
Brickbat

I wish to draw to attention to several errors in your March magazine. Firstly, the most obvious, was that the railway never went to Coleshill. Surely everyone knew that.

Secondly, the Eric Livall – I remember when, was full of mistakes. When R & K Wise first came to Highworth it was to Swindon Street – the cottage up from the Fish Shop, next to the lane which leads to the High Street shops. When R & K Wise moved to Westrop they purchased the bakery then owned by the Whites (next to Hicks the Butchers).

Now the train! Known as “The Highworth Bunk” worldwide, most of my age group all tramped over the The Butts and Humpty Dumps (work that location out!) to the black bridge, to drop stones down the chimney as it went underneath. We also made our way to Hannington and caught the train back to Highworth.

In conclusion, why oh why can you not check with someone who is aware and knowledgeable before printing such errors? Having been born in Westrop, Highworth, in 1936, my knowledge is good and my memory intact, so it grieves me to read such obvious errors.

John Jefferies (son of baker Harry Jefferies), Marines Drive, Faringdon

Editor: Mr Jefferies makes a good point about verifying facts that no one in the current Link team is old enough to know about. Highworth Historical Society has kindly agreed to check historical articles for us in future.

Arts alive in Highworth

Reading “Arty things” in the March issue of LINK, it was difficult to decide what to go to, because there were so many possible choices in this section, all happening in a short space of time. However, in the end, we decided to go along to see “Martin Simpson, the renowned singer/songwriter and one of the world’s greatest guitarists”. In all honesty, we hadn’t heard of him but it sounded good. In the event, it was sold out and we only received tickets by going on the waiting list for any returns! Thankfully, we received a couple of tickets for we, along with a packed audience, were in the presence of a master craftsman. What a wonderful evening - we all sat mesmerised and enthralled.

Thank you Anthea for compiling this section, thank you Derrick (with encouragement from Peter Arnell) for putting on the event and thank you to LINK for advertising it. Otherwise, we would have missed out on a brilliant evening.

B & P Reid

Anti-litter poster competition

The attractive streets and alleyways of Highworth are too often spoiled by litter and besmirched by chewing gum. People who are proud of their town do not treat it like a tip. A Festival Year, when we celebrate our life as a community seems a good time to raise awareness of the problem and make a real effort to keep Highworth tidy. The Highworth Festival is sponsoring an anti-litter poster competition (see Arty Things).

Litter picks can be borrowed from the Council Office for those who want to keep their own area clean, but it would be far better if litter was not dropped in the first place. It is against the law to drop litter. Anyone seen to do so is liable to a fine of £50. Litter louts, beware!

Margaret Tuckwell, President of the Highworth Festival 2008

Annoyed about anti-traveller mound

I am very annoyed and will be very angry if Highworth Town Council plans to go ahead with paying half the £30,000 it will cost SBC to install a mound in the vicinity of Blackworth Industrial Estate. Yes there was a family of proper old fashioned gypsies and their horses, not your new age travellers who tend to cause trouble. Did they harm property or anyone? As I am aware, only a tree.

I hope HTC are not considering this priority project (there are higher priority projects than this). What a total waste of money which could be better spent in or around the town. I’m sure residents of Highworth whilst gardening would gladly put spare soil in a mound if asked!

Sandra Rendall, Highworth

Editor: Evidently the majority of Town Councillors agree with Sandra Rendall. The Town Clerk, David Lane, sent Highworth Link a clarification. See HTC report on page 35.