



Highfield Residents Association

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2023

HRA - representing the interests and concerns of Highfield

The 47th AGM of HRA

Tuesday 14 November 2023

7pm at Highfield Church Hall.

Guest Speaker: Satvir Kaur

Leader of Southampton City Council.

Members welcome or join on the night!

Some words from the Chair

I am delighted to introduce HRA's autumn Newsletter. I'd particularly like to draw your attention to the notice of our AGM on 14 November. Besides reviewing our work over the past year and electing the Committee, we shall have the benefit of an address from the Leader of the Council, Councillor Satvir Kaur, who will also be ready to answer questions. This is a member-only event but you can join on the night.

The Newsletter has a very interesting article by the Council's new Lead Ranger, Dawn Ballantyne, about her

agenda for our green spaces. HRA is very encouraged by this new direction and the progress she and her Ranger colleagues are making, including the partial reopening of the Hawthorns and the resumption of volunteer work on The Common. The Newsletter also gives details of the discounts members can get at no fewer than 27 local outlets. Finally, the HRA Committee's response to the second round of consultation on the Council's proposals for the Portswood Corridor is available on the HRA website. From all this, you can see that HRA is a very active and effective residents' association. It offers incredible value for only £10 per household per year. Please join us!

Professor Roger Brown



Illustration of proposed Portswood Broadway Bus gate

MEMBER'S DISCOUNT AT LOCAL SHOPS, BARS & SERVICES

Bayleaf Kitchen - 15% discount on food

Baboo Ji Vegetarian Kitchen - 10% discount on everything before 6.45pm and after 8.45 pm

Brewhouse and Kitchen - 10% discount on food and drink (only with food) **New!**

Ceno Restaurant & Wine Bar - 10% discount on food and drinks

Centenary Restaurant - 10% discount on food, Mon-Thurs, evenings only

Centenary Building, Uni Campus **NEW!**

Crown Inn - 10% discount on food **NEW!**

Elizabeth House Hotel - 10% discount on hotel rates (not those published by booking agents) 10% discount on food and drink (only with food)

Figures Bookkeeping Services - 10% discount on services. Email: figuresbooks@outlook.com <http://www.figures-bookkeeping.co.uk/>

Garden Restaurant - 10% discount on food

Green Bird Gift Baskets - 10% discount on all gift baskets

Email: greenbirdgiftbaskets@gmail.com

T. Greenslade Fresh Fish Ltd - 10% discount on all locally caught fish Friday 9 am

- 1pm, opposite Waitrose

Innervision Hair and Beauty - 10% discount on Tuesdays only

Kohinoor of Kerala - 10% discount on food

(includes takeaways) **NEW!**

Made in: Here coffee gift shop - 10% discount. Free delivery online **NEW SHOP!**

Mango Thai Tapas Bar & Restaurant - 10% discount on food; discount on 'Stand Up in Basement' monthly comedy nights at Mango Thai Tapas Ocean Village **NEW!**

Mettricks Portswood - 10% discount on food, 9am - 4pm, Mon-Fri only **NEW!**

Muse Coffee Company Ltd - 10% discount on hot drinks, 7am to 3pm Mon to Friday **Pho**

Vietnam - 10% discount on food and drink

Riya's Fish & Chips - 10% discount, **NEW!**

Scoops Ice Cream Parlour - 10% discount

Sing Noodles - 10% discount on 'eat in' food

Slavs Kitchen - 10% discount on food (includes takeaways).

Must book ahead on Fri and Sat **NEW!**

The Nest Coffee House - 10% discount **NEW!**

Trago Lounge - 10% discount on tea/coffee/cakes, 9am to 4pm Monday to Friday only

Vibe Hair Salon - 10% discount

Viceroy - 10% discount on food, Sunday to Thursday only

Woodies at the Junction Inn - 15% discount on food & drink

(only when purchased with food), lunchtimes only Monday to Friday **NEW!** Note: opens 1st November 2023!

*Terms and conditions apply; members must present a valid HRA Membership Card



HIGHFIELD
Residents Association

Environmental News - Ranger Team update

After the successful opening of the Hawthorns on the Common between 10am-3pm on a Sunday over the summer, we are pleased to announce we are continuing with this. Visitors can explore the grounds of the Hawthorns which has scaled-down examples of most of the habitats found in the city, including a heathland area, a wild garden, ponds and a chalk bank which boasts bee orchids in the summer. An interactive wildlife themed display and information for further interest and education is regularly updated for visitors. There's an opportunity to add to the wildlife sightings board helping us build a better picture of the species found for more informed ecological management decisions.

Across the summer in the city the team put on several engagement events, including at Frogs Copse, Pear Tree Green, Mansel Park and the Common. The Common event from August was so successful, we plan on something similar on Wednesday 25th during October half term. There

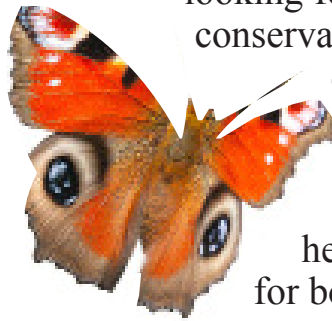
will be a themed interactive information board, a trail or wildlife craft and a collection of items related to the theme that people can see and touch as well as asking our rangers questions.

The team is supporting the Community Campaigns Officer with a weekly city-wide green volunteers group. Over the summer, amongst other jobs, they removed a huge amount of invasive Himalayan

Balsam and have recently cleared an area of burnt gorse on the Common.

We hope to establish a volunteer group for the Hawthorns' grounds soon.

Moving into the Autumn and Winter the Ranger team is looking forward to the habitat management and conservation season where practical work is our priority. On the Common this will include re-establishing a coppicing regime on the old carriageway, improvements and the restoration of heathland and the Hawthorn's grounds for both the public and wildlife.



Clare Connolly, Senior Ranger, at an engagement event on the Common in August

If you are interested in becoming a Green Volunteer, please contact: greenvolunteers@southampton.gov.uk

Dawn Bannatyne SCC Lead Ranger

An email from a member

Good morning Barbara,

I have noted the date of the AGM, but unfortunately I, shall not be able to attend. These events I believe ARE important and attendance is a way of demonstrating appreciation by Association members. I for one, certainly appreciate all the work and time given by the committee. We're approaching a time of big change, mainly for the people of tomorrow I think. I have lived in Highfield since 1973 and am therefore aware of its many redevelopments.

Many of us who are octogenarians sadly miss the original Portswood shops such as Leo James the men's outfitters, and next to the old Woolworths was Storr's for the ladies with its upstairs café which had become the local gossip exchange. There was Strides, the confectioners & tobacconist for example. Many of the old premises, including banks, would have remained depressingly empty if they had not been taken over by charity organisations or take-away food shops. The one other emporium which stands out for me in particular, is our most excellent Portswood Hardware. Long may it live.

Anyway, forgive me if I'm drifting off track a bit, but I cannot help romancing about the olden days. But, it is of course the future that matters most. So the survival and improvement of what we have IS of greatest importance and therefore not be held back by old sentimentalists.

Anton Fitz-Gerald

Introducing PCSO Hayley Morrison



Hello, I am Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) Hayley Morrison based in the Portswood area. I have been a PCSO for the last 16 years and have just returned to work after being on maternity leave. As a PCSO, I am here to provide regular contact with residents and any local businesses, collect and relay relevant information to the police and other agencies, to support in the setting up of neighbourhood watch and communicate with local residents' groups. I work as part of a larger team of 8 police officers and 2 other PCSOs and we cover an extensive area which includes Mansbridge, Bassett, St Denys, Swaythling and Portswood.

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10% discount applied on production of an HRA membership card.

Local History – Donnington Grove

In 1930 most of the land in Portswood was developed. Donnington Grove's 1930s Moderne Oceanic group of houses was probably one of the last developments before the war. Using Kelly's Directories from 1935 onwards,



Arthur Linklater around 1900, when he would have been around 21. Can anyone identify the rank or function of this uniform?

I tracked previous occupants of the Grove and surprisingly discovered that one address only had two owners in its 90-year history, that several of the current inhabitants had been here for 40 years and two had been in residence since at least 1964!

I did discover some interesting details about the lives of many others. A name that jumped out was Captain Arthur D Linklater. Captains are relatively easy to trace, few in number and well documented. He was born in the city of Edinburgh in 1879, was awarded his Master Mariner's Certificate in 1906, as recorded in the Lloyds Register of Cap-

tains, and may possibly have been part of the Bengal Pilot Service before WW1.

From his diaries, edited by a descendent, Captain Linklater rented no. 5 during WW2. On 1st January 1940 he was transferred to Southampton to work, possibly at the Seaman's Home as he had previously done welfare work

for sailors. On 26th October the Captain wrote, "In charge Southampton – Roberts to Liverpool," but come 29/30th November he wrote, "Southampton raised (sic) to the ground", but with no further details. It was presumably bombed. Many of the town's 650 WW2 casualties died during the winter of 1940/41, in the Southampton Blitz. The bombing was aimed at the docks and the Supermarine Works in Woolston.

Later in the war, Donnington Grove was badly affected by random bombing. Some years ago a letter arrived at our house addressed to

'The Occupant' from Australia. It had been sent by Tony Howell, a resident in the 1930s and 40s. It contained two photocopied press cuttings and an account of his memories of 1942 when Donnington Grove and Richmond Gardens were bombed. More than 30 people were killed in this small area, some commemorated at Highfield Church. Our house – his house – was the closest building to the blast which was not badly damaged. Though in 1993 our bedroom ceilings still had the diagonal marks apparently characteristic of bomb blast.



Christine Rawnsley

Help us Recycle Right in Southampton

Southampton City Council currently sits at 311th out of 333 local authorities in the recycling league tables. Our aim in the short term is to improve our recycling rate and reduce the amount of contamination in blue lidded bins. Just because the label says that your item can be recycled doesn't mean it can be recycled at the kerbside in Southampton.

Please help us out by only putting these six items into your blue lidded recycle bins:

1. Paper
2. Cardboard
- 3 Tin
4. Aluminium cans
5. Plastic bottles
6. Aerosols

Make sure that food has been washed out of cans, tins and cardboard; items must be free of food residue, grease, and tape. Place loose items in your recycling bin, not inside a plastic bag!

What is contamination?

A bin will be reported as contaminated if it contains something that shouldn't be in there and cannot be collected with that waste stream. i.e. food waste in a recycle bin. A report of

contamination attached to your bin means that it will not be emptied. You will need to remove the contamination before your next collection date.

These are the top 5 items that cause contamination in recycling across Southampton:

1. Food waste
2. Plastic pots, tubs and trays
3. Plastic bags
4. Drinks cartons/tetrapak
5. Polystyrene

Don't be a 'wishcycler'. Most people want to do the right thing when it comes to recycling but labels on packaging can be confusing. We are working on increasing what can be recycled in Southampton, but for now please only put the items listed above in your bin. If you do want to recycle more, there are multiple recycling locations across the city. Please check the recycling guide for more information: <https://soton.cc/recycle>

Remember: If in doubt please leave it out!

Kirsty Bobbett – SCC Waste Disposal and Development Officer

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

OCTOBER BOOKS

£2 off for every £10 spent in store; Valid : 2023

Did you know

A free 5km parkrun / parkwalk takes place at 9am every Saturday on the Common. Join in and stay fit this winter! Parkrun began in Southampton on 7 July 2012.

<https://www.parkrun.org.uk/southampton/>



DEFRA thinks we are the Bees' Knees

Well to be more precise, the Friends of Portswood Rec, (FoPR) are celebrating being recognised by DEFRA with a Bees Needs Award for our work to improve habitats and increase biodiversity at Portswood Rec. We are one of only 25 recipients of this award nationally and the fact we also received it in 2021 acknowledges the commitment of our volunteer gardeners, many of whom are members of HRA. Together we have created wildflower meadows, beetle banks, a pollinator patch, a bug hotel, increased hedging, installed bird and bat boxes as well as making homes for bees. Most pleasingly, it's not just DEFRA that appreciate our efforts as we've been rewarded with the increased sightings of hoverflies, dragonflies, beetles, moths and butterflies.

For anyone who doesn't know, Portswood Rec is a small Green Flag Award winning park nestled behind Portswood School, between Upper Grosvenor and Kitchener Roads. It is the only Southampton City Council owned park to be protected as a Queen Elizabeth II Field in Trust, ensuring it remains a green space in perpetuity.

Since formation in 2011, FoPR has worked with the local Council to improve the Rec. In addition to the garden, we've campaigned for a ramp to improve access from Brickfield Road, obtained new benches, picnic tables, a football goal, replaced play equipment, and assisted in resurfacing of the tennis courts. We've also organised community events, most recently Portswood Pirates in June.

Looking forward, we want to continue our gardening for wildlife and fundraise for much more replacement play equipment.

We'd love you to join us. Our gardeners meet 10.30am to 12.30pm most Sunday mornings between March and October. Tools are supplied and everyone is welcome, you may even get a cuppa and slice of cake!

If you can help with admin, social media or litter picks, or would like any more information, please contact Bev at info.friendsofportswoodrec@gmail.com. If you'd like to support us, but can't commit time now, please think about joining the group. Membership is only £3 per year.

Beverley Pearce

Did you know

Did you know there is a Portswood Writers' Circle where writers of any disposition can come together to exchange ideas? It is based in the October Books shop and usually meets monthly on a Friday evening. Check out the dates/times on the October Books Events page:

<https://www.octoberbooks.org/events>

How to become a member of HRA

SCAN ME



Visit the HRA website: www.highfieldresidents.org.uk/join-renew/
Contact: Membership Secretary, 5, Marlborough House, 2A Oakmount Avenue, SO17 1BX email: HRAmemsec@gmail.com
Membership is £10 per household per year - pay on-line by BACS or by cheque or with cash. Completed application forms can be dropped off at Highfield News.



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