



# Highfield Residents' Association

Spring  
2019



[www.highfieldresidents.org.uk](http://www.highfieldresidents.org.uk)

[highfieldracomms@gmail.com](mailto:highfieldracomms@gmail.com)

Dear Members and Residents, I thought this year I might say a little about the work HRA does at a national level as a member of the National Organisation of Residents Associations (NORA) of which I am currently Vice Chairman. In November last year a delegation met with senior Civil Servants at the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) where we presented the concerns of residents groups throughout the country to them on a range of matters, these included: the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF); Housing, Neighbourhood Plans (NPs - Bassett has one); Short Term Lets à la Airbnb and; the ability of developers to be able to Appeal twice, first against a Planning Refusal and subsequently any Enforcement notice. It would take too long to elaborate on the details here but I would just mention two examples where previously we have been successful in obtaining a change to the regulations through networking with the then Dept of Local Communities and Government (DCLG) and Members of Parliament, for controls on HMOs and latterly the introduction of Sec 70 of the Localism Act, which prevents repeat applications for the same or similar proposals. Currently we are lobbying Government on both the shortcomings of the Appeal system and for some kind of control over Short Term Lets which, as with HMOs, are decimating the housing stock in areas such as London, Bath, Bournemouth and any town or city that is a major tourist attraction, a problem that is now an international one and for which some continental cities already have controls.

We have also supported the Sandbanks RA in their fight to preserve a 160 year old hotel where Marconi made his first transmissions, from being turned into yet more flats on the peninsula. HRA's Barrister gave them initial valuable advice that has hopefully helped to forestall the application.

More locally we continue to work with the Council on Planning and Enforcement issues and whilst there are inevitably times

**HRA 43<sup>rd</sup> AGM**  
 Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2019 @ 7.30 PM  
**Highfield House Hotel**  
 An opportunity for residents to raise issues of concern.  
 Followed by a social gathering and complimentary drinks.

where we are at variance or opposed to particular applications, we accept there are very narrow grounds for refusal in most cases, which are not perhaps generally understood. It is also often not realised that Enforcement is only a discretionary power and the Local Authority is hugely under resourced in being able to deal with the massive number of cases and therefore has to be selective on where to take a stand. It is particularly gratifying to see that in a case in a Conservation Area lost at Judicial Review and where the Applicant has since significantly exceeded the permission granted, the Council is taking a stand and issuing enforcement proceedings: of course that will not be the end of the matter as inevitably there will be an Appeal, so the fight goes on! To illustrate we are not NIMBYS, we are happy to support the application to extend the Highfield House Hotel by another badly needed 30 bedrooms and are proud of our role in saving this site from becoming yet more student accommodation under the previous ownership!

HRA is especially grateful to SCC for a recent award from Community Chest towards our operating costs.

(Continued on page 2)

## Join the HRA

- \* We represent your interests and campaign on local issues
- \* We check local planning and licensing applications
- \* It is only £5 a year per household
- \* You get access to lots of local discounts
- \* Membership is open to all (form on back page)

**Baffi Pizza**  
10% discount

**Ceno Restaurant & Wine Bar**  
10% discount off food and drinks (when taken with food)

**Coffee#1**  
10% discount off food and drinks

**Crafty Fox**  
10% discount on food and beer

**Elizabeth House Hotel**  
10% off hotel rates (except those published by booking agents)  
10% off food and drink (with meals only).

**Ghandi's Restaurant**  
10% discount off food and drinks

**T. Greenslade Fresh Fish Ltd**  
10% discount on locally caught fish, Fridays 9am – 1pm, opposite Waitrose

**Highfield House Hotel**  
10% off the best available rate

**Highfield Natural Health Centre**  
£5 discount off standard fee for all treatments

**Innervision Hair and Beauty**  
10% discount on Tuesdays

**Kohinoor of Kerala Restaurant**  
10% discount off food

**Kuti's Brasserie, Oxford Street**  
20% discount on midweek & non anniversary days

**La Baronia**  
Sunday to Thursday inclusive, 10% off food

**Mango Thai Tapas Bar & Restaurant**  
10% discount off food

**MGB Fitness – It's Personal**  
One free week local fitness studio training— Inc. 3 training sessions

**Nuffield Southampton City and Campus Theatres**  
10% discount off all main house productions; Studio Theatre programme; film/live screenings

**Portswood Cycles**  
5% discount off bike purchases ; 10% off servicing & parts

**Simply Eat Co**  
10% discount

**Trago Lounge**  
10% off hot drinks and cakes , weekdays 9:00 — 16:00

... More benefits online  
\*Terms and conditions apply; Members must present a valid HRA membership card.

Finally, I must thank my fellow committee colleagues and Street Reps for their unceasing hard work and vigilance on behalf of our community and to make a plea once more for a suitably qualified candidate to come forward and be considered as Chair; it really is time for someone else to take the responsibility and to give me a break after so many years at the helm, please...!



— Jerry Gillen, HRA Chairman

## Highfield House hotel expansion



Proposed hotel expansion and refurbishment highlighted in red

We are delighted to share our plans to enhance and develop this much-loved hotel in the heart of Portswood with the members of the Highfield Residents' Association.

The hotel is one of the area's best-known buildings and holds a tremendous amount of historic value, originally having various hotels on the site since 1945, and before that, the site was home to the music shop owner Henry Price Hodges, who lived here until he died on the Titanic in 1912.

The hotel in its present form was acquired back in August 2017 by Ashley Hotels, a privately-owned family-run business. Ashley Hotels have more than 20 years' experience of developing and managing hotels. With an additional six hotels currently in the portfolio, the Highfield House Hotel was a perfect addition.

One of Ashley Hotels' core values is to provide guests with the best possible customer experience; and at Highfield House we strive to go beyond all guests' expectations. Our hotel group is widely recognized for creating lasting impressions through the exceptional customer service we provide coupled with comfortable, well equipped accommodation at affordable prices.

From a development perspective, our plans since the acquisition have been to invest in to the property, to restore and regenerate the hotel to its former glory. With this in mind we plan to extend the property by adding 30 new bedrooms, together with a renovation of the existing bedroom stock. Upon completion, bedrooms will be fully air-conditioned as standard, but we will also offer a range of executive suites.

Over the course of the extension and renovation works, our aim is to make the Highfield House Hotel the prime affordable hotel on the outskirts of the city centre.

— Paul Upton, General Manager

## The little common

CommonSense is a group of local volunteers, formed in 2008 whose aim is to assist with the upkeep of Southampton Little Common, for the benefit of all those who use it. The Little Common is separated from the larger, western, part of Southampton Common by the Avenue (A33) trunk road which is the historic route in and out of the city.



2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month

**Volunteers needed**

Join the mailing list

<http://southamptoncommon.org/contact/maillinglist>

CommonSense produced an Action Plan endorsed by the City Council, aiming to restore the condition of the Little Common to that shown in a plan originally drawn up by the Council in 1992. This is carried out by a group of dedicated volunteers and we are in need of some new equipment. We would be grateful if you would consider donating to our fund raising page or donate your time by becoming a volunteer.

[www.southamptoncommon.org](http://www.southamptoncommon.org)

— Steven Johnston

## Rejuvenation of The Hawthorns

Plans are afoot to improve the facilities on offer to all members of the community at The Hawthorns. A group of volunteers and staff met on a number of occasions in 2018 to prioritise actions, namely:

- \* Installing a water bottle refill station by the Hawthorns front entrance. Another refill station will also be installed at the kiosk in the new play area (for completion by June 2019). Southampton Common Forum (SFC) have also applied to the Leeds Building Society Community fund for a third to be sited at a site convenient for Parkrunners.
- \* Offering a cashless payment service in the café. (Summer 2019).
- \* Removal of porta cabin from the front yard to widen the outside space and make the entrance more welcoming (Summer 2019).
- \* Cleaning the front gates and tidying the front entrance from the Common pathway, trimming overgrown shrubs and making the Hawthorns Centre more visible.

With slender resources available, the refurbishment of the activity room is to be given first priority. Once agreed, the refurbishment will be implemented by volunteers to give the activity room a whole new look. This is exciting progress. If you have any comments, feedback or ideas about the facilities or events run at The Hawthorns please contact SFC.

[www.southamptoncommonforum.org](http://www.southamptoncommonforum.org)

— Barbara Claridge

## Leonardo da Vinci

To mark the 500th anniversary of the death of Leonardo da Vinci, 144 of the Renaissance master's greatest drawings in the Royal Collection will go on display in 12 simultaneous exhibitions across the UK. Southampton City Art Gallery will be the only host venue on the south coast. The hosting of this special exhibition is testament to the high esteem in which the gallery is held. Entry is free.

Dan Matthews, Exhibitions & Collections Manager commented

\*Terms and conditions apply; HRA Members ONLY; Offer applies 2019, ONE per customer

**CRAFTY FOX**

**Pint and toastie for £8.95**

14 BROADWAY, PORTSWOOD,  
SOUTHAMPTON, SO17 2WE

that Southampton were contacted by the Royal Collection Trust several years ago to be involved in the celebrations and initial meetings were held at Windsor Castle, involving all of the potential partners. Geography played a part in determining which galleries were approached, but the Trust were also keen that the exhibitions were held at prestigious Galleries. Southampton is designated by Arts Council England as having outstanding national significance.

The exhibition will also include examples of all the drawing materials employed by the artist, including pen and ink, red and black chalks, watercolour and metalpoint. They will also present new information about Leonardo's working practices and creative process, gathered through scientific research using a range of non-invasive techniques, including ultraviolet imaging, infrared reflectography and X-ray fluorescence.

To mark this major exhibition the Gallery is producing a series of complementary exhibitions. This includes an exhibition, by reputed Southampton-based artist, Greg Gilbert, featuring drawings that resonate with Leonardo's work. Drawings from its own Designated Fine Art collection, which demonstrate the importance of drawing in an artist's practise, and its significance as a medium in its own right, will also be on display.

Southampton City Art Gallery: Exhibition 1 February – 6 May, Leonardo da Vinci Day for families is on Saturday 4 May.

[www.southamptoncityartgallery.com](http://www.southamptoncityartgallery.com) — **Barbara Claridge**

## Helping carers coordinate and connect

The University of Southampton's Sustainable Energy Research Group is currently looking to recruit participants to test and provide feedback on an app and sensors (CareTeam) to help co-ordinate and connect carers. If you are either a carer for family or friends or an adult that receives regular help, CareTeam could help you and your carers connect, communicate and coordinate your everyday activities in an efficient, less stressful way.

CareTeam is a research project that looks to help people with care needs achieve independent, comfortable living at home for longer. At the same time the project tries to provide a tool to carers to save time and effort in everyday tasks.

The app can be used on a smart phone or tablet (of any carers and/or persons receiving care) and lets you connect, share and plan care responsibilities with those you invite in your network such as family members, neighbours, friends or even paid carers. The CareTeam App has a calendar, tasks' management, messaging and alerts to help organize and plan care or collectively keep track of important information such as appointments and medication. Free household sensors are supplied as part of the trial allowing live remote access to movement, humidity and temperature in the home. Users will be able to configure the app to give notifications when there has been no movement for a specified time or temperature has risen above or below a set threshold. You can contact us for a showcase without any obligation to participate.

Participants will require a short 15-30 minute home visit, at a time that suits them, where we would install and explain the app alongside installing two background activity sensors. The non-intrusive sensors are issued freely and will connect to your app displaying a live temperature and motion feed.

Each participant in receipt of care will receive a £50 gift voucher for a store of your choosing as a thank-you for taking part. If you are wishing to take part, or have any questions, please contact us.

[P.A.D.Turner@soton.ac.uk](mailto:P.A.D.Turner@soton.ac.uk)

— Philip Turner & Leo Bourikas



The Savoy (c 1955)

## Going to a cinema near you

At one time Southampton had a rich cinema tradition, with 19 picture houses within the city boundary, including many local ones in the suburbs. Over the years there have been five cinemas within a short walk of Portswood High Street, which still boasts two former picture house buildings. At one end was the Broadway, a 1564-seater cinema with a balcony restaurant, which opened on 6<sup>th</sup> June 1930 and closed on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 1963. Its first screening was Rookery Nook, starring Tom Walls. Its final programme paired Michael Winner's West 11 (Diana Dors starred) with Unearthly Stranger (with the late Warren Mitchell). It offered kids' Saturday morning film shows; 4 hours for 6d! After closure, the building became a Mecca bingo palace and now houses the Victory Gospel Church.

Next to Portswood Library, was the beautiful Palladium cinema. It opened on 17<sup>th</sup> February 1913. Described as "The prettiest picture palace outside of London", its walls were in the famous Wedgewood pale blue style, whilst the seating was a plush velvet royal blue; it seated 500 in the stalls and 150 in the small balcony. This was popular due to its location across from the tram station (now Sainsburys). Wounded World War I British troops are known to have attended a screening of Tipperary along with Belgian refugees. Tickets cost 9d (about 4p). It closed in 1958 with the great British comedy Blue Murder at St. Trinian's. Although the building survives, it lost its cinema look when the old glass canopy was removed and it became a supermarket.

North along Portswood Road was the Plaza, which was converted into the very first B&Q store in the country before being demolished. Machine Mart now stands in its place. Further along on Swaythling High Road was the exquisite 1032-seater Savoy cinema. It opened on 10th November 1938 with Bette Davis's Jezebel (tickets 6d) but closed 21 years later and was demolished in 1961. To complete the quintet, on the corner of Priory Road before Cobden Bridge, was the Scala cinema (refurbished into the Lyric cinema in 1926). It opened in 1914 with 550 seats, but closed in 1940. The site is now occupied by housing.

Whilst all of these cinemas have come and sadly gone, the Southampton Film Theatre, aka the Phoenix, screening since 9<sup>th</sup> December 1931 and based on the University campus, is one of the best and most enduring.

[www.thephoenix.org.uk](http://www.thephoenix.org.uk)

— Graham Cole, Chairperson

\*Terms and conditions apply; HRA Members ONLY; Offer applies 2019, in store only

# octoberbooks

£2 off for every £10 spent in store; Valid : 2019

## Southampton Scrapstore

The Southampton Scrapstore on the Belgrave Industrial Estate, Portswood is a veritable Aladdin's cave! It aims to recycle waste that circa 50 businesses throw away by turning it into art & craft resources for the community. This saves thousands of pounds. Some businesses like Estée Lauder have a zero% waste policy and re-use or recycle all their waste.

There are approximately 100 Scrapstores in the UK, all independent charities. Scrapstore Southampton was set up by an ex-volunteer Alice and her husband in 1985 and was originally at the Thornhill Eastpoint Centre. It has approximately 30 volunteers and two paid staff: the Co-ordinator Wendy Waghorn and Gwen who drives the Scrapstore transit van.

Suppliers come from as far afield as Petersfield and include companies like Cooper Vision, B&Q and D.C. Upholstery. Waste materials include fabric rolls, rubber shapes, carpet swatches, leather, buttons, card, paper and even Ikea ex display items such as cushions. On arrival, all items are unloaded, sorted into different containers and pins and staples removed.

Customers pay an annual membership fee and include schools, churches and residential homes. Large schools pay £200 year; smaller groups pay less. About 70% of Southampton schools are members and the catchment area extends to Bognor Regis. Individual membership is £19.50 a year and there is also Event Membership. More details on the website below. Non members are allowed a one-off visit and can attend Open Days.

There is one condition to membership; all buyers have to re-use the materials for their own personal use and not sell it.

In the absence of a Council grant, the Scrapstore has to raise other funds to survive. It holds four Open Days a year, attracting hundreds of people. The last Open Day raised £1,252 through a small bag charge. It's Annual Craft Fayre in November raised £600; a stall at the Winchester Christmas Market in December raised £300 and it also has a small in-house shop selling sewing and craft items for knockdown prices. It is also trying to launch a Folsy online webshop. Their Facebook page is an important publicity tool and has over 3000 followers, often bringing in new members.

Scrapstore Southampton also accepts materials from individual households. These must be safe, not contaminated, broken or made of glass; and can be used by children. If you would like to donate, contact them to find out more! Please support this amazing recycling enterprise!

[www.southamptonscrapstore.org.uk](http://www.southamptonscrapstore.org.uk) — Nadine Johnson

## Archaeological discovery

A plate featuring a bare-chested woman and a cannon ball are among items found by archaeologists in Southampton. The dig in the city centre is taking place ahead of the redevelopment of the Bargate Quarter, which will see shops and more than 150 flats being built; with the medieval town walls as the centrepiece of the new Bargate development.



Mercury jar and flint cannon ball :  
Southampton City Council Archaeology



Unrivalled local knowledge and expertise in the sale and let of quality homes in Highfield.

Contact Pearsons for specialist property advice in the Highfield area. We offer a superior marketing strategy for homes of distinction, including listing on the property portal

[OnTheMarket.com](http://OnTheMarket.com)

023 8023 3288

[pearsons.com](http://pearsons.com)



The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily the views of HRA or its members©; Printed by Indigo Press Limited 023 8023 1196 on paper produced from sustainable forests, printed with vegetable inks; Newsletter Team; Steven Johnston, Jerry Gillen, Nicolla Martin, Nadine Johnson, and the Street Reps ; Newsletter contributions, articles and comments are welcome; Contact [www.highfieldresidents.org.uk](http://www.highfieldresidents.org.uk) / [highfieldracomms@gmail.com](mailto:highfieldracomms@gmail.com)

## Highfield Residents' Association membership application form

I / We would like to join / renew membership of the HRA

Name(s) of adults \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ Tel No. \_\_\_\_\_

I give my positive consent for the HRA to use and store my personal data & to send me newsletters & other communications: **YES / NO**

I enclose my membership fee of £ \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_ ( £5:00/ household) and a voluntary donation of £ \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_ Thank you.

Send to: Membership Secretary, 5 Marlborough House, 2A Oakmount Ave, SO17 1BX; or can be dropped into Highfield News.

Cheques should be made payable to **Highfield Residents' Association**.

*Please do not send cash through the post.*

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_