise.

Did you know that you can now buy our gift vouchers? They can be for a value of your choice and used to purchase craft items, workshop places, wildlife walks or town tours.



The programme for the Highworth Art and Literary Festival (HALF), on 19 to 21 June, is now available on our website, and tickets can be booked online or purchased in the Centre. There's storytelling, poetry reading, children's activities, *Meet the Author* sessions, drama and puppetry workshops, not forgetting the art trail through the town and various art exhibitions.

We have so much going on in Highworth – we look forward to seeing you!

Iona Sadler

See pages 26 and 30 for more news about HALF.

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Big Highworth Community Foundation

Can you believe it? We've already zoomed past the first quarter of the year!

The Community Awards took place at Wrag Barn on Saturday 28 March, celebrating remarkable individuals. Main winners were recognised, and all shortlisted nominees received a Big Thank You Award. We appreciate the judges and award sponsors, as well as our gold sponsor MyMarketr, performers Billy and Louis, PK Magic, photographers Callum and Ry, and Rumbi from Eventcraft Events for venue decor. Special thanks to Mayor Julie Murphy and Deputy Lord Lieutenant Shirley Ludford for attending. Event photos will appear in next month's LINK Magazine.

Have you heard about our Harry Potter Fundraiser? Our fundraiser runs until **Saturday 2 May**, International Harry Potter Day. Enter for £4 to win a Harry Potter bundle worth over £300, including five Lego sets, a plushie, mug, lamp and sweets. Thanks to our business supporters for their donations.

Follow us on social media for updates on this year's Easter fundraiser.

We're looking for volunteers to do a fundraising tandem skydive. Please note: You must weigh less than



15 stone, be aged over 35 and have medical clearance from your GP.

We'll return to the May Day Festival, on **Saturday 2 May** with our Lego and gift tombola. Volunteers are welcome; please let us know if you can and would like to join us. You can expect a fun time!

Join us at St. Michael's Church on **Saturday 18 July** from 9:45am to 1:45pm for our *Handmade Happening* charity fundraiser. Expect crafters, refreshments, fundraising and charities.

Finally, follow us, volunteer, or support our journey on Facebook at 'BigHighworthCommunityFoundation', or to donate to our Community Grant Fund visit www.localgiving.org/charity/big-highworth-community-foundation.

Thank you for your ongoing support – Community Together Matters.

The Big Highworth team

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We need trustees

Big Highworth Community Foundation exists to support charities and the community. We are now looking for trustees to join our team, to help us raise even more.

As a trustee you will be at the forefront of decision making, organising activities, representing the charity and attending our Community Awards.

We are looking for individuals aged 18 and over who are ready to take the next step, please get in touch.

We genuinely value everyone's contribution. Joining us as a trustee of Big Highworth Community Foundation you will be a team where you will be supported.

JOIN US



If you are interested in joining us or want to know more, learn something new, like having fun and want to give back to the community please get in touch and ask for a trustee application form:

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Southfield Celebrates Science Week

Southfield Junior School's Year 4 children have been embracing the wonder of practical science with one of the Warneford School science teachers, Mr Licayan, who visited Southfield to inspire the children to ask big scientific questions.



The classroom was buzzing with excitement as they explored and investigated 'How do aeroplanes fly?' through hands-on activities and lively discussion.

Alongside this, the children enthusiastically took part in a poster competition celebrating Science Week 2026. After a democratic vote, they chose their Big Question: How do boats float? Their creativity shone through in colourful, thoughtful designs that demonstrated their understanding of how to plan, set up and carry out a scientific investigation. The posters were a true celebration of imagination and scientific thinking and have now been passed on to Warneford for judging – fingers crossed for our young scientists!

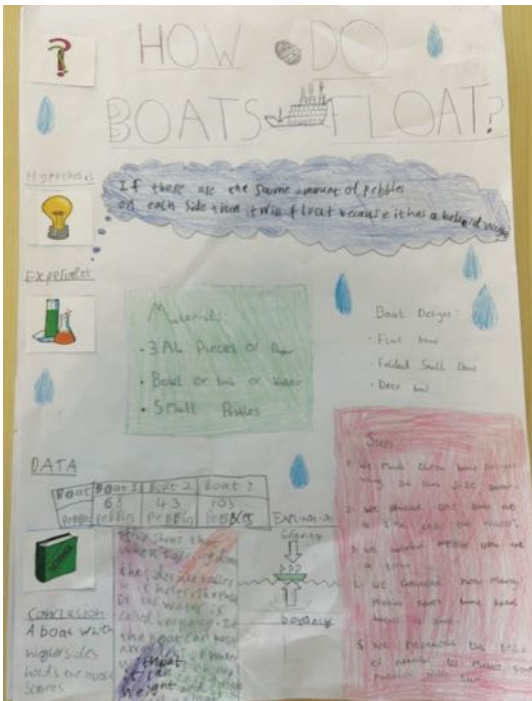
The children are now looking forward to visiting Warneford's science labs during Science Week for a



morning of scientific discovery. They will take part in investigations, explore equipment not usually found in primary school classrooms and work with different teachers to carry out engaging practical experiments.

This collaboration with our local high school offers our children a wonderful glimpse into the world of secondary science. Previous visits have left many pupils inspired and excited for the learning that awaits them in the future.

Miss Alder



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Costumes, Creativity and a Love of Reading

Southfield Junior School was buzzing with excitement as pupils and staff came together to celebrate World Book Day 2026 in spectacular style.



Everyone truly went all out this year with the whole school community embracing the fun of dressing up as their favourite book characters.

The costumes were fantastic and wonderfully creative. From inflatable dinosaurs stomping through the corridors to an impressive homemade *Wild Robot* suit inspired by a recent class novel, there was something to make everyone smile. A group of colourful crayons (who fortunately didn't quit!) brightened the playground whilst a brilliant team of characters from *The Wizard of Oz* arrived together ready for a day somewhere over the reading rainbow.

The day began with plenty of laughter as the children enjoyed a poetry clip from the much-loved poet Michael Rosen, setting a joyful tone for the



celebrations. Later in the afternoon, classes settled down to listen to the reading of their chosen picture book.

There was also plenty of friendly competition throughout the day. Pupils tested their literary knowledge in a World Book Day emoji quiz and they took part in this year's official National Book Tokens competition where they dreamed up creative entries inspired by their love of books.



World Book Day at Southfield Junior School was a wonderful reminder that reading can bring everyone together. With brilliant costumes, shared stories and lots of laughter it was a day full of imagination that pupils and staff will remember for a long time.

Joseph (Year 3) said, 'I was so excited on World Book Day and felt happy all day. I liked the costumes people wore and even the teachers got dressed up! The activities were good too – we made tokens and visited different teachers for stories. It was a wonderful day!'

Abby Spencer, Deputy Headteacher

Raise Funds by Swimming

Join us on Sunday 17 May, from 10am, at the Highworth Recreation Centre for our annual Charity Swimathon to raise funds for a club, organisation or charity of your choice.

Friends, family members and colleagues can enter as a team, collect a load of sponsorship themselves and swim in relay for an hour. Swindon North and Thamesdown Rotary Club organise and run the event and it's completely free to enter.

The Swimathon is a fun event for swimmers of all ages and any ability to enter, but there'll be no prizes for swimming the fastest or the farthest. This is simply an opportunity to raise money and have fun at the same time.

Each team member should collect as much sponsorship for themselves as they can, and there are Amazon vouchers for the three swimmers who raise the most money.

More information, entry forms and sponsor forms can be downloaded from the Swimathon 2026 page on our website:

www.rotaryswindonnorth.org.uk. You can also enter and collect sponsorship online.

Ken Winslow



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Lions Easter Competition

The sun is shining and the daffodils are blooming. Warmer weather has finally arrived! We've had a fabulous couple of months at the Highworth Lions Charity Shop, continuing the excellent start to the year, and already it's nearly Easter!



Children, you can win an Easter egg and bunny by putting pen to paper during the Easter holiday break, so get busy and see if you can be a winner! There are two age ranges: ages five to nine, Draw an Easter picture masterpiece of your choice; and ages 10 to 15, get your thinking caps on and create your very own Easter poem. The closing date for entries is **Friday 10 April**. Put your entries in a sealed envelope with your name, age and telephone number and marked *Easter Competition*, and drop them into the Lions Charity Shop at Home Farm. The winners will be selected on **Sunday 12 April**. Good luck to all!

Our Easter window is a delight. A huge thanks to Carol Barrett and all the volunteers and drivers for their



continued dedication which in turn helps us give back to the community in the surrounding areas.

We still need more volunteers and drivers, so if you have three hours or more to spare, please help us to help you by contacting sue@highworthlions.co.uk or pop into the shop and leave your name and number and we'll get back to you.

Pledges and donations:

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- Support for Food Collective: amount to be confirmed

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Highworth Arts and Literary Festival



Have you got Friday 19 June to Sunday 21 June marked in your calendar?

Great news! Jasper Fforde is delighted to be invited for a second year and he has offered to critique your work, either manuscript, part-finished manuscript, abstract or just notes, and offer authorly advice on a one-to-one basis. So dust off those ideas, jot them down and bring them to Jasper.

Jasper's cousin, Katie Fforde, is to be our main speaker on Saturday evening – full details later.

We are also organising a Literary Lunch at The Highworth with at least two authors prepared to share their successes with you, and perhaps also those ideas that did not go so well. Places will be limited.

There will also be a children's story time in the Library – this will definitely involve story reading and an activity.

We have now spilled over into Sunday at the Highworth Community Centre, with an adult 'improv' class based on story telling. This is ideal for budding thespians and those who can only dream. There will also be a puppetry class for children and young people. *Dreaming of War Horse* and *Totoro* or want to know how to manipulate a marionette? Come and have go with expert puppeteers.

We are working alongside the Highworth Historical Society with displays and artifacts and a trawl through historical literature to look at Highworth through the ages. And artists – do not forget to book in your works for the Art Exhibition which will run from Thursday to Sunday in the United Reformed Church.

Look out early next month for full details of our competitions and start now on writing a poem for poetry evening. Failing that, join our Literary Quiz Night whilst enjoying a glass of HALF beer.

Finally, cross your fingers for a pop-up book shop, at the planning stage with Bert's Books.

So much to look forward to. Hold your breath for an Art and Literary joyride!

Keith Smith



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The Arts Society Upper Thames

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The Arts Society
Upper Thames

On **Thursday 9 April**, come along to the Memorial Hall in Lechlade at 1:45pm (lecture starts at 2pm) to hear from Susan Kay Williams who will talk about colour and textiles in a lecture titled *Colour Imperial Purple to Denim Blue*. This lecture takes us from prehistoric man to the middle of the 19th Century, and geographically from Europe to the Middle East, India, Turkey, North America, Mexico and Peru. Susan has recently retired as the Chief Executive of the Royal School of Needlework, based at Hampton Court Palace.

On **Thursday 14 May** Aranxta Sardina will talk about the *Camino Di Santiago: The Way of St. James*.

Our next planned visit will be to the Watts Gallery in Guilford on **Thursday 23 April**. Tickets will be on sale at the April lecture.

It's easy to join The Arts Society Upper Thames. Simply visit our website www.tasupperthames.org.uk or email us at info@tasupperthames.org.uk. The annual membership fee is £45 per person and entitles you to attend ten lectures in the year.

Not sure if it's for you? Visitors are welcome to attend up to three lectures at a cost of £7.50 per lecture. If you subsequently decide to join, all fees you have paid as a visitor will be deducted from your annual membership fee.

Graham Dawson

Highworth Camera Club

After our March club meeting looking at portrait photography, I am sure that members have been busy practising on family and friends!

That is before turning attention to April's speaker, Peter Hulance, and travelling out and about early in the morning to catch some misty landscapes. Peter's pictures are stunning and worth checking out on his website: www.peterhulancephotography.co.uk.

The club has been fortunate in securing some interesting speakers this year, covering various genres of photography, for inspiration and encouragement to try something new or improve techniques. Perhaps we will see members' efforts at next month's meeting when competition entries will be judged.

For June we are pleased to say that we are looking forward to welcoming back Jack Lodge. We will open up this evening to visitors for a small fee. Jack's photography can be seen on his website: www.jacklodge.co.uk.

If you would be interested in joining the club, you are most welcome to come along to any club night. Check out our website (www.highworthcameraclub.com) or get in touch (highworthcamclub@gmail.com).

Hilary Beach



HIGHWORTH ARTISTS' SOCIETY

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Highworth Community Cinema

Our current season comes to an end in April with a thriller set in a papal conclave: the gathering of cardinals of the Roman Catholic Church to elect a new Pope following the death – or in unusual circumstances, abdication – of the previous one.

The film is based on the 2016 book by Robert Harris and stars Ralph Fiennes, Stanley Tucci and John Lithgow.

Join us on **Friday 24 April** for the showing of *Conclave* at the United Reformed Church, High Street, SN6 7AG, at 7:45pm. Doors open at 7:15pm.

Cardinal Lawrence (Fiennes) has one of the world's most secretive and ancient tasks, participating in the selection of a new Pope. He is tasked with running this covert process after the unexpected death of the previous beloved Pope. Once the Catholic Church's most powerful leaders have gathered from around the



world and are locked together in the Vatican halls, Lawrence uncovers a trail of deep secrets left in the dead Pope's wake, secrets which could shake the foundations of the Church. Father Hugh MacKenzie of the Diocese of Westminster describes the film as an absorbing fast-moving thriller in which the intrigue and politicking among the cardinals (incidentally, in real life forbidden by Pope John Paul II's ordinance) would make Machiavelli blush.

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

We will be spending the summer putting together the programme for the new season which commences in September. If there is a film you would like to see, please send us an email (highworthfilms@gmail.com) with your suggestions for our consideration.

Debbie, www.highworthfilms.org.uk

Book Clubs Unite for HALF

As part of the Highworth Arts and Literary Festival (19 to 21 June), book clubs in Highworth and neighbouring towns are coming together for the love of reading. There are currently three book clubs in Highworth taking part, as well as another two clubs covering Lechlade, Shrivenham, Fairford, Buscot and Kempsford.

Look out for the May issue of Highworth's LINK Magazine where each book club will be sharing their top three reads.

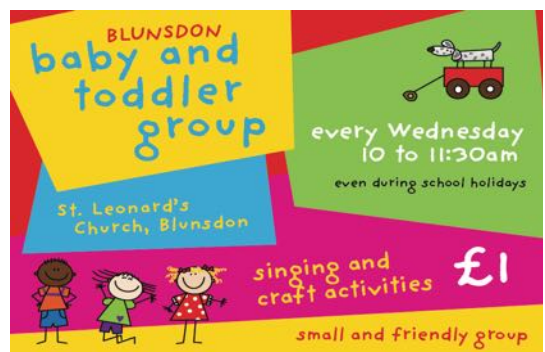
As part of the Festival in June, each book club will nominate a book for another club to read. We're hoping to provoke some interesting discussions in each club! We will publish the nominated books and some brief feedback in either the June or July issue of this magazine, depending how quickly we all read!

It has been great to see so many book clubs that are creating a passion for reading and are so keen to connect with other readers.

I would urge everyone to join a book club or set up

your own. It's a great way to enjoy books you wouldn't normally read and there's usually a wide variety of books chosen. Many of us listen to books on audio – the library has a great app where you can access free audiobooks (and e-books). Ask in Highworth Library for more information. Audiobooks are a great way to immerse yourself in a story while you're driving, walking the dog or doing the weekly shop!

Emma Ferrey, avid reader and HALF Committee member



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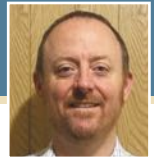
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If you have a sport story email jcdsport12@gmail.com

Nalgo Putting Club

Are you looking for a new hobby for 2026? Why not try putting? Enjoy fun, fresh air and gentle exercise, meet new friends and maybe even reconnect with old ones.

You can join as an individual or as a team (minimum of six).

The Swindon Railway Works Putting League was formed in 1935, known as the GWR (Swindon) Athletic Association. Putting remained a very popular pastime and many new teams joined from both outside and within the railway industry. In 2011, the Putting League moved to the Nalgo Sports and Leisure Club, which has excellent licensed club house facilities, offering a warm and sociable environment to enjoy post-match analysis of the games, whilst enjoying a welcome drink!

Nalgo Putting Club is a not-for-profit organisation and the putting greens are prepared, cut and managed by a committed team of volunteer members and promote golf-related spring/summertime team competitions for all ages and genders, all to be enjoyed in a very friendly and sociable atmosphere.



Putting is played on two 18-hole courses, named The Plain and The Bunker, both within the club grounds. Mixed teams of six, plus reserves, play league fixtures with two rounds of matches lasting around 75 minutes. Throughout the season, separate cup

knockout events are held for teams, doubles, singles, and individual ladies' singles and doubles matches. Matches start early evenings, mid-week, and the season runs from mid-April until early September, with all matches played at the Nalgo Sports and Leisure Club.

We are happy to answer any questions and would be delighted to meet anyone interested in getting involved in putting. Putters and golf balls will be readily available for you to give it a try, and we would also be pleased to discuss group events for societies and organisations. We're located at 610 Cricklade Road, Swindon SN2 7AP, can be found online (www.nalgotputting.co.uk), on Facebook (Nalgo Putting League) or contacted via email (nalgotputting@stripes.org).

Karen Weaver

Highworth Bowls Club

HBC is excited to announce a very special milestone: our 90th anniversary! To celebrate, we're throwing open our gates for our annual Open Day on **Saturday 23 May**. This much-anticipated event is a wonderful opportunity for people of all ages and abilities to discover the joys of lawn bowls in a friendly and supportive environment.

Whether you are a complete beginner or an experienced player, everyone is welcome at HBC. Free entry on the day and all equipment will be provided, so there is no need to worry about bringing anything with you. Club members and qualified coaches will be on hand throughout the event to offer guidance, share tips and help you get started on the green. It's a brilliant way to meet new people, learn a new skill and perhaps even discover a new passion.

The club's bar will be open and a range of refreshments will be available, ensuring you can relax and enjoy your time both on and off the green. Why

not make it a family outing? There will be plenty for everyone to enjoy and children are more than welcome to come along and join in the fun.

So, mark your calendars and come along to Highworth Bowls Club between 11am and 3pm. Bring your friends and/or family for a great day out. Who knows, you might just catch the bowls bug! We look forward to welcoming you for a fantastic day of sport, laughter and community spirit. For more information please contact us at hbcmembershipsecretary@gmail.com.



Kevin Brown

Swindon and District Motorcycle Club

It was on day 40 of consecutive-days-that-rained, when over 60 riders turned up at the old station yard in Hannington in readiness for February's Brian Freegard Trial. As usual, four laps of ten sections had been laid out to test balance, skill and bravery, but this time without Bydemill Brook; its water levels in places were looking over three feet deep and agreeably off limits.

So, confined to land, the bikes gathered for their briefing and then went in search of their respective first sections. Slaloms on gradients, steep embankment climbs (and descents) with a sprinkling of ditches kept everyone busy, but by the second lap the weather gods had decided it was all too easy and the heavens opened; cue the declination of the sections. By the final lap, the sections presented new challenges and most riders were taking run-ups where they could to find momentum, and in doing so, leaving rooster-tails of mud as they did their best to keep moving forwards. Air was let out of tyres, ignored were the lower gears; third appeared to be the most favoured. On occasion, front wheels stopped rotating and acted simply as skids, such was the clogging of mud. 40% of the penalty points awarded for putting a foot down were incurred on the last lap – and that felt low! But everyone was smiling.

Never has gratitude been so appropriate as when offered to those that set up the course the day before (in the rain) and to those who observed and kept score on the day (also in the rain). Thank you.

Score sheets, though, soggy as they might have been, were handed in, and those incurring the least amount



Photo courtesy of Reuben Warner

of penalty points for the day could rightly take a bow – namely David Maslin, Keith Wooster, Richard Gunning, Mick Marshall and Martyn Wilmore (jointly), and David Morris and Adrian Steele (also jointly).

The bikes now won't be back in Hannington until the summer. But they'll be appearing at other venues in the coming months, so keep your eyes peeled on social media (Facebook 'Swindon & District Motor Cycle Club') for updates.

Jason Daniels

Shrivenham Cricket Club

The winter months have been busy for SCC, with the AGM taking place in February and preparations for the season ahead rightly consuming us. Whilst our 1st XI will again campaign in Division 5, our 2nd XI thanks to their promotion last season will swing their bats in Division 9; weekends aside, our midweek XI will continue with their Tuesday evening matches. Our committee have understandably been busy dealing with quite a few items that need addressing in readiness for the outdoor season, and of course winter indoor net practice is already under way on Wednesday evenings at Pinewood School in Bourton. If you have an interest in local cricket you'd be welcome to come along and join us. Find us on Facebook.

Julian Stevens

Highworth Town Football Club

Just league points to play for after exits from the Challenge and Floodlit Cups in February. Ongoing ground issues mean a couple of home games were moved to Cirencester Town in March, with a venue for the game with FA Vase semi-finalists yet to be confirmed at the time of writing.

In early March, the team sat in 15th position in the league, nine points clear of relegation with games in hand on those around us.

Derek Lloyd

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Highworth Town Walking Football Club

In February, the Over-65's ended the Thames Valley League Division 1 season, winning it again for the fourth season running. The whole squad has also won the Wiltshire Over-65's League and now the Thames Valley



Thames Valley League Champions

Cup in 2024 and 2025. This means they have achieved eight consecutive successes in total, as well as doing well in the National Cup competition, coming third in 2024 and fifth in 2025. A great achievement for the whole squad.

If there is anyone wanting to join a fun group, why not come along and give it a try. There are outdoor sessions held on **Thursdays and Sundays** (11am to 12noon), both held at Grange Leisure Centre in Stratton on their 3G pitches. All sessions are pay and play, meaning anyone over the age of 50 is welcome to come and play. It costs £4.50 payment per session, all payable by credit/debit card only (no cash) direct to the leisure centre. For more details please get in contact at highworthwfc@outlook.com, or 07769 703702.

Graham Seeley

Shrivenham Park Golf Club

Our 2026/27 captains have now kicked off the season with the traditional Drive-In Day. Jim Boyes continues to captain the men, Denise takes up leadership for the ladies once again, and Simmy Waqalevu the Juniors, all overseen by Club President Malc Walker. We wish them all a happy and successful year leading their sections, and of course all the best with their own games.

Main club competitions continue to be organised and assisted by Adi Betterton and Sandra Hanlon respectively, the Junior competition organisation will subsist with me and will of course be coached by Jim, our club coach.

Almost upon us, Easter and May Bank Holidays will be celebrated with club competitions and we welcome visitors to play in these; if interested please call us / call in and sign up. In early August our Juniors will be staging a new Bowmaker competition with teams of three using the best two Stableford scores to count. Please do get in contact if you are interested and come join us; CDH handicaps and non-handicap players welcome (non-CDH will be given 45 for the competition) at a cost of £5 per player, and various prizes will be on offer. Our Junior Open also takes place in early August with more Stableford categories; we expect a large entry for this one, so get in touch and get your entry in soon. If you fancy a bit of Junior coaching to get ready, these sessions take place most Saturdays.

In terms of our 2026/27 membership, details are posted on our website (www.shrivenhampark.co.uk) and we're keen to rebuild the ladies section who meet Wednesday mornings between 11am and 12pm. Our first session is free, and all end with a coffee and chat allowing time to reflect, consult our coach and consider making arrangements for games. Clubs (and buggies if desired) are available for hire.

Lastly, we couldn't sign off without extending our birthday wishes to a beloved husband and wife, both former members and ambassadors for the club in their positions as captain and president; congratulations again on your 90th birthdays – you know who you are!

Carole Lee

Wrag Barn Golf Club

As we head into spring after a winter that gave us the wettest January in the southwest on record, we still made some good memories at Wrag Barn. Despite the rainfall statistic, we have been able to keep at least some of the course open for much of this period, and the Lady Captain's Drive-In was well supported and enjoyed a brief period of bright sunshine.

Thank you to Sue Britton for organising a year with a mixture of great achievements on the golf course and a lot of fun along the way. Our Ladies A Team won the Wiltshire League and, judging by the presentation of trophies at the AGM to so many different individuals, a large number of our members had some outstanding performances. Special mention to Olivia Bannon who is the Ladies Champion.

Our new Lady Captain is Sue Pritchard, and she is already introducing some new competitions and ideas for her year, so we look forward to some consistent golf when the weather improves.

In other news, our long-term Lady President Jenny Stenhouse has decided to retire and Pam Megarry has agreed to step into the role. We are hugely grateful to



Jenny for years of support and wisdom and look forward to working with Pam in the future.

Our Seniors section is proud to announce they have raised £9,000 for Prospect Cancer UK, which is an outstanding achievement and demonstrates huge generosity within the section. Congratulations to Tony Gumby for a hugely successful year, and we welcome Gary Blue to the Captaincy for 2026.

Verity Manners

Highworth Town Junior Football Club

HTJFC is approaching the end of an exciting 2025/26 season, and the atmosphere around the club is buzzing with anticipation for two major community events. After a year of growth both on and off the pitch, the club is preparing to host its first car boot sale on **Sunday 31 May**, a brand-new addition to the club calendar designed to bring families, supporters and local residents together. With stalls, bargains and a friendly community feel, it promises to be a great day out for anyone looking to browse, buy, or simply enjoy the social side of grassroots football.

Even more special is the return of the club's junior football tournament, the first to be held in more than eight years! This long-awaited event marks an important milestone for Highworth Town Juniors, celebrating the hard work of volunteers, coaches and players who have helped rebuild and strengthen the club's foundations. Young footballers from across the area will have the chance to showcase their skills, enjoy competitive matches and experience the excitement of a true tournament atmosphere.

Both events are open to everyone, whether you're part of the club or simply looking for a fun day out. Visitors can expect food, drinks, entertainment and plenty to see, from lively football action to cars full of interesting things to buy. As the season draws to a close, these events offer the perfect opportunity for the community to come together, support local youth football, and celebrate everything the club has achieved.

To enter a team for the tournament, please use the QR code (pictured), or to book a car boot space please visit our website (www.highworthtownjuniorsfc.co.uk).

Kelly Preston



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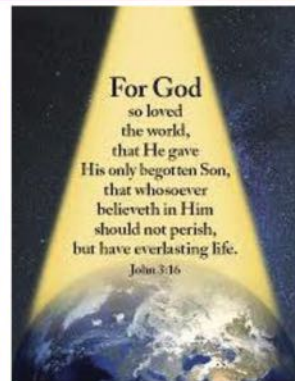
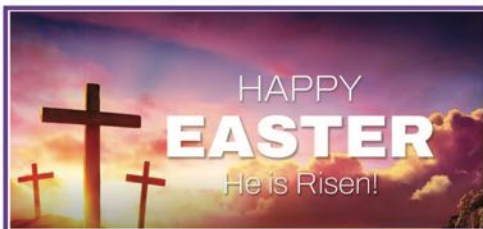
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Highworth Methodist Church



What's on in April?



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Coffee Morning
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Coffee and Cake

Sunday @ 10.30

5 Easter Sunday - Rev Ian Mead
12 Adrian German
19 Rev Ian Mead
26 Pam Mullin
Tuesday, 7th Afternoon Communion 2pm

Every Friday
9.30-11.15 am
J&M CLUB

Craft Group
Tuesday, 7th & 21st
10am-1pm

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

3Cs - Coffee, cake & Chat
Wednesday, 8th
2.30pm

GRANT & CIL FUNDING APPLICATION



NEXT DEADLINE: FRIDAY 19TH JUNE 2026

Highworth Town Council has made changes to its grant process, introducing two dedicated application windows each year – January and July.

The deadline for application to be considered in July 2026 is Friday 19th June 2026. This applies to both Grant Funding and Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) bids.

Local community groups, clubs and organisations are encouraged to apply. Applicants should review the relevant guidance prior to submitting an application to ensure eligibility and compliance.

For more information, including guidance documents and application forms, please visit our website.

www.highworthtowncouncil.gov.uk





The Mayor of Highworth invites you to her

CHARITY EVENT

Wrag Barn Golf Club, Highworth

25 APRIL 2026
07:00 PM
12:00 AM
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SATURDAY 2ND MAY 2026

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News from Highworth's Mayor



I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the Head and pupils of Warneford School for taking part in our recent mock Council meeting.

It was a wonderful opportunity to explain how Council meetings operate

and, more importantly, for the students themselves to step into the chamber, debate topics they had chosen, and experience local democracy in action. The feedback has been extremely positive, and I am very much looking forward to continuing our work with local schools as we explore the creation of a Youth Council.

This month I attended a civic event at RAF Fairford, the opening of a fantastic new adventure playground at Farmer Gow's, and celebrated our wonderful volunteers and community champions at the Big Highworth Community Awards.

Thank you to everyone who supported the recent quiz night at The Old Bakery in aid of my Mayor's Charity. The evenings, expertly run by Ian Durnin-Duffy, are always great fun and I am very grateful for his support.

In Council matters, we eagerly await the examiner's feedback on the Neighbourhood Plan. Conditions are currently being signed off before work can begin on the 3G pitch. We are also preparing for the official opening of Barra Close Play Park on **Saturday 11 April** at 10am, and plans are well under way for our ever-popular May Day event on **Saturday 2 May** which will have a magical theme.

You are invited to a Town Meeting on **Tuesday 14 April** at 7pm in the Community Room, Gilberts Lane. This meeting is specifically for the electorate and is not a Council meeting; it is an opportunity to discuss issues important to you and to hear from local organisations that support our community.

Don't forget the Mayor's Charity event on **Saturday 25 April** at Wrag Barn. Please contact the Council Offices on 01793 762377 for tickets.

Julie Murphy, Mayor of Highworth

HIGHWORTH TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN MAYOR & CHAIRMAN

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DEPUTY MAYOR & VICE-CHAIRMAN

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sweisinger@swindon.gov.uk

Council Offices

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

St. Michael's Church Highworth

The church is open daily for private prayer.

10:15am Sunday Service

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

First, third and fifth Sundays are Morning Worship, second and fourth Sundays are Holy Communion.

The live service can be found on YouTube by searching 'St. Michael's Church Highworth'.

8:30am Holy Communion (BCP)

First and third Sunday.

11am Midweek Communion

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

Prayers

Tuesday Prayers at 9:30am.

Friday Blessings from 9:15am.

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

Easter Services

St. Michael's Church, Highworth

2 April 7pm: Maundy Thursday Service

3 April 2pm: Good Friday Service

5 April 8:30am: Easter Holy Communion (BCP)

5 April 10:15am: Easter Holy Communion

St. John the Baptist, Hannington

5 April 10am: Easter Holy Communion

St. James' Church, Sevenhampton

5 April 10am: Easter Holy Communion

St. Leonard's Church, Broad Blunsdon

3 April 2pm: Good Friday Service

5 April 10am: Easter Holy Communion

We remember those we love and miss

Alan Warren

Praying for the roads in the town

5 April Folly Crescent and Folly Drive

12 April Folly Way and Gilberts Lane

19 April Gilmore Court and Glebe Place

26 April Goodson Lane and Grange Close

St. Leonard's Parish Church Stanton Fitzwarren

3 April Good Friday: Hour at the Cross, 2pm

5 April Easter Sunday: Holy Communion, 11:30am

12 April Family Service: 'Fish-a picnic on the beach', 11am

19 April Team Service at St. Leonard's, 10am

26 April Team Service at Stratton Methodist Church, 10:30am (Celebration of 200 years in Stratton)

On **Saturday 4 April**, 2pm, you would be so welcome to join us to decorate the church for Easter.

Join us for our Stanton Coffee Morning on **Wednesday 15 April** at Stanton House Hotel. We will meet at 10:15am for coffee and chat, and then Keith Smith will tell *Some Tales of The Unexpected*.

The church building will be open on 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.



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



20-22/4/2026

Remembering Heather Gunn on her birthday weekend

24-26/4/2026

Frank Dean

*On the anniversary of your passing
In our hearts today and every day
Love, Beverley, Sharon and families xxx*

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.

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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

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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

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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The Bridge Centre,
8a Sheep Street,
Highworth SN6 7AA

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

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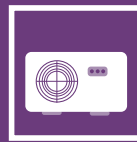
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