

Visit our website at www.highworthhistoricalsociety.co.uk



Newsletter 2018

Hello and welcome to our 2018 newsletter. It has been another busy year and we hope you have enjoyed the various events and talks. We are always on the lookout for new ideas, so if you have any suggestions or would simply just like to comment on what we do we would love to hear from you. You can email us at; chris@highworthhistoricalsociety.co.uk



From the Chair

Time flies, and we are at the end of another busy year for the Society.

We held our second Open Day in November. Again we were very busy, and had some good feed-back. These events also encourage people to search out and donate items to us.

Thanks to the lovely weather we had lots of visitors to our stall at the May event, with some new members signing up.

I have given talks on Highworth at Southfields School and Parsonage Court. Ann Marie and I have helped people who have contacted us about Highworth people and places. Ann Marie with photos from our archives and me with information. At times this keeps us quite busy.

Plans for next year.

1. Another Open Day on October 20th. Again two rooms, and this time two topics. One is the stories of

the men from Highworth and Sevenhampton who died in WW1. Also the story of the family who sent 6 sons, and all returned.

The second exhibition will be on the social life of the town from the early eighteen hundreds to the present day.

2. In conjunction with the Folk Club there will be a performance of 'No Petticoats Here' in the URC on November 16th. This tells the stories of women during WW1 (spies, engineers, footballers and nurses). It is by Louise Jordan, a one woman performance with live music and an audio soundscape consisting of the woman's own words. Tickets are limited, £8, and will be on sale at the AGM.

3. This year we are going to launch our own Highworth Calendar. This will show some of the photos from our archives, cost £5 and again on sale from the AGM. Thanks to all the members who turn up to help at the various events. New faces are always welcome.

AGM

As usual this will be short. Following this will be the second part of the journey around the town. This uses some of our photos and items from the local newspapers. This time we will look at Grove Hill, Cricklade Road and Swindon Street.

The Committee.

Again I would like to give a big thank-you to all the members. Without their work there would be no Highworth Historical Society.

After many years Kay Brown will be leaving

NEXT MEETING

September 24th 2018: AGM at 7.30 followed by:
'Old Highworth in photos and words. - Part 2'

By Ann Marie Murphy, Paul Newton-Smith & Christine Suter.

With some of our archive photos learn more about the town and the people.

email us at: info@highworthhistoricalsociety.co.uk

the committee. During her time she has organised several fund raising events, been our secretary and introduced and run the Newsletter.

We have welcomed a new member, Tracy Edwards, who you will have seen helping with the tea and coffee.

We would love a couple more people to join us. I for one have age creeping up on me! So, don't be shy, speak to any committee member and give it a try.

Fund Raising.

If anyone has a bright idea please let us know. Even better help to organise it!

GDPR and your membership.

HHS fully complies with the new legislation. We may collect the following information: Name and address, email address and telephone numbers. All details will be deleted once membership expires. No information is passed on to third parties.

Christine Suter, Chair.



The Committee

We meet about nine times a year. Meetings start promptly at 7.30pm and are finished by 8.45pm at the latest. Members, at present, are:

Christine Suter: Chair and programme arranger. (01793 764811)

Cecilia Olley: Secretary and tea/coffee maker at meetings. Caroline Pooley and Tracy Edwards help with the tea and coffee.

Caroline Pooley has taken over producing the newsletter.

Pat Bliss: Treasurer.

Ann Marie Murphy: Archivist and display manager for the library. Help with either of these jobs always welcome. (01793 764575)

Sue Morgan: Membership secretary.

Jim Mitchell: Was our treasurer for many years, now takes over when Pat has her annual trip to Australia.

Paul Newton-Smith is our webmaster.

Subscriptions.

These remain at £10 for the year. Please renew at the AGM, or you can pay in advance by sending a cheque to Pat Bliss at, 12 Gilmore Court, Highworth, SN6 7FG. Cheques made payable to Highworth Historical Society.



Webmaster's Report

The number of visits to our website for the year 2017 was 36,705, which is up from just over 21,000

in 2016. As stated before, the increase has no doubt been influenced by the fact that I have continued to upload photographs from the archives onto the various Highworth based Facebook pages which has resulted in people wanting to see more.

The website itself has unfortunately been targeted by hackers on a few occasions this year, but so far I have managed to carry out repairs quickly resulting in very little down time. This unfortunately will be an ongoing battle!

The website itself has generated a lot of interest from not only local users but also visitors from around the world. We have also seen an increase in people using the site to carry out research, not only family history but also for their studies. If you have any ideas on how I can improve the website please let me know.

Paul Newton-Smith, Webmaster



Archivist's Report

During the year we have been given many items such as the Presentation Trowel to commemorate the planting of the tree at Highworth School (now Southfield) for the Queen's Coronation in 1953, with photographs and information about the occasion.



Menu from
Fattio's Restaurant

The Twinning Association kindly donated their photographs and papers which show the history of the twinning between Highworth, Pontorson and Wassenberg which includes a 2018 calendar to commemorate their 50 years kindly donated

by Richard Williams.

Other items received include commemorative china, a menu from Fattio's Restaurant which used to be in the High Street, books, maps and photographs, as well as items on the Highworth Scouts and cricket in Highworth. We even have the pigeon club minute book.

A recent acquisition includes an invitation to the Light Railway Opening Demonstration in 1883.

We continue to loan items to various organisations and schools to help with their historical based projects and in November 2017 it was the 60th Anniversary of the opening of Warneford School. We were able to help with their commemorative display with various items including programmes, newspaper cuttings and photographs which included an aerial view of Warneford School whilst it was being built, plus items relating to a school concert and prize day in 1960. These items, plus many more were displayed at the school.

The Historical Society are film stars!



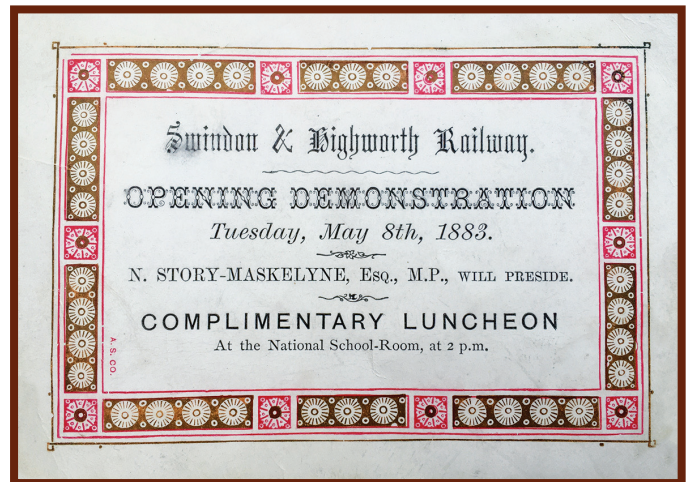
Filming
at the
Community
Centre



Highworth was turned into Hollywood for the day (well, almost!). A company called 1st Take contacted us with a view to interview us and film our railway based artifacts for inclusion onto a DVD they are producing about the railway line incorporating the Highworth branch. So, in May, we met up at the history room in the community centre where much interest was shown in our railway collection, particularly the large Highworth Railway sign at the centre entrance. They were very interested in including this in their film. They also enquired about the long journey to get the sign back to Highworth. They seemed to be very impressed with our extensive collection of railway artifacts, signs and maps and many thanks must once again go to society member Colin Dawson for his generous donations.

Luckily it was a lovely sunny day when I met David Rogers, who would be doing the commentary, Steve the cameraman and Colin Maggs the historian. Although I do not think my performance will merit an oscar, I really enjoyed talking 'history' with them

and it was very interesting to see what goes into producing a finished DVD. Watch this space for the date that the DVD is released for sale.



Opening Demonstration Invitation

Finally, we are constantly looking to add to our information about the history of our town, so if you have anything that you would like to donate or think we would like to see and you would be happy for us to take a copy, please give us a call.

Ann Marie Murphy, Archivist



Treasurer's Report

Once again another good year financially with a slight increase in membership and a large numbers of visitors, many who have gone on to join as full members.

Our thanks to Margaret for her hard work each month with the raffle which is very well supported and is an excellent source of revenue for the Society. We have again sold a large number of publications through the Library, Lighthouse Bookshop, May Fayre and meetings and through the excellent website which Paul continues to run so efficiently. The History Room is a great asset for storing archives and for members and visitors to visit. We have carried out some improvements to the layout and installed further fixtures and fittings which, along with the Speakers fees, is where our main expenditure has been this year.

Thank you to everyone for their continued support and we look forward to seeing you all in September when we will again be collecting subscriptions and handing out membership cards which contain a list of the forthcoming meetings.

Pat Bliss, Treasurer



HHS Lectures 2018/2019

September 24th 2018: AGM at 7.30. 7.45. 'Old Highworth in photos and words - Part 2.' By Ann Marie Murphy, Paul Newton-Smith and Christine Suter.

This uses some of the society's old photos along with stories from newspapers of the time. Grove Hill, Cricklade Road, and Swindon Street will be included. Christine Suter is the speaker.

October 29th 2018: 'Two men and one name' by Peter Williams.

We welcome back Peter Williams for this WW1 story of friendship. Two friends went to war, one returned.

November 26th 2018: 'The life and death of a policeman' by Chris and Judy Rouse.

Chris and Judy Rouse are back to tell the story of Enos Moulden, the first Wiltshire policeman who, in 1891, was murdered on duty. A doomed love affair, revenge, and a man in the wrong place at the wrong time.

December 2018. No meeting.

January 28th 2019: 'Pop Pirates of the 1960s' by Tony Hadland.

More recent history this time. The story of offshore pirate radio stations, including 'Big L' and Radio Caroline. The talk includes numerous audio clips.

February 25th 2019: 'The Cravens of Ashdown House' by John Farrow.

The talk starts with William Craven who, in the reign of Elizabeth I, went to London to make his fortune. He was so successful that at one time he lent money to the Treasury.

March 25th 2019: 'Thirty-five Shillings' by Andy Binks.

Andy Binks is back to talk on his time at the GWR works. He starts with joining the apprentice school. Andy has a vast collection of railway photos, and always gives a lively talk.

April 29th 2019: 'The GWR house and village' by Michael Stubbs.

The small house has now been taken over by The Mechanics Industrial Trust. It is being refurbished, and is once again open to the public on certain dates. This talk includes the story of the first family who lived in the house.

May 20th 2019: 'Wiltshire. A journey through time' by Nicholas Baxter.

The story of our county from Saxon settlement to the M4 motorway.



Information from the 2017 AGM

Minutes of AGM September 2017.

1. The minutes of the 2016 AGM to be agreed: Proposed: Mr Newton Smith. Seconded: Mr Younghusband.
2. Treasurer's Report: Mr Younghusband queried the expenditure on the History Room. Would the same cost arise annually?
3. Committee: The current committee were all willing to stand again. Show of hands saw the committee re-elected unanimously.
4. AOB: Reminder given of our Open Day in November. Help will be needed at this event. One or two new committee members would be more than welcome.
5. Mr Younghusband proposed a vote of thanks to the committee for all their work on behalf of the Society.

**The 2018 AGM will take place on September 24th 2018 at 7.30pm
at the United Reformed Church, High Street, Highworth.**

Followed by a talk on 'Old Highworth in photos - Part 2' by Chris Suter.