

HIGHCLIFFE 1958(Part 2).

The popularity of Highcliffe increases year by year and the noise of development becomes louder. Bulldozers, pneumatic drills and concrete mixers are helping to fashion Highcliffe of the future. More than half of the village—once nothing more than a few scattered hamlets — has been developed for housing and of the present population about 60% are retired people. But when all the available land has been developed and the building machines removed what will Highcliffe look like?

This remains to be seen, but one thing is certain. The residential areas are being carefully planned to preserve as much of the natural beauty as possible and a watchful eye is being kept on the development by the very active Highcliffe Citizens' Association.

This was formed in 1946 when the first signs of major development appeared.

Chairman of the association, Col. A. C. Tarnow, told me that his members strongly opposed caravan sites. "Highcliffe would have been a mass of caravan sites had we not fought and won on four occasions," he said. The association's monument can be seen every few yards along every road in Highcliffe where members have either fought for some improvement or against some bad feature. They have consistently fought for better street lighting and it was through direct pressure from the association that land on the cliff front was purchased.

Keynote of the association's existence is the protection of amenities and in view of the rapid development in the village this has now become a full time task.

"We are not opposed to good development, but we feel very strongly against the essentially speculative builder," added Col. Tarnow.

"TERRIFIC FUTURE"

Coun. Mrs. I. A. Stevenson, one of Highcliffe's four representatives on Christchurch Council, believes that the village has a "terrific future". There had been a lot of discussion about the spoiling of Highcliffe, but she does not think this is so.

"The older parts of Highcliffe are being taken care of by responsible people. Development cannot be stopped but we have to steer it in the way it should go and be very thankful that we live in a beautiful part of the world and be willing to share it with others."



Older residents of Highcliffe will no doubt remember Lymington Road as it was in this picture, believed to have been taken about 36 years ago. The thatched cottages are now a garage drive-in. Taken from outside Ludlam's shop, the picture was sent in by a local resident.

During the past 10 years several new organisations have sprung up in Highcliffe. There are now about a dozen various groups, all making valuable contributions towards a growing community. Several of these organisations owe their existence to the enthusiasm and understanding nature of Mrs. Stevenson.

A youth club was formed by her when so many of the young people seemed to be getting into mischief simply because they had nothing to

do and had no particular interest in the Scout or Guide movements.

The club is now waiting for a grant from the County to obtain a hut in Upper Gordon Road to continue its many activities. Membership totals about 60 and parents have formed a hard working committee.

Mrs. Stevenson also revived the Highcliffe detachment of the Red Cross. She is Commandant of the nursing division which every summer does yeoman service at the fully equipped first aid dressing station on the beach. Other duties take them to local fetes and they are always present at the Farnborough air display.



One approach to what the Highcliffe Citizens' Association has recently called "the picturesque and lovely village of Highcliffe" is-at the moment- neither as picturesque nor as lovely as it used to be. This photo was taken at Shelley Hill.

Catering for the leisure hours of Highcliffe's housewives is the Women's Institute, formed about 12 years ago by Coun. Mrs. E.M. Wallis Power and Mrs. Sharp. Meetings were first held at Culmore House but the institute moved to St. Mark's Hall in 1956. Members hear a varied selection of talks and can take part in many activities. Their work for charity is well known and last year they collected over £32 for Christchurch Hospital

League of Friends besides sending donations to the League of Nations and sending out Christmas parcels to the sick and poor of the district.

Highcliffe Silver Band is probably one of the oldest organisations in the village although it has been disbanded and revived several times since it was originally formed about 50 years ago.

Two of the founder members were Mr. A. V. Wheeler and his father, Mr. H. T. Wheeler, who was the village policeman. First bandmaster was Mr. B. N. Olney, and another bandmaster for many years was Mr. A. Nowell. Present bandmaster is Mr. Bacon.

There was a time, said Mr. A. V. Wheeler, when the band attended practically every function in the village and also at Highcliffe Castle. "The first bandmaster was very strict. You had to be at rehearsals at 7.30 and not a minute later, but he got results. The youngsters of today are not so keen. There are too many other attractions," he said.

These words were echoed by a present day bandsman who told me that there were several instruments waiting for new members.

FOOTBALL CLUB.

Highcliffe Football Club can also claim to be one of the oldest organisations in the village. Playing in the club's first match over 60 years ago was Mr. Frank Proudley, aged 84, of Gordon Road.

Mr. Proudley has been treasurer of the club for many years and was presented with an armchair about five ago for 50 years' service as an official of the club. The first match, played on the cliff top, was against Christchurch Wanderers. "They beat us 3-1 and in the return match some weeks later they beat us 12-0," recalled Mr. Proudley, who played with the team up to the beginning of the First World War. He now attends every home match and is the official collector. Headquarters of the club is at the Working Men's Club, which was originally opened as a reading room in 1887.

Highcliffe Castle Golf Club opened in 1913 by H.R.H. Princess Christian, is one of the greatest all-the-year-round golf centres in the British Isles and among the Bournemouth courses it has a special place of its own. It is the shortest of them all, but possesses an unusual combination of qualities, being easy and interesting and full of variety in spite of being laid out on level ground.

The course is well bunkered, but only a semi-rough, with an occasional patch of gorse, divides the fairways, so that there is none of the irritation of hunting lost balls!

It is, therefore, particularly attractive for the casual golfer who only regards the game as a holiday pastime, for young players starting the game, and for the elderly or infirm who dislike anything in the nature of climbing,

FIRST PRESIDENT.

Founder and first president of the club was Major General the Hon. Stuart Wortley. It was changed from a nine hole course to an 18 hole in May 1927, and was visited in August 1928 by Queen Mary. Captain of the club is Mr. Cyril Clark, Major A. T. Kingston is secretary, Mr. F. G. Ireland treasurer, and Mr. Cecil Sargent has been professional for many years. In Highcliffe are two homes run by the Christchurch Old People's Welfare Committee. Greystones Old People's Home was opened in 1947 and houses 25 people whose average age is about 82. Matron is Mrs. P. Furness, who has been at the home for five years. Fairholm is an old people's nursing home where 17 aged people are cared for. This was opened about five years ago and matron is Mrs. C. H. J. Buckle.

It was a happy occasion for both staff and patients last week when a small party was given for Nurse Ann Barrow, of Meyrick Close, Bransgore, who is getting married at Easter. Nurse Barrow, affectionately known as "little nurse", has been at the home for four years.

Highcliffe Lawn Tennis Club is an organisation which two years ago showed there were still people prepared to take their coats off and work hard for their enjoyment.

As the annual subscription at that time was £2 and one of the lowest tennis club subs, in the district, they could ill afford to pay for a pavilion to be made, so they made it themselves in a member's back garden and later transferred it to the public tennis courts on the cliff top.

EVERGREEN CLUB.

Another organisation which does great work for old people of the district is the Evergreen Club, run by the Highcliffe Red Cross. Meetings are held every month during the winter and in the summer-time members are taken on coach outings.

The local branch of the British Legion, which organised two horse shows in the early 1930's to raise funds for a hall, the Horticultural Society, formed in 1903, the Chess Club, formed in 1952 through the efforts of Coun. B. E. Mulhall and Mr. A. H. Birks, the Trefoil Guild, Camera Club and Scouts and Guides all make their contribution to the life of Highcliffe.

Keeping an eye on development on the western boundary of Highcliffe is the Friars Cliff Residents' Association.

This association has brought about many improvements in the district and its aim is to preserve the amenities of the area and safeguard the interests of residents.

It also seeks to establish and maintain contact with similar organisations within the borough and as far as possible work in conjunction with them on any matters of common interest.

With associations such as these always on the lookout there is every hope that the future Highcliffe and district will retain its natural beauty and long be regarded as one of the most delightful spots on the south coast.