



SPRING 2023

WELCOME TO OUR SPRING NEWSLETTER

Today is the last day of Ian's tenure as Chairman. I'm very proud that so many excellent candidates applied to become his successor and thanks to Simon Bell from Gray's Search and Selection and the Trustees on our Recruitment Panel, I am delighted that Simon Caraffi has accepted their offer to become our next Chairman.

Read on to find out more about how we marked our 10th Birthday and our new Chairman.

Anna BC
Founder and Executive Director



10th Anniversary lunch RAF Club.

FRIENDS OF HIGHGROUND

On 13th March, 10 years to the day since the Charity Commission granted HighGround charitable status, we marked this milestone with a [Lunch at the RAF Club](#) to thank our Friends who helped us along the way.

Special thanks to the Garnett Foundation for their generous support; it was fantastic to see so many familiar faces.

The Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust has awarded one of ten Transformational Funding grants to [Supporting Wounded Veterans and HighGround](#) and we hope you are all as excited as we are to have this opportunity to make lasting and significant change to the lives of many veterans.

We salute Sara for her brilliant [fundraising](#) and hope that it has inspired others to run, walk, swim for HighGround – our fundraising challenge is relentless!

Huge thanks to Greenwich Hospital and the Forces Trust for their generous support of our Rural Weeks and Virtual Rural Weeks programmes, to everyone who bought Christmas cards which helped to raise £680, or Lady Cholmeley's special HighGround Mix sweet pea seeds and to all our new Friends of HighGround subscribers.



Rural Week 40. In the Weighing Room during tour of Exeter racecourse.



Rural Week 40 Plant operations driving tests at Bicton.



BECOME A FRIEND OF HIGHGROUND



The Easton Collection HighGround Mix Sweet Pea seeds.

STANFORD HALL

We were very grateful to Southern Trident for their [generous donation](#) to help us 'go green' at DMRC Stanford Hall and you can read more about the Horticultural Therapy service [here](#) and follow on [Instagram](#).

READ MORE



Peat free compost donated by Southern Trident.

RURAL WEEKS BY RURAL EMPLOYMENT MANAGER

The Rural Week Programme goes from strength-to-strength. As we reflect on 2022 as the most successful year for the programme in terms of numbers of attendees, 2023 is already shaping up to be equally as successful.

We have delivered the first Virtual Rural Week (VRW) and first Residential Rural Week (RRW) of 2023. Both well attended with attendees from across the Armed Forces, rank structure and age range, both women and men.

The resettlement pathway between the two courses continues to develop as we see those in early resettlement attend the VRW and then follow-up closer to transition with the RRW. Equally some attendees get what they need and make the connections they need from attending one or the other.

Follow-on support applies for those who have attended either course, and is open ended in terms of duration. All HighGrounders can get in touch to discuss land-based sector opportunities; employment, self-employment, volunteer, training requirements and providers, or just to chat through some ideas at anytime, we are only a phone call or email away.

Dates for the 2023 Rural Week Programme

[Virtual Rural Week](#) (VRW): 30 Jan • 1 Feb • 22 – 24 May • 18 – 20 Sep • 13 – 15 Nov

[Residential Rural Week](#) (RRW): 19 – 24 Mar • 11 – 16 Jun • 1 – 6 Oct • 26 Nov – 1 Dec

For more information and to register, please e-mail timothy.lever@highground-uk.org

It's always good to hear where HighGrounders are and what you are up to. It's great to stay in touch and of course this is a two-way thing, we are here to support for as long as you need us. Always happy to chat. We would like to be able to show others what you are up to so welcome your photos of you wearing your HighGround gilet perhaps at a landmark place or with someone famous, under the heading 'Where do you wear yours?'.



Our Trustee Jon Perkins with the High Sheriff and his wife Jane, and Tim Lever.



'Where do you wear yours?' Sam a Rural Week alumni at a careers event in Telford.

In addition to our Rural Weeks programme, Anna took our stand to the National Transition Event at Silverstone on 27th February and she and Pete, our Pastoral Support Manager at Bicton during Rural Weeks, had a very successful BFRS careers fair at Aldershot on 16th February when they were joined on our land-based stand by [BSW Timber](#).



National Transition Event, Silverstone.



BFRS careers fair, Aldershot.

Anna was invited by the Royal British Legion to visit Battleback at the National Sports Centre at Lilleshall in Shropshire to discuss land-based courses for veterans, and by the time you read this our closed LinkedIn group where we post work experience and employment opportunities will almost certainly have topped 500 members – if you know any veterans looking for land-based employment or employers who can help, tell them to search for 'HighGrounders' and ask to join!

Timothy Lever, Rural Employment Manager.

READ MORE



Simon Caraffi. Our new Chairman.

INTRODUCING SIMON

Simon Caraffi took over as Chairman of HighGround's Board of Trustees on 3rd April.

READ MORE

HORSEFERRY ROAD

Fiona our Communications Co-ordinator continues to work with the Worshipful Company of Information Technologists to improve our Sharepoint site, and we were delighted to have been granted permission to display the Veterans Mental Health Awareness logo following our recent submission to Cobseo.

Our time at Horseferry Road has come to an end and we thank London Scottish House for all their friendship over the last 7 years – we will miss Westminster, but life goes on and in our next Newsletter you can find out where we have moved to!



GET IN TOUCH

DONATE NOW

GDPR AND OUR STANDARDS

GDPR came into effect on 25th May 2018. We had an extremely busy run up to this date, but our small team were able to pull out all the stops and get things in place in time. As a charity we take GDPR and the security of your information very seriously. To this end, we have ensured that all of our data processors comply rigorously to keep everything secure. You can read about our Standards [here](#).

Thank you for reading and please do share this email with anybody you think may be interested in supporting HighGround or who may be in need of our support.



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Our mailing address is:
HighGround, c/o The Poppy Factory, 20 Petersham Road, Richmond, Greater London TW10 6UR.

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We are proud to be a member of Cobseo.

