

Serving the Island's



Town, Parish & Community Councils

The IWALC Bulletin

June 2022

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

Your IWALC Matters!!

Message from the Chair

We decided to publish this issue of the Bulletin later than usual so that we could include reports of the Jubilee celebrations around the Island. As you will see from the section entitled News from Member Councils, local communities put on a great show. We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who contributed to the success of these events.

One of the functions of the Bulletin, and of IWALC as a whole, is to share information and experiences between councils. The importance of this role was emphasised at last month's Executive meeting. It was agreed to have an 'open day' in the Autumn, at which councils can showcase their activities, share their experiences and meet socially. Further details about this will be circulated nearer the time.



Meanwhile, two familiar issues, planning and affordable housing, have again been in the news recently. In mid-May the Local Government Association (LGA) visited the Island, at the request of the IW Council, to undertake a peer review of the Council's planning system. IWALC was pleased to be invited to express our views and impressed by the team's grasp of the key issues. For a report on the visit, see the section on IWALC News below.

And more recently the Council has published a report on affordable housing, commissioned by the Corporate Scrutiny Committee. It highlights the Island's housing problems and in particular the need for affordable rented accommodation. For further details, see the report of the meeting with Cabinet on 9 June under IWALC News. Alternatively, you can access the report directly at:

<https://iow.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s8301/Affordable%20Housing%20Report.pdf>

Diana Conyers (Chair)

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

Don't forget, there will be no Bulletin in August so we've moved the deadline for the July issue forward to Friday July 8th.

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

The IWALC Executive had a meeting on Thursday 26 May at the Riverside Centre. There were 27 participants, including representatives from 19 councils. Since councils have recently held their annual meeting, there were a number of new faces. Participation was good and there was some lively discussion.

The main issues discussed and decisions made were as follows:

1. LGA Peer Review of IWC's Planning Service: IWALC was pleased to have been invited to present its views to the review team and to attend the feedback session on 19 May. See separate report below for details.

2. June topic meeting: Two possible topics for the June meeting were considered: road safety and issues related to climate change and the Biosphere. The latter was put forward following a request from Cllr Jonathan Bacon, IWC's Cabinet Member for the Environment, to brief members on the Council's Mission Zero Strategy. Views were divided but the majority voted for the latter. See below for further details of the meeting. It was agreed that road safety would be the subject of the next meeting.

3. Sharing experiences: It was agreed that one of the main roles of IWALC should be to share experiences between members. It was decided to hold an 'open day' later in the year, at which councils will showcase their activities, compare their experiences and meet socially.

4. Beaver Recovery Project Steering Group: Cllr June Davison volunteered to represent IWALC on this new steering group.

June Topic Meeting

The next topic meeting will be on Thursday 30 June at 7 pm at the Riverside Centre. The subject will be: What can local councils do to help create a sustainable environment? It will include a presentation on the IWC's Climate Change and Environment Policy, known as Mission Zero, and contributions on the implications of the Island's Biosphere status for local councils and renewable energy. All councillors and staff are welcome to attend this meeting.

Meeting with Isle of Wight Council 12 May

At least 15 members attended the May meeting with the Cabinet. Members of Cabinet included the Leader, Cllr Peacey-Wilcox, and Cllrs Jonathan Bacon, Paul Fuller, Chris Jarman, Phil Jordan and Ian Stephens. Many of the questions related to Island Roads. It was therefore decided to invite someone from Island Roads to the June meeting. Other issues discussed included the possible impact of beavers on footpaths, support for patients leaving hospital and emergency planning. On the last of these, members were informed that the Council has an emergency management team and an Emergency Response and Recovery Plan and works closely with local councils, which are being encouraged and assisted to prepare their own resilience plans.

Meeting with Isle of Wight Council 7 June

Nine IWALC members and five members of the Cabinet attended this online meeting. The Cabinet members were the Leader Lora Peacey-Wilcox and Cllrs Jonathan Bacon, Paul Fuller, Chris Jarman and Ian Stephens. As noted above, it was originally intended to focus this meeting on issues related to Island Roads. However, since Cllr Phil Jordan was away, it had been decided prior to postpone this to the July meeting.

The main topic of discussion was affordable housing, following the publication of a report commissioned by the Corporate Scrutiny Committee. The report highlights the housing problems on the Island and confirms that the main need is for affordable rented housing. Issues discussed included the definition of affordability on the Island, the slow progress in setting up the Council's own housing company and the ongoing need for communities to identify empty buildings and potential brownfield sites.

Other questions related to Ukrainian refugees, liaising with Cornwall Council to learn lessons from their experience, and payment of the £150 energy rebate to residents who don't pay by direct debit. We were informed that there are now at least 200 Ukrainian refugees on the Island, that arrangements are being made for the children to attend school, and that Community Action and MADAid are providing ongoing support.

Meetings with Bob Seely MP

At the last meeting with the MP, on 6 May, it was agreed that meetings will now be held every two months. Therefore, there has been no meeting since the last Bulletin was published. The next meeting will be at 4 pm on Thursday 30 June.

Training

Over 50 participants attended our latest training session, which was held in the Council Chamber on Wednesday 15 June! The subject was Local Plans and Housing Needs Surveys. The session was presented by three members of the Isle of Wight Council's Planning team: Ollie Boulter (Strategic Manager for Planning and Infrastructure Delivery), James Brewer (Planning Team Leader – Policy and Services) and Chris Ashman (Director of Regeneration).

They provided an overview of the different types of local plans that councils can produce, the role of housing needs surveys, and the way in which they can be used to influence the nature and extent of local development.

We would like to thank the Planning Team for a very informative and interesting session. The number of participants is a clear indication of the degree of interest in this subject in local councils.



The next training session will be on Wednesday 20 July at the Riverside Centre. The subject will be **Equality and Diversity**. The presenter will be Mandy Ainsworth, a lecturer at HTP Enterprise College. Details will be circulated shortly.

LGA Peer Review of IWC's Planning System

Following a request from the IWC, an LGA team visited the Island from 16 to 20 May to conduct a 'peer review' of the IWC's Planning Service. There were five members, including a councillor from Cornwall and planning officers from the Isles of Scilly, St Albans City and District Council and Colchester Borough Council.

The Team had 24 meetings, one of which was with representatives from IWALC. The representatives were Cllrs Giles Aldred, Alison Child, Diana Conyers, Simon Cooke, Steve Cowley, Thomas Cowley, Dom Hicklin and Trish Redpath. It was a constructive meeting, in which we were able to express the issues and concerns that local councils have about the planning systems.

IWALC was also invited to attend the Team's initial feedback session on 19 May. Five of us were able to do so. We were impressed by the way in which the Team had grasped the key issues and problems that the planning system faces. They applauded the strong sense of 'place' and commitment that exists on the Island. However, they stressed the need to:

- Urgently finalise and adopt the draft Island Planning Strategy (IPS);
- Urgently review the constitution and procedural rules to effectively deliver the council's democratic function;
- Support this through training to embed them;
- Rebuild trust between councillors, officers and the community;
- Improve communication at all levels; and
- Improve the functional operation of the planning service.

They emphasised the need for further training for Planning Committee members and also recommended the recruitment of additional staff to deal with the 200+ backlog of planning applications, closer working with partners to address the need for affordable housing and improvements to the accessibility of the Planning Portal.

Their comments on the IPS were particularly interesting. They stressed that this is the only way of controlling housing numbers and that, without a valid plan, we are not only subject to the 'presumption in favour of sustainable development' but also at risk of land-banking and legal action. They indicated their support for the current draft and pointed out that it could be revised if circumstances change.

Thanks to Dave Hardy

IWALC would like to thank Dave Hardy, who has recently resigned as a member of Lake Parish Council, for his many years of service to local councils on the Island.

Dave was first elected to Lake Parish Council in 2009. He served two terms there, from 2009 to 2017. He didn't stand in the 2017 elections but was re-elected in 2021.

In the past, he has represented IWALC on NALC and SERCAF and was our Treasurer for a while before handing over to his wife, Sue. More recently, he has again been our representative on SERCAF and has been a valuable member of the Communications Group.

We would in particular like to thank him for his recent work on the IWALC website.

Congratulations to

IWALC Chair, Diana Conyers on receiving one of Ryde Town Council's awards to sixteen Ryde residents who gone the extra mile in making Ryde the town it is today. Diana received the award for her extensive voluntary work in the community – specifically with Aspire and the Citizens Advice Bureau Ryde especially throughout Covid19 Pandemic.

At the 2022 Annual Meeting of the council, Newport & Carisbrooke Community Council were joined by Ernest Howard, Royal British Legion.

Ernest presented a certificate of appreciation on behalf of the Royal British Legion, for the support provided by the Community Council over recent years.

The photo shows the Chair, Cllr. Shirley Smart, receiving this certificate on behalf of Newport & Carisbrooke Community Council.



Road Safety Issues

At the recent Executive Meeting there was discussion about road safety. Cllr Debbie Andre has been in touch with colleagues in Cornwall and you might find the following link of interest:

<https://safercornwall.co.uk/the-newly-convened-south-west-peninsula-road-safety-partnership-undertakes-a-day-of-action-on-the-a38/>

Gym Membership - Discount Offer

1Leisure has teamed up with companies to offer a Corporate Discount membership for Gold and Silver Direct Debit and Yearly memberships.



Please see this link for more information-

<https://1leisure.co.uk/one-card-membership/#1573829593-2-6815742434652931576145979346>

The contacts at IW Council in order for councils to be added to the 1Leisure corporate discount scheme are:

Sean Newton- Sean.Newton@IOW.gov.uk

Maxine Rowe- Maxine.Rowe@IOW.gov.uk

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....apart from July, when it will be the first Thursday (...confused? Hope not!) 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.

Teams details are circulated to all Clerks prior to the meetings.

Meetings with 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.

In addition, IWALC continues to be included in the regular Heads of Organisations meetings with Bob Seely,



**** The next meeting will be on Thursday June 30th at 4pm - please ask your Clerk for the log-in details.**



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.

IWALC Training

WHAT?

Equality & Diversity

WHEN?

Wednesday July 20th from 6pm to 8pm

WHERE?

The Riverside, Newport

WHO?

Training is open to all Clerks, Councillors and staff.

HOW?

Please book your place through your Clerk, with Jill

COST?

Free for all Member Council staff and councillors.

£75 per person from non-member councils

BUT!!

£50 charge for any person who fails to attend without giving prior notice.

BOOK BEFORE?

July 15th



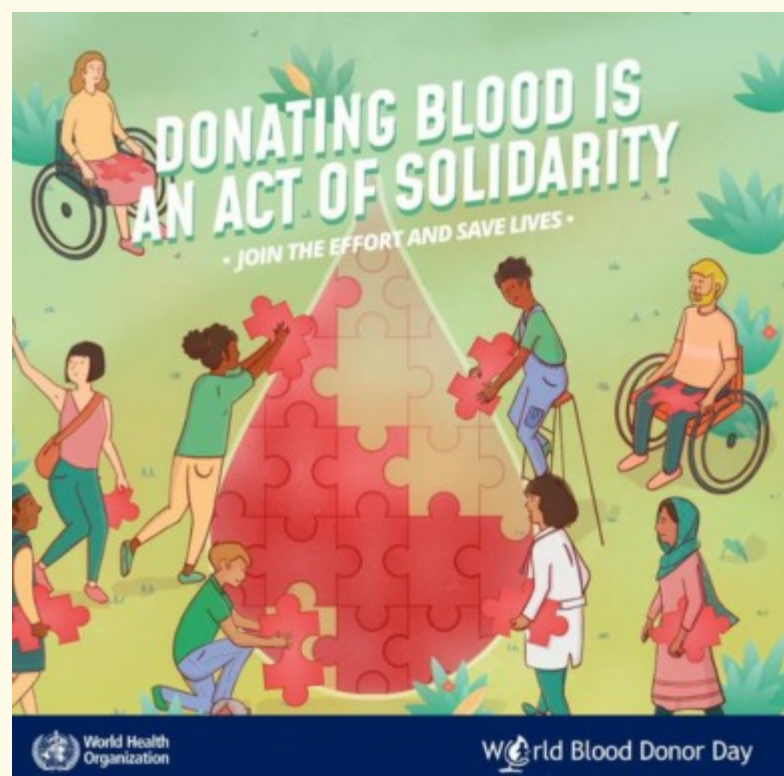
News from NALC

Fortnightly meeting with county officers

Last week's fortnightly meeting with our county officer colleagues focussed on how we all work together and support each other as organisations and individuals.

In particular, we discussed the package of support we are developing which includes induction for new county officers and the employee assistance programme we've made available for all county association staff.

The issue of mental health and wellbeing was considered particularly important, both supporting our members and also each other. Other topics discussed included the Platinum Jubilee and the national local government pay negotiations.



News from Member Councils

Arreton Parish Council
Bembridge Parish Council
Brading Town Council
Brighstone Parish Council
Chillerton & Gatcombe Parish Council
Cowes Town Council
East Cowes Town Council
Fishbourne Parish Council
Freshwater Parish Council
Godshill Parish Council
Gurnard Parish Council
Havenstreet & Ashey Parish Council
Lake Parish Council
Nettlestone & Seaview Parish Council

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
Wootton Bridge Parish Council
Wroxall Parish Council
Yarmouth Town Council

Wroxall Parish Council

On the afternoon of 5 June, Wroxall Community Association and Wroxall Parish Council jointly organised a picnic and entertainment outside Stenbury Hall community centre.



Five prizewinners were presented with rosettes and gifts in the competition to find the Best Dressed House, Best Dressed Garden, the Best Crown and the Best Cake.

A tree was planted as a permanent reminder of the Jubilee.

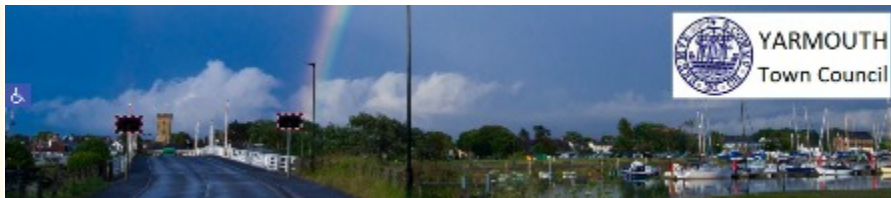
Mike Taplin (Clerk)

Yarmouth Town Council

More than 500 people gathered together on the Green at Yarmouth, some in response to the Town Crier's Proclamation, to see the Queen's representative, Mary Case, Deputy Lord Lieutenant, join Yarmouth Mayor, Steve Cowley, in lighting the Platinum Jubilee Beacon at 9.45 p.m. as part of the national celebration. Sea Scouts formed a Guard of Honour

Medina Marching Band marched through the town providing a fine musical pageant element to the event.

Their bugler, Joe Smith, played the specially composed royal bugle call, which signalled that the beacon was about to be lit. Following the spectacular lighting, the band played the National Anthem and the Mayor called for three cheers for Her Majesty and proposed the Loyal Toast.



Before the lighting of the beacon, the Lifeboat Crew received Queen's Platinum Service medals from Mary Case, DL. Throughout the evening Yarmouth Fire Crew provided safety backup.

Cllr Steve Cowley (Mayor)



Fishbourne Parish Council

Fishbourne may be one of the smallest parish councils on the Island but we know how to celebrate - there were three street parties in the parish over the Jubilee holiday!



On Friday 3rd there was a party in Firestone Glade, which was attended by about 50 people.

Then on Saturday 5th there were two parties, one on Fishbourne Green and the other in Barge Lane. There were at least 60 people at the first and 35-40 at the second. They were all very successful, with lots of food, drink and good cheer.

On Fishbourne Green there was live entertainment and the chair of the Parish Council, Cllr Malcolm Hector (looking extremely smart) unveiled a plaque to commemorate the occasion.

Thank you to everyone involved!

Fishbourne Parish Council



Shalfleet Parish Council



Shalfleet Parish Council

Shalfleet Parish Council supported three of its villages in their Jubilee celebrations where the beacon was lit, tea parties and a picnic were held. Games and displays added to the bunting and flags on site complimenting those locally on homes and hedges. *Cllr Helena Hewston*



Cowes Town Council



A pretty quiet month I jest of course! It has a month full of celebrations and events.

We celebrated the 80th anniversary of the Defence of Cowes and East Cowes by the ORP Blyskawica on 4th/5th May 1942 - 'Cowes Blitz'. The town centre was decorated with Polish and Platinum Jubilee flags. Polish warship ORP Wodnik was moored at Trinity buoy for the duration of the events, with their arrival signalled by a 5 gun salute from The Royal Yacht Squadron.

There were many events and exhibitions on both side of the River Medina organised by the Friends of the ORP Blyskawica Society, including Cowes Blitz walk from The Parade to Northwood Cemetery, the re-dedication of the monument at the communal war grave in Northwood Cemetery, Cowes, a 1940's Ballroom Dance at East Cowes Town Hall, a short commemoration ceremony at Francki Place and the main anniversary celebrations at the Bandstand on Cowes Parade. Events were very well supported by visitors and residents; the crew of ORP Wodnik attended many events and were a credit to the Polish Navy.



Polish & Jubilee Flags



Lighting of the beacon by Col. Carron Snagge OBE DL

The start of June saw the town centre festooned with Platinum Jubilee flags and Union Jack bunting. The Town Council held an event on The Parade and Bandstand on Thursday 2nd June with music and the lighting of the beacon, as part of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Beacons. Our VIP was Deputy Lieutenant, Colonel Carron Snagge OBE, who delivered a message on behalf of the Queen before lighting the beacon on The Parade. We were fortunate enough to also see the beacon from our neighbours at East Cowes. The event was well supported and we have received positive feedback and thanks from residents.



Mayor of Cowes and the High Sheriff

We kept our fingers crossed for the weather to remain dry for the Jubilee Picnic in the Park on Sunday 5th June. There were plenty of activities for all to enjoy. The High Sheriff, Mrs Kay Marriott, opened the event. It was so well supported, the BBQ and cakes sold out! Families brought their picnics, chairs and blankets and it felt like we had returned to a normality not seen for the last two years. There was live music, entertainment, kids' arena, dog show, stalls, cream teas and a licenced bar. The event raises money for local good causes. We would like to thank Northwood House Charitable Trust for hosting and organising such a fantastic community event and of course to our community for their support.



The kids' arena attracted a large crowd

Mayor, Cllr Paul Bertie on the Town Council's stand

A new community orchard and ornamental trees were planted at Northwood Recreation Ground. Thank you to Red Funnel for funding the trees as part of their 160th birthday celebrations and also thank you to the IW Council's Tree Officer, Tony Gillingham for his guidance and assistance to bring this project to fruition.



Cowes Community Orchard

Photographs courtesy of Cllr Michael Paler.

Kate Gibbs
Assistant Town Clerk

Newchurch Parish Council

The platinum jubilee weekend became an opportunity for organisations within the parish to work together to celebrate the queen's 70 year reign. The festivities began on Thursday 2nd June with Newchurch male voice choir holding a concert in All Saints church followed by light refreshments (including Pimms) no charge was made but a retiring



collection taken was shared between the tower fund and Ukraine.



Two weeks before the event the Parish Council leafleted all the parishioners inviting them to lunch on the church lawn on Sunday 5 June from 1pm. Cream teas were for sale in the church hall, tombola stall, WI cakes; Newchurch Horticultural Society had a plant sale. Ager Nurseries had a stall and chitty chitty, bang bang came along.

Cllr Blezzard had approached the local breweries who generously donated 2 firkins of beer. Under the direction of Councillor Mosdell a basic buffet was prepared and served by councillors, with donations

of relish provide by the garlic farm. Surplus dry goods were donated to the food bank and surplus sandwiches and sausage rolls were given to the Salvation Army at Ryde. The Parish Council did not charge for the buffet or beer instead donations were requested £400 was raised for MADaid. The Horticultural Society also donated £200 from their plant sale to MADaid.



Around 150 residents attended from all parts of the parish, many meeting up with people they hadn't seen for a long time. Although the rain came at 3:45 it didn't dampen our day which was nicely rounded off by Rev. Kath Abbott leading a service of praise at 4pm in the church.

Thanks to everyone who made this so enjoyable.

Cllr June Davison

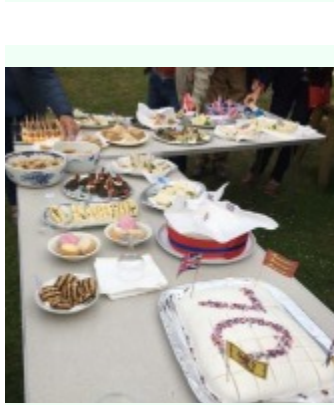


Gurnard Parish Council

As for so many people and places, planning for and organizing Jubilee celebrations has been the priority for Gurnard for the last month.



A variety of community based events were enjoyed in the village, a WI lunch with magical entertainment, a special film night with a 'champagne' reception, a street party, Yarn Bombing, a pub craft fair and a village fete and dog show in aid of Ability Dogs 4 Young People IOW



Food seems to have been the common element across many of the celebrations: at the film night a platter of red, white and blue cheese and pineapple on sticks was a masterpiece and special jubilee cakes were much enjoyed, Hayley's Catering marquee at the fete was busy all day and, as well as some fine hats, the food was much enjoyed at the street party.

However dogs stole the show at many events. Although the weather could have been kinder many activities took place out of doors and in the public spaces which are central to the village: the garden of the village hall, the streets and the Old School Meadow. It is a reminder that, although planning applications continue to roll in at a frightening rate, Gurnard is a rural village. It would be a good legacy of the Jubilee if the community spirit which came to the fore over the long weekend, and which has been much appreciated, can be maintained and further developed.

A public meeting to look at plans for Green Gurnard Holiday Village was held on May 31st and another public meeting with Southern Water will be held at the end of June. How the cleaning of the public toilets is managed was an important agenda item and biodiversity has a mention in the minutes for the last meeting. A decision was taken that a Beach Working Group should be primarily focused on water quality but incorporate wider issues as necessary. An invitation for residents to join this group will be advertised. Community and the environment take centre stage along with the dogs in Gurnard! *Cllr Penny Acton*



Havenstreet & Ashey Parish Council

At the AGM this year we welcomed a new chair, Sue Lyons and thanked the previous chair, Veronica Hattersley for many years of service. She is now concentrating on her role in the Community Association.



Havenstreet Community Association has been very busy lately. The garden group, with the support of the Parish Council, have redesigned the garden and it is now beginning to look amazing.

The Community Centre Garden



We celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with an afternoon tea party in the Community Centre on the Saturday. Well attended by about fifty people it featured musical entertainment, sandwiches and cakes, quizzes and a raffle.

Cllr Mick Lyons



Rookley Parish Council



The Queen's Platinum Jubilee was marked by the planting of a rowan tree on the village Green on the afternoon of 2 June. Organised by the Chairman of the Parish Council, Colin Willis, the planting was witnessed by a large group of local residents.

Mike Taplin (Clerk)

Lake Parish Council

The Parish Council benefited from funding under the Welcome Back scheme and used it to put benches and a flagpole in Thearle's Green, a small area in the centre of the village named after Bernard Thearle, former Chairman who did so much for the community.



It was decided to use the Queen's Platinum Jubilee to dedicate the area and raise the union flag on the flagpole for the first time. At 11.00 on 2 June, Shanklin Town Brass Band played the National Anthem as the flag was raised.

The step-daughter of Bernard Thearle put the last screw in a plaque on a new bench to remember Bernard. Deputy Lieutenant Caroline Peel then cut the Platinum Jubilee cake which was distributed in boxes with the Council logo. Morrisons kindly donated 100 cup cakes and tea and coffee was served.

Thanks are due to all who helped organise the very successful occasion, and particularly to Cllr John Marshall who led the group.

Mike Taplin (Clerk)

With Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee weekend falling in the Summer half-term, Broadlea Primary School in Lake begun their celebrations early on the last day before their break. The day started with lots of happy, smiling children pouring in through the gates dressed in red, white and blue and sporting beautiful hair decorations, some fabulous face paint and lots of incredible Jubilee hats and crowns.

The school has formed a strong relationship with Lake Parish Council, with Councillors involved in many aspects of school life. They were therefore delighted that Cllr Marshall, Cllr Brading and Cllr Marshall were able to join them in the hall for a wonderful whole school Jubilee assembly.

Cllr Brading told the children about his special visit to Buckingham Palace for a Garden Party the week before, and Cllr Marshall recalled how he had seen the Queen's coronation on a small black and white television 70 years ago and shared memories from his years serving Queen and Country in the forces.

Then came the judging of the hat competition - it was not an easy job for the Councillors, and they persuaded the Headteacher, Sharon Freeley to allow two children in every year group to win a prize rather than one. The assembly ended with the singing of the National Anthem and the giving of special commemorative Jubilee bags and badges. Both children and staff were delighted to receive this special gift generously given by Lake Parish Council to mark this momentous occasion. *Cllr John Marshall*

To commemorate this historic occasion the Parish Council arranged the erection of a Flagpole on Thearle's Green and invited the parish to attend the dedication on Thursday 2nd June. Arriving early on a bright morning councillors and their partners erected a gazebo, bunting and balloons adorned the area and tables covered with union jack cloths were laid with tea, coffee, soft drinks and cupcakes. Pride of place was a large cake decorated with the official platinum jubilee logo.

Friends, families and neighbours soon started to arrive and at 11 am Councillor Brading welcomed everyone before handing over to Councillor Marshall who, following a short speech, raised the Union Jack on the recently erected flagpole while Shanklin brass band played the National Anthem. The band continued to entertain us while Cllr Brading unveiled the plaque dedicating the flagpole to Her Majesty on this her Platinum Jubilee.

There was also a new bench in the Green where a plaque was placed dedicated to Her Majesty and also in memory of Bernard Thearle after whom the Green was named. Mr Thearle's step-daughter Sue Pearce fastened the last screw and kindly said a few words of thanks. Following this, the Deputy Lord Lieutenant, Mrs Caroline Peel, made a short speech before officially cutting the Jubilee Cake. Time then to mingle and chat whilst partaking of refreshments. On leaving everyone was gifted a slice of the Jubilee Cake in a cake box bearing the official Platinum Jubilee logo, and a pin badge.

All in all the day was a tremendous success. *Kaye Marshall (selection of photographs from the day, below)*



Ventnor Town Council



Ventnor Community Pantry's Opening

The Pantry was formally opened by County Councillor Debbie Andre at noon on Tuesday 31 May. The Baby Box team had completed an amazing job of reorganising the floor space to accommodate their now two separate services thanks to a team of volunteers including two staff from Morrisons. Joyce Milford, the inspira-

tion for both projects (right of picture) and the Pantry's Coordinator Marzena Turner (next to Joyce) were thanked as was the Town Council for its support for the development, particularly our Tony McCarthy. County Councillor Rodney Downer also attended.



Town Council's Platinum Jubilee Tree

The Town Council marked the Platinum Jubilee with the planting of a tree in Ventnor Park on Friday. The Rev Canon Hugh Wright blessed the planting of a new Sorbus tree, together with Mayor Steph Toogood and County Councillor Gary Peace as part of Ventnor's commitment to the Queen's Green Canopy initiative.

The ceremony was followed by a Jubilee cream tea at the Putting Green with a charity donation to the Wellbeing Café.



Beach Safety Team

Our First Aid Hut opened on 1 June for this season's Beach Safety service. The Town Council has funded two new Beach Safety worker posts of 21 hours a week each and they, together with its Manager, Brian Roberts, will be able to provide cover from 11am to 6pm until 30 September. The two new staff members of the team are Ventnor residents. All three team members have completed First Aid training and know the town's beach very well indeed, very well equipped to provide beach users with First Aid support, access to Emergency Service and advice.



Free School Meals in Half Term

When we learned of the Isle of Wight Council's decision not to provide food vouchers for pupils qualifying for free school meals for the half term we needed to respond. We knew that the Island Free School had 100 pupils that qualify for free school meals and St Francis 80 and we had enough funding left to provide £12 each of our vouchers, exchangeable at the town's Co-op. So we contacted the appropriate staff member at both schools to ask if they would be willing to distribute our vouchers to the parents of those pupils that they were more than willing to do.

Games Launched on Sunday Afternoon

The 'stick on' children's pavement games were launched in the Paddling Pool area packed with families on Sunday 29 May were officially launched with the help of the Junior Carnival Queen and her Princesses. Young musicians from the Chiltern music academy then entertained us with their wind and jazz band. The finale was a moving song with the musicians all standing on the Paddling Pool's Island.



Annual Town Meeting

Our Annual Town Meeting that followed the short Annual Town Council Meeting on 16 May was a celebration of Ventnor's amazing range of voluntary organisations with short presentations of their work by the Wellbeing Café, Ventnor Community Shed, Ventnor Heritage Museum, Ventnor Enhancement Fund, our Youth Club, the Flower Fairy, Ventnor Community Foodbank, Baby Box and the Carnival. We also welcomed the Principal of St Catherine's School and College's outline of their remarkable work. David Bartlett (Clerk)

Ryde Town Council

Ryde Town Council's Jubilee Awards Evening and Beacon lighting



A fabulous evening as Ryde Town Council honoured 16 amazing Ryde residents to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. In celebrating the Queen Jubilee 70th Anniversary it was decided that it was a wonderful opportunity to honour those residents that have gone that extra mile in making Ryde the town it is today.

There were two awards presented on the evening, Ryde Citizen awards and the highest award of achievement the Town Council can give, the Freedom of Ryde. In past years, Ryde has given Eddie Minghella the Freedom of Ryde for his service to the town through business and civic duties and John Ackroyd for his innovation, invention and pioneering in engineering.

The awards were made by local craftsmen in Ryde and present by the Deputy Lord Lieutenant of the Isle of Wight, Dr Jonathan Nainby-Luxmore, Ryde Mayor Cllr Michael Lilley and Deputy Mayor Cllr Jenna Sabine.

The 9 fantastic Ryde Citizens to receive an award were:

1. Henry Adams - For his lifelong service to Ryde as a local businessman, former local councillor and a committed supporter and volunteer of Ryde Carnival.
2. Anthony Brook - For lifelong service to the Ryde Community through work and voluntary service at St. Mary's youth group and Ryde Saint's Football Club.
3. Judith Day - For service to the community of Ryde through tirelessly raising funds for many local charities and good causes including IW Strollers and Ryde Carnival.
4. Derek Sandy - For committed service to the community of Ryde through provision over 16 years of Love Mondays on Ryde beaches and positive promotion of Ryde.
5. Heath Monaghan - For community service to Ryde through the establishment of Ryde Aspire and restoration of Holy Trinity Church, Dover Street as a community resource.
6. Katrina Mary Fraser - For community service to Ryde through her work as a community psychiatric nurse, establishing and running a lunch club for the elderly at Ryde Aspire.
7. Lindsey Jacqueline MacFarlane - For service within Ryde's business and voluntary sectors through the establishment and leadership of Ryde Shop Watch and her support for Ryde Carnival.
8. Tessa James - For service to the Ryde community especially the most vulnerable.
9. Rosie Johnson - For her campaigning for the welfare of wildlife on the Island and in Ryde and the establishment during the Covid 19 Pandemic a group called "Young Nature Watch IW" with the aim of connecting with other young people on the Island who were also passionate about wildlife.

Followed by 7 magnificent Freedom of Ryde:

1. Raymond Allen - For his lifelong work in the entertainment world, his dedication to Ryde, and his support to many good causes in the town.
2. Des Murphy - For his many years of voluntary service to Ryde in developing Ryde's Saints Football Club and support of young people of the town.
3. Carol Jaye - For her commitment, enthusiasm, and vision in the development of the thriving art movement in the Town.
4. Mike Fitt - For his lifelong service to the environment and horticulture nationally and locally in Ryde.
5. Charles Chapman - For his lifelong service to civic duty and public service within Ryde.
6. Diana Conyers - For her extensive voluntary work in the community – specifically with Aspire and the Citizens Advice Bureau Ryde especially throughout Covid19 Pandemic.
7. Peter Woodnutt - For his lifelong service to the town through business, retailing and support of the Island's LGBTQ+ community.

The awards ceremony was rounded off by a lovely thank you poem written by Peter Woodnutt on behalf of the Magnificent 7, with a special mention to Eddie Minghella and John Ackroyd.

The night didn't finish there, as the crowd then headed over to Ryde Marina to be joined by members of the community in their hundreds to watch the Beacon being lit by the Deputy Lord Lieutenant, Dr Jonathan Nainby-Luxmore as we celebrate a unique milestone in our history. It was a beautiful symbolic evening with lovely installations from The New Carnival Company up the Marina Arm.

Deputy Lord Lieutenant, Dr Jonathan Nainby-Luxmore said: "The awards ceremony was wonderful, and the various winners are truly exceptional members of the community. The awards were so thoroughly well-deserved, and I was humbled by all that they have done for the community they live in and the visitors to Ryde." For more information about the work of Ryde Town Council please see www.rydetowncouncil.gov.uk, call 01983 811105 or see our social media posts.

Hannah East (Marketing & Administration Officer)



Freedom of Ryde Awards



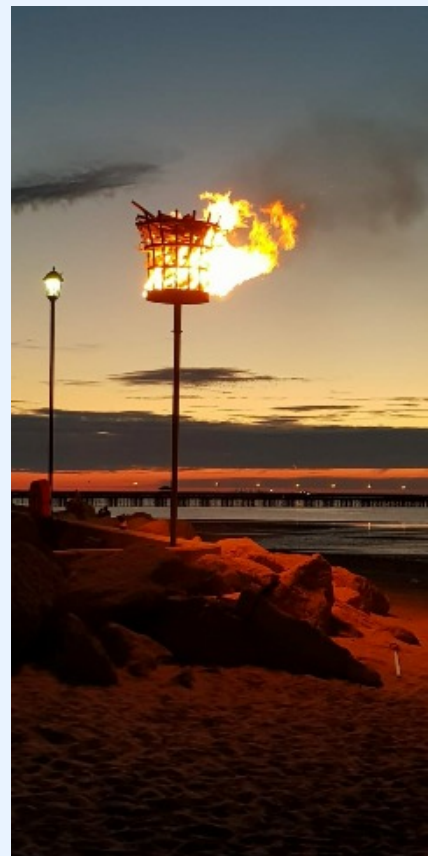
New Carnival Company



Freedom of Ryde Awards -
Mayor of Ryde and Deputy Lord Lieutenant



Lord Lieutenant lighting the beacon



Beacon alight

Chillerton & Gatcombe Parish Council

Jubilee

This was a joint venture between the Parish Council, Community Association, Horticultural Society, St Olave's and the Weekend Market.



Volunteers led by Gillian Belben and Carolynn Hoyle produced all the scones. Other volunteers erected the tables and transported the chairs and so on. The rain held off until after the loyal toast and National Anthem.

Another wonderful day for the community who came together to give thanks to Her Majesty for her service.

Save our School

Soon after our last meeting the decision was announced. As you will know it was to keep the school open.

Many details of what this will entail in the long term have yet to be decided. SOS continues to press for a solution involving The Island Free School. The next school year will look very much like this one with years 3, 4 and 5 being taught in Chillerton and the rest in Godshill.

This has been a remarkable achievement in the face of entrenched opposition from the Hampshire based officers and the Stenbury Federation. Opposition from both of these continues aided by some posturing in the Council Chamber.

Fights to save rural primary schools normally fail. We had minimal resources and the opposition of every vested interest. The victory was by such a narrow margin that every action, however small, in support of the campaign by any person was crucial. I can only thank everybody who did anything for us. It all mattered.

CGCA

The month since the last meeting of the Council has been taken up with the planning, preparation and running of the Scarecrow Festival. This we regard as having been a tremendous success by any measure that you care to choose.

There was a high degree of participation in the parish with about a hundred scarecrows being erected. There was a very high standard of entry.

Many many people from across the Island and beyond came to visit, look at the scarecrows and enjoy some refreshment while they were here. One entry, a representation of Rod Stewart, caused excitements on the Mainland among the Rod Stewart fanbase.

893 people voted for a scarecrow, 885 of them successfully. The votes were spread across the scarecrows with very few getting 'nul point'. The worthy winners were Gareth Rider, Zoe Rhind and family with their deep-sea diving scene.

A huge number of homemade cakes were donated. I have to say that the quality of baking in this parish is superlative. In this hall the Aunt Sally Tearoom where tea and cake were supplied for a donation. The proceeds for the first day went to St Olave's as they ran the tearoom that day.

The Gallybagger was open during each weekday also for two musical events which were well attended and joyful.

Even the weather cooperated!

All in all, a wonderful week for the community in this Parish and I heartily thank all the people who made it so. *Cllr Nigel Phillips (Chair)*

Newport & Carisbrooke Community Council



A new and exciting play area has opened at Downside Recreation Ground in Pan, Newport.

Newport & Carisbrooke Community Council consulted with residents to find out what sort of equipment would be preferred and the new additions have proven extremely popular.

The new equipment comprises of a basket swing, multiplay climbing frame, miniature skate ramp, grind rail, swings, and a four-way spinning swing.

There are also bright colourful graphics on the ground and an all-weather surface so it can be used throughout the year.

Local community councillor Joanne Ballington said, "It is lovely to see the enjoyment on the faces of local children thanks to the efforts of Newport and Carisbrooke Community Council staff. Thanks to my colleague and Isle of Wight Cllr Geoff Brodie for identifying the funding."

The equipment is part of a series of recent improvements to the site which include the installation of up-the-pole planters, improvements to the pathways and the removal of outdated signage. Additional bins are soon to be added and community litter projects planned for the near future.

Lucy Bradley (Deputy Clerk)



Other News...

News from IWC

Action plan to support people affected by homelessness and rough sleeping



A two-year action plan to support people affected by homelessness and rough sleeping goes before senior Isle of Wight councillors this week.

The Isle of Wight Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Action Plan sets out how the Isle of Wight Council will intervene earlier to prevent people from becoming homeless, support people to stay off the streets and improve long-term housing access and supply. Working closely with partners, the council has developed a plan that focuses on homelessness prevention, intervention and recovery.

It details how the authority will support people experiencing or at risk of homelessness by:

- providing timely support before people become homeless;
- helping people who are already in crisis to get swift, targeted support;
- supporting people to find a new home quickly and rebuild their lives;
- introducing new packages to assist residents seeking to access the private rented market;
- building stronger partnerships across health, social care, housing, public health and police;
- using all available powers to bring empty properties back into use.

Deputy leader and Cabinet member for housing provision and housing needs, Councillor Ian Stephens, said: "The strategy action plan provides a blueprint setting out how we will address issues around homelessness that affects hundreds of people on the Island each year. Our aim is to deliver our vision whereby everyone living on the Island has a safe place to call home. We are living in some of the most challenging times in our recent history with many households adversely affected by the cost of living and housing crisis. Our Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Action Plan takes that into account and sets out a bold plan to address it and find a sustainable solution."

Funding available to provide activities for families and young people

Grants of up to £23,000 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 Strengthening Families Programme. Grants vary from £3,000 to £23,000 in some cases.

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 parental, baby or toddler groups, teenage groups, family-based groups, mental health and welcoming sessions/hubs, peer support groups, outreach support and community-led groups and activities. The grant application opened on 1 June and organisations are encouraged to apply by 27 June 2022.

Councillor Debbie Andre, Cabinet member for children's services, education and skills, said: "Our previous grants have already helped to provide a great range of activities for Island families, including art groups, and mental health hubs. This funding will help to provide even more activities to support Island families. I'm grateful to those providers who have already applied for funding and would encourage new providers to come forward so that we can reach as many of our children and young people as possible Island-wide."

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

New support for Islanders facing hardship

Islanders who are struggling to afford food and fuel will get extra help over the spring and summer months thanks to the 'connect4communities' programme — led by the Isle of Wight Council. Financed by the £1.1 million Household Support Fund, awarded to the authority by the the Department for Work and Pensions, the new measures target households in greatest need with utility costs, food and water bills.

The programme includes:

- food vouchers for residents receiving Local Council Tax Support;
- funding to expand and support community pantries on the Island;
- support via Citizens Advice for residents struggling to meet the cost of their food and utility bills;
- a new community grants scheme to support community groups with food and fuel initiatives;
- emergency housing support.

Food vouchers

A voucher scheme will be available to vulnerable households which will provide a one-off £125 food voucher for residents eligible for Local Council Tax Support and Pension Credit Guaranteed Credit, a one-off £50 food voucher per household eligible for Local Council Tax Support and benefits-related Free School Meals or Early Years' Pupil Premium and a one-off £25 food voucher for residents eligible for Local Council Tax Support where there are no children or pensioners living at the property. The vouchers will be available via an application process, details of which will be announced in due course.

Support for food and utility costs

Citizens Advice will use the funding to provide food vouchers as well as direct financial support to households with fuel bills that do not meet the eligibility criteria for the food voucher scheme. It is anticipated that more than 600 households will benefit from this funding. Households wanting advice about support available with household bills, can contact the existing Help Through Crisis Helpline: (01983) 823859.

Community pantries

Funding will be used to set up two new community pantries in areas of need. Additional funding will also be used to support the three existing pantries at East Cowes, Ventnor and Ryde. Community pantries work on the principle of giving those in need the opportunity to have a 'helping hand' by getting food at a lower rate on a weekly basis. Items found in the pantry will be a range of fresh, frozen, and general foods which will change on a weekly basis.

Community grants

Local community groups will be encouraged to apply for grants that will help support those most in need in their communities with food and fuel initiatives. Further information will shortly be announced on how groups can apply for funding.

For further advice and support, visit the connect4communities website or call the Citizens Advice line on 0800 144 88 48.

Isle of Wight Council to bid for more levelling-up funding, this time for a Island Green Link

After success with the £5.8m East Cowes Marine Hub bid, the Isle of Wight Council is eligible to bid in the second round of the government's levelling-up fund. Plans are being prepared to enhance travel between Ryde and Yarmouth by improving cycling, walking, and bus routes while also making accessibility improvements. This could include over 20km of new and enhanced cycling and walking routes between Newport and Yarmouth, through construction of the long-planned Gunville and West Wight Greenways.

The success of this bid will be bolstered by community support, so the council has launched an online survey to allow anyone who already uses the route between Yarmouth and Ryde to contribute to the bid. Paper copies are also available in libraries and at County Hall or by emailing PFI@iow.gov.uk requesting a copy and giving your postal address.

The proposal is likely to include:

- New cycling and walking infrastructure between Ryde and Yarmouth including better connection from Newport town centre to Gunville, and the long-planned West Wight Greenway
- Improvements to connectivity and facilities at transport interchanges along the route
- Improvements to highways and public areas in Newport, including the construction of the Taylor Road link (near to Argos), which will unlock the route for the Island Green Link through the town.

Cllr Julie Jones-Evans said: "We've got a few weeks to finalise our bid and we want to include comments from the people who are already making these journeys. We have already done plenty of work on these projects, including the West Wight and Gunville greenways, with positive involvement and support from local landowners, and user groups such as Cyclewight and the IW Ramblers. I am delighted that we might now be able to put these ambitious plans into practice; not just for the West Wight but extending the route towards Ryde, creating a natural corridor for visitors and locals alike to travel safely and sustainably through some of the most beautiful landscapes in Britain.

"The new greenway will mean that people will depend less on private cars, and will improve health, wellbeing and air quality. The route will also contribute to the council's net zero 2040 target, and provide business growth opportunities, just as the Newport-Sandown route has done. This new transport bid is bigger and more wide-ranging, and will provide benefits across a much larger area of the Island. So if you ever travel on the Island, fill in our survey and get your views into our bid!

Trading Standards

A few scams to share with you

- The coronavirus scams continue, we are receiving regular reports of texts allegedly from the NHS stating that you've been in contact with somebody who has tested positive for covid and you need to do a PCR test. You are told to click on a link to order one – DON'T click on the link this is a SCAM. There are no longer any restrictions or testing in place and certainly no track and trace!
- Residents have reported calls from internet providers saying that there is a problem with your broadband and they want to update the software on your router. This will probably involve you allowing them access to your device where they will be able harvest your information, possibly even access to your bank accounts – NO internet provider would contact you with a problem – you have to contact them.



Action Fraud has received 752 reports in four days relating to fake emails purporting to be from Ofgem. The emails state that the recipient is eligible for a rebate as a result of a newly announced government scheme. The links in the emails lead to genuine-looking websites that are designed to steal your personal and financial information DON'T click on links in emails or texts

To report a scam text – forward the message to 7726
To report a scam email – forward the message to report@phishing.gov.uk
Scams can also be reported to Which – Which? – Scam Sharer



If you have lost money to a scam your first port of call should be to your Bank and Action fraud

Sally Ash (Fair Trading Officer)

**The Isle of Wight NHS Trust Ambulance Service is seeking feedback.
If you or a loved one have recently called 999 for an ambulance
or been conveyed by an ambulance, we would really like to
know about your experience.**

**Please visit Isle of Wight NHS Trust - Ambulance Service Feedback
(iow.nhs.uk)**

<https://www.iow.nhs.uk/our-services/acute-care-services/ambulance/Ambulance-Service-Feedback.htm>

Thank you.

Citizen's Advice

Citizens Advice is very proud of its volunteers as you can imagine. During volunteer week we want to say a massive thank you to everyone that supports the charity-our advisers, telephone assessors, trustees, advice first aiders, digital administrators, and researchers. Without them we couldn't provide the service that is so sorely needed currently on our Island.

During January to March 2022 the charity supported 2711 people, over 233 more Islanders than in the same period a year before and we increased income for all those clients with a combined £467,457.

Our new volunteer journey has had some of the old hurdles taken away so that recruits aren't faced with a long wait before they can start helping our clients. Everyone now starts as an Advice First Aider (AFA) and then, if appropriate, choices are made on the next steps. The AFA course is great (I know I have completed it !) and is such a useful skill to have.

If you know someone who would like a new challenge or another string to their bow, please get them to look at our website -

<https://www.citizensadviceiw.org.uk/Pages/Category/volunteering-opportunities>
or call Simon on 01983 23890 ext 2822.

As the cost-of-living crisis bites, Citizens Advice Isle of Wight has seen a huge number of inquiries from local people struggling to stay on top of household bills. Thanks to the tireless dedication of its volunteers and staff, the charity has continued to give essential advice and crisis support to help people find a way forward.

Vital funds are needed to recruit and train more volunteers. On average, across Hampshire and the IOW, it costs £970 a year to recruit and train a volunteer adviser. In contrast, our financial modelling tool shows that in 2021/22 the total value of Citizens Advice volunteers to Hants & IOW was £4.8 million.

Following on from Volunteers' Week, which ran from 1 to 7 June 2022, Citizens Advice Isle of Wight is calling for local businesses, organisations and individuals to sponsor a volunteer by donating as much as they can.

For more information and to make a donation please contact Citizens Paul Savill pauls@iwcab.org.uk or for all the opportunities to pass onto potential volunteers please visit our Island website

Paul Savill BSc (Chief Officer Citizens Advice Isle of Wight)



Southern Water

Southern Water has been working in partnership with the Newport Foodbank and have attended a number of drop-in surgeries to promote our Affordability schemes and tariffs, in particular the 20% annual discount to low income households.

Also giving out free goody bags which include water saving devices to help reduce water consumption and reduce future water bills, and items to prevent blockages and internal flooding and fatburgs.

The drop-ins have been very successful, so more dates have been added.

Weds 22nd June 10am – 12pm

Weds 29th June 10am – 12pm

Everyone is welcome.



Chamber of Commerce



Island Business Magazine

Island Business, published by the IW Chamber, is the Isle of Wight's only business-to-business magazine. Every month Island Business magazine spotlights the businesses and businesspeople that are making the news in the Island's economy. With exclusive interviews and editorial, we focus on businesses large and small. Our news pages keep readers updated on the business stories that matter to them, including member stories, updates, and offers. If you would like to start receiving a copy of Island Business Magazine in the post (FREE), please complete the form via <https://www.iwchamber.co.uk/membership/island-business/>

In the June edition we celebrate the winners of the 2022 IW Chamber Business Awards, held in May at Cowes Yacht Haven. You'll see the photos of the event and hear from all our award recipients, including Top Mops (Business of the Year) and Alec Dabell (President's Cup for Outstanding Contribution). You can read more via <https://issuu.com/iwchamber>

A physical printed edition of the magazine is mailed out to every IW Chamber member and is available at pick-up locations across the Island.

Emma Spinelli



**DUE TO THE GENEROSITY OF THE PUBLIC
WE HAVE PLENTY OF:**

PASTA
TINNED FISH
TINNED MEAT
TINNED VEG
COOKING SAUCES
TINNED TOMATOES
BAKED BEANS
TEA
CEREAL

Monthly Briefing from MP Bob Seely

Fair Funding for the Island

There has been much said recently about the Prime Minister and what led me to vote to support him to continue as Leader of the Conservative Party.

The PM is the only one ever to promise an improved funding settlement for the Island, and as such, and on balance, I would rather continue to focus on getting him to deliver on this commitment than start afresh with a PM who has not made, or may not offer to make, any such offer. I would like to explain the background and process for securing additional funding for public services on the Island. (On my website I go into further detail on this).

It is important to emphasise that securing additional funding for the Island is a process, not an event. The allocation of funding to local authorities has to take place through the consistent and transparent application of criteria, based on evidence of needs and requirements. As the PM's spokesman rightly said, money for local areas is decided in a process run by civil servants.

However, it is for Ministers to decide the overall policy framework in which these funding allocations are made. It is in relation to the criteria which applies that I have made representations to Ministers, and will continue to do so. It is the role of a constituency MP to fight for the specific needs of their constituency, and I make no apology for doing so. I will use each and every opportunity that arises to seek to make the Island's case. I did seek reassurances in this regard prior to supporting the Prime Minister in the confidence vote. I make no apology for doing that either.

The Fair Funding Review, by its very nature, is a complex and sensitive process – as there will be both winners and losers out of any change to how funding to local authorities is distributed. As such, the Government has been taking a comprehensive approach to this process, including looking at transitional measures. Sadly, this process has been far slower than I would have liked it to be, but I recognise the importance of getting it right so that any adjustments are fully evidence-based and therefore defensible. I am not looking for a quick fix of just an extra amount of money for the Island; I want to see a fully justified – and long overdue – adjustment to the Isle of Wight Council's local government finance settlement from Whitehall. That has been the basis of all my representations.

I have done all I can to encourage the Government to speed this process up. Therefore, when the Prime Minister stood for the leadership of the Conservative Party in 2019, I specifically pressed him on this matter on the occasion of his visit to the Island, and subsequently in the House of Commons. He recognised our circumstances and said:

'I think it's right that given what we have, for instance in some of the Scottish Islands, that we should look at doing something like that for people living on the Isle of Wight as well.'

Following the election of a majority Conservative Government in December 2019, the Fair Funding Review was due to be progressed. As a House of Commons Library paper in February 2020 acknowledged, it was due to take effect in April 2021.

However, in April 2020, the then Secretary of State for Housing, Communities & Local Government published a statement announcing that the implementation of the Review of Relative Needs and Resources (i.e. the Fair Funding Review) was being suspended because neither the government nor councils had the capacity or financial certainty (due to the coronavirus pandemic) to engage properly with the reforms at that time. This was understandable given the unprecedented circumstances we faced at the time, as reflected in the substantial financial support the Government made available to local authorities and communities across the country.

Despite the ongoing impact of the pandemic, I was pleased, following pressure from me, that MHCLG announced in February 2021 that £50,000 was being allocated to the Isle of Wight 'to review the challenges face by the council, residents and businesses on the island who are separated from the mainland'. This work is now complete, and has been shared in draft form with MHCLG to inform its Fair Funding Review



deliberations. As the Leader of the Isle of Wight Council has acknowledged in her recent report to the Corporate Scrutiny Committee, 'an additional £1m was provided in the Annual Funding Settlement [for 2022-23] with a commitment from senior Government Ministers to continue working with us to understand the evidence base around the Isle of Wight's costs ahead of the 23-24 settlement'.

I am grateful to the Alliance administration at County Hall – along with senior officers – for their efforts in continuing to work with me in making the case to Government Ministers. As the Leader rightly points out, this is about the 'evidence base'. We (the Isle of Wight) have the evidence to justify an uplift in the Government's funding settlement for the Isle of Wight Council, and it is important that this is now recognised as the Fair Funding Review draws to a conclusion.

I fully recognise that people are impatient at wanting to see this matter resolved. No-one is more impatient than me, as reflected in what I outlined in the House of Commons on 8 June. But any decision to award additional funding to the Isle of Wight Council must be fully justified and part of a wider local government settlement for England as a whole. Contrary to the pathetic and pitiful claims made by the senior Labour MP, Lisa Nandy, in the House of Commons - which she was forced to withdraw - this is not about anything improper, but instead about our fight to secure what is right and fair. I will never apologise for prioritising the Island.

"Working with the Isle of Wight Council, we are now entirely focused on seeing this recognition translate into the evidence-based funding allocations which the Island

deserves. We have been waiting decades for these issues to be addressed; so we can cope with a few more months as the pandemic-delayed Fair Funding Review comes to a conclusion. I look forward to working with others towards this outcome.

Hampshire Constabulary Name Change

The Minister of State for Crime and Policing, Kit Malthouse, brought forward legislation on 9 June to formally change the name of the Hampshire police area from 'Hampshire Constabulary' to 'Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary'.

The decision follows a consultation undertaken by Hampshire Police & Crime Commissioner, Donna Jones, which showed 82 per cent of those who responded were supportive of the name change.

The name change will now pass through both Houses of Parliament for formal approval, and it is expected that the new name will come into force in the Autumn.

I am very pleased to see this proposed name change now coming before Parliament for formal agreement. It's important to Islanders that we get this recognition and that our voices are heard.

Camp Hill

I have written to the Minister of State at the Ministry of Justice, Victoria Atkins, because I am frustrated by the lack of decision-making over the future of Camp Hill since its closure as a prison in 2013.

The Minister has informed me there are no plans to reopen the prison site. I am therefore keen to see a decision made to transfer the land to the Isle of Wight Council so that it can be developed into affordable housing for Islanders. This would be my strong preference for the site as it offers the greatest benefit to Islanders.

I am disappointed there has been no movement in government on this for some time and I am eager to resolve this matter to give the council some certainty as to how this land will be used moving forward.

Gunville Housing

Last month I objected to new proposals to construct 149 houses on greenfield land in Gunville. These proposals have not significantly changed from those I, and many others, objected to last year - which were subsequently rejected by the Isle of Wight Council in the summer of 2021.

This development takes away more of the Island's greenfield land, damages the landscape and puts pressure on our roads, existing properties and services.

These plans, just as those submitted previously, should be refused permission.

The Isle of Wight Council needs to focus on alternative brownfield sites that could be brought forward for development that addresses the housing needs of Islanders.

I am working with parliamentary colleagues to try to shape the new Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill so that we protect our precious landscape. I will be arguing for the Island's housing targets to be reduced or eliminated.

You can watch my latest (8 June) Parliamentary speech on this here: <https://youtu.be/SqESimvJm24>

However, we urgently need a new Island Plan now so I have advised the council not to wait, but to refresh the Island Plan once the new Bill takes effect.

Bob Seely, MP

Tour of Britain Isle of Wight Stage – three months to go!

It's only three months until over 100 pro riders, and 19 race teams, descend to the Isle of Wight for an 150km adrenaline sprint across the Island, culminating in a hill-top finish at the Needles, to end the 2022 Tour of Britain cycle race.



Riders and their team buses will arrive in Ryde around 8am and set up camp along North Walk. The race starts from Eastern Esplanade between 10-11am and will pass through Bembridge, Sandown, Rookley, Shorwell, Mottistone, Freshwater, Yarmouth, Shalfleet, Cowes, Newport, Godshill, Shanklin, Ventnor, Niton before the epic finish.



Over the next few weeks, Visit Isle of Wight will be sharing ways businesses and local communities can get involved and join in the Island-wide festival of cycling, sport, and celebration; from decorating your town or village, hosting street celebrations and parties to 're-cycling' and decorating bikes trials, there will be plenty of ways to show your support for this special event. An Island-wide Land Art competition also launches the week of 13th June.

It will be the first time the iconic race would have ever been hosted on the Island. Here's a taster on what to expect! [Please link to <https://youtu.be/Hd2UFF7H8L8>]

You can also experience The Tour of Britain Isle of Wight Stage with an exclusive hospitality package. Enjoy a relaxed experience in a prime location close to the Start Line to relish the team presentations and rider interviews, a complimentary, locally produced continental style breakfast, a selection of hot and cold beverages and a Musette swag bag filled with a

selection of goodies! [Please link to <https://www.sportsbreaks.com/event/-Stage-8---Ryde--Start-Line-Club-/889>]

Stand-by for more exciting news from the event coming soon!

Head to visitwightpro.com for all the latest race and event information.



The Isle of Wight College had great success at the Association of Colleges’ Annual Beacon Awards ceremony, held in London on 3rd May, achieving joint winner of the British Council Award for Internationalism and was also runner-up in the Widening Participation category.



The engineering department at CECAMM¹ were delighted to be invited by Councillor Chris Jarman to create five beacons as part of the national beacon lighting ceremony in honour of The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee.

The five locations chosen for CECAMM’s beacons were: Alum Bay, Tennyson Down, Freshwater Bay, Freshwater Golf Course and Compton Bay.

The project was run as enrichment for a range of level 1 and 2 learners. The students researched each site for local information which was used to create designs relevant to the beacon’s location. Mood boards were then used to create initial sketches and designs, which later evolved into final ideas for the decoration of each beacon.

The materials used for the five beacons were kindly donated by DMR Engineering, who are keen to encourage the next generation of engineers coming into industry.



Courtesy of The County Press: The Needles Beacon, captured by Sophie Hale

Engineering lecturer James Miller says: *“We are very proud of the work and commitment of our learners and incredibly grateful to Councillor Jarman for providing the opportunity, and to DMR Engineering for supplying the materials to make this project happen”.*

Beacons were lit across the Island at 9.45pm on Thursday 2nd June to mark The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee.

Debbie Lavin, Principal, The Isle of Wight College

¹ Centre of Excellence for Composites, Advanced Manufacturing and Marine – Whippingham Road, East Cowes

Age UK

Please print and display our posters on community noticeboards if possible. We are also more than happy to send out copies of our posters in the post – just send us an email at digital@ageukiw.org

Digital Support Workshops



Learn new skills, gain confidence and meet new friends at our digital support workshops. Sessions are gently paced and led by our dedicated Digital Facilitation Officer.

Booking essential. Spaces strictly limited.

Call (01983) 525282 or email digital@ageukiw.org.uk

July Workshops - All About Apps

Learn how to search for, install and use helpful Apps on your smartphone or tablet.

Date	Time	Venue
Mon 4th July	11.00-12.00	Zoom
Weds 6th July	10.00-12.00	Wight Mouse, Chale
Thurs 14th July	10.00-12.00	Newport Library
Mon 18th July	10.00-12.00	Cowes Library
Weds 20th July	10.30-12.30	Ryde Library
Tues 26th July	10.00-12.00	Sandown Library
Weds 27th July	10.00-12.00	Bembridge Library

Registered Charity Number: 1118711

Digital Support

Informal and friendly community-based 'IT help' drop in sessions

Brading Youth & Community Centre
2nd Monday of the Month
11:00 - 13:00

Ryde Library
2nd & 4th Wednesday of the month
10:30 - 12:00

West Wight Community Centre
Tuesdays
10:30 - 12:00

Newport Library
2nd & 4th Thursday of the month
10:30 - 12:00

Registered Charity Number: 1118711

Call: 01983 525282
Email: digital@ageukiw.org.uk
Visit: ageukiw.org.uk



Free Support is shared between the group and donations are welcome.
Due to unforeseen circumstances sessions may not always run as advertised.

News from Wightlink

Happy Jubilee Ma'am

Wightlink was delighted to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee by taking part in the national Ships Salute at 12:00 on Saturday 4 June.

Our car ferry and FastCat captains sounded the horn at the same time as the Masters of all kinds of craft from cruise liners, yachts and canal narrowboats to Royal Navy destroyers and frigates.

The port team at Yarmouth got into the Jubilee spirit and, across the fleet, all vessels were 'dressed' with signal flags, following the maritime tradition.



Ryde Pier update

Work has started on the landward element of the Ryde Pier Transport Interchange Project by the Council's contractors and our project to turn the old tramway into an attractive walkway will begin later in the year.

During the demolition of the toilets near the entrance to the Pier, traffic lights will be controlling traffic from Tuesday 21 June so we recommend you allow a little extra time to access the Pier for the next few weeks.

Recognised for our environmental policies

We won The News Business Excellence Award for Sustainability 2022 at a ceremony in Portsmouth Guildhall.



It recognises the successful introduction of our flagship Victoria of Wight, England's first large ferry powered by hybrid energy, and our campaigns to cut carbon emissions and operate as sustainably as possible. Initiatives include improving recycling, installing EV charging points for electric vehicles, buying from Island suppliers and promoting a range of environmental projects.

Beachclean at Ryde

Seven bin bags full of rubbish including a long length of rope, a vehicle tyre, barbecue tongs, a wooden fence post and plenty of plastic bottles were among debris collected from Ryde beach by more than 30 of our staff and partners in this annual event.

Next year we hope to involve Wightlink's partner primary schools, located closest to our three Island terminals, in the clean-up.



Festival is back

Revellers will be heading across the Solent again in a few days and Wightlink is ready to cope with the rush. On Thursday 16 June, we will be providing some disco entertainment for visitors on the upper car deck of our Portsmouth terminal, if you're in the area during the day and want to join in the fun. Let's hope the weather is kind.

As always, we will be encouraging festival-goers to come back with their friends and families to enjoy longer holidays on our beautiful Island.

Karen Woods (Communications & PR)

News from Red Funnel

Jubilee

Across the UK, the nation has been celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, and Red Funnel is no exception. The Red Falcon featured passengers and staff members indulging in Jubilee themed sweet treats as they crossed the Solent between Southampton and East Cowes.



Members of the royal family have made many trips across to the Isle of Wight throughout history, with HRH Queen Elizabeth II herself visiting Cowes on the final stop of her Diamond Jubilee tour in 2012, as well as in 1965, 1987 and 2004.

Tree planting for Red Funnel 160th birthday

Red Funnel has donated 13 trees to Northwood Recreation Ground in Cowes in May. These trees will make up part of the new mini Community Orchard and four additional ornamental trees.

The tree donations are part of Red Funnel's ongoing 160th birthday celebration, during which time it is gifting 160 trees to 11 different partners around the Isle of Wight,

The next tree planting event will take place with East Cowes Town Hall in early June. The project brings together Island partners and residents to look back on Red Funnel's history and to plant the seed for the next 160 years.

RoSPA Order of Distinction Award

Red Funnel has been awarded an Order of Distinction (21 consecutive Golds) Award for health and safety performance by RoSPA, the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents.

As a lifeline service, Red Funnel trains staff to operate with a safety-first culture and receiving this award 21 years in a row is testament to its dedication to ensuring a safe and reliable ferry experience for both passengers and crew.

The RoSPA Awards is one of the most prestigious and recognised schemes in the world, with almost 2,000 entries every year. The awards recognise organisations that have excellent health and safety management systems in place and aim to reinforce the message that excellent health and safety is good business. Since 1956, they have recognised and rewarded companies and people around the world for their safety performance.

Terminal 1 redevelopment first phase complete

Red Funnel has completed the first phase of renovation works to Terminal 1 in Southampton to ensure a smoother check in experience for customers ahead on the summer season. Red Funnel is enabling teams to check passengers faster and more efficiently. The wider terminal investment will improve overall customer experience and build resilience into its operation.

The works were made as part of a £2 million investment into upgrades, which included the installation of brand-new check in booths to replace the previous structures, which became damaged after an HGV lorry accident in September 2021.

A total of four new check in booths have been installed, with new and improved configurations. As well as the new check in booths, the vehicle entrance to the yard has

been resurfaced to correct the levelling within the terminal marshalling yard; and designated illuminated signage for each car waiting lanes has been added to improve visibility for customers travelling in the early morning or evening.

The terminal infrastructure upgrade project also involved life extension work to one of Red Funnel's mooring dolphins. Four of the six piles supporting the dolphin had corroded over time, so this work was crucial to ensure the long-term sustainability and resilience of the berth.

Josey Page (Account Executive)



Hovertravel

After a hugely successful Jubilee weekend with our flypast generating goodwill around the Solent, Hovertravel has a full calendar of extra flights and fun activities this summer. In mid-June our Hover-Fest is the starting point for many festival guests' weekend and we are operating our booked service so our regular customers can travel at the same time and be guaranteed to be on their flight.



We are also adding late flights for Isle of Wight Pride in July and the Victorious Festival weekend in August, with the latter giving Island residents the chance to enjoy the full event and still get home faster than any other way. Thanks to our team's willingness to work late and the inherent flexibility of our operation, Hovertravel can add flights outside its timetable to support the local communities.



The building work at the Ryde terminal will be completed with the addition of new glazing to the first floor Solent Views meeting and event space in late June. This facility has already been used by a number of organisations for

their own meetings and has been well-received by everyone who has visited. The interactive timetable on their website is updated in real-time so customers can look and book easily.

Hovertravel's website has also been upgraded with the addition of a new accessibility tool called Recite Me. Funded by the Department of Transport's accessibility grant for the Isle of Wight and Isles of Scilly ferry operators, this system offers a comprehensive suite of options so the user can adapt Hovertravel's website to create their best browsing experience. *Stephen Forster (Creative Director)*

Thank you, as always, to everybody who contributes to the Bulletin.

We hope everybody has enjoyed this edition, marking the Queen's Platinum Jubilee... some great memories of a wonderful weekend!