

Serving the Island's



Town, Parish & Community Councils

The IWALC Bulletin

June 2023

Your questions answered, your experiences shared... news and information from across the Island...links and updates...

Your IWALC Matters!!

Message from the Chair

Welcome to the June issue of the IWALC Bulletin!

This issue is a Coronation special! It includes reports from member councils about their Coronation celebrations, an article by Maxine Warr on her meeting with the Queen Consort, Camilla, when she attended the Royal Garden Party on 3 May as IWALC's nominee, and reflections from Helena Hewston and Sue Hardy, who attended Garden Parties in 2018 and 2019 respectively.

You will also find reports on our May Executive meeting and a recent training course on Accessing the Media, together with information about our forthcoming AGM, which will be held on 29 June, preceded by an informal meeting of Mayors and Chairs. You will see from the report of the Executive meeting that we are planning to have a round table meeting with the IW Council on 21 July to discuss the division of responsibility for assets and services between the IW Council and local councils. And related to this, we were pleased to learn at the meeting that the Cabinet has officially appointed one of its members, Cllr Paul Fuller, to be responsible for liaison with local councils.

This is likely to be my last message as IWALC Chair, since I shall be standing down at the AGM. I have enjoyed being chair but I have held the post for three years and it is now time to hand over the reins. We have built up a good team and I am confident that whoever replaces me will do an excellent job. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support and encouragement during my time in office, including fellow councillors, representatives of other organisations with whom we have developed close relations, and in particular our hard-working staff, Heather and Jill.

Cllr Diana Conyers



Contact - IWALC County Officer, Heather Rowell (heatheriwalc@gmail.com)

Website - www.iwalc.org - Check out our Facebook page too.

The Bulletin - Communications Officer - Jill Webster - jwebster.iwalc@outlook.com

The deadline for the July edition will be June 30th - Thank you.

DISCLAIMER.

The function of the Bulletin is to inform members of issues and happenings that are of concern. All articles are taken in good faith and the opinions expressed in the Bulletin are those of the submitter. Submitted articles do not necessarily reflect our views. We cannot take responsibility for any legal queries resulting from these. We reserve the right not to publish any contributions that for any reason we consider inappropriate.

IWALC News...

May Executive Meeting

An IWALC Executive Meeting was held at 7 pm on Thursday 25 May at the Riverside Centre. There were 20 participants, representing 17 member councils. The Chair welcomed a number of new representatives, following councils' recent annual meetings. She also reminded members that Calbourne, Newtown and Porchfield Parish Council is now a member of IWALC, although their nominated representatives were unable to attend the meeting.

The main decisions made were as follows:

1. Amendments to IWALC Constitution: A number of minor amendments to the Constitution were agreed. These will be put to next month's AGM.

2. Division of responsibility between IWC and local councils: The recommendations of the IWALC workshop held on 27 April were discussed. Members were informed that the IWC's Cabinet has agreed to hold a Round Table discussion with IWALC on Friday 21 July (see report on meeting with Cabinet below). David Carden, an external consultant who has facilitated a number of workshops on the Island, has agreed to be a facilitator. A working group, comprising five IWALC members, was appointed to meet with Cllr Paul Fuller to plan the meeting. Cllr Fuller announced that he has now been officially appointed as the Cabinet member for liaison with parish, town and community councils.

3. Meeting of mayors and chairs: It was agreed to invite Ian Boyd, of Arc Consulting, to provide a brief opening address at the meeting, which will be held at 5.30 pm on Thursday 29 June, prior to the AGM.

4. IWALC representation on Corporate Scrutiny Committee: Members decided there was no point in appointing an interim replacement for Cllr Cameron Palin for the June Committee meeting, since the appointment would have to be approved by an IW Full Council meeting and the next meeting is not until July. However, any questions from members will be collated and sent to the Committee Chair. It was noted that, although the forthcoming review of the IWC Constitution is likely to be a lengthy process, the proposed revision to permit co-opted members to send substitutes may not have to wait until the process is complete (see also report on meeting with Cabinet below).

5. IWALC representatives to other organisations: It was agreed to omit Age Friendly Island and possibly the Prevent Board from the list of organisations to which representatives are sent, but to add Together for Mission Zero and the IW German Twinning Association.

6. IWALC motion to NALC: Cllr Bob Blezzard reported that IWALC's motion to increase the number of voters needed to trigger a by-election will be discussed at a NALC Policy Committee meeting on 20 June. He also reported that NALC already recognises the need for smaller councils to receive help with election costs and has been lobbying the government about this for several years.

Annual General Meeting

IWALC's Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on **Thursday 29 June at 7.00 pm** at the Riverside Centre. This meeting is open to all IWALC member councillors, not just IWALC representatives.

The agenda and papers will be issued on or before **Thursday 8 June** and nominations for the chair, vice-chair, treasurer and representatives to other organisations must be sent to the County Officer on or before **Thursday 22 June**. Nominees must be members of the Executive Committee (i.e. IWALC representatives or deputy representatives) and nominations must be made by another Executive member, not by the nominees themselves. If there are no nominations by this date, the posts will be filled at the meeting.

The meeting will be preceded by an informal meeting of Mayors and Chairs of member councils. Mayors and Chairs should already have received an invitation to this.

Meetings with Isle of Wight Cabinet

There was an online meeting with members of the Cabinet on Thursday 11 May. The meeting was attended by about seven IWALC participants and at least six Cabinet members, including the Leader. Members answered the following questions that had been submitted in advance:

1. Why was the last Health and Wellbeing Board meeting cancelled? The Leader explained that she had been on leave and she had checked with the organisers of the meeting, who said that there was no urgent business, so it had been cancelled.

2. What is the current position regarding the planned review of the IWC Constitution? Cllr Jonathan Bacon said that, as reported at the recent Scrutiny meeting, the full review will take a long time but there will be provision for important non-controversial amendments to be agreed sooner. These would hopefully include IWALC's two requests.

3. Would the Cabinet be able to help us organise a round table meeting with the IWC to discuss the recommendations from the IWALC workshop held on 27 April? The Leader expressed the Cabinet's support. It was agreed to aim to hold the meeting on Friday 21 July and that we would liaise with herself and Cllr Paul Fuller to discuss the details.

4. What is being done to address the long-term problem of pedestrian safety on Pallance Road in Northwood? It was reported that Cllr Jordan had already responded to Northwood PC about this. He said the IWC would work with Northwood PC to purchase land to provide a footpath.

5. What does 'community value' mean in the context of the sale of the Yarmouth School site? Cllr Debbie Andre reported that they would consider the economic, social and environmental value but that the final decision would be made by the Department for Education. Cllr Cowley, who asked the question, agreed to send members information about Bristol City Council's community value policy.

6. Is the West Wight Greenway still part of the Council's Corporate Plan? Cllr Bacon confirmed that it was and that progress was in hand.

The following ad hoc questions were also discussed:

1. If members of the Planning Committee declare an interest in an application, can they still participate in the discussion? Cllr Bacon explained that, if it is a non-pecuniary interest, they can. The Monitoring Officer can advise a member but ultimately it is their decision whether or not to participate. It was noted that there is a Planning Protocol working group, chaired by Cllr Peter Spink, that was established some time ago but has yet to report.

2. When will moves be made to replace the Floating Bridge? The Leader said that a written response will be sent to this and other questions raised recently by East Cowes TC.

The Leader also briefed members about the Islands Forum, which was held on the Isle of Wight on 24 May. She explained that this was a government meeting and so, although the IWC is hosting it, it has no control over the format or attendance. It was therefore not possible for local councils to ask the Council if they could attend.

The next meeting will be at 12 noon on **Thursday 8 June**. All councillors and staff are welcome to attend.

Meeting with Bob Seely MP

There have been two online meetings with the MP, Bob Seely. The first one, at 6 pm on Monday 22 May, had to be aborted a few minutes after the start because Bob was in parliament and was called to vote. Another meeting was arranged for 4 pm on Friday 26 May. Despite the short notice, there were 15 participants from local councils.

The meeting began with a discussion about the Islands Forum, that had just concluded. Bob explained that the meeting focussed on sustainable economic development and skills development. He said that he had argued the need for a wider range of higher education and degree courses for the Island, including more funding for the IW College. He also mentioned the need to learn from Scottish Islands about their renewable energy policies. When asked about the ferries, he said the next meeting will focus on connectivity. He believes the government should do more to regulate ferry companies.

This was followed by a discussion on Southern Water. In response to a suggestion that water butts are not enough to address the problem of sewage outflow, Bob said that the company is doing other things but it doesn't publicise its activities enough. He agreed to circulate information on the various efforts being made.

He then responded to a number of questions about national policy issues, including free school meals, energy support for households next winter, migration numbers and delays at border posts.

Training

A course on *Accessing the Media* was held on Thursday 18 May at the Riverside Centre. The course was delivered by a team of presenters. Allan Bridges (Deputy Town Clerk) and Hannah East (Marketing and Events Officer) from Ryde Town Council opened the session with an explanation of their council's media policy and how they prepare press releases.



This was followed by a presentation by Louise Hill, the BBC Local Democracy Reporter, and two colleagues, Lucy Morgan and Lori Little, co-editors of the County Press, about how to contact the press and present material to them. There were 15 participants, including a mixture of councillors and council staff. The feedback was excellent. IWALC would like to thank all the presenters for their contributions.

The next training event will be a two-part *Councillor Skills Update* course. The first session will be on Thursday 22 June and the second on Thursday 6 July. The course will be delivered by Trish Redpath, a member of Nettlestone and Seaview Parish Council and an experienced local government practitioner and trainer. Applications for this course are now closed.

This will be followed by a course on *Ethical Leadership*, to be delivered by Cllr Steve Cooper, Mayor of Ventnor Town Council. Further details will be provided in due course.

A Day to Remember! An Invitation to a Royal Garden Party (3rd May 2023)

As many of you will know I was nominated to attend in 2020 and then the lockdown took its toll. Although I was very disappointed, as it happened it was even better to attend this year to celebrate the King's Coronation and I am extremely grateful to the Executive for the honour.

The day was just perfect, the weather bucked up and it was even warm at times. I managed to get my high heels in my handbag along with the fascinator, so I had a comfy train journey, although by the time I arrived in London there were a lot of very smartly dressed people on the station!

There were so many highlights, but these are just a few; once we got into the garden we were in awe of the perfect lawn, it was a deep green with not a weed in sight and felt like a carpet. The tea queue was not too long, and we duly picked our exotic sandwiches and cakes. The tea was apparently a specially blended variety from Twinings but I have to say it tasted like dishwater. I can recommend the crushed pea and mint sarnie though!

Once the royal party emerged everyone tried to get a glimpse of the King and Queen and the chosen few were lined up in the centre for the presentations. Gemma and I managed to push ourselves to the front where the very posh but very polite stewards were trying to get us all to stand back. His advice to keep in line was 'ladies I would like you to push your heels into the grass and then if you move too far forward you will fall over'.....

We happened to be in the section that Camilla was circulating and although the 'chosen few' had been told how to address her and what they should and shouldn't say, she just headed for the crowd and spoke to everyone she could! Hence, she walked over to me and Gemma and asked where we came from. When I said I was representing the Island she said, 'Ah, a lovely place, lots of sunshine'.

Once that excitement was over, we looked around the gardens which were stunning and so peaceful considering it's in the middle of London. By this time the comfy shoes were back on.....

I'd like to thank you once again for the honour, it really was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and I wouldn't have missed it for the world.

Maxine Warr



Royal Garden Party, at Buckingham Palace Wednesday 15th May, 2019.

Back in May 2019, before the world was even aware of what was to come with a virus called Covid 19, I was lucky enough to be picked out of "the hat" (a battered leather item worn by the lovely Mick, the rep from Arreton) to attend Her Majesty's Garden Party on behalf of IWALC and the parish of Lake for which I was the vice chairman at the time. Having been born and brought up in West London, well Ruislip in Middlesex but just in the bounds of London, my husband Dave and I were fully aware of the traffic and parking problems in central London so still having a niece living in the area we arranged to go to her house to change into our finery and take the tube into central London.

It was a warm and sunny day, a little too warm to be dressed up in best clothes but when you have the honour of attending one of these occasions you just hope for dry weather as you know you'll be outside for a long time. The official time on the invitation states 4 to 6 pm so we must have arrived just after 3 pm and when approaching the back entrance to the Palace grounds, closest gate to Hyde Park underground station, we were surprised at how long the queue already was. It felt like miles we had to walk before even getting into the actual gate leading to the wide open space of the gardens.

Inside, we walked through the gardens and headed towards a tent handing out water and fruit juice, just what we needed. Further on there were hundreds of chairs set out on the lawn at which Dave and I sat for a little while. Behind the steps leading from the palace and off in the distance were some tables and chairs outside a large marquee (obviously the tea tent) - these tables were filling up fast! Eventually we wandered over to these tents to collect our tea and were surprised how efficient the system was - it has to be when you think that there were 8,000 guest at this party.

Sadly we didn't see Queen Elizabeth that day but she was represented by the then Prince of Wales, now our King Charles III, his wife, Queen Camilla, and Princess Anne. The royal party walked along a line of people all waiting to see them and some were presented but they were the chosen few which you expected.

It was an experience I shall never forget, a very tiring day but we both are pleased we had the opportunity to go.

Sue Hardy
(IWALC Treasurer)



Royal Garden Party

2018

Some things in life give great pleasure. They are not the same for everyone. One event for me was attending a garden party hosted by Queen Elizabeth II in 2018. Despite the preparation beforehand I very nearly didn't go because I had forgotten to pack my passport for the requisite Id. I remain indebted to a friend and to Malcolm and Sandy Hector for coming to the rescue.

Malcolm's name and mine had been pulled out of the hat at the IWALC meeting earlier in the year, and once cleared and accepted by the Chamberlain's Office the hunt for an outfit began. I considered this to be a once-in-a-lifetime event so no expense was spared, except in the case of the obligatory hat which I found in Age Concern in Newport for less than a fiver.

I chose my sister to accompany me. She lived north of London and the plan was to travel up a few days before hand. The day was bright and sunny. We spent the morning enjoying the grounds of Hyde Park before making our way to the Gate where, near the front of the queue, we met up with Mike and the passport.

Those who have been before are able to pass on gems of detail to look out for such as the people with black umbrellas being part of the security staff, (I notices several women with such): the lawn is specially seeded and cared for to withstand the many thousands of feet that walk over it, seconds of the afternoon tea are allowed and there are no mirrors in the ladies loos.

There were two bands, (military, of course), flower beds and a lovely walk round the lake, cucumber sandwiches, a royal progress, including Prince Andrew, through the throng, the Queen with sunglasses (HM had recently had her cataracts corrected) people being presented and pictures being taken.

Whilst watching the Coronation, five years after this grand day out, on the TV with my elder son I had to get up and excitedly kept pointing out the layout of the palace garden and say "I was there. Oh the tea tent is in the same place, the lawn is as green and unmarked, I stood where the King now stands reviewing his troops."

At the IWALC meeting following our attendance I spoke about the experience, how I had enjoyed it but more especially about what it meant in our culture. These garden parties are not organised and provided by government but by the sovereign. They recognise the people's contribution to the country and I felt it had been an honour to represent the Isle of Wight. They support democracy.

My many photos are a very special memento. I am sure Maxine's recollections and photos, which come after a four year break, will also convey the excitement and pleasure of a unique day out. Which should not be missed by forgetting to pack one's passport.

Cllr Helena Hewston



Can You Help?

We've had this request for help from Gurnard Parish Council.... "We are currently trying to gather quotations for a couple of things - one is getting the grass cut at our green space, Old School Meadow, and the other is for a fairly extensive refresh of our website."

If you can help with recommendations for either or both, please email Clerk, Richard Shaul (gurnardparishcouncil@gmail.com)

Community Action's Winter Pressures Partnership Zoom meetings

Please contact Sandy Ciccognani (SCiccognani@actioniw.org.uk) to be added to the circulation list for more information, log-in details for Zoom and for the date of the next meeting.



Monthly Meetings for IWALC with IWC Cabinet Members

These take place on the second Thursday of the month, remotely, via Teams between noon and 1pm. They are well worth finding an hour of your day for. All IWALC Councillors and staff are invited to take part in these informal but informative meetings.

Please contact your Clerk for the Teams log-in details.



Meetings with MP Bob Seely

All Councillors and staff of IWALC Member Councils are invited to take part in these online meetings.

The Zoom log-in details will be circulated to Clerks in advance.



Please remember to check IWALC's Facebook page regularly for more NALC information and news.

If your Council has a Facebook page, please let Jill know and we can re-post your news etc to IWALC's Facebook page.



News from NALC

Monthly Report from Cllr Bob Blezzard

1. MOTIONS TO NALC REGARDING PARISH BY-ELECTIONS AND PARISH POLLS

Two motions agreed by IWALC in March have been submitted to NALC. The first motion, seeking help with election costs for smaller councils is I am advised already NALC policy and has been since 2012. This policy, to seek exemption for local councils from election costs is lobbied on regularly. A second motion seeking an increase in the threshold (currently ten electors) for calling by-elections and parish polls has been referred to the NALC Policy Committee and will be considered on 20th June via Zoom. It is interesting with regard to parish polls that this issue raised its head on Politics South on Sunday 21st May and on regional news in respect of a parish poll in Kidlington, Oxfordshire where Oxford United Football Club want to relocate. It featured NALC's national chair, Keith Stevens saying that the threshold is set too low. The last IWALC meeting also agreed that when I attend the meeting on the 20th I should draw attention to the fact that it sometimes happens when an election is called no candidates come forward and the whole process has to be repeated. It happened a couple of years ago in St Helens and there is the famous case a few years earlier in Ventnor (St Lawrence) that the electoral process had to be gone through no fewer than eight times over ten months before a candidate was nominated. It does seem to be eminently reasonable if no candidate comes forward when an election is called that the vacancy should revert back to being filled by co-option.

2. SPECIAL MEETING OF THE MANAGEMENT BOARD 25th MAY 2023

NALC's Management Board met on 25th May by Zoom. It had been previously agreed to hold this meeting face to face but this was changed at short notice as a number of members were unavailable although apparently not enough to render the meeting inquorate. I registered my objection to what I considered to be a high-handed decision.

(a) Governance Matters: There are a number of vacancies on committees arising from the 4th May elections when we saw long serving councillors lose their seats. This meant that some committees were in danger of being inquorate and therefore unable to meet. As the election results mean some CALCs will have to appoint new National Assembly reps it was agreed to put out a call inviting all Assembly members to come forward to fill the vacancies. The issue of considering constitutional amendments which was the whole point of a face to face meeting I had been pressing for is to be dealt with at a face to face meeting in June (allegedly)!

(b) Website Update: It was reported that any councillor or clerk from a member council can sign up to access member only content on the updated NALC website. They will create an account at sign up by selecting their county association, and then member council name. This will be pre-populated from data provided by CALCs. Notifications will be sent to NALC and CALCs which can flag up any issues but they do not need to verify access. CALCs will be able to view, edit and remove access to those accounts registered in their county. Users will manage and update their information as required and dormant accounts can be removed after one year. I expressed concern about potential abuse of the system where a councillor and/or clerk are with more than one council if one is not in membership.

(c) Meeting with SLCC: We were given details of a recent joint meeting held with SLCC when a revised model contract of employment for clerks was discussed. This has been going on for some considerable time and we are waiting on a response from SLCC to the latest draft which Management Board members have not so far been privy to. The Chief Executive will now press his counterpart at SLCC for a response in June.

(d) Attendance at County Association Events: We were given a schedule of CALC events and Management Board members were encouraged to attend events in their areas. It is possible the National Chair, Keith Stevens will be attending our AGM at the end of June.

3. SMALLER COUNCILS COMMITTEE

The Smaller Councils Committee is keen to build up a picture of how many councils across the country have declared a climate emergency. It will be helpful if the Island councils that have declared a climate emergency advise me by email at: bobblezzard@btinternet.com

Clr Bob Blezzard

Fortnightly Meetings with County Officers

Chief Exec, Jonathan Owen was pleased to host the regular meeting on 3 May 2023 between NALC colleagues and county officers which we took as an opportunity to reflect on how the year has gone so far by discussing successes and challenges plus topics for future meetings. We specifically discussed audit fees and internal audits, training facilities and events, how we collectively communicate with councils, and engagement with National Assembly members.

The May 17 meeting between NALC and county officers saw a presentation from Chris Borg and Fflur Jones from our policy and communication team about this year's post-local elections research. It was an opportunity for county officers to have input into our surveys and how we develop future surveys. There was also a discussion on the outcomes of the elections, the impact these have had on county associations, and handling vacancies. The meeting also highlighted the newly updated **The Good Councillor's guide to employment**, which is available to members for free in the member's area of our website or contact your county association to order a print copy.

At the May 31 meeting between NALC and county officers, there was a presentation from NALC's newest partner GoCollaborate. They demonstrated their tool for online consultations, engaging with communities, and responding to several questions. There was also an update from our head of policy and communications, Justin Griggs, on the work of NALC's National Networks, including why they were set up, how they work, and the range of activities and issues they have been engaged with. Also, county officers discussed how they could evolve, identified potential other groups and how they have input into NALC's work.

Star Council Awards

We launched the awards on 27 April 2023. These awards are an important opportunity to recognise the local (parish and town) council sector's positive impact on communities across England.

We need your help to make the Star Councils Awards even bigger and better than before. We want more nominations to provide even more opportunities for councils, councillors, county associations and clerks to shine.

Save the date — this year's awards ceremony will be held in person in the House of Lords on 29 November 2023, allowing nominees and winners to celebrate their achievements with you. It will be a day to remember, full of networking opportunities and inspiration from the best of the best in local councils.

To apply for one of the awards, go to: <https://www.nalc.gov.uk/our-work/star-council-awards>

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29 NOVEMBER 2023, 15:30-17:00
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Newchurch Parish Council
Newport & Carisbrooke Community Council
Niton & Whitwell Parish Council
Northwood parish Council
Rookley Parish Council
Ryde Town Council
Sandown Town Council
Shalfleet Parish Council
Shorwell Parish Council
St Helen's Parish Council
Ventnor Town Council
Wroxall Parish Council
Yarmouth Town Council

Fishbourne Parish Council

Fishbourne residents organised two successful street parties during the Coronation weekend, one on the Lower Green and one in Firestone Glade. A couple of photos are attached – note the spectacular cake made by one of the residents! The Parish Council contributed to the costs of the events.

Our Parish Meeting was held on 11 May. It included a presentation by Barry Smith, Wightlink's Director of Safety, Health and Environment, who explained his role and invited the Council to contact him if and when necessary. A number of residents attended and refreshments were provided.

The Parish Meeting was followed by the Council's Annual Meeting. The previous Chair, Malcolm Hector, had already announced that he would be standing down and Ed Hopper was unanimously elected to replace him. Malcolm was thanked for his many years of service as Chair. He will now be the Vice-Chair.

Cllr Diana Conyers



Gurnard Parish Council

Our chair, Paul Fuller, remains the same this year; we all hope that Paul will have a quieter year and that we are able to support our new clerk properly.



Councillors hoped parishioners were able to celebrate the Coronation in their own ways. Certainly more than 50 people enjoyed some scrumptious savoury 'light bites' and a fantastic cake before settling in to watch the charming film, *Passport to Pimlico*, set up by Gurnard Film Society. As almost everyone managed to come in some version of red, white or blue outfits, it's a shame there are no photos available to share.

As the environment has long been a passion of King Charles III, improving our village environment seemed a fitting way to celebrate too. Work has started on both Worsley Road borders and planters thanks to village residents who have put in lots of effort. We are hoping to re-join the RHS Communities in Bloom scheme soon and hope this work will be the beginning of a Village Environment group.

Our Community Emergency Plan and Flood Plan have both come under scrutiny as they are in dire need of updating. A working party is being set up and we hope this will involve a number of residents and work as effectively at encouraging more community involvement as the Beach Safety WP has done. Southern Water Pathfinder scheme water butts can be ordered through the GPC website now if residents miss SW engineers when they call. We hope this will improve the take-up of butts aimed at reducing run-off and thus reduce use of Combined Sewer Overflows which have blighted Gurnard Beach too often.

It was with regret on both sides, councillors and Forest School organizers, that the idea of developing a Forest School (FS) at our GPC managed green space, Old School Meadow (OSM), on Cockleton Lane has been given up. The clash between the council's No Fires policy and the needs of the FS to have a fire as part of their ethos could not be reconciled. However the FS organizer is very keen to provide this amenity in the Gurnard, Cowes, Northwood area so we are hoping another site may be found for an idea which has so much potential. Anyone who can help, please contact the GPC clerk if you want to be put in touch with the FS organizer. Although there will be no formal Forest School, councillors recognise that new ideas are needed in OSM and that refurbishment of facilities is required. It would be good to have some more 'natural' play opportunities in the space.

Cllr Penny Acton

Chillerton & Gatcombe Parish Council

At our Annual Meeting we re-elected Councillor Nigel Phillips as Chairman, and Councillor John Hobart as Vice Chair. At our next meeting we will be co-opting a councillor to fill our vacancy.

We will shortly have a war memorial in place on the east wall of the Village Hall with a lovely garden area in front of it. Also imminent, is the installation of our second defibrillator, this time in Gatcombe.

Chillerton celebrated the coronation by showing it live on a large screen, and with afternoon tea the following day. Gatcombe held its traditional street party.

*Cllr Nigel Phillips
(Chairman)*

*Right- Revd Steve Sutcliffe
with Gatcombe's coronation
cake-maker, Cllr Liz Smith*



Photos courtesy of Ian Heal





King's Coronation Big Picnic Sunday May 7th 2023.

In accordance with King Charles III's wishes for neighbours to come together for a Community Lunch, friends and neighbours from Thorley, Wellow and surrounding communities, came together in a laid-back Coronation Celebration Big Picnic on Wellow Millennium Green from 12.30 to 4.30, with music provided by local band Unity Stompers, and funding support from Yarmouth Town Council.

Wellow Green Committee, Wellow Institute members and Thorley Church members worked together, and Institute members provided free teas and exquisitely decorated cakes. With kites flying, some gentle pétanque games and some special vintage vehicles on display on the Green, the Traditional Jazz music kept more than 120 community members from 6 months to 93 years entertained and dancing throughout the afternoon in a perfect setting, relaxing in the sunshine. A special mention to the thoughtful Wellow Institute Committee member who presented a commemorative mug to all the children.

Thanks to local businesses and friends who donated super raffle prizes and food, with proceeds being shared to help with upkeep of St. Swithins Church Thorley, Wellow Millennium Green and Wellow Institute.

Jill Cowley



Yarmouth Town Council now has Debbie McCleary in place as Mayor, and Gillian Head as her Deputy. IW Cllr Peter Spink has just joined the Council, filling the vacancy created by resignation of the previous Mayor, Jamie Allen. Rodney Corbett, previous Deputy, has retired and his vacancy is currently being advertised.

Brian Jacobs (Clerk)

Yarmouth Town Council School site Working Party now have guidance on what the IWC want the site used for in the future. IWC priorities are listed below and closely match the responses from the Yarmouth Community.

1. *Provision of affordable housing for Island Residents: if the site is eventually sold and redeveloped to housing, it is possible that at least part of the site will provide affordable housing for island residents.*

2. *Responding to climate change and enhancing the biosphere: if the site is eventually redeveloped, it will need to be in accordance with statutory and local regulations to minimise zero emissions during and after construction.*

3. *Economic Recovery and Reducing Poverty: if the site is eventually sold for commercial use, it could bring a range of benefits to assist in economic recovery and reducing poverty, such as apprenticeships and new jobs.*

4. *Impact on Young People and Future Generations: again, if the site is eventually sold for commercial use it could provide a range of benefits for young people and future generations through apprenticeships and training.*

The survey by Yarmouth Town Council with over 200 responses, broken down to residents wanting-

- Educational purposes - 92.6%
- Exhibition centre - 68.1%
- Market Housing - 8.9%
- Affordable Housing - 18.3%
- Social housing - 41.8%

The comments included many useful suggestions for the future use of the site.

With this support, the Working Party are looking at providing 6/8 units of Social Housing, a site for a new Scout Hut, an exhibition/educational museum and a new facility for traditional boat building which will train apprentices.

If our negotiations with the IWC are successful we will start fund raising to acquire the site.

Cllr Steve Cowley



East Cowes Town Council

The Coronation weekend celebrations in East Cowes were a great success. The Town Hall live screening of the ceremony on Saturday went down well, there was a brilliant turn out for a full day of events and entertainment at Jubilee Recreation Ground which concluded with the outdoor screening of the concert from Windsor Castle. The Bank Holiday Monday saw a volunteers celebration at the Town Hall and marked the 25th Anniversary of the Town Council – including an assembly of East Cowes Mayors past and present.

The Annual Meeting of the Council took place on Thursday 18th May. Cllr Tracy Reardon was elected Mayor and Cllr Cameron Palin will serve as Deputy Mayor.

The Town Council now has a Theatre Committee and looks forward to supporting The Amy White Theatre with it's annual pantomime as well as a mid-year show.

Claire Gale (Assistant Clerk)

Accompanying photos:

Mayors Past and Present

Celebration Cake and Cake Cutting

Jubilee Recreation Ground Fancy Dress competition and Fruit Stall



Shalfleet Parish Council

Annual Parish Meeting (April) (see photo):



Shalfleet Parish Council

Annual Community Award: The Chairman presented a certificate and £100 to Andy Norman, the local stalwart newspaper deliverer, who goes above and beyond what people normally expect. He works 364 days a year and during Covid was a lifeline for some local residents, offering help and deliveries to them. Andy was thanked for his service to the local community. (see photo).

Island Waste: Ella from Island Waste gave a very informative and interesting presentation on waste and recycling. Believe everyone learnt from this.

Batteries: These can be dangerous and should not go in your waste bins. Please place used batteries either in a clear bag or a bag labelled 'batteries' and place them on top of your general waste bin when you put it out on collection day. Evidence was shown by Ella of what can happen when they explode and cause fires, when not kept separate.

Community Led Housing (CLH): A good meeting of the Working Party was held on 3rd May 2023. Guest speakers were Andrew White, Planning Consultant and three representatives from Island Cottages Housing Association. Discussion took place around the number of homes that could be fitted on the site and the number of bedrooms for each. Nationally described standards relating to room sizes, widths, height to ceiling, storage space etc., are to be followed. It was agreed the CLH Officer prepare a brief to be sent to the three Architects, who had already met with the group, to re-confirm the basis of their fee offer. The Working Party meeting on 7th June to select the Architect.

King's Coronation: Wellow Millennium Green, Newbridge and Shalfleet all hosted successful events. All three events received a donation from the Parish Council.



West Wight Timebank: The organisation has started a new scheme for young carers who live in West Wight. Members put together some well-being bags for each of the nominated children. The Parish Council's donation helped to fill their bags with gifts (see photo).

Annual Meeting (May):

Chair and Vice-Chair: A new Chair (Cllr Shirley Stables) and Vice-Chair (Cllr Pam Broadhead) have been elected for Shalfleet Parish Council.

Donations: The Council resolved to donate to the following: Wessex Cancer Trust, West Wight Sports and Community Centre, a local resident who is attending the Scouts Jamboree in South Korea, Age UK Isle of Wight.

Sally Woods (Clerk)



Calbourne, Newtown and Porchfield Parish Council

Calbourne Village Pump Refurbishment

The Parish Council has had the structure over the Village Pump in Calbourne completely repaired. This involved levelling an old timber structure, especially one that has extra weight on it and is supported in only three positions. It was very challenging for the contractor, J. Nicholson, whose workman required a degree of experience, skill and judgement, as overdoing it could have quickly lead to instability of the structure.

Through measured incremental adjustments, they have been able to first, level the roadside elevation, then, very cautiously, level from front to rear. The old posts have been removed and shuttering is being placed to form the concrete bases to take the posts. The bases will be set to rise at equal distances above the ground, rather than level to each other, because the ground itself at the three corners is at relatively vastly different levels. This meant that each post had to be cut to a different length to maintain a level roof. The posts are of a special grade oak that, unfortunately, could only be sourced from the mainland (which took some time), but it was the right timber to do the job.

Once the concrete bases were down and giving them time to gain strength, the posts' seats were then set in and the weight of the posts and roof structure was transferred to them. Then part of the job was to overhaul the paving. The well had not been filled in, so, this caused the works to be carried out with a high degree of caution, so careful excavation and grading of the base to best meet the surrounding ground levels radiating from the pump was another challenge requiring careful assessment and judgement.

The Parish Council is pleased that it has been able, with the help of others, to stop the decline and deterioration of an historic facility, which was once the important centre of traditional village life.

Subsequently, the Calbourne Residents are having Fund-Raising events to raise money to purchase a replica wheel, to be made to replace the one that was lost. The Council have agreed that if the Residents raise £400 with their Fund Raising, the Council will fund the remaining costs.

Val Taylor (Clerk)

Ryde Town Council

Mayoral Fundraising Auction Raises Over £1,650 for Ryde Community Development Trust



Ryde Town Council is delighted to announce the success of the Mayoral Fundraising Auction held on Saturday 13 May. The event, which took place at the prestigious Ryde School, was attended by 100 guests, including local business owners, members from the University of Portsmouth, and many other wonderful individuals.

The evening commenced with a warm welcome and refreshing drinks in the stunning grounds of Ryde School. Attendees were treated to a captivating performance by Huxley, adding a delightful touch to the evening. The highlight of the night was the live auction, expertly hosted by Warren Riches from HRD Auction Rooms.

The auction featured a wide array of exceptional items up for bid, generously donated by local businesses and supporters. Among the remarkable auction lots were Wightlink Multilink Tickets, a delightful 7-course tasting menu at the renowned Heron restaurant, a luxurious Fortnum and Mason Hamper, and many other attractive offerings. Notably, Lot 9, an exquisite artwork by Richard May, became the most sought-after item of the evening, fetching an impressive £270 as the winning bid for this unique one-of-a-kind piece.

The success of the Mayoral fundraising auction would not have been possible without the incredible support of the attendees. We would like to thank to all the generous individuals who attended the event and contributed to the cause. The funds raised through the auction will be instrumental in supporting the trust's mission to nurture and support meaningful community projects.

The evening concluded on a high note with the presence of Our Girl G on the decks adding an extra layer of excitement as she brought the party to life with her groovy tunes, as people let loose and danced the night away.

Mayor of Ryde, Cllr Lilley said: "I am overwhelmed by the support received at the Mayoral fundraising auction to launch the Ryde Community Development Trust. The funds raised will make a significant difference in our ability to initiate community projects that will benefit the residents of Ryde. I would like to give a special thanks and appreciation to all the attendees and sponsors who made this evening a huge success."

Hannah East (Marketing & Events Officer)



Cowes Town Council

May is my favourite month. Not only is it my birthday month, but the weather is warm and sunny and we've had three bank holidays!

We had an amazing turnout for the Coronation Picnic in the Park at Northwood House. People flocked with their picnics and blankets and enjoyed the entertainment on offer. Huge thanks from the Town Council to the Directors, staff and volunteers at Northwood House for the tremendous effort to put the event on in such beautiful surroundings and bring the community together.

We gave our new Gazebo an inaugural airing and were very pleased with it.



This was the last engagement for outgoing Mayor of Cowes, Councillor Paul Bertie, who formally welcomed the IW High Sheriff Dawn Haig-Thomas to officially open the Picnic in the Park.

At our Annual Town Council meeting it was all change at the top! A new Mayor and Deputy Mayor were voted in, Councillors John Nicholson and Stuart Ellis respectively. Appointments to committees and other bodies were made, and a review of policies and procedures undertaken. I was also promoted to the role of Deputy Town Clerk & Facilities Manager, in recognition of my increasing responsibilities.

The first official engagement for the Mayor was opening the Jubilee Woodland Walk in Moorgreen Road. Cowes Town Council worked in partnership with Moorgreen Road Allotment Society, Cowes Baptist Church and Sovereign Housing by providing financial assistance to enable tree management works to remove invasive species, encouraging native trees and woodland flowers to flourish. Our thanks to Pete Fellows for co-ordinating this project on behalf of Moorgreen Road Allotment Society, and for his personal hard work and dedication, without which the project wouldn't have come to fruition.

The official opening of the woodland walk was arranged to coincide with the 'Be More Green Festival' being held at Moorgreen Reservoir Park on Sunday 28th May. The Festival was a free fun day with artist-led activities, entertainment and market stalls, all centred around the theme of the Island's UNESCO Biosphere status and sustainability.

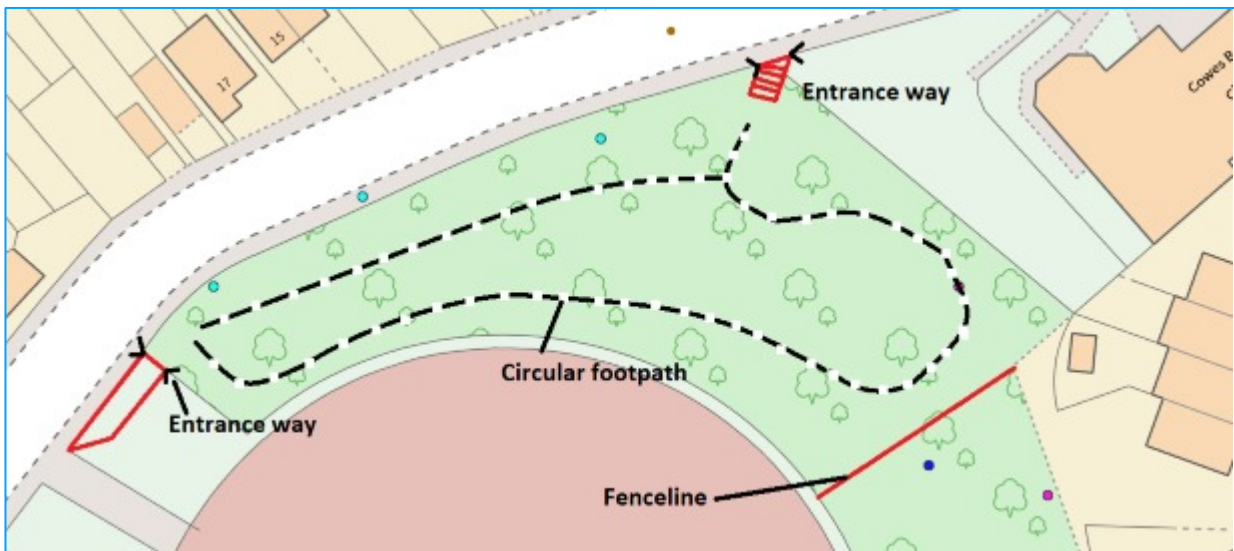
Photo (right) of Mayor Cllr John Nicholson with Ross Edmunds, Regeneration Officer, IW Council.



Photo (right) of Mayor Cllr John Nicholson cutting the ribbon to officially open the Jubilee Woodland Walk, supported by Deputy Mayor Cllr Stuart Ellis & Cllr Sanders; Pete Fellows from Moorgreen Road Allotment Society; Judith Compton, Pastor, Cowes Baptist Church.



The new circular woodland walk was created to enable local residents and visitors to access and enjoy the woodland, whilst still protecting the wildlife.



The first 'CowesFringe' was held over the weekend of 26 – 28 May, bringing a vibrant celebration of arts and colour across our historic seaside town, with an all-star line up; everything from drag and comedy to music and magic across unique pop-up venues - in addition to street art and even a kids' disco! Supported with funding from Cowes Town Council to assist with its promotion, our High Street was adorned with colourful Fringe banners, in addition to the Union Jack flags and bunting.



With summer well and truly on its way, we thank Care in the Garden CIC for providing a wonderful variety of plants and ornamental grasses to provide an interesting and colourful display throughout the town for the summer season, whilst ensuring the plants will survive if we have another heatwave. Photos next month, once the plants are established and in bloom.

Photos courtesy of Cllr Michael Paler.

Kate Scragg (Asst Town Clerk)



Other News...

News & Information from Isle of Wight Council

Please follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.
Sign up for fortnightly e-newsletters from us -
<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKIOW/subscriber/new>



Cost of living support

Are you worried about...

- Paying bills?
- Debts?
- Buying food?
- Heating your home?
- Supporting your family?
- Your mental health?

Citizens Advice provide free, independent, confidential advice about housing, relationships, debt, tax credits, welfare benefits, employment, immigration and health and community care.

0800 144 88 48 or enquiries@iwcab.org.uk

The Footprint Trust can help with energy and water efficiency info, general money saving, benefits and debt.
01983 822282 or info@footprint-trust.co.uk

Go to our cost of living web pages for more information and links. [https://www.iow.gov.uk/keep-the-island-safe/cost-of-living/?ct=t\(cost-living-support-council-may_COPY_01\)&mc_cid=e0463b4e3d&mc_eid=545b48fdbc](https://www.iow.gov.uk/keep-the-island-safe/cost-of-living/?ct=t(cost-living-support-council-may_COPY_01)&mc_cid=e0463b4e3d&mc_eid=545b48fdbc)

Community Pantries

Join a community pantry and for £5 a week, receive over £15 worth of food. Membership is free and isn't means tested, anyone can join.

There are four pantries on the Island, with more planned. Residents can get more information on this web page. <https://www.iow.gov.uk/keep-the-island-safe/cost-of-living/food/>

Update on the COVID-19 vaccination including the Spring booster

A Spring booster dose of the Covid vaccine will be offered to people at highest risk of severe illness:

- everyone aged 75 and over
- residents in care homes for older adults
- immunosuppressed people aged 5 and over

The offer of first and second doses will close at the same time as Spring boosters at the end of June.

You can get more information and book on the NHS website. <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/covid-19/covid-19-vaccination/getting-a-booster-dose-of-the-covid-19-vaccine/>

Are you on a traditional prepayment meter?

You should have been sent monthly vouchers from the Energy Bills Support Scheme from October 2022 to March 2023. You have until 30 June 2023 to redeem your vouchers to get help with your energy bills.

Many vouchers have not yet been redeemed. Please do redeem your voucher to make sure you get the full £400.

Important info:

Vouchers expire after 90 days but you can ask your supplier to reissue them if lost, not received or expired. The supplier sends information with each voucher advising whether they should be taken to a Post Office or PayPoint.

Some clients may have received their discount via a Special Action Message.

Any issues, including problems with a supplier's helpline can be sent to energy.bills.rebate@beis.gov.uk.

Abi Fox (Public Health and Community communications lead)

Additional funding has been awarded to the Isle of Wight Council to help households weather the rising costs of living, to help pay for food, energy and other essential items.

This is the fourth tranche of the government's Household Support Fund (HSF) that the authority has received. The latest grant amounts to almost £2.3 million, to cover the period from April 2023 until March 2024. It will take the Island's total level of HSF funding to more than £5.6 million. The funding is to support households in most need that are struggling to pay for food, utility bills and other related essentials. And specifically, those households that may not be eligible for other support that is already available from the government.

The schemes will be delivered across the Island via the council's 'connect4communities programme' and will include:

- Food vouchers — These will be automatically issued to up to 12,100 eligible households, including young carers, care leavers and children in need.
- Discretionary grants to schools — These may be used to help families with costs relating to food and weather appropriate clothing, bedding or other essentials.
- Funding to Citizens Advice to provide help with fuel bills, a telephone signposting service to the connect4communities programme, an outreach support and advice service in Foodbank Cafes and Community Pantries and energy efficient white goods where the need is identified.
- Funding to the Footprint Trust to provide advice to households on reducing energy costs, and for the provision of energy efficient white goods across the Island, as well as items such as hot water tank insulation and draught excluders.
- A grant pot of £170,000 to be used to expand and support the network of community pantries across the Island, including a delivery service for residents unable to visit a pantry.
- Funding to the Isle of Wight Foodbank for the purchase of food, energy efficient kitchen appliances and assisting with the set-up of a community garden to grow fresh vegetables.
- Community grants for charities, community organisations and town, parish and community councils to help meet needs within their local communities.
- Funding to commission third party organisations to provide support and advice on budgeting, finances, maximising income as well as accessing other help.
- Grant funding to IW Carers to support 200 unpaid carers with clothing, travel, medical equipment and kitchen appliances.
- Grant funding to Age UK.

This latest instalment of HSF follows the previous funding round from the Department for Work and Pensions, which ran from October 2022 to March 2023. During this time, 30 charities and community organisations used their community grant funding, alongside direct support from several council departments, to support more than 14,000 households. This included one-off food vouchers provided to more than 10,000 eligible households; and just under 400 households received help with their food and utility bills via Citizens Advice.

An additional late crossing of the Floating Bridge will be trialled during the Summer months (June 1 to August 31) to connect with the 23.59 Red Funnel Car Ferry departure from Southampton.

It means the Floating Bridge will make a single crossing from East Cowes at 01.20 after its regular shut down time of 00.30

Councillor Phil Jordan, Isle of Wight Council's cabinet member for Transport and Infrastructure explained the reasoning behind the move: "Last year we carried out a survey of Saver Card holders who are regular users of the service. One of the suggestions made to us was for a late-night link up to meet the last car ferry of the day from Southampton. The council wanted to respond to this idea in a positive way and believe it is important to improve transport connections on the Island when we can, hence the introduction of this trial until the end of August."

Please note there will be no additional crossings from Cowes to East Cowes.

The Isle of Wight Council's Cabinet approved the 25-year lease of the Parklands site in Cowes, to be used to develop a dedicated space for Island services to work together to deliver dementia advice, support and training for Island residents.

The hub will be developed by the Alzheimer's Café IW who will now begin a fundraising campaign to refurbish the premises, which will become a community base offering a meeting place, activities, training, support and advice for people and families living with dementia. Last year, it was estimated 2,655 people over the age of 65 on the Island were living with dementia, which could increase to 3,920 by 2030 according to The Alzheimer Society.



Grants of up to £3,000 are now available to help organisations deliver initiatives that support families, children and young people living on the Isle of Wight.

The Early Help Community Capacity Building Grant is available to local groups, clubs and enterprises through the Isle of Wight Council's Supporting Families Programme. The funding is intended to help providers organise activities, clubs or groups for families, parents/carers and/or young people up to the age of 19 (up to 25 with specified additional needs).

Grants could be used to set up and run schemes such as youth activities/opportunities such as detached/outreach youth work, family-based groups, mental health and welcoming sessions/hubs, peer support groups, outreach support and community-led groups and activities.

The grant application is open now and closes on 29 June.

More information on the Early Help Community Capacity Building Grant is available on the council's website

Voluntary and community organisations providing education and learning opportunities for adults on the Island can now bid for grant funding of up to £25,000.

The Isle of Wight Council's Adult Community Learning Service has published a new prospectus for 2023/24 detailing the scheme. Bids are invited from any enterprise that will use funding to deliver services that widen access to adult learning opportunities. The service provides opportunities that engage adults in learning, with a focus on those who have benefited least from the formal education system.

The council requires the grant funding to deliver outcomes including:

- helping people who are disadvantaged and least likely to participate in learning;
- improving the gaining of skills. These skills must prepare people for further education, training or employment. This may include achievement of qualifications;
- developing stronger communities by promoting cultural diversity, equality of opportunity, volunteering and involvement in local decision making;
- delivering a range of universal and targeted family learning courses and workshops supporting an early intervention and prevention model by developing resilience within families;
- supporting early intervention and prevention through a range of innovative programmes to support Multiply, a government-funded numeracy project. Multiply will help adults understand and use maths in daily life, at home and in work.

The grant funding prospectus provides more information about our expectations. To obtain a copy of the prospectus and an application pack, please contact Rob Brindley in the Adult Community Learning Service. He can be contacted by:

emailing robert.brindley@iow.gov.uk or calling 01983 817280.

The deadline for receipt of completed applications is 3pm, on Friday 30 June 2023.

Draft Empty Property Strategy Consultation

The Isle of Wight Council are currently reviewing their Empty Property Strategy for residential properties.

I would be grateful if the IWALC could raise the topic with your members and provide us with any feed-back from local councils responding by email to empty.properties@iow.gov.uk

It is not a statutory requirement for the Isle of Wight Council to have an Empty Property Strategy, however, it is considered good practice to have one to provide a framework for enforcement action. The aim is to agree the a new Empty Property Strategy by July 2023, as the current one was for the period 2019-2022.

The overall purpose of the Empty Property Strategy is to understand the impacts of empty residential property on the Island's housing supply and explain what measures the Council can take in terms of bringing empty homes back into use.

The Isle of Wight does not suffer a significant issue with empty homes. There are always dwellings which naturally become vacant for short periods of time due to buying and selling and this is necessary for a functional housing market. At the same time the Ilse of Wight Council is keen to work with owners to bring long term empty properties back into use, which will not only provide a source of accommodation but also have additional benefits, tackling the negative impact empty properties can have on the surrounding area.

We also wanted to make Local Councils aware that empty properties can be reported to Isle of Wight Council by using our online Report an Empty Property Form.

<https://www.iow.gov.uk/housing-and-adult-social-care/housing-services/empty-properties/empty-property-information-and-support/>

Joanna Murray-Smith

Trading Standards have a couple of scams to share with you –



- A member of our team received an email purporting to be from B&Q – it told you click on a link to claim your prize – a free Stanley socket set! On checking the email senders address it was apparent that this was a scam – best advice is Never click on links in any message you receive
- We have seen information from the Civil Enforcement Association warning of a scam involving paying fake parking fines to fraudsters posing as enforcement agents. Victims receive Notices of Enforcement from various different named companies demanding the payment of unpaid parking debts. The letters replicate Notices of Enforcement issued by the courts that instruct bailiffs. These are designed to distress and intimidate you into paying. Be aware that genuine cases will have unique reference number from the court which will be on all correspondence which can be checked independently with the company in question.
- A gentle warning to be wary of charitable donations. Make sure you know where the money is going to and if in any doubt keep it local. We would advise against responding to emails from random people, out of the blue, asking for money to be paid to an online donation, best advice would be to only support somebody doing something for charity if you know them

On reporting a scam email this month via report@phishing.gov.uk we received an acknowledgement with some interesting information :-

As of March 31st 2023, the number of reports received stand at more than 19,165,600 with the removal of more than 120,300 scams across 220,500 URLs.

We will analyse the content of the email you have sent to us and any websites it links to. If we discover activity that we believe to be malicious, we may:

- seek to block the address the email came from, so it can no longer send emails
- work with website hosting companies to remove links to malicious websites
- raise awareness of commonly reported suspicious emails and methods used with the help of our partners

It's good to know that when we do report these emails we are helping to prevent others becoming potential victims!

The National Scams Team have received funding for call blocking units that can be applied for on behalf of vulnerable residents. This will be on a first come first served basis so if you are aware of any or your service users that are the victims of a scam or who are particularly vulnerable, with their consent I can apply for and install one of these units for them.

If you know of anyone that fits the criteria then please gain their consent and let me have their name, address and telephone numbers

The units are for landlines only and wont be any use for mobile scam calls

Sally Ash (Fair Trading Officer) Tel: (01983) 823000 Option 3
Mobile 07976347642 Email: sally.ash@iow.gov.uk



Extra Care Housing on the Isle of Wight

If you are aged 50 and over, we'd like to hear your views about extra care housing as we review our Independent Living Strategy.

I'm reviewing the council's Independent Living Strategy which will shape future provisions of Extra Care Housing on the Island. Examples of Extra Care Housing are Ryde Village and Green Meadows in Freshwater.

Extra care housing is typically defined as accommodation that is age and/or disability-friendly in design and decor and features the availability of care and support around the clock.

The facilities at extra care schemes generally include:

- Fully self-contained properties where occupants have their own front doors; these might be rented or bought.
- Within the properties there may be a call-button alarm service and other systems designed to assist the people who live there.
- Safety and security are built into the design with fob or person-controlled entry.
- A range of communal or shared facilities are available enabling group or community social activities.
- Most schemes also have a restaurant or dining room where people may choose to have their meals.
- Access to onsite care and support services 24 hours a day.
- Extra care housing often also includes leisure facilities like gyms and hair salons. There are often guest flats or bedrooms, where visiting family or friends can stay.
- Properties in extra care housing schemes can be bought outright, bought as shared ownership or rented.

We want to seek the views of all IW residents aged 50+ to help us plan and shape any future provision.

We have developed a survey which people can complete online or by completing a hard copy if they prefer. The survey seeks to find out what people think of the concept of Extra Care Housing - what appeals to them, what they would like to see included in any future plans, why they might not like the concept and what any barriers might be? **The survey is open until 4th July 2023.**

The online survey is available on the council's website - <https://www.iow.gov.uk/consultations>

Printed surveys are available in the council and community libraries. Large print copies can be requested by emailing ASC@iow.gov.uk

Completed paper copies can be scanned and emailed directly to me (Zlati.Kalchev@iow.gov.uk) or there is an address on the survey for anyone who prefers to post it.

Zlati Kalchev MBA (Commissioning Officer, Strategic Commissioning Team)

Monthly Report from MP Bob Seely

Islands Forum

This month I attended the second Islands Forum, which was held on the Isle of Wight. The forum was attended by Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, Michael Gove MP, and Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Dehenna Davison.

The forum focused on skills and jobs. The Island has a long history of innovation which continues to this day in the Island's advanced marine and aerospace sectors. Members of the forum attended the Island's Centre of Excellence for Composites, Advanced Manufacturing and Marine (CECMM), which provides students with all the skills needed to enter a chosen career in these industries.



At the forum I explained to ministers the need to expand access to higher education on the Island, through programmes such as three-year degrees. I also spoke about the need for teaching centres of excellence on Islands at all levels of study.

Landscape designation

On 18 May, in a debate in Parliament on Public Access to Nature, I spoke about the importance of the Island's natural heritage and the need for unified landscape protections.

The Island contains some of the most valuable and diverse landscapes, flora and fauna in Southern England. Owing to its unique environment and lack of mainland predators, the Island hosts significant populations of species which are either rare or not found in the mainland UK.

We need to protect the Island's landscape and reform the current patchwork of protections. This means planning protections for green spaces and ruling out large-scale, unsustainable housing developments.

In the debate, I called on the Minister for Land Use, Trudy Harrison MP, to create a new Island Park status similar to our current AONB designation, which would recognise and protect the Island as a whole.

Ryde active travel bid

I was delighted to support the Isle of Wight Council's successful bid for £700,000 from the Government's Active Travel Fund. The bid will transform and pedestrianise Ryde High Street.

This is another major win for the town and follows nearly £60 million of additional investment in Ryde over the last four years. This includes investment in Island Line, Ryde railway pier, Ryde transport interchange, and a project to transform the former Elizabeth Pack department store into a cultural hub.

Savannah cats campaign

Savannah cats are a hybrid breed of cat bred from wild Serval cats and domestic cats. They are often unsuitable as household pets and are abandoned by their owners as a result.

The Wildheart Trust, which runs the Wildheart Animal Sanctuary in Sandown, has rescued two pet Servals which were found with deformed and broken bones inside a bathroom in France.

Working with the Wildheart Trust, I have submitted a number of amendments to the Government's Animal Welfare (Kept Animals) Bill which would outlaw the cruel and painful practices of breeding and importing Savannah cats.

On 12 May, I wrote to members of animal interest groups in parliament to raise awareness about the campaign and the amendments. 12 MPs across four parties have supported the campaign so far. On 15 May, I met with Minister for Food, Farming and Fisheries, Mark Spencer MP, to discuss the proposed legislation.

Different elements of the Kept Animals Bill are now due to be brought forward separately and I will be campaigning for a ban on Savannah cats to be included in the Government's agenda.

Pharmacy First

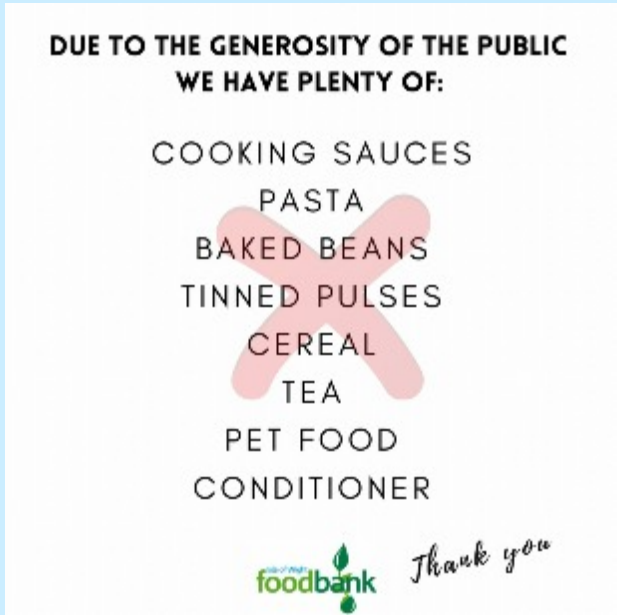
On 9 May 2023, I spoke in the House of Commons to welcome the Government's Pharmacy First scheme. The scheme will invest £645 million over the next two years to allow pharmacists to issue prescriptions for common ailments including ear pain, severe sore throat, and skin and urinary infections. I have long campaigned for more support for independent pharmacies across the Island. This scheme is an important start in recognising the importance of the work they do.

Community Ownership Fund

I am encouraging local communities on the Island to apply for the Government's Community Ownership Fund, which funds bids to save community assets from being closed, sold or falling into disrepair. Town, parish and community councils are able to apply for up to £1 million.

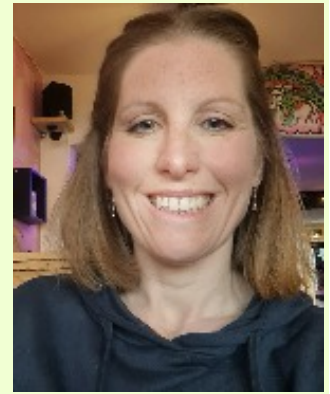
Community assets which may be eligible include community centres, heritage buildings, pubs and sporting facilities. The third round of the fund opens on 31 May 2023 and closes on 12 July 2023.

Bob Seely MP



Surfers Against Sewage (SAS) – More than surfers more than sewage.

SAS are a voice of the ocean. Campaigning for a thriving ocean and thriving people. This was the banner that got my attention last year after my eldest child got sick last year after swimming off Ryde Beach and motivated me to become a regional representative for SAS.



Weeks of sun and no rain has given me a glimpse of what Island life could be like without the worry of sewage discharge into our seas. "It's amazing", not "oh I wonder if it is safe?" or "should I take the risk?". Clean beautiful seas with an abundance of glorious beaches to choose from with beautiful wildlife to inspire. This should be our reality all year round, but sadly it is not and as soon as rain hits our Island some of the combined sewage overflows will discharge rainwater and sewage into our seas, putting the ecosystems, our health and economy at risk.

As one of the regional reps for our Island I want to spark change and motivation for action to #endsewagepollution. This can only happen with collaborative working - and wow isn't our Island full of incredible people and groups fighting for our green and blue spaces?

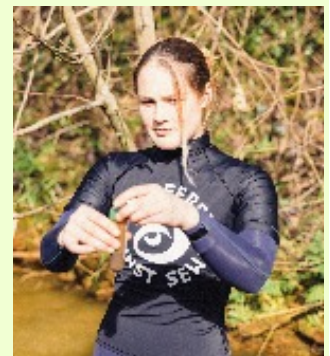


Through SAS I held a paddle out protest on 20th May at Appley beach attended by 80 to 100 people. SAS are urging the public to sign our 'Dirty Money' petition, demanding an end to water companies profiting from pollution.

Cap: We capped bankers' bonuses. It's time to do the same to the water company fat cats.

Comply: No shareholder pay-outs unless water companies comply with environmental regulations.

Enforce: OFWAT properly enforce their licences and stop water companies getting away with making their own rules.



Reveal: Our sewerage network is a public utility. It's time to lift the lid on where our money is going.

www.sas.org.uk/water-quality/dirty-money-petition/

CEO Lawrence Gosden, of Southern Water, also apologised for not addressing the situation with greater urgency and said he would not take any bonus for his first year in the job. He is the 5th water CEO to bow to the public pressure

Another SAS asset is a UK-wide map on app and website called Safer Seas and Rivers Service. This is a free service to get live sewage updates wherever you are, as well as tide times, surf conditions, wind swell and actions. Has someone you know been ill or have you have seen pollution? You can report it through this app. If you see environmental pollution though, please also call the Environment Agency on 0800 80 70 60.

Locally we have the Pathfinder Project from Southern Water. Their island team got 12 million pounds from the early release of the next cycle money from OFWAT'S 1.6bn a couple of months ago. They are focused on optimizing their assets, identifying miss connections and sustainable urban drainage at business and community buildings, homes and roads. There are also plans for two wetlands to be created.

Locally I think they are working to their best ability within the larger restrictions and are passionate, in their words to "reduce" sewage pollution and holding them to account can only happen if we work collaboratively. If you get offered an intervention from them please do consider it.

Why should we wait for our turn in their plan? Why should we not be a majority stakeholder in our own island's future water quality?

I urge you to take any action within the space you have in your life. In your community, faith or sports group raise the profile of the issue of sewage in our waters. Use data and help our island's sites be interrogated, find ways to get water quality and ecological surveys done. Set up designations for bathing water and perhaps shellfish. Speak to your elected representative, councillors at all levels, raise objections to planning that does not have sustainable drainage. Keep the media focused on this issue, by sharing your stories with journalists. Have a think about the physical space you have a say in, your home or community building and see if there is an action you can achieve now.



This is our island and it's time we are not just led by others but become the leaders ourselves. Let's show how amazing our island and community are and fight for our fantastic seas and rivers.

If you are interested and want more information or if you have any sewage-related issues, please contact me on southcoast@sas.org.uk or Facebook Chani SASIOW.

Chani Kind

An update from Red Funnel

We want to thank our customers and the wider Island community for their patience as we undertook our winter refit this year. Works took longer than expected, but we were pleased to have made significant upgrades to our facilities, such as accessibility adaptations to our onboard food service areas, as well as new upholstery, improvements to our stairwells, and of course, the necessary repairs to maintain the resilience of our fleet as we head into the busy summer season.



Last month saw us host our second Customer Forum of this year at Northwood House, welcoming 12 Island residents to discuss key issues with our CEO Fran Collins and other members of our senior leadership team. Residents represented a diverse range of passengers – from Red Jet commuters, frequent vehicle ferry travellers, to those with hidden and visible disabilities. The evening resulted in many useful insights and actions which will soon be made public on our website.

We also know that ferry travel discounts are very much appreciated by Island residents, be it to travel off the Island, or encourage friends and family to visit from the mainland. So just in time for summer, we've announced a variety of ways to save. Offers include £50 day returns (mid-week), £60 'anytime' day returns, to 20% off stays of 1-4 nights and 25% off for 5 nights or more. Summer Sale bookings must be made by 23 June, and travel by dates vary. For full details and to book, see here: www.redfunnel.co.uk/summersale

Josey Page (Senior Accounts Executive)