

Wise correction

Following the interesting letters about The Old Manse, Swindon Street, and recollections about Wises' Bakery, I would like to clarify some details.

I have been in Highworth since I was a child and have clear memories of Wises' having a bakehouse, shop and offices above, all located on the corner of The High Street and Swindon Street in Highworth. I believe Wises' bought this corner property about 1938 and The Old Manse was still in use at that time.

However, Wises' started their business at 18 Swindon Street, where they took over from Mr. Newbury the Baker. Roger and Ken Wise had 2 small delivery vans, displaying the logo 'The Sporting Bakers' (Ken was the footballer and Roger the speedway rider), and they delivered the bread themselves.

I well remember Mrs Annie New, (now 104 and pictured in the February Link), Joyce Higgins and Gladys serving in the shop, and Mrs. Porter was Wises' Office Manager; Evelyn, my sister, worked there, in the upstairs office. As a lad, I used to go into the bakehouse and was given many a strip of sponge 'edges' and broken jam tarts! On winter days, this was a great place to get warm! All the bread was baked in the bakehouse in Westrop, the previous owner being Mr. Couzins.

Will my recollections stir up more memories, I wonder?

Don Kingston, Home Farm, Highworth

Editor: This reminds me about something I heard about Highworth on national radio a few years ago. Seems the chippy in Swindon Street used to be owned by a Mr Haddock, who sold out to Mr Fry (no relation to Highworth Link's Graham Fry). Is this true?

A good year

At the end of April, I hand over the position of Mayor and Chairman of Highworth Council to my successor.

Of the many memories I have from the last twelve months, the overwhelming one is the experience of community and friendship that was evident at each event I visited.

I want to thank all those who have supported and helped me.

Richard Scotchmer, Mayor



Help with gas and electricity bills

Grants are available to support residents with fuel debts who are either British Gas or EDF customers.

The Bristol Debt Advice Centre now covers the whole of the South West and provides financial assistance to eligible individuals and families who are struggling to pay electricity and gas bills. The Trust aims to make a long-term difference to a person's situation by reducing or paying off arrears.

For support with fuel debts (British Gas & EDF customers) contact Heather Allan or Aimee Rumbold at the Bristol Debt Advice Centre, Tel: (0117) 954 3544

For general advice on grants and discounts for insulation, information on energy tariffs guidance on reducing energy use at home or on renewable energy technologies free, phone the Wiltshire Energy Efficiency Advice Centre, Tel: 0800 512 012

For local talks, events, training and information on how to save energy at home and reduce climate change in Swindon please call the Swindon Energy Project, Tel: (01793) 463679.