

The collage features several key elements from the fair:

- Top Left:** A group of three people (two men and one woman) standing in front of a brick building.
- Top Center:** A large black sign with white lettering that reads "HIGHWORTH".
- Top Right:** A yellow biplane with a roundel, displayed indoors.
- Middle Left:** A man in a blue jacket and a woman in a red and blue striped dress standing together.
- Middle Center:** A stone memorial for Flight Sub Lieutenant Reginald Warneford, with text indicating he served in the Royal Naval Air Service and died on 7th June 1915.
- Middle Right:** A banner for the Highworth Historical Society with the text "Bringing the history of Highworth to life..." and a website address.
- Bottom Left:** A woman in a black coat and hat standing next to a table.
- Bottom Center:** A group of four women in festive costumes (one in a blue dress, one in a purple top, one in a floral dress, and one in a white top) posing for a photo.
- Bottom Right:** A man in a colorful patterned jacket, a man in a blue jacket, a woman in a floral dress, a man in a grey jacket, a woman in a black coat, and a table with various items for sale.

Monday 28th September 7.30pm - Council Room  
The Old Prison, Northleach  
A talk by The Rev Michael Banks

**STOP PRESS:** Membership fees are now due. Great value at only £10 per annum



Summer 2015

Hello and welcome to our Summer 2015 newsletter. It's been an exciting year for Highworth Historical Society and we hope that you've enjoyed the various events and lectures. However, we're always open to comments and suggestions so, if you'd like to make a contribution to the Society or have any ideas for us, contact us by e-mail to [chris@highworthhistoricalsociety.co.uk](mailto:chris@highworthhistoricalsociety.co.uk) or write to us at the address at the end of this newsletter.

Visit our new updated website on: [www.highworthhistoricalsociety.co.uk](http://www.highworthhistoricalsociety.co.uk)

## Chair's Report

This has been a busy year for the Society, many thanks to all the members who have helped at the various events. The Highworth railway sign finally came “home” with the unveiling being performed by our own “Mr Railway” Colin Dawson. Paul and Ann Marie organised the event and thanks are also due to the Community Centre for their help and for sponsoring the flower display.

We held our usual stall at the May event. Chilly but dry and we were able to man the stall for the whole day.

May saw the re-dedication of the War Memorial after the renovation. This had been carried through by the drive of Jacky Clarke, a former Chairman

"Highworth Remembers" fortnight. Eighteen months plus in the planning and my Thursday evenings seem very empty! Many, many thanks to everyone who helped out. Especial thanks to Ann Marie for a great display.

The concert was a good final event. Thank you Denise and readers, and didn't the Songsters do well! Thanks are also due to the Church staff for all their help. A real community event.

As if all that was not enough we had the Warneford VC stone un-veiled in June. Thanks to Joan Craigie for starting that ball rolling.

If people did not know that there was a Historical Society in the town, they do now. Let us hope that it results in some new members.

We will start our new session with the news that we will be up-graded at the Community Centre from a cupboard to a small room. This will mean that we will be able to display some of our archives and, hopefully, that people wishing to do research on Highworth can be catered for.

## Treasurers Report



This is my last year as Treasurer and I would like to thank everyone for their assistance with the various fundraising events throughout the year. Our main source of income this year aside from subscriptions has been book sales and money

raised at events. The balance at the end of the year is expected to be down on last year but this can partly be attributed to 'One Off' purchases such as the gazebo for use at outside events and the purchase of much needed display cabinets. These will enable us to show the wider community various items of interest which the Society has in its possession. I fully intend to remain involved with the Society and look forward to seeing you all at the monthly meetings.

Jim Mitchell, Treasurer





Proposal for a slight change to the constitution

This will be voted on at the AGM.

At present committee members can only serve a maximum of 6 years before taking a break. This was intended to help bring fresh blood and ideas to the society. Unfortunately people who are willing/able to serve are like gold dust. This year Kay and Jim would have to stand down and Denise has informed me that she will cease as a member from September. This will leave us with a committee which is really not viable.

Kay and Jim are both willing to stay on as members. We would therefore like to put before the membership that there is no longer a time limit for being on the committee but after 3 years in a position you then have a break from that position. This would take effect from September 2015. Don't all breathe a sigh of relief. To flourish we still need new people on the committee. With Denise leaving we will be without a programme planner! Our thanks to her for all her work in this job.

Ways we need your help (Don't be frightened, not too much required!)

1. Raffle prizes needed. Nothing too big. A jar of nice jam, chocolates even a home made cake would be lovely.
2. Archive help. There is still sorting to do. Ann Marie is planning to arrange a few working parties during the winter months. These will be at the Community Centre. Tea/ coffee, even a biscuit, supplied. If you are interested please give your name and contact details to Ann Marie at the AGM. Or e-mail her [annmarie@annmariemurphy.co.uk](mailto:annmarie@annmariemurphy.co.uk)
3. Talks for the future. We would like you to tell us what sort of talks you like. i.e. Local, general, subject etc. The committee know what they like but we want to know about you. Jot your ideas on a piece of paper and hand in at the AGM, or e-mail [chrissuter16@googlemail.com](mailto:chrissuter16@googlemail.com)
4. Have you lived in Highworth for more than 50 years, give or take? If so we would like you to jot down your memories of the town as you knew it. We want a scrap-book of memories. One line or many pages we don't mind. You will not be marked on spelling or punctuation! You can add your name or be ANON. We just want your memories. Again at AGM or e-mail me as above.

Election of committee  
Members willing to stand from September are:  
Chair : Christine Suter  
Secretary: Cecilia Olley  
Treasurer: Pat Bliss  
Programme organiser: Vacant  
Archivist: Ann Marie Murphy  
Members: Sue Morgan  
Kay Brown  
Jim Mitchell

The last two if the change to the constitution is agreed.  
Any other names to me before the AGM please.

Monthly Lectures

- 28th September - The Old Prison, Northleach - Rev Michael Banks  
26th October - The Royal Flying Corps - Steve Williams  
30th November - A Tiger in the Bathroom and Bullets up the Chimney - Tony Hadland  
14th December - 18th Century Theatricals - Allan Ledger  
25th January - Vickers at South Marston - David Holden  
29th February - Zion in Highworth - Bryan Elkington  
21st March - A Herbert about Town - The photographs of Bill Herbert
- More details on all these talks can be found on our website.

Webmaster's Report



This has been another busy year for our website with many updates and additional information added. The word is certainly getting around as I have had a quite large number of people from overseas contacting me asking for information about our towns history and the people who

lived here. It is particularly gratifying when students from schools make contact asking for details of their ancestors and the WW1 anniversary has led to a lot more enquiries this year. We are also continuing to develop the on-line shop and it is now possible to purchase our books directly from the website. I am looking at expanding this part of the site by opening a paypal section which will hopefully lead to our books and products being made more readily available to a much wider audience and producing more welcome income for the society. The website itself continues to grow and become more widely known and at the time of writing we have had around 22,500 visits in the last year from all around the world. I think is very good for this type of website and we have only been hacked seriously once!

If anyone has any ideas about adding to the site please let me know and I will do my best to accomodate them and as I said last year, the site is never really finished so please share with us any items, photographs, records and documents that you think might be of interest. They will all be much appreciated. You can see the website now on: [www.highworthhistoricalsociety.co.uk](http://www.highworthhistoricalsociety.co.uk)

Paul Newton-Smith, Webmaster

Archivist's Report



It has been an eventful year, the Railway Sign which we got back from STEAM last year, is now permanently positioned at the Community Centre and it is great that it is back in Highworth for all to see. It took a lot of work to get it positioned and our thanks go to Trojan Stonework, who erected it free of charge. Also, the trustees of the Community Centre for accommodating it and finishing it off with a flower display. The Railway Sign was unveiled on 24th January this year by our own railway enthusiast, Colin Dawson.

Diana Sims and I have continued with archiving and recording the societies assets and we aim to put together a plan so that this project can move forward with the end result of putting the information onto the website which will enable more people to have access to it.

Library Displays this year have consisted of Highworth Railway, 1960s and WW1 / Rex Warnford VC.



We have put together displays for the Unveiling of the Railway Sign, Highworth Remembers Fortnight and the Unveiling of the Warneford Commemorative pavement slab. My thanks go to all those who have loaned items for the displays, to Colin Dawson who loaned Railway items such as Lanterns and Rail Passes. Also to John Kennedy for items from the 1960s and Mark Sutton for his WW1

exhibits and the many other people who contributed by loaning their personal items.

We have also been given some interesting artefacts this year including an original Swindon and Highworth Railway Time Table from 1883, donated by Jane Cartmel, via Bryan Lawton. Also, the old Post Office till from Paul and Karen at the Post Office. I am looking forward to the new bigger facility we are in the process of obtaining at the Community Centre, which will enable us to display our items with more access for members and the public.



Ann Marie Murphy, Archivist

2014 AGM Details of Annual General Meeting of Highworth Historical Society held on September 30th 2014 at the United Reformed Church

Meeting opened at 7.30pm

Apologies from Cecilia Olley

Minutes of previous AGM accepted. Proposed by Paul Newton-Smith and seconded by Gordon Younghusband.

Chair's report by Chris Suter mentioned: The rededication of the War Memorial, the Highworth Railway sign coming back to Highworth, the Highworth Remembers Exhibition and the Rex Warneford flagstone

Treasurer's Report by Jim Mitchell

Paul Cobb from the Western Front Association talked further

about the Highworth Remembers Exhibition and the replica plane

Matters Arising: none

Election of new committee members Pat Bliss and Ann Marie Murphy were proposed and seconded by Gillian Miller and Colin Dawson

Re-election of auditor Bernard Harrington proposed by Kay Brown and seconded by Perry Barrett

Any Other Business: The matter of the relocation of the Post Office was discussed

AGM closed at 7.48pm

New Aquisitions

Pot given to school teacher Annie Hart upon her retirement. She was born in Hilperton in 1870 to a farm labourer and his wife.



Kindly donated by Christopher Hall, her great nephew. We are currently researching the history of this pot and if anyone has any information please contact our archivist.



Kindly donated by Paul and Karen Burdett

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