

## News from the HRA Chair Joan Rose

Highcliffe has been a hive of activity over the last few months, with lots of visitors from far and wide coming to enjoy our lovely coastline not withstanding our unpredictable summer weather. We have had new businesses opening on our high street, and some others unfortunately closing down. New buildings are springing up everywhere, and some of this development is not always welcome. An increase in traffic on our roads is giving residents cause for concern due to speeding and inconsiderate parking. Graffiti is also becoming a nuisance, creating an unsightly focus in the village and Clifftop.



Your Association is working closely with Parish and BCP Councillors to try and tackle some of these ongoing issues, but as ever, we rely on your feedback to effect change. Please send us a message via our website at [www.highclifferesidents.co.uk](http://www.highclifferesidents.co.uk) and scroll down to 'send us a message'

We respond very quickly and can pass on your comments and problems to the right people. You can also complain direct to BCP Council via their 'Report a Problem' page at [www.bcpCouncil.gov.uk/report-a-problem](http://www.bcpCouncil.gov.uk/report-a-problem)

If you feel that no-one is listening, or that your problem is too small to be of interest, don't let that deter you from getting in touch with us. It's interesting to note that a whole campaign is often triggered by one member of the public raising an issue. We investigate and find that the question is applicable to a wider number of people or a larger area. What is that old saying, "a problem shared is a problem halved"?

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday 28 September 2023, commencing at 6.45 for 7pm at The Old School, 254 Lymington Road Highcliffe. Please do try to attend as we will be discussing an important issue for the future, and we will be asking members to have their say and vote on our proposal. This will be followed by the Quarterly Members Meeting which will be attended by the BCP Council Officer responsible for traffic management. He has some exciting news to pass on to you all.

See you there!

**Joan Rose**

## Looking for a Local Space to Hire?

If you are looking for space to run your class or group in Highcliffe, rehearsal space or a place to meet, we have the local venue for you at the Old School. We are wheelchair-accessible and now have a hearing loop installed so that

everyone can be involved. For availability and hire charges go to our website: [www.highclifferesidents.co.uk/hall](http://www.highclifferesidents.co.uk/hall) or email us on: [bookings@highclifferesidents.co.uk](mailto:bookings@highclifferesidents.co.uk)

## **An Award for the Castle**

**W**ell done to the team from Highcliffe Castle who have been recognised by @tripadvisor with a Travellers Choice 2023 award and are keen to thank visitors for leaving such positive reviews.

We have all missed having the tearooms at the Castle and we have received news that tenders will be issued this autumn for interested people who wish to take them over. In the meantime the license has been extended until Christmas for the mobile vehicle run by the Cliffhanger.

## **HRA building Closer links with others in the local community** **By Mary Reader**

**H**RA is becoming affiliated to the Highcliffe Community Association HCA and we are looking at working together as regards our membership and facilities.

Another great link is with our local Primary school, Highcliffe St Marks. The head of school Mrs Claire Barker is keen to encourage the children to become more involved in the wider community and this year the year 4's and 5's took part in the Highcliffe Food and Arts Festival "Design a Meal on a Paper Plate" art competition and created some wonderful entries that were on show in the Old School over the weekend.

If you happen to be walking past the school, do look at the flower shield that the children have created as part of the Year 6 legacy project. This was supported by Dorset Gardens Trust who have also worked with the school to improve other areas of the school garden, including a great vegetable and butterfly garden.

## **Highcliffe in Bloom by Helen Dow**

**W**e have had many favourable comments about our planters as they have really cheered up the village this year. To help with watering we employed BCP to water them this year and that has taken a lot of stress away from the committee, but unfortunately it has eaten into our finances and so we are looking into fundraising for the coming season. We are also thinking about asking the local shop owners to consider watering planters outside their shops. Gifted has offered to water the planter outside their premises and Sue Ryder has been watering the bed outside their shop, so that really helps, but there are still another 23 planters that will need to be watered next year- something to think about!

We would like to thank Winkworth Estate Agents who gave us a donation towards plants for Waterford Road.

It was great to meet so many of you at the Highcliffe Food and Arts Festival and several locals approached us about the need for more planters - possibly by the Highcliffe sign at Shelley Close and up the other end by the roundabout- these will be discussed to see if we can sort something, but we do need the support of all of Highcliffe to make these things happen.

Our allotment has been doing well and we are hoping next year to be able to donate our excess produce to the local food bank.

We are looking to organise a few work parties in the next few months, so please keep an eye on our Facebook page.

## **Ask your Neighbours and Friends to join us!**

**H**ave you thought about asking their friends and neighbours if they are HRA members and if not do encourage them to sign up - at £5 for the year it is a bargain and the positives of being involved really help to make a contribution for the benefit of the village:  
[highclifferesidents.co.uk/join](http://highclifferesidents.co.uk/join)

## **Highcliffe Theatre Group**

**D**id you know that Highcliffe has had its own theatre group for over 53 years? If you love the theatre and don't want to worry about going alone and the possibility of a late night journey home, why don't you join and enjoy visits by coach to theatres all over the south of England. Contact Sheila Chamberlaine on 07485 078446 for more details.

## **Make a date for Highcliffe Food and Arts Festival for 2024**

**F**ollowing on from the huge success of this year's festival, dates have been announced for next year's event which will take place on 8th and 9th June 2024. Directors Tina Jaffray and Mary Reader have already started work on the event and are looking for more volunteers to join the committee. Please do contact Mary at [readercomm@aol.com](mailto:readercomm@aol.com) if you would like to help

# News from the Parish Council and our BCP Councillors

## by Councillor Andy Martin



**1** : The parish council did not meet in August but members having been working through the summer (with your BCP ward councillors) on the continuing battle to save Jesmond Wood. We are still awaiting confirmation from the Planning Inspectorate on whether the developer's appeal will be accepted and if so, what form the appeal will take.

**2**: The parish council is to produce a biodiversity strategy for the whole parish area. Work begins on this later in August.

**3**: The parish is expected to take ownership of the recreation ground and three play areas imminently, after the transfer from BCP Council was signed off.

**4**: The parish council is going to look in depth at key infrastructure projects it can fund with BCP including improving the key pathways on and down the clifftop, as well as high street pavement improvements.

Your two BCP ward councillors, as well as dealing with numerous ward issues, many involving planning and anti-social behaviour, have been working on the revised Local Plan with officers to ensure it tightens up policies to protect Highcliffe and Walkford's green spaces and character. This plan will go out for consultation later in the year.

Meanwhile a main traffic order covering numerous issues across the conurbation has been approved, which means BCP work can start on implementing 30mph at end of Lymington and along Ringwood Road, where it is currently 40mph.

As a bit of financial context, BCP Council must find £44m of savings in the next few months if it is to achieve a balanced budget in 2024/25. Otherwise it will have to issue a Section 114 bankruptcy notice.

## Men's Shed News by John Macbean

**I**t's good to talk and Men's Shed can certainly do that! We like to enjoy ourselves and recently held a Beer and Skittles event. A good time was had by all, and we raised some money to add to our funds. We also attended the Stanpit car boot sale and despite the less than helpful weather, disposed of some surplus hand tools.

Here is a picture of us all being busy!



For more information check out our website: [www.christchurchshed.org](http://www.christchurchshed.org), call Robin on 07547 922246 or just pop in at the back of the Old School on a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday morning.

## A Clothes Swap at St Marks!

**A**re you wondering what to do about your unwanted clothes? Help could be at hand at an adults and children's clothes swap being held at St Marks Church Hall by Highcliffe Charity Players on Saturday 30th September from 10am-12noon. The admission charge is £3.00 to cover the hall hire and refreshments of coffee and cake will be available at an extra charge.

Our next quarterly meeting is on **Thursday 28th September 2023 at 6.45 for 7pm** in the Old School. An Agenda will be available on our website at [highclifferesidents.co.uk](http://highclifferesidents.co.uk)

## Welcoming New Businesses to the village

There has been a lot of speculation in the village over the future of the Lord Bute, by the time you read this newsletter Bradley Green will be leading the restaurant 'Lord Bute by Bradley Green', and the hotel will remain open under Bradley's business partner. With his years of experience Bradley wants diners to expect the best with his arrival.

While there will be "no major changes" at Lord Bute before the end of the year, plans have been announced for a restaurant revamp in January 2024. This will involve a refurbishment to create a "refined ambience" for guests, and the redesign and "modernisation" of the food menu.

Bradley, who grew up in Essex, began his career at the illustrious Il Bottaccio on Grosvenor Place, Belgravia. He went on to create Green's - a top-tier brand of London restaurants which has experienced huge success, picking up 16 awards and a top ranking in Time Out magazine.

Another eatery that has changed hands is the old Driftwood Café in the High Street. That has become 'Tides' it does accept dogs if you are out walking with your pooch!



For those of you who enjoy cooking curries we also have an Asian food shop where the Gourmet Grocer used to be.

Many of us were sad to see the Wardrobe dress agency close after so many years, but a new boutique called Star Boutique selling popular brands of ladies fashions, alongside stylish accessories and jewellery is opening soon at their old shop. 422 Lymington Road, Highcliffe.

We wish all of our new business owners our very best wishes and hope that you will all support them too!

## Turn your shopping into everyday magic!

Highcliffe Residents' Association (HRA) is now registered as a good cause with fundraising website Easyfundraising. This means that you, our residents and supporters, can turn your everyday online shopping into funds for HRA, to help us give you a voice locally and keep the Old School at the heart of our community.

When you register as a supporter of HRA and use the Easyfundraising website or app to shop with leading retailers, the retailer sends HRA a free donation at no additional cost. There are over 7000 retailers available to shop with, including **Amazon, eBay, Argos, Tesco Groceries, John Lewis, Compare The Market Car Insurance, Confused.com Car Insurance, Trainline, Booking.com, Currys, Aviva, M&S, Debenhams, Waitrose, Direct Line Car Insurance.** It means that no matter what you buy online, from travel and holidays to fashion, homewares, insurance, and groceries - we can earn free donations.

Brands pay us a commission because when you start your shop from the Easyfundraising website or app, they can see we sent you to them. If you make a purchase, a commission is generated and a donation is made at no cost to you, the shopper or to HRA.

Go to our website at [www.highclifferesidents.co.uk](http://www.highclifferesidents.co.uk) and click on the link to find out how it works and register.

Thank you!

Keep up to date with the latest news and join HRA 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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