



Highfield Residents Association

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2025

HRA - representing the interests and concerns of Highfield

The 49th AGM of HRA
Tuesday 11 November 2025
7pm at Highfield Church Hall.
Followed by a social with refreshments
Members welcome or join here now!



Avenue Campus building plot

A Busy Year for HRA

This has almost certainly been HRA's busiest year. It has been dominated by Council plans for the Eastleigh-Southampton Corridor (otherwise known as the Portswood Project or the Bus-gate) and by plans for yet more purpose-built student accommodation blocks, in Portswood Broadway and on the University of Southampton's Avenue Campus. Another major issue has been the extent of anti-social behaviour in the Broadway and the immediately surrounding area. In these circumstances HRA owes a great debt to its officers – and particularly

our Hon Sec, Barbara Claridge, and our Communications Officer, Nadine Johnson – for keeping the show on the road. But we also depend heavily on your local support. So I hope that on reading this you will (a) continue to renew your HRA membership or become a new member (details are in this Newsletter and on our website), and (b) come to our 49th AGM on Tuesday 11 November at 7pm when all these and many other issues will be discussed. In the meantime, please enjoy this Newsletter.

Professor Roger Brown-HRA Chair

Members' Discount at Local Shops, Bars and 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)
Centenary Restaurant at University Highfield Campus - 10% discount on food, evenings only, Mon - Thurs
Figures Bookkeeping Services - 10% discount on services. Email: figuresbooks@outlook.com <http://www.figures-bookkeeping.co.uk/>
Garden Restaurant - 10% discount on food
T. Greenslade Fresh Fish Ltd - 10% discount on all locally caught fish Fri 9 am - 1 pm, opposite Waitrose
Innervision Hair and Beauty - 10% discount Tues only
Kitchen Kingdom - 10% discount (includes takeaways)
Kohinoor of Kerala - 10% discount on food (includes takeaways)

Mango Thai Tapas Bar & Restaurant - 10% discount on food
Muse Coffee Company Ltd - 10% discount on hot drinks, 7am - 3pm Mon - Fri
October Books - 10% discount on books
Scoops Ice Cream Parlour - 10% discount
Sing Noodles - 10% discount on 'eat in' food
Sravs Kitchen - 10% discount on food (includes takeaways). Must book ahead on Fri - Sat
T Rex Supermarket & Bubble Tea - 10% discount on drinks
Trago Lounge - 10% discount on tea/coffee/cakes, 9am - 4pm Mon - Fri only
Vibe Hair Salon - 10% discount
Woodies at the Junction Inn - 15% discount on food & drink with food, lunchtimes only, Mon - Fri

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



HIGHFIELD
Residents Association

highfieldracomms@gmail.com

Brides of Southampton

Brides of Southampton have sold and rented out wedding dresses and provided a full cleaning and alteration service in Portswood since 1 October 1976. Shelley Jory-Leigh, the second generation owner, proudly told me they were the oldest Bridal Shop in the UK, currently employing 8 staff. Sadly, their last day in Portswood was on 28 September. Brides was set up by her mother and father; her mother being an experienced bridal sales person at the then famous Youngs in London. The shop took off quickly. Brides will be celebrating their 50th anniversary next year. Shelley's mother had cited three reasons for choosing Portswood. It was a beautiful, affluent area with affordable rents, the Broadway cinema was opposite and they were surrounded by the well-known Alex Bennett Motorcycles: both were a great pull to the district centre. It was also on the main bus route with a bus stop just outside.

Shelley worked in the shop from the age of 10 as a runner and worked her way up, becoming a business partner 30 years ago. She has a professional sports career running alongside the shop and, as an only child with no children, said the staff were her family. Some have been with her for up to 34 years!

I asked her why they had moved. She told me that Portswood and the industry had changed. Customer expectations were different now; booking is by appointment; 80% of their customers were by recommendation and with social media, location was not so critical. They also had outgrown the building, having reconfigured the space exhaustively. Additionally, the 10-year lease was up. Their new location at 30 Carlton Crescent is a blank canvas with 4 larger fitting rooms on which they could build. Brides reopened in their new premises on 4th October.

Making Inclusive Travel Easier

People with accessibility needs struggle with pathways. If you use a buggy, a mobility scooter, or have other mobility / vision needs, the uneven paths and blockages can be a real issue especially in Highfield Road. Southampton University students are local residents and use this road. The path can become completely blocked to those using assisted travel. Throughout wider Portswood, residents and students in HMOs can help those with mobility difficulties by keeping bins off the street after collections and cars off the pavements. Contact: Toby Page, SUSU VP Inclusion, toby.page@soton.ac.uk

Editor note: The revised proposal for Student Accommodation on the Avenue Campus site would add 400 more students using the footpaths between Highfield Road and the University Campus. There are currently 3250 students with disabilities in UoS.

PORTSWOOD HANDYMAN

GENERAL MAINTENANCE

DECORATING

LOCKS



0750 7585 825



Brides have moved

Shelley said that her Mum, now deceased, would have been proud with what they were doing. She added, "Thank you to the people of Portswood" and for the lovely comments they had received over the years, especially dressing the Christmas windows when people would stop and chat and make their day.

Nadine Johnson, HRA

Anti Social Behaviour and Crime

Do you know where to report Anti-social Behaviour or a potential crime? Please always report it: <https://www.highfieldresidents.org.uk/reporting-anti-social-behaviour-which-authority-to-use/>



Discover the Churches for Nature Scheme

Local residents may be interested to know that Highfield churchyard is now being managed in a way to actively encourage biodiversity.

The grass cutting regime around the old graves has been modified to allow grasses and native flowers to set seed; an audit by church members in June revealed over 100 species of flora and fauna. We identified: yarrow, lady's bedstraw, bird's-foot trefoil, oxeye daisy and meadow saxifrage. This was the third year of the 'churches count for nature' scheme which Highfield Church is pleased to be part of and it is encouraging to see what can thrive in our small churchyard on Highfield Lane.

HRA Member Liz Moore

Portswood Bus-gate - What Next?

During the HRA AGM in 2024, Councillors informed us that anti-social behaviour was an issue locally, that base-line traffic modelling on TLW had been carried out so were confident the route would cope with higher expected volumes of traffic, that the scheme would be a great boon to The Broadway, that we were not experts and had not seen the success achieved in other communities - which all seemed rather like this community didn't count. However, we were also told that it was going to be a trial and if there was evidence the scheme was not working it could not proceed. By the Three-Month Interim Report it was obvious it wasn't working and thankfully was paused in May. The displaced traffic did not use Thomas Lewis Way as had been modelled. But it did use Brookvale Road which carried an extra 2934 extra vehicles a day* Since then there has been little news. A new Cabinet



Street furniture in Portswood

Member for Transport, Councillor Lambert, was appointed on 16 July. She wrote to Steering Group members on 26 September and confirmed that the scheme with a Bus-gate on Portswood Broadway would not be moving ahead. She wrote, "The Steering Group's oversight of the collection of data related to the trial has been crucial to ensure a fair trial was conducted".

I'm not sure where that leave us all - will there be any regeneration to Portswood, will there be quieter streets, slower traffic and cleaner air? Will there be a tree? How will the Transforming Cities Fund objectives be met? As soon as I know you will know!

Barbara Claridge HRAHonSec

* Vehicles per day baseline before the Trial 3356; modelled at 4400 with a light touch ATZ / full-time Bus-gate; during the Trial an actual of 6290* average of 10 busiest days, part-time Bus-Gate.

Mencap Gardening Offer



A volunteer Mencap Group is offering gardening services in Highfield. The gardeners work on a Tuesday each week doing basic maintenance e.g. weeding, pruning, hedge trimming, litter picking, lawn mowing and strimming. They generally provide their own equipment but if larger/specialist jobs are agreed then the customer may need to provide additional equipment.

The service is both regular and one-off jobs, but they are in demand so regular might take a little more time to schedule. Any job performed would be on a donation basis, with donations gratefully received from £15 upwards depending on the size of the garden/job.

They are a lovely, friendly group who enjoy a cup of tea and a chat at the end of their hard work!

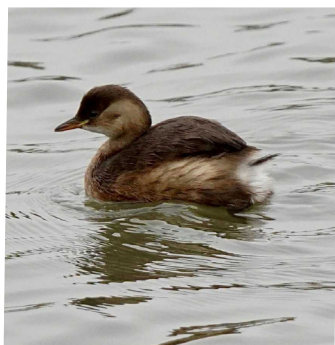
Contact: admin@southamptonmencap.org or 023 8058 4088

The Mysterious Dabchick

When walking on the Common close to the boating lake, I often hear the shrill and distinctive, whinnying call of the dabchick or, given its official name, the little grebe. The dabchick is a small bird, roughly half the size of a mallard, with dark brown upper parts and a rich, chestnut wash on the flanks. As I attempt to take a closer look, it usually disappears magically under the water, only to reappear ten metres away.

What excellent underwater swimmers they are!

HRA Member Ken



dabchick photo John Scamell

Think About Fostering

Portswood Ward Councillor Marie Finn is a fostering advocate. In Southampton there is a desperate shortage of foster carers. If anyone had a spare room and could think about offering a home, even as respite, to a local child, the foster team would love to hear from you. Planning permission was recently given for a new children's home in Winn Rd for four children so that may help but it cannot replace the advantages of a family environment.

To find out more, please contact: 0800 519 1818

southampton.gov.uk/ or Facebook@fosteringsouthampton.

HMO Inspections Begin Again

SASSH stands for Southampton Accreditation Scheme for Student Housing. It is a free Council supported scheme which helps landlords find good student tenants. It is run by both Universities in the city. To list a property on the SASSH website, landlords must meet safety and quality standards, and all properties are now inspected to ensure they do. The aim is to help

students avoid sub-standard accommodation, to raise the quality of rented houses in our city and encourage responsible property management. This helps us all to crack down on rogue landlords and promotes 'safer neighbourhoods'. Accredited landlords report fewer disputes and longer tenancies, which contributes to housing sustainability and more coherent communities. Council enforcement resources are required less often as a result. For more information contact C.L.Boileau@soton.ac.uk City Housing Relationship Manager

Figures Bookkeeping Services (Est. 1989)

www.figures-bookkeeping.co.uk

Email: figuresbooks@outlook.com Tel: 07817 748901

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| • Self Assessment tax returns | • General bookkeeping |
| • Property Letting Accounts | • Ltd Co. micro accounts |
| • VAT Returns | • Office admin. Services |
| • Payroll | • Virtual Assistant |
| • CIS returns | • Charity accounts |

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

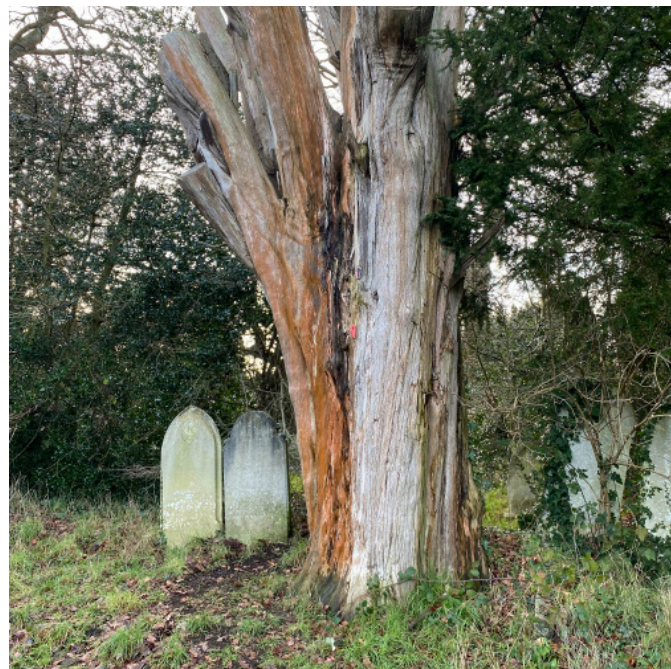
Student Residents' Views on the Bus-gate Trial

SUSU (the Students' Union at the University of Southampton) exists primarily to represent students, not only within the University but also more widely. We were therefore delighted to be part of the Portwood Bus-gate trial Steering Group and interested to see what students would tell us when we surveyed them in April 2025 (shortly before the trial was unexpectedly curtailed).

Of the c.24,500 students who were here at that point, 13% of them lived in the Portwood Ward and so it was no surprise that we received many, often very detailed responses – these students are very much also local residents. This was borne out by how closely the students' responses matched the feelings of many non-student local residents, particularly in relation to the unexpected consequences of the trial scheme. 62% of respondents in our survey felt that the bus gate had made the situation worse, with just 27% feeling the situation was better as a result. An overwhelming 76% of the free text comments for this question identified the unwelcome impact on other roads as one key reason things were worse. A second question asked specifically about the impact on Brookvale and Belmont Road and while 62% of respondents also felt there had been a negative impact here, only 12% of respondents felt positive about these traffic calming measures.

Another very clear theme to emerge from responses, however, was the need to improve Portwood High Street. Respondents talked about wanting a nicer physical environment with more trees and for Portwood to be somewhere they wanted to spend time (and money) with a greater variety of shops – the same comments as are often heard from other local residents.

Sonia Cottrell SUSU Chief Executive



Southampton Old Cemetery - photo by HRA member Ken

Scan the QR code to become a member of HRA



Or visit the HRA website: <https://www.highfieldresidents.org.uk/join-renew/information>.

Membership is £10 per household per year – pay BACS on-line, by cheque or cash



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.

Since 1900 we've kept our customers moving through calm and crisis with unwavering service.

SERVICE | MARKETING | EXPERIENCE

PEARSONS

ESTABLISHED 1900

023 8023 3288 | southampton@pearsons.com | 58-60 London Road, Southampton SO15 2AH | [pearsons.com](https://www.pearsons.com)