



Highfield Residents' Association

Winter 2019



www.highfieldresidents.org.uk

highfieldracomms@gmail.com

Dear Members, Residents, Friends and Colleagues,

As most of you will know, I have been attempting to stand down as Chairman of HRA for the last three years or so now and whilst we have yet to find a permanent replacement, I do, nevertheless, expect this to be my final Chair's report before our AGM in April.

With this in mind I feel it may be helpful to summarise our involvement in community activity generally, both locally and nationally as part of the NSCF and also National Organisation of Residents' Associations, where we try and represent communities' concerns on things such as Planning, Housing and Licensing, particularly at a Government level.

On local issues the overriding concerns of residents still seems to be the problems associated with HMOs, whether it is bins left on pavements, Anti-Social Behaviour or unkempt properties and front gardens. There is the additional issue of HMOs operating without Planning Permission and/or Licencing plus the increasing proliferation of Airbnb type properties where these are being wholly let out, rather than just the odd room in someone's home. Some years ago before planning permission was required for new HMOs and the introduction of the SPD to regulate them locally, the Fire Brigade estimated there were some 12,000 in Southampton. Approximately only a third of these are currently licensed or fully conform to the regulations. This clearly remains a problem. 'The SPD needs to be amended and strengthened to prevent further spread and to ensure the required standards of accommodation. Southampton's issues need to be incorporated.

Another matter of local concern is the difficulty in some areas of maintaining an active Residents' Association. In this regard, I would particularly like to pay tribute to Jean Wawman of East Bassett Residents' Association, who died last year after many years of service to her community and with whom I worked closely on many Planning matters, including Appeals and issues with the University. Unfortunately EBRA has now ceased to function but it is hoped it may be resurrected if others are prepared to come forward and re-gather the reins.

Expressions of interest are sought by the Committee of HRA for:

APPLY NOW!

Vice-Chair

Do you have the skills and interest in your local community to join HRA as Vice-chair and assume the role of Chair from the AGM in April 2020?

For further information and expressions of interest please email HRAHonSec@gmail.com

It is so important for communities to have an active Residents' Association; they are I believe, the cornerstone of a civilised society, the glue that binds and which helps to foster a sense of common purpose, whilst encouraging community cohesion and social inter-action. An example of this would be HRA's very successful Summer Social jointly held with Portswood Residents' Gardens held at the end of July – we all had fun, games and nice food in a great community atmosphere.

Finally, nationally we are currently lobbying Government via the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to simplify the Planning Appeals Process, strengthen the ability of Local Authorities to carry out effective enforcement and introduce regulation of STLs à la Airbnb, but as you can imagine, with the current hiatus this is proving near impossible!

Lastly, we need someone with the necessary skills or experience to join the committee with a view to taking over the Chair in due course.

— Jerry Gillen, Chairman

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)

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Bayleaf Kitchen

15% discount off food

Ceno Restaurant & Wine Bar

10% discount off food and drinks (when taken with food)

Coffee#1

10% discount off food and drinks

Elizabeth House Hotel

10% off hotel rates (except those published by booking agents)

10% off food and drink (with meals only).

Garden Restaurant

10% discount

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

Innervision Hair and Beauty

10% discount on Tuesdays

Kohinoor of Kerala Restaurant

10% discount off food

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

Noodle 8

10% discount off food

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10% discount off all main house productions; Studio Theatre programme; film/live screenings

Portswood Cycles

5% discount off bike purchases ; 10% off servicing & parts

Trago Lounge

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

Vibe Unisex Hairdressers

10% discount

... More benefits online

*Terms and conditions apply; Members must present a valid HRA membership card.

HRA Nature Notes

Now that Autumn is well and truly with us the changes across Highfield and into the Common are most noticeable in the changing leaves and shorter daylight hours. We are lucky to live in an area rich in a variety of magnificent trees from beech to oak, with field maple and ash in between. These are all native British trees. Space around wide residential avenues like Westwood Road and Abbots Way and footpaths and cycle ways like Lovers' Walk and the Common itself has allowed superb specimen trees to mature. They are glorious on dry and wet days alike and the leaves are singing with colour.



Much has been achieved over the summer with the encouragement of HRA and SCF volunteer workforce at the Hawthorns activity room, opening up the area to the south of the ornamental lake, installation of drinking fountains at The Hawthorns and the playpark and regular summer mowing of parts of the Common and the reinstatement of the north entrance to the Little Common on Highfield Road. Common Sense has continued its voluntary work on the Little Common with the landscape looking more cared for, safe and welcoming. Made possible by the amazing work from Ian, Wally, Pete, the Tractor & Area Parks teams; thanks!

However, the security fencing that was erected when large quantities of blue-green algae appeared in the summer, remains around the boating lake. Southampton City Council, the Environment Agency and the RSPCA were called after concerns were raised over the state of the water. Although the algae has now gone, the fencing is likely to remain until the lake is drained again for the winter.



An adult female swan, Missy, and one of her cygnets died as a result of ingesting algae. The Daily Echo reported that, a spokesperson from the RSPCA said: *Sadly, an inspector collected an adult bird, which he said he was told was mum to cygnets. She appeared extremely unwell and had leeches feeding off both her eyes and an independent vet made an instant decision to put her to sleep.*

Dog owners have a special part of the Ornamental Lake where their dogs can swim safely and should be discouraged at all times from letting their dogs swim in the boating lake. Bread should never be used to feed ducks or swans on any of the lakes or ponds on the Common as this causes serious pollution. Grain or wild bird food should be used instead.

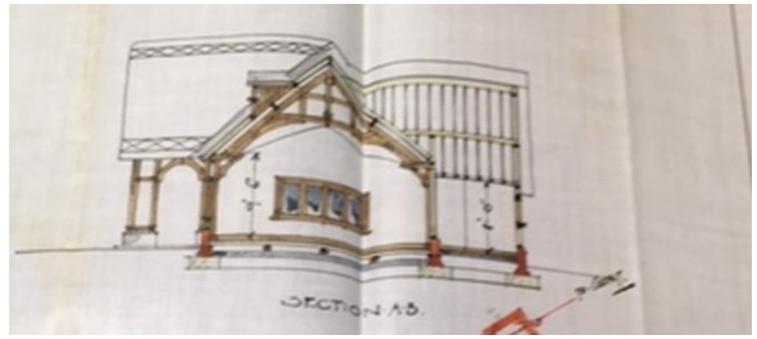
— **Barbara Claridge, HonSec**

The history of your house

In his recent TV series *A House through Time*, David Olusoga showed how aspects of social and political history can be revealed by studying the changing fortunes of one house and its occupants. To help explore your own house, here are some local sources:

Robert Williams has a chapter on the Uplands Estate in Herbert Collins 1885—1975 (1985); Sylvia Landsberg produced *The Portswood House Estate and the Portswood Residents' Gardens* (1996); and local appraisals have been completed for Oakmount Triangle (2008) and Portswood Residents' Gardens (2011).

To celebrate the centenary in 2010 of the Pavilion and



The Pavilion, Portswood Residents Gardens, by A.F. Gutteridge in 1910.

Gardener's Cottage in Portswood Residents' Gardens, we traced the development of houses built between 1910 and 1930 on the footprint of the Portswood House estate. We used the Registers of the Borough Surveyor (1889-1969) in the Civic Centre Archives, which record building applications. These also hold many plans for 1878-1954 (SC/BI 8 and 8A) which show, for example, the site and floor plans. Thereafter, plans are held by the Buildings Control Department. From the house architecture, such as sewing rooms and maids' bedrooms in the attic, we gain insights into the social position of residents. Title deeds might include house plans and maps.

The Archives also hold Ordnance Survey maps from 1846 onwards. These show the expansion of the town as the former gentleman's estates of Bevois Mount, Westwood Park, Highfield House and Portswood House were sold off for development in the later 19th and early 20th centuries. There are estate plans, auction catalogues and newspapers accessed under streets. The Archives have maps showing where bombs fell during the Second World War. For individual properties there are war damage cards which record the date and damage suffered (SC/BA) and some war damage photographs (SC/EN).

Kelly's street directories, published almost annually between 1849 and 1975, provide the names of heads of households. Between them, the Central Library, City Archives and Cope Collection in the University Library, cover most years. Electoral Rolls are available for 1832—1918 and 1932 to the present. Before 1928 the right to vote was limited. Census returns record all occupants living in each property with date of birth and occupation, for example. The 1911 census returns and a Register of 1939, compiled to assist with issuing ID cards and ration books during the Second World War, can be accessed online at the Central Library. You can also follow up names in the indexes to Births, Marriages and Deaths.

The City Archives are open only on Tuesdays and Wednesdays 10.00 am—4 pm. The staff there and in the Central Library are extremely helpful.

— **Alastair and Rosemary Duke**

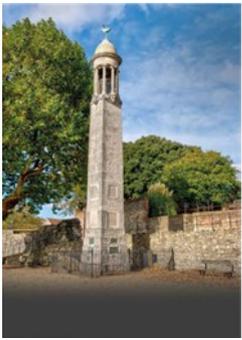
Southampton to the New World

Four hundred years ago the Mayflower set sail from Southampton to the New World. It was an important world-changing journey and Southampton played a central role in the story. The Mayflower and her sister ship, The Speedwell, set sail from West Quay on 15 August 1620, carrying 102 passengers. Around 40 of these were the Puritan Separatists who have become known as America's Founding Fathers. Documents that they created on board the ship went on to provide the foundations of the

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American Constitution.

To celebrate this historic anniversary partners across Southampton have come together to deliver a creative programme that explores this and other stories from the City's history as *Gateway to the World*. It will invite us to look at who we were, who we are, how our city has grown, and to re-think our cultural and maritime future.

Plans are underway to create a year of events that deliver an exciting fusion of

ideas, people, art, history, dance, drama, science, technology, learning, food, faith and cultures. The programme for the anniversary will be announced in December. Here's a taste of what you can expect:

February: Commemorating the Mayflower, part of Southampton Stories exhibition at SeaCity Museum. **March:** Big Sing, Southampton Music Hub at Mayflower Theatre. **April:** Community Takeover: City of Sanctuary at John Hansard Gallery. **May:** Mariner: A Painted Ship Upon a Painted Ocean exhibition at John Hansard Gallery. **July:** Wampum: Stories from the Shells of Native America, exhibition at SeaCity Museum. Mayflower-themed Open Art exhibition at Southampton City Art Gallery. The Southampton Mayflower Story, exhibition at Tudor House Museum and Garden.

August: Mayflower themed musical/dance productions at Mayflower Theatre. Series of events, walks and talks at God's House Tower. Anniversary Weekend activities including Parade of Sail. **September:** Mayflower 400 Heritage Open Days. **October:** Shadows and Light, exhibition at Southampton City Art Gallery. Winchester Poetry Festival in Southampton. **November:** City Eye themed film festival. Illuminate finale.

— Ken Burtenshaw

@Mayflower400SC

Mayflower400@southampton.gov.uk

visitsouthampton.co.uk/mayflower-400

Preserving Portswood Library

David Wardell, Chair of Friends of Portswood Library, has been a lifelong user of Portswood Library. He credits it with leading to his career in technology journalism and Chairship of the Institute of Patentees and Inventors. He calls it a temple of learning.

On seeing an article in The Echo in 2014 that libraries were under threat of closure, he became a founder member of Friends of Portswood Library formed on 4 August 2014 to fight to save the Library. They undertook an intensive campaign to promote its importance within the community, forging strong support from The Echo. Councillors were also lobbied.

Discussions with the Council were largely on footfall and lending figures. Portswood Library had good footfall and was popular. The Council were also impressed by the commitment of 'Friends', and agreed to retain it within the Council remit.

The Library is no longer under threat. With the decline in lending and footfall key, the strategy is to promote the library for other activities to make it a vibrant community hub. In this, it has been remarkably successful.

One of their first achievements in 2014 was to put a noticeboard outside the building. This changed behaviour, and was implemented with £250 awarded from the Community Chest.

CommonSense
Southampton Little Common

2nd Saturday of the month

Volunteers needed

Join the mailing list

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



The core FPL team members (Left to right) Monica Parrish, Hazel Honeywell, David Wardell, Julie Trussler, Raz Shah, Linda Pritchard, Paddy Smith.

A real turning point was the library's Centenary year in 2015. A writing competition was advertised with huge coverage through the Echo; the theme: 'What does your library mean to you?'. Chris Packham, who credits this library with his career in Natural History, gave the keynote speech and presented prizes. It was a stunning success.

The popular Summer Evening Talks have been a major success and raised substantial sums. See Southampton Tourist Guides provide the speakers. The library is always packed and, to open up unobscured views, mobile shelving was provided by Southampton Library Services. Talks are free but donations encouraged. Over £700 was raised, alongside a specific appeal, to replace badly worn furniture in the children's library, and a further £400 to purchase folding chairs. The City Council funded the redecoration and re-carpeting.

The Library also raises hundreds of pounds for Macmillan through coffee mornings and has received many donated items, including a projector stand for talks.

'Friends' celebrated their 5th Birthday this year; 5 years of incredible achievements. Next, they plan to install boards containing historical pictures of Portswood Library in the vestibule to liven it up, while continuing to be open and responsive to the needs of the community.

David maintains that any civilisation that calls itself civilised should promote libraries to the hilt. Books for free for our children's future; what more can I add? — **Nadine Johnson**

Call for hedgehog awareness road signs

Highfield has the densest population of hedgehogs in Southampton, as seen by the map on the Hedgehog Street website which shows the reported distribution of hedgehogs. This map is open to anyone to add a sighting of a hedgehog, dead or alive, making it representative rather than scientific as the same hedgehog could be reported by several people.

Many of us will not know that hedgehogs come into our gardens at night. Clive Marks and Mark Riley are fortunate to have at least five hedgehogs regularly coming into their back garden for food and water. They help make them welcome by providing three dining halls and eight straw-filled bedrooms. They put out dry cat food with a partial cover and, crucially, do not use slug pellets.

Clive and Mark were delighted in September when one of their female hedgehogs gave birth to two adorable hoglets. However, also in September, they were distressed when Clive found a dead hedgehog squashed on a road close to their house on Church

Lane. Hedgehog awareness road signs, to alert drivers to the presence of hedgehogs, might have prevented such a horrible accident and we are now asking for your help in petitioning both our local Councillors and the City's Highways Department to erect the first, new Hedgehog warning road signs in Highfield.



Hedgehog numbers in the UK have fallen by one third over the last decade and halved since 2000 in rural areas. Installing these road signs might prevent further hedgehog deaths which could contribute towards stopping these small, harmless mammals from possible extinction. Please join our campaign and petition your local Councillors and the City's Highways Department to support hedgehog awareness road signs in Highfield to protect our spiky friends.

— Nadine Johnson, Clive Marks and Mark Riley

clivemarks19@gmail.com bighedgehogmap.org

Highfield Lane pedestrian crossing

Concern has been raised about the pedestrian crossing on Highfield Lane near Brookvale Road. It is a key crossing point for Highfield Church, the local primary school and university. This year alone there have been numerous near misses at this crossing, and we would like to try and improve the situation before there is a serious accident. In part we hope that this can encourage people to walk to school, help them keep fit and healthy and improve Southampton's air quality.

There have been three suggestions: 1) reduce the speed limit on Highfield Lane to 20mph 2) recruit a lollipop person 3) install controlled traffic lights (Pelican or Puffin crossing).

Highfield Lane is a major commuter road and 20mph may be a hard sell, a lollipop person would be excellent but only focus on school related footfall. This leaves the installation of controlled traffic lights as the preferred option.

Please support us in making this happen!

—Steven Johnston



One winter morning I was walking across the crossing, pushing my son in his buggy. We got half way when a car drove straight over the crossing and I had to quickly pull the buggy back to stop the car hitting it. The driver was totally oblivious to the fact that they had nearly ploughed into us, and did not stop even when other cars were sounding their horns. It was quite a frightening experience and could have ended so differently if my reactions had not been as fast. That zebra crossing is so dangerous, and I would like to see it replaced by a pelican crossing.

—Kate Lyle

Sign our e-petition to install traffic lights



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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.

The signatory of this form is responsible for signing on behalf of all individuals in the household who live at the above address.

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.

HRA's Data Protection Policy: <http://highfieldresidents.org.uk/dpp19.pdf>

Signed _____

Date ____ / ____ / ____

