



HIGHCLIFFE HOUSE

EXMOOR UNCOVERED



A Mayoral Welcome

Welcome to Highcliffe House in the picturesque town of Lynton, Devon. On behalf of our vibrant community, it is my pleasure to extend a warm greeting to each and every one of you.

Nestled amidst the breathtaking landscapes of Exmoor, Highcliffe House offers a tranquil haven for those seeking respite from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. From the rugged coastline to the rolling hills, you are in for a treat as you explore the natural wonders that adorn our region.

As you embark on your adventure, I encourage you to discover the myriad attractions that Exmoor has to offer. Whether it's a leisurely stroll along the South West Coast Path, a visit to the iconic Valley of Rocks, or a journey aboard the Lynton and Lynmouth Cliff Railway, there's something here to captivate every heart and soul.



Valley of Rocks

It's important to recognise the vital role that tourism plays in our local economy. Your presence here not only enriches your own experiences but also supports the livelihoods of countless individuals who call this area home. By choosing to visit Highcliffe House and explore the beauty of Exmoor, you are contributing to the continued prosperity of our community, and for that, we are truly grateful.

Once again, welcome to the international acclaimed Highcliffe House. May your stay be filled with unforgettable moments and cherished memories that will last a lifetime.

Warm regards,
LEWYS LOGAN
Mayor, Lynton & Lynmouth



Lewys Logan Mayor and partner Kesia Pesarini enjoying a glass of Prosecco in the drawing room at Highcliffe House



The view from Room Myrtleberry, Highcliffe House



Stanley Tucci and Felicity Blunt at Highcliffe House



Sunrise from Highcliffe House

Meet the Owners

ROBERT WALSH and RICHARD ROBINSON are the owners of Highcliffe House in Lynton, Devon. Before acquiring this stunning Victorian bed and breakfast, Robert had a successful career in media, while Richard excelled in hospitality. Their combined expertise has transformed Highcliffe House from a regionally successful business into an internationally award-winning establishment.

Their unwavering commitment to exceptional service and guest experience has garnered numerous prestigious accolades, attracting visitors from around the globe. Highcliffe House is renowned for its luxurious accommodations, breathtaking views of the Exmoor coastline, and warm, personalised hospitality.

Under ROBERT and RICHARD'S ownership, Highcliffe House has flourished, becoming a top destination for travellers seeking an unforgettable stay in the heart of Exmoor in North Devon.



Richard



Robert



Rainbow over Lynton from Highcliffe House in March



Marvel at Theresa & Doreen's Daffodil garden at Highcliffe House, a beautiful and lasting tribute to Robert and Richard's late Mothers.



Robert and Richard express sincere gratitude to ANDY and SUE CAFFEY, longstanding guests of Highcliffe House, for their expertise and assistance in producing this publication.

Their support has been invaluable in showcasing the beauty of Highcliffe House and Exmoor to the world.



Originally named *The Rookery*, Highcliffe House was built around 1880 by the notable Victorian architect and engineer BOB JONES, who also constructed the Lynton Town Hall and the renowned water-powered Cliff Railway. Initially, the house served as a summer residence, offering breathtaking sea views from every room and a prime location within walking distance of the town.



Highcliffe Sunset from the Garden Terrace

Highcliffe House through the Ages

The 1891 census records show that retired Major General JOHN CHARLEY lived at Highcliffe with his wife Mary and their 6-month-old son, along with three servants: a nurse, a housemaid, and a cook. Major General Charley had a distinguished military career, serving with the 2nd Battalion 60th Rifles during the Afghan war from October 1878 to February 1880, participating in the advance and occupation of Kandahar and Khelat-i-Ghilizie.

In later years Highcliffe House was used as a Christian retreat centre. After the great wars, a chalet block and common room were added, though these were removed in 1996 when the current main car park was constructed. Highcliffe House over the years has been meticulously restored and now under owners ROBERT WALSH and RICHARD ROBINSON operates as an internationally acclaimed B&B, combining its historical charm with modern luxury.



Highcliffe Sunset over Lynton

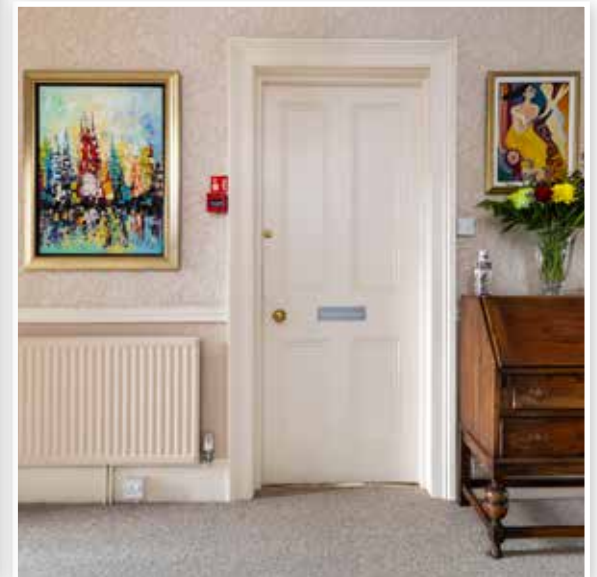
The Drawing Room

The drawing room offers a serene and elegant retreat with stunning views of the Bristol Channel. This space features contemporary furnishings that complement the Victorian architecture, enhanced by an eclectic collection of art and sculptures from around the world. Guests can unwind with a glass of champagne or a drink from the gin bar in this luxurious setting.



Inside Highcliffe House

Highcliffe House in Devon boasts Victorian architecture with elegant period features, including ornate ceilings, large bay windows, and a grand staircase. The property combines historical charm with modern luxury, offering breathtaking views of the Exmoor coastline from its elevated position.



The Dining Room

The dining room at Highcliffe House, offers breathtaking vistas across Lynton to Wales on the Bristol Channel and along the Exmoor coastline to Countisbury Hill. Enjoy sunrise in this luxurious space, perfectly blending comfort with panoramic beauty.



Breakfast with a view



The Orangery Dining Room

The Breakfast Experience

Highcliffe House offers an award-winning breakfast experience featuring fresh produce from Exmoor National Park, served daily on varied breakfast services collected by the owners over the years. Indulge in the tastiest coffee sourced from plantations visited worldwide by Robert and Richard.



Eggs Royale at Breakfast



Tasty Award-Winning Breakfast



Pancake Breakfast Surprise

The Gin Bar

The gin bar is an intimate space painted in a soft 'Hicks Blue,' creating a muted, relaxing ambiance. Guests can enjoy a variety of drinks, including a Devon gin selection while soaking in the cosy atmosphere.



The Sitting Room

The sitting room is a cozy, inviting space where guests can relax, enjoy a drink, read a book, or chat with others. It features an array of art and wooden sculptures collected from the owners' travels.



Countisbury

The Countisbury bedroom is a romantic retreat located on the middle floor. It features a king-size bed and a luxurious double-ended bath, offering guests both comfort and a touch of elegance. The room also boasts scenic sea views, enhancing the serene and relaxing atmosphere.

Right: The view from Countisbury in September.



Kipscombe

The Kipscombe bedroom offers a romantic and luxurious retreat. Located on the top floor, it features a super-kingVersaille-style bed and stunning double aspect sea views over Lynmouth Bay and the Lyn Valley. The room is decorated with rich, gilt Zophany wallpaper and gold and truffle Laura Ashley soft furnishings, enhancing its opulent ambiance. Amenities include a 32-inch Smart TV, Amazon Alexa, and a compact en-suite shower room.



Myrtleberry

The Myrtleberry bedroom is a luxurious premier room located on the middle floor. It features a grand super-king Rococo bed, high ceilings, and elegant Zophany wallpaper. Guests can enjoy a private balcony with stunning views of the Exmoor coastline. The room is equipped with modern amenities including a digital TV, Amazon Alexa, and a fully tiled en-suite bathroom with a shower over the bath.

Right: Sunrise from the balcony.



Hollerday

The Hollerday bedroom is an intimate and romantic room featuring a four-poster double bed and side sea views. It offers a cosy, luxurious experience with elegant decor, making it ideal for a relaxing stay.



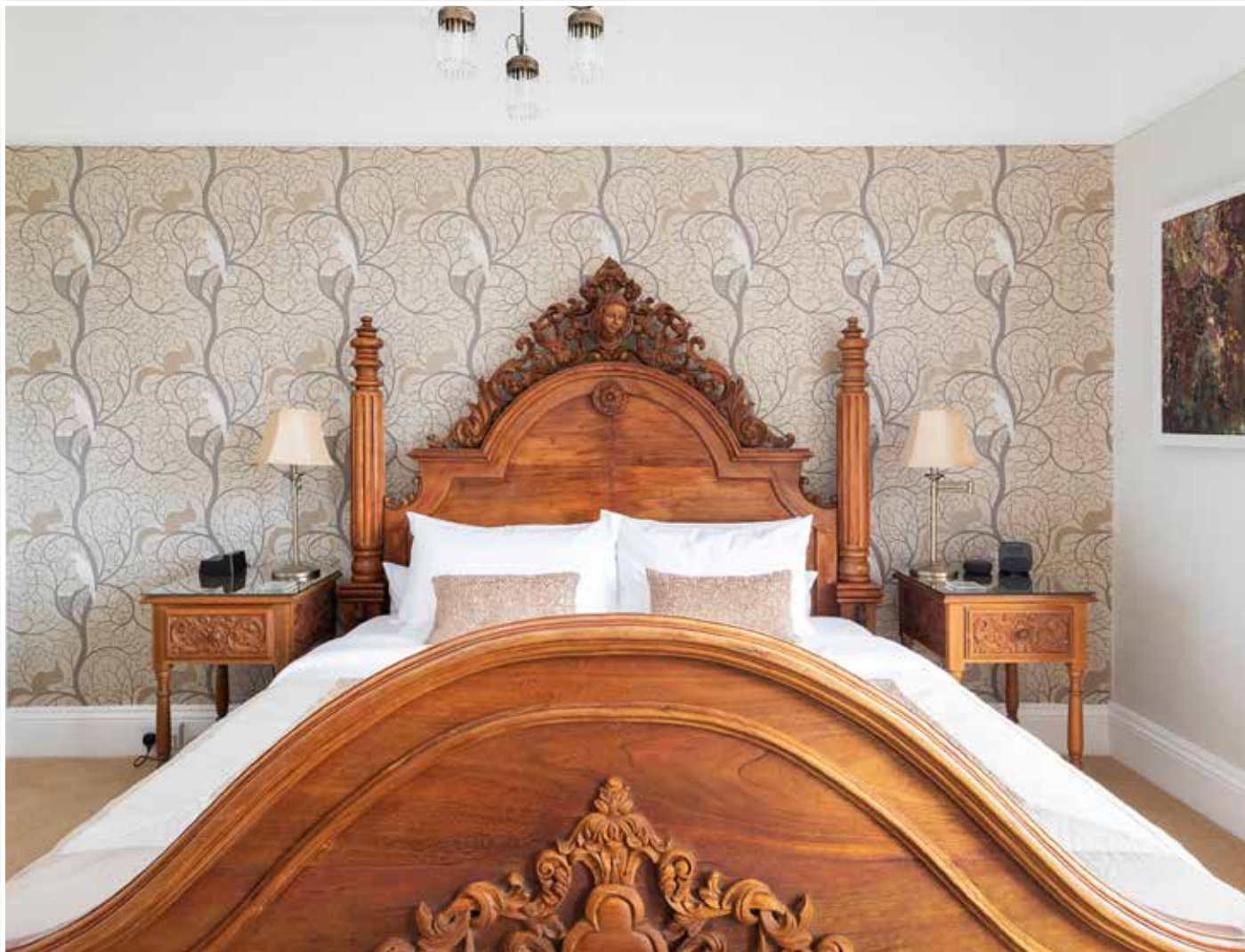
Summer house

The Summerhouse bedroom is the largest room available. It features an ornate super-king bed, a comfortable sofa, and offers stunning sea views. This luxurious room provides an ideal setting for relaxation and taking in the beautiful North Devon coastline.



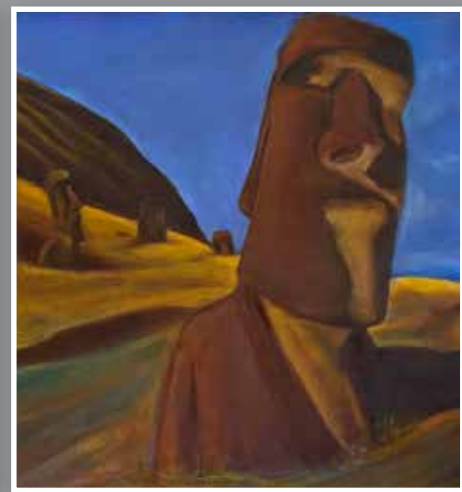
The Cleaves

The Cleaves bedroom is a spacious Jacobean-style room featuring a four poster super-king bed. Guests can enjoy stunning sea views, adding to the room's luxurious and romantic ambiance. This room is designed for comfort and elegance, perfect for a serene coastal getaway.



Art and Beyond

Highcliffe House boasts a vibrant and eclectic art and objet d'art collection, curated by its owners from over 125 countries across every continent. Visitors and guests can marvel at the wide and varied collection full of global charm and vibrancy.



Exmoor

Exmoor National Park, boasts a charming coastline adorned with rugged cliffs and sandy beaches. Home to iconic wild ponies roaming freely across its moorlands, this picturesque park offers a captivating blend of natural beauty and wildlife encounters.



Exmoor above Combe Martin in September



Exmoor Ponies



Heddon's Mouth, Exmoor



Dunkery Beacon

Dunkery Beacon at the summit of Dunkery Hill is the highest point on Exmoor. It is also the highest point in southern England outside of Dartmoor. It provides views over the surrounding moorland, the Bristol Channel and hills up to 86 miles away.



Watersmeet

Watersmeet, near Lynmouth is a picturesque area where the East Lyn River and Hoar Oak Water converge. Known for its lush woodland, it has a history of mill operations and now attracts visitors for its scenic beauty and wildlife.



Lynton & Lynmouth



The view of Lynton & Lynmouth from Countisbury Hill

Lynmouth

Lynmouth has a history marked by its picturesque harbour and dramatic 1952 flood. Known for its scenic beauty, it gained prominence in the 19th century with increased tourism.



Lynmouth Harbour at high tide



The Rhenish Tower



The East Lyn River



Lynton

Lynton boasts a rich history dating back to the Domesday Book of 1086. It flourished in the Victorian era with the arrival of the Cliff Railway, enhancing its popularity as a tourist destination.





Valley of Rocks

Valley of Rocks in Devon is a dramatic, dry valley renowned for its stunning coastal scenery and unique geological formations. Historically a grazing area, it gained literary fame in the 19th century, attracting poets and tourists alike.

Valley of Rocks in August



Valley of Rocks in June

The Cliff Railway

The Cliff Railway in Lynmouth, is a historic water-powered funicular railway connecting Lynmouth to Lynton. Opened in 1890, it offers stunning coastal views and operates using a unique, environmentally friendly system without electricity.



Exmoor AND Beyond



TARR STEPS is a clapper bridge over the River Barle. Its age is unknown, however several theories claim that Tarr Steps dates from the Bronze Age but others date them from around 1400 AD.



Exmoor AND Beyond

CULBONE CHURCH is recorded in the Domesday Book. It is probably pre-Norman in origin, with a 13th-century porch and a late-15th-century nave. It is dedicated to the Welsh saint **BEUNO** and has been designated by English Heritage as a Grade I listed building and the churchyard cross is Grade II.

MALMSMEAD is a hamlet on the border between Devon and Somerset. The border between the counties is along Badgworthy Water, which is crossed by the 17th-century Malmsmead Bridge and an even older adjacent ford. It is situated in the Doone Valley and was the setting for the book *Lorna Doone* by **RICHARD DODDRIDGE BLACKMORE**.



DUNSTER Dunster Castle is a historic fortress located in Exmoor, Somerset. Originally built as a motte-and-bailey castle by the Normans in the late 11th century, it has undergone numerous transformations over the centuries. The castle boasts stunning architectural features from various periods, including a picturesque gatehouse and a 17th-century Jacobean house. Perched atop a steep hill, it offers breathtaking views of the surrounding countryside and the Bristol Channel. Now managed by the National Trust, Dunster Castle is open to the public, allowing visitors to explore its rich history, and beautiful gardens.



PORLOCK WEIR is a harbour settlement approximately 1.5 miles west of the village of Porlock. Many cottages date from the 17th century, including the Gibraltar Cottages which have been designated as a grade II listed building. The South West Coast Path links to Culbone, the smallest parish church in England.



Exmoor AND Beyond

SELWORTHY is a picturesque village in Somerset, known for its charming thatched cottages, beautiful church, and scenic views within Exmoor National Park. The village is a popular destination for Highcliffe House guests seeking a quintessentially English countryside experience.



WITHYPOOL is a small village and former civil parish, now in the parish of Withypool and Hawkridge, in the Somerset district near the centre of Exmoor National Park. The red sandstone Withypool Bridge carries a small road over the River Barle. It was built in the 19th century and is a Grade II listed building.

Exmoor AND Beyond



COMBE MARTIN is a village, civil parish and former manor on the North Devon coast about 4 miles east of Ilfracombe. It is a small seaside resort with a sheltered cove on the northwest edge of Exmoor. Due to the narrowness of the valley, the village consists principally of one single long street which runs 2 miles between the valley head and the sea. An unusual feature is the *Pack o' Cards* public house built in 1700 by GEORGE LEY. Funded by his gambling successes, it originally had 52 windows, 13 rooms and four floors (matching the numbers from a pack of cards).



ILFRACOMBE The **VERITY STATUE** in Ilfracombe, is a striking and controversial work of art by renowned artist Damien Hirst. Unveiled in 2012, the 20.25-metre-tall bronze statue depicts a pregnant woman standing on a base of legal books, holding a sword aloft in one hand and scales in the other, symbolising truth and justice. One side of the statue reveals her exposed muscles and fetus, showcasing a blend of classical and contemporary themes. Positioned at the entrance of Ilfracombe Harbour, Verity has become a significant landmark and point of discussion, drawing both admiration and criticism for its bold representation and imposing presence.

The **WAVERLEY STEAMBOAT** is the world's last sea-going paddle steamer, offering nostalgic cruises along the UK coastline, seen above in Ilfracombe harbour.



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