

Work at Lakewood

Following some complaints from residents we contacted the Friends of Lakewood Chairman and our Parish Council. Here is their reply:

The Friends of Lakewood are working hard in maintaining the flora and fauna around the Lake. All work being done is under the supervision of BCP and the Parish Council and the necessary planning permissions are gained before any trees are removed and replaced with native species.

The training of youngsters in the art of angling is one of the high priorities of the Friends and the benefits of this sort of interaction with our young people should not be underestimated.

If you would like to get involved with The Friends of Lakewood please attend the AGM and seek election.

Bob Hutchings

Chairman, Highcliffe & Walkford Parish Council

Proposed Zonal Parking Scheme in South Highcliffe

There has for some time been concern about parking problems especially during the Summer. Many residents have called for summertime parking restrictions in key roads in south Highcliffe. BCP Cllr Nigel Brooks has pursued this proposal within BCP and was on the verge of getting a good plan agreed. However, after the Conservatives took over the running of the council a new Cabinet Member for Transportation and Sustainability was appointed, who cancelled that proposal in favour of a Zonal Parking Scheme based on 230 parking bays chargeable during the Summer. Fifteen roads would be affected and there is great concern that this new proposal has serious implications for traffic flows, leaving some residents paying to park their vehicles outside their houses during the summer months. HRA is putting together a strategy to oppose this scheme and will welcome the involvement of concerned HRA members.

Welcome from HRA Chairman Ian Hartnell



As I write this I feel a real sense of positivity. We now see a way out of lockdown and spring seems at last to be with us. You will see from the rest of this newsletter that a lot has been going on during lockdown and your association has been as active as it can during this difficult time.

I would like to say a huge thank you to Richard Reader who as a director and secretary has done so much for us over the past three and half years. He has now retired as a director but will stay on the Executive committee to assist with secretarial matters and communications. He has been replaced by Joan Rose who has done an excellent job as assistant secretary for the past two years. Other changes to our committee are that my wife Kathryn has retired as book-keeper and Anne Basset our membership secretary has taken over as treasurer as well. A huge thank you to everyone who has been working hard for the association.

We hope to be bringing you lots of good news over the coming months and are also looking forward to seeing you all again as soon as circumstances allow. Until then keep well and keep safe.

Ian Hartnell

Chairman

Subscription Time!

It is that time of year when HRA membership subscriptions are due from 1 April. At only £5 a year per household we hope you can see what is being done on your behalf. Although we haven't been able to have public meetings in the past year, the committee have continued to work hard and follow-up on issues which affect you. Contact can always be made via our website or by dropping off a letter at the Old School at 254 Lymington Road.

Planning Issues

Press releases were sent to all media platforms following our concern about the destruction of so many family houses in the village in order to build more flats, with particular reference to those in Chewton Farm Road. We condemned the BCP planning committee for allowing over 160 to be built in Lymington and Wharncliffe Road alone!

We organised a mail shot to members about the planning permission which is being sought to build in the woodland at Jesmond Avenue following requests from residents. Links were given to the correct planning portal to enable residents to object or comment on the application. We understand that, under an "Overage" arrangement made many years ago by Dorset County Council, the developer will be obliged to pay a significant sum to BCP Council if/when any development occurs.

We have supported the call to return to three separate planning committees for each of the three towns of Bournemouth, Poole and Christchurch, so that the needs of each specific area can be taken into account. Christchurch has far too little representation on the current single planning committee, and we were glad that we gained a large amount of coverage in the local press. We are pleased to hear that all of the local Parish Councils have joined together and are paying for a report which will go to BCP in support of this issue.

Please note that a full list of current planning applications is maintained on our website.

Highcliffe Free Little Library

Jemima Peacock has recently set up the Highcliffe Free Little Library on Nea Close. She has four boxes of books out daily from 11 am to dusk as long as it's not raining. She invites everyone to come along and browse and spread the word so more people can enjoy it. You are welcome to borrow the books and return them and donations of your unwanted books are gratefully received.

A local carpenter has volunteered to make a permanent structure for the books, which should be ready for its occupants very soon.

There is a Facebook page where Jemima publishes when she has put out the books: www.facebook.com/Highcliffe-Free-Little-Library-11260310870032/

Please report the illegal burning of waste

The Environment Agency has been investigating illegal waste carriers operating in the Christchurch area. They burn waste illegally, cause environmental damage and create a fire risk. If you are having renovations or garden maintenance carried out, make sure you understand your waste duty of care. Ask your tradesman where they will get rid of your waste, check their waste carrier's licence and get a receipt for the waste they are removing. If they can't give you any of this information, don't give them your waste. Failing to follow your duty of care could result in a fine.

Search 'waste carriers public register' to check licences online. You can also call the Environment Agency contact centre on tel. **03708 506 506**

The Old School - update by Joan Rose, Director and Secretary

As we all wait for the next phase in the battle against COVID, The Old School remains closed. It is checked on a regular basis, and we are happy to report that largely due to the new central heating system installed towards the end of last year, all remains warm and dry! The fire alarms and attendant equipment underwent the annual check and review, and minor repairs were carried out to some of the lighting. We are looking forward to the time

when we can reopen the premises and thank our tenants for their patience and support at this time.

An application has been submitted to BCP council for permission to erect a very smart new sign for the front of The Old School, which will incorporate notice boards. This will give a much clearer indication that this dear old building is in good hands. Negotiations are under way

with BCP with regards to the removal or at least the reduction of the overage which is currently in place, and we hope to have a resolution to that very soon.

Meanwhile, the thanks of the Directors go to Mary and Richard Reader, who continue to do a sterling job in the gardens and grounds at The Old School. The Spring will really demonstrate the benefit of their hard work and expertise!

News from Highcliffe and Walkford Parish Council

by Councillor Andy Martin, Vice Chairman



The Parish Council will be seeking additional councillors shortly and it might be really worthwhile interested residents coming along to our (currently virtual) meetings to see what takes place.

We are talking with BCP about the fairly deplorable state of our bus shelters. Has anyone a view they'd like to express? Our efforts to Revitalise the High Street continue but are being seriously hampered by COVID-19 and we are attempting to get BCP Council to move things along at their end with rather more urgency than they are showing.

The Parish Council's first pavement survey is now complete, and many issues have been referred to BCP. We hope to see improvements in the coming

months. We have also taken delivery of a pavement sweeper and you should already be seeing a great improvement to the cleanliness of our pavements, especially in Lymington Road.

Vandalism in Nea Meadows, Wingfield Recreation Ground and Mudeford Wood Play Area has been taken seriously and the PC is taking actions to deter future incidents and to discover the culprits.

The Council is working with the other parishes in the Borough to fund an independent report on the needed restructuring of the BCP planning system and to introduce a separate planning board for Christchurch.

Communications and Public Affairs – a report by Mary Reader

Despite the lockdown there has been a lot of activity and issues raised in the press. I thought you might find it interesting to hear about the actions carried out since our December newsletter. All information is placed on our website and Facebook page and press releases are sent to the Bournemouth Echo and New Milton Advertiser. Most notices are also posted on our three boards around the village and where relevant we send a mailshot to members with emails.

- We supported the Parish Council with their Revitalising the High Street initiative.
- Following delays, we contacted the Medical Centre to find out the progress with vaccinations in the area and gave reassurance to residents.
- We contacted the police following complaints about COVID breaches on the cliff top.
- Following reports of rogue traders in the area we posted notices on our various platforms.

- We replied to residents about the proposed change of ownership of the Recreation Ground, Bluebell Play area and Mudeford Wood play area from BCP to the H&W Parish Council.
- Notices were placed on all of our platforms at the request of Councillor Brooks to encourage residents to comment on the proposed H&W Neighbourhood Plan being prepared by the Parish Council.
- A press release was written in support of the decision by BCP to continue with the harmonisation of the rates meaning that Christchurch will not have an increase this year, whereas Bournemouth and Poole will see an increase.
- Emails were written to the BCP Countryside and Leisure Officer to request that the steps leading down from the Cliffhanger and Beacon Drive to the beach be repaired as the top surface has washed away and they have become far too steep and dangerous, especially when wet.

Report from Highcliffe Action Team - by Jane Dean

The good news is that our 8ft pillar clock has been delivered and we hope to have it installed later this month. This clock replaces the original that was first exhibited in the village in 1911 to mark the occasion of King George V's coronation.

More good news is that the Highcliffe & Walkford Parish Council will be joining forces with HAT to

ensure we give the residents and traders of Highcliffe a superb festive light exhibition this year.

It goes without saying that it's been a very difficult year for everyone. HAT have not been able to fundraise nor firm up any events or activities. But, we still hope to work on future plans to enhance our high street (and have a few ideas up our sleeves!)

The Coronation Clock

Information taken from a leaflet by Olive J Samuel

Several residents have contacted us about the removal of the Coronation Clock which used to be attached to the G&T building. You will have read in the report from HAT that it has been refurbished and is to be repositioned outside the new 'Hoburne Buildings' in the High Street.

The clock was originally provided by public subscriptions from the Inhabitants of the village to commemorate the Coronation of H.M. King George V, in 1911. A discussion among the Parish Council of Highcliffe (yes there was one then!) took place at the old Parish Hall, now the Public Library in Gordon Road, with a wish to commemorate 'for all time' the coronation. Messrs Misselbrook and Weston (situated on the corner of Gordon Road and Lymington Road) had made the offer to build a 25 foot tower on their premises. At that time the area was known as Weston's Corner.

that time the area was known as Weston's Corner. The clock had an influence on aspects of Highcliffe and a few doors away was a restaurant called 'The Clock Café'. Tea was served from 3 – 6pm every Sunday. The owner even provided tea for the Priory Sunday School from Christchurch on their annual outing to Highcliffe and more than 200 children and adults were served with tea! It seems that over the years the clock didn't keep very good time and often didn't go at all and so underwent various repairs. It was often called the village 'pest' and was the subject of a 'hullabaloo' at the Highcliffe Citizens Association as it was inaccurate and misled people.

Let's hope that when it is put in its new position it will become a reliable and much loved village icon!

Cafe Scientifique Highcliffe upcoming events

This popular group run by Derek Chant is holding Zoom meetings as follows:

Thurs May 20th 2021

BlueHealth – how “blue spaces” can improve our health and well-being
Dr James Grellier

Thurs June 17th 2021

Carbon removal using waste to achieve net zero
Brian Reynolds

Thurs July 15th 2021

“Why weren't we warned: preventing the next disaster”
Professor Brian Golding

All details on our website:
cafescientifiquehighcliffe.org.uk

Highcliffe and Walkford in Bloom Going for Gold with your help!

We have recently entered our parish into the main category of South and South East in Bloom for the first time and would welcome information and assistance from you in areas where we are less involved. Britain in Bloom has evolved from the 1960s into a community-wide competition where plants and flowers only attract 40% of the marks with the remainder being for the Community and Environment.

It is regarding our natural environment that we would like to hear more about what individuals and groups have been doing both pre and during lockdown.

Have you been involved in any interesting projects in your garden or have you been recording species of birds, butterflies, plants and the like on your own or as part of a wildlife group? Do let us know.

We would also like to hear the experiences of residents who regularly pick up litter on their daily walk helping to keep our beaches, streets and open spaces clean. Also those in small groups who tackle a problem area from time to time. It would be interesting to find out how many are involved throughout the year.

Turning briefly to our activities we will continue to maintain existing planters and intend to add a few more in the High Street. Floral displays outside shops, restaurants, public houses and business premises are also very important in brightening up all our lives so despite the difficult year you've had, please do your best.

Susan Smith

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Keep up to date with the latest news on our website www.highclifferesidents.co.uk
For membership enquiries contact membership@highclifferesidents.co.uk



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