

Introducing Richard Osgood

I was born and raised in Berkshire, where I lived for most of my life, living around the Wokingham and Newbury area, with my wife of 40 years, Jane.

In 2014 we bought a holiday home in Lymington. We were using it most weekends and when a job in my field cropped up we moved down permanently in 2016.

Highcliffe was one of our favourite spots, and on one of our regular walks we saw the apartments on Wharnccliffe Road being built. A cliché but we had always wanted a sea view so purchased our current home 2 and half years ago so I am still a fairly new resident of Highcliffe. We are pleased that we have moved to such a beautiful part of the country.

I retired in August this year having spent 30+ years in Financial Services in various middle and senior management roles.

We love travel and exploring and have thoroughly enjoyed discovering more of the local area.

I am very much looking forward to getting to know more of you.



A note from the Chair Joan Rose

Welcome to the October edition of our Newsletter. We have contributions of great interest from Highcliffe in Bloom, our Parish Councillor Andy Martin and from Mandy Polkey of Stir Events. Mandy spearheaded the recent very successful music festival in Highcliffe this year after many months of hard work supported by her volunteers and by the Parish Council. Well done to Mandy and her team for a great event.

Highcliffe in Bloom are now such a vital part of our community in Highcliffe, and Helen is full of plans to improve our environment even further. They also rely heavily on the work of volunteers and are a very welcoming and happy bunch of folks. If you feel you can spare them a little of your time, do check when they next have working parties and give them a hand. Thanks Helen and your team for all the lovely flowers in our village.

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday 23rd October 2025 at 7pm, followed by the Quarterly Members Meeting immediately afterwards. This will be the last occasion on which I will be chairing your meetings, as I am stepping down at the AGM. We have an amazing candidate for the job in the form of Richard Osgood, and we look forward to his election as the new Chair at that meeting. See his bio in this Newsletter.

The Quarterly Members Meeting, which will follow the AGM at approximately 7.30pm will be a very busy and informative occasion. We will be joined by a representative of Ridgewater Energy who will give a presentation on Keeping Warm this Winter. We are hoping to have our local PCSO along to give us an update on Law and Order in our area, and of course your councillors will be on hand for your questions.

I should like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support over the last 3 years or so, both the Committee members and our members who have attended our meetings and supported the efforts of HRA to make a difference in Highcliffe. I'm looking forward to seeing HRA go from strength to strength under Richard's chairmanship and urge everyone to get behind him and help him to get your voices heard!

The new HRA committee will be looking for members to step forward and volunteer and so I would ask that you each consider whether you can give a little time to help. If you feel you would like to get involved, please do see us at the QMM, or drop a note via the website www.highclifferesidents.co.uk and scroll down to 'Send us a message'.



News from Highcliffe and Walkford Parish

by Councillor Andy Martin

We are delighted to welcome Vanessa Ricketts as our new Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer. Vanessa is a Fellow of the society of Local Council Clerks and comes to us with over 16 years experience as a Clerk to Town and Parish Councils in Dorset and a further 10 years experience in principal councils at Head of Service level.

She is already making her presence felt in an extremely good way.

The Parish council is looking to recruit an amenities officer for seven to ten hours a week.

Among other things this role will involve managing the Council's buildings, open spaces, play park, and allotments, as well as overseeing the maintenance and statutory compliance of our local nature reserve and other open spaces.

With our assistant clerk Nicki, this will bring the team to three part time staff.

The parish council was pleased to financially support the Clifftop Music Festival as headline sponsor. The event at the beginning of September appears to have been a huge success.

Our earlier sponsorship of the Highcliffe Food and Arts Festival is also part of our commitment to community events.

Our next event is the Christmas lights switch on, set for Saturday, November 29. They will once again be Christmas trees are both Highcliffe and Walkford. Further information next month.



Vital donations for the people of Ukraine

The Highcliffe community is working to collect vital donations for the people of Ukraine as the winter fast approaches.



A group from Highcliffe is collaborating with the registered charity New Forest for Ukraine which arranges shipping - and also with a Highcliffe resident from Ukraine who is supporting the military. We are focusing on the following:

FOOD

Canned - meats, fish, vegetables, soups

Dry food - snacks, pot noodles, tea, coffee, energy bars, sugar, flour, rice, pasta.

PETS

Dry or canned food for dogs and cats, stress and flea treatment, metal water bowls.

TOILETRIES

Shower gel, soap, shampoo, toothpaste, wet wipes, nappies, male/female sanitary items, baby creams, body lotions

FIRST AID/MEDICAL

Painkillers, antiseptic creams, sterile dressings, bandages.

OTHERS

New towels, new sleeping bags, LED torches, thermal hats and gloves, candles and wax stubs to make trenches candles.

Donations can be dropped off on Mondays to the Highcliffe and Walkford Parish Council Office (The Old School, 254 Lymington Road, Highcliffe) 9am to 3pm on Mondays only and next door at the Mudeford Wood Playgroup at the rear of the Highcliffe Day Centre building, 9am-3pm Monday to Friday.

If you are unable to get to either location, we may be able to collect from you. For further information please contact:

Andy Martin:

andy.martin@highcliffewalkford-pc.gov.uk

07809 419138 or Andrii Kifak on

andriikifyak@gmail.com or visit

www.newforestforukraine.org

Highcliffe In Bloom

What a wonderful summer we had – we planted 350 plants with children at The HIGHCLIFFE Food Festival and our volunteers have been watering our planters twice a week to keep them flowering.

Our Wildflower strip by Chewton Farm Road did eventually flower, but for it to be more successful it needed more rain and needed to be planted earlier – we have learnt from our mistakes and hopefully next years will be more successful.

The success of the Food Festival has meant that the committee have agreed to purchase another planter for us which will appear before the end of the year.

We have replanted the planters in Walkford and will look into how we can enhance the area more over the coming year.

We are creating a new flower bed at the bottom of Castle Avenue and Lymington Road over the next month, so if you see us out working please come and say hello.

The date of our AGM is **THURSDAY NOVEMBER 6TH** at **THE WALKFORD PUB SKITTLE ALLEY 6PM** – please feel free to pop along.

We will also be supporting the Christmas Tree Festival at Highcliffe Castle this year by decorating a tree to promote the work we do round the local area.

Look out on our facebook page for our next work parties.



Cliff Top Music Festival A Huge Thank You, Highcliffe!

We're delighted to share that this year's Cliff Top Music Festival, held on Saturday 6th September 2025, was a fantastic success – and it's all thanks to the incredible support from the Highcliffe community.

Over 1,500 people joined us on the clifftop for a day filled with live music, dancing, food, fun, and sunshine. From the stunning vocals of the Sound of Soul Choir to our unforgettable headliners Odyssey, the energy was electric from start to finish. Local traders, fabulous food stalls, community volunteers, Highcliffe Scouts, New Forest Litter Pickers Highcliffe and Westbourne Rotary all played a key role in creating a joyful, safe, and well-organised event – and we couldn't be prouder.

We're especially grateful to Highcliffe & Walkford Parish Council for their generous sponsorship, to local businesses for backing our "Fund-a-Fence" initiative, and to all the residents who came along, dressed up, and made the day so special.

Looking ahead, we're thrilled to announce that the Cliff Top Music Festival will be returning in 2026

and this time, it's a full weekend!

Save the Dates: Saturday 5th and Sunday 6th September 2026.

Expect even more music, community spirit, and seaside magic across two jam-packed days.

Thank you again for embracing this event and for making Highcliffe such a welcoming and vibrant place to celebrate music and togetherness. We can't wait to do it all again with you next year.



Our next quarterly meeting and AGM is on **Thursday 23rd October 2025 at 7pm** in the Old School. Agendas are available on our website at www.highcliffesidents.co.uk

The new Parish Clerk: Vanessa Ricketts

Highcliffe and Walkford Parish Council has a new Clerk.

Vanessa Ricketts started at the end of July, overseeing the day to day running and on-going projects of the Council.

Vanessa is highly experienced with over 25 years in Local Government, 16 of which as a Town and Parish Clerk and she is a Fellow of the Society of Local Council Clerks.

Her previous roles have included Head of Democratic and Electoral Services and Deputy Monitoring Officer. More recently Vanessa was Chief of Staff to Sir George Meyrick and is also Chairman of BCP Standards Committee.

Vanessa says, "I am delighted to have joined the Council. I believe we are here to serve our residents and as such I aim to be as open and approachable as possible. To this end, I intend to be in the office most Mondays and look forward to meeting more HRA members in due course."

To find out what's on at The Old School, visit our website and click on 'What's On At The Old School'

Mobile Police Stations

Dorset Police has launched two new mobile police stations, which will tour the county at consistent locations and dates throughout the month.

The vehicles are operated by police community support officers, one for the east and one for the west of the county. Members of the public will be able to report crime, anti-social behaviour, intelligence or suspicious incidents, receive crime prevention advice or raise any policing related concerns to their neighbourhood team.

The eastern vehicle, based at Ferndown, will visit Highcliffe Cliff Top car park on the third Thursday of the month between 11am and 1pm. Times are subject to change as they will also be attending various engagement events across the county. Members of the public can find out the latest updates on any change to these times via the Police website –www.dorset.police.uk/MPS

If you would like to receive regular updates about what the Police are doing in your area, sign up to Dorset Alert. This is a community messaging system operated by Dorset Police, which allows them to exchange information with you by email at no cost to you. The system is designed to allow people who register, to choose the type of information they would like to receive concerning crime and anti-social behaviour, witness appeals, crime prevention, community events and local good news.

You will not be notified about every crime or incident that happens in your neighbourhood. The aim is to send you information where the Police believe to do so will reduce the opportunity for crime and anti-social behaviour or will help Dorset Police to solve a crime.

WHAT'S ON AT OLD SCHOOL	
254 Lymington Road, Highcliffe BH23 5ET	
Monday	9.30 am - 12.30 pm Men's Shed - contact John MacBean on 07547 922446 or just drop in. 10.00 am - 11.00 am Plates - contact Jo Stephens on 07903 182714 - jo@stephensfamily.co.uk 2.00 pm - 3.00 pm Plates - contact Karen Shilton on 07738 633065 - karenshilton@gmail.com
Tuesday	9.30 am - 12.30 pm Men's Shed - contact John MacBean on 07547 922446 or just drop in. 5.00 pm & 6.30 pm Swimming World - contact Suzanne Warner on - 07624 886483 9.30 am - 12.30 pm Christmas Therapy Drop in Clinic for babies & parents. (Term time only) Free of charge. Donations welcome. clara@highcliffesidents.co.uk
Wednesday	9.30 am - 12.30 pm Men's Shed - contact John MacBean on 07547 922446 or just drop in. 9.30 am - 10.50 am exercise class all abilities - contact Mel Rayner 07965 571938 - www.melraynerfitness.co.uk 7.00 pm - 9.00 pm Bhambhani Double Drum Circle - 1st Wednesday each month - contact Miriam Martin 07368 656463 miriammartin@btopenworld.co.uk 6.30 pm - 8.30 pm Highcliffe and Walkford Parish Council - 2nd Wednesday each month. See noticeboard and website for dates. www.highcliffesidents.co.uk 7.30 pm - 8.00 pm Gals' Swimming - 3rd Wednesday each month. See noticeboards or website for topics and just drop in. highcliffesidents@highcliffesidents.co.uk
Thursday	9.30 am - 12.30 pm Men's Shed - contact John MacBean on 07547 922446 or just drop in. 9.00 am - 10.30 pm Zest Dance - Music and Dance aged 18 months - 4 yrs. contact Clara Simmons on 07912443709 - clara@highcliffesidents.co.uk 2.00 pm - 3.00pm - Chair Yoga - contact Gill Taylor 07538 801733 - giltaylor1@yahoo.co.uk
Friday	9.15 - 11.15 am Highcliffe Toddler Group - (Term Time Only) Free Drop In
Legend: weekly (green), monthly (blue). Above is a typical schedule and is subject to change. Please check dates with individual hosts.	

Find out all about HRA and join or renew your membership on our website highcliffesidents.co.uk
For membership enquiries contact membership@highcliffesidents.co.uk

Highcliffe Residents' Association CIC, 254 Lymington Road, Highcliffe, BH23 5ET

