

## Use of The Old School building

**W**e were obliged to close The Old School to all group activities right from the beginning of the Coronavirus lockdown. Individual access by relevant officers from the Parish Council and Men's Shed to their respective parts of the building continued to be possible, subject to social distancing; and all the mail-boxes in the external porch remained available for use.

With the gradual easing of lockdown, the HRA Directors followed published advice from the Government and from ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England) to carry out a special COVID Risk Assessment of our community building. In the light of that, we have introduced measures within the building to make it COVID-compliant for organisations carrying out activities permitted under the latest lockdown restrictions.

We applied for a COVID grant from the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council's Small Business Grant Fund, and were successful. This will enable us to replace the antiquated central heating system in the building. Work should start in late September. We also hope to continue with the painting of the outside of the building and improving the insulation.

Work has been continuing with formalising the leases with the Parish Council and Men's Shed and we were happy to welcome the Parish Council back for a (socially distanced) Council meeting on 29 July, as well as for some committee meetings. Additionally, Slimming World have started group meetings in the Main Hall every Tuesday - see the Slimming World article later. We have also had meetings with other potential hall hirers - both to increase community use of the facility, and to help provide the income needed to keep the building maintained!

## Welcome from HRA Chairman Ian Hartnell



I'm sure that we are all glad about the gradual easing of lockdown – but we still have to be careful, as the virus is highly infectious, and very dangerous to the older and more vulnerable among us.

As a Community Interest Company, the HRA is required to hold an AGM each year, but due to the problems of the pandemic and a close family bereavement we have had to postpone our AGM until Monday 14 December.

One point that you will notice is the plea for more volunteers to join the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors. We have been very fortunate in the last year or so to welcome several new members of the Executive Committee, each with a specific role. This has greatly helped to keep our Association running properly. However, I do need to tell you that several of our HRA Directors are going to have to retire fairly soon on grounds of health, age or reduced capacity for this role. If you want the HRA to continue, please talk to us about the possibility of volunteering in the near future! We will be happy to discuss what is involved so that you can make an informed decision.

In the meantime stay safe,

Ian

**Ian Hartnell**  
*HRA Chairman*

Work is ongoing in the Old School garden. Hedges have been cut and borders are in the process of being cleared and replanted to create a more traditional cottage garden. With autumn approaching and the huge leaf drop that we have there, we would be delighted to have more help. Please get in touch if you would like to assist.

**Richard Reader**  
*HRA Director*

## Welcome to our new Director and Membership Secretary

We are pleased to announce that Joan Rose (pictured below left) has joined the board of Directors of the HRA CIC. Joan has been part of the Executive Committee as assistant secretary for the past year or so, and has become a Director to help with the many policy and administrative matters involved in running the HRA and the Old School building.

Our new membership secretary Anne Bassett (pictured below right) is also settling in very well and we have been delighted to welcome them both to assist with an increasing amount of work.



## HRA Public Affairs update

The increase of visitors to our beaches this year has brought additional problems and I have followed up on resident's concerns. These have included problems with parking in the Kilmington, Jesmond Avenue area, with visitors often blocking driveways with their cars. This was reported to the parking enforcement team. The parking officers have few powers unless more restrictions are put into place including the addition of yellow lines or timed parking bays. However, blocking driveways should be reported to the police. Anti-social behaviour, litter and illegal camping have also created problems, especially around Highcliffe Castle, which has meant that the grounds have had to be closed at 7pm.

Having written to the relevant councillors I attended the recently held Parish Council meeting and expressed our concerns about the speed along Lymington Road. Although it can be very slow during times when the traffic is very heavy, we are seeing far more people breaking the law and speeding very dangerously at other times. There is talk of a 'Community Speed Watch' so please watch this space as we will need local residents to help with this.

Some of the executive committee also attended a briefing meeting with Councillors Brooks and Martin who are working on the 'Revitalising of the High Street project'. An open meeting will be held in the Old School on Monday 14 September from 10am -1pm to receive comments from residents and traders.

Mary Reader

## Café Scientifique meeting by Zoom

For those of you with access to the internet, CaféSci is back up and running via Zoom until a time when the group can physically reconvene at The Castle Kitchen. The programme for the final quarter this year commencing in September are shown opposite.

Log in details for Zoom will be available on the website [cafescientifiquehighcliffe.org.uk](http://cafescientifiquehighcliffe.org.uk) before each meeting.

*Thursday 17th 7.00pm*  
Dr Rav Ramtohal MRPharmS  
MRCGP MRCP(UK) Dip  
*Diabetes General Practitioner*  
*Highcliffe Medical Centre:*  
"Digital and technological  
advances in primary care"

*Thursday Oct 15th 7.00pm*  
Peter Davis Regional Bee  
*Inspector, Southern Region -*  
*National Bee Unit:* "Bees and  
Honey with special reference to  
Asian Hornets"

*Thurs Nov 19th 7.00pm*  
Presented by Ryan Delmo.  
Ryan is a *Principal Security*  
*Incident Analyst at*  
*Bournemouth University* and is  
presenting: "Have you been  
Phished?"



## **Slimming World now meeting at The Old School**

**A**s reported earlier we are delighted that Slimming World are now hiring the Old School from 4.0pm – 8.30pm on Tuesday evenings.

Three sessions will be spread over that time and limited to 30 people at each one.

So if you have gained those extra kilos during lockdown or just need additional support with your weight loss do contact **Sarah Gould** on **07736 645598** and book your time slot.

## **Planning issues**

Please see the HRA website at [www.highclifferesidents.co.uk](http://www.highclifferesidents.co.uk) for a details about current planning applications.

## **The Clifftop Shelter WITH seats!**

**A**s previously reported the shelter near to the Cliffhanger café was refurbished earlier this year, but BCP had problems with the chosen seat manufacturers and despite numerous emails no more information had been forthcoming. However, they have been arrived at last, although rather peculiar in design we now have somewhere to shelter from inclement weather!



## **News from Highcliffe and Walkford Parish Council**

by Councillor Andy Martin, Vice Chairman

**I**t has been another busy period for the parish council. During lockdown we continued our meetings by Zoom and had our first, socially distanced, meeting in person in July.

Our main priority currently is the Revitalisation of the High Street project. Our traffic experts, Paul Basham Associates have reported back with a number of proposals and we will be consulting with the business community and other stakeholders in September. We want as much engagement and feedback as possible.

The future success and sustainability of the village centre was identified very early as our top priority. The viability of high streets and district centres had been a national issue for several years, not least because of the relentless rise of online shopping and the cost of rents and business rates.

But coronavirus has made this focus even more pressing from economic, environmental, health and social perspectives.

In other news, work on formulating the vital neighbourhood plan continues apace. The council continues to monitor closely and comment to BCP Council on planning applications.

Work will begin soon to replace the broken and unsafe fencing along Lymington Road by the cemetery and we are also working on plans to renovate and upgrade the pavilion at Wingfield.

The parish council continues to respond to numerous enquiries from residents by phone, email and through our website.

We are here to help.



## News from the High Street

The Highcliffe Action Team (HAT) has some exciting developments in the pipeline that will be revealed over the coming months. Mandy Payne and Jane Dean report that they have had a positive meeting with the BCP regarding this year's festive lights. Although, due to the current guidelines, there will be no official gathering at a 'switch-on' event, there will be a wonderful Christmas light display to hopefully bring some comfort and cheer to the local community. We believe that now, more than ever, people need some reassurance and familiarity in their lives and hopefully the traditional festive display lighting our high street will help to achieve a semblance of normality.

I am so pleased to report that the popular

jewellery shop Crystal World in Lymington Road is **not** closing after all, but following a renegotiation with the landlord who has agreed to a year by year lease, it will now open from Wednesday to Saturday each week. So please pop in and support owner Natalie Symes and this long established business.

The very popular Muir Chapman hairstylists have moved to a larger salon at the eastern end of the village. Their previous landlords had requested a much larger rent and together with the problems of social distancing they have moved to a brand new spacious salon at 420a Lymington Road, BH23 5HE. They have put into place the most thorough Covid precautions so that you can keep as safe as possible.

## Highcliffe in Bloom

We have had a fairly quiet year so far apart from a very busy few days around planting time when it was necessary to work out how to empty and replant our floral features whilst socially distancing due to Covid-19.

Last year we filled our four new timber planters on the cliff top with grasses and herbaceous plants. The rabbits thanked us for our efforts to give them a change in their diet particularly thrift, lavender and the blue grass and residents opposite enjoyed watching their antics. But the rabbits weren't keen on a geranium or two or the grass varieties which did exceptionally well. Not to be deterred we kept the grasses as windbreaks and bought some different perennial

plants including hardy geraniums and Agapanthus. Then as a further deterrent we planted some marigolds and so the rabbits have now returned to the lower slopes!

We are now in the process of sorting out an autumn and winter planting programme with some additional displays in the area which may include some culinary herbs for gathering.

Susan Smith

*Ed's note: Sadly, BCP Council have done very little clearing or planting in the village this year, except for the borders in the Recreation Ground and at the Castle. But we hope that you have enjoyed seeing the three-tiered planters created by members of Highcliffe in Bloom.*



Keep up to date with the latest news on our website [www.highclifferesidents.co.uk](http://www.highclifferesidents.co.uk)  
For membership enquiries contact [membership@highclifferesidents.co.uk](mailto:membership@highclifferesidents.co.uk)



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