

Serving the Island's



Town, Parish & Community Councils

# The IWALC Bulletin

May 2022

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

**Your IWALC Matters!!**

## Message from the Chair

Another month has gone by, so it's time for another Bulletin! Welcome to the May issue.

Our main event in April was a Topic Meeting on Community Wellbeing. There were presentations on the new Isle of Wight Health and Care Plan, Healthwatch's current activities, Community Action's Resilience Project and Aspire's new Living Well and Early Help Service. Some of you may wonder how these relate to the work of local councils. Traditionally, local councils shied away from such activities; health matters should be left to the NHS and social welfare issues to Social Services. However, our society is changing and local councils are changing with it. One of the lessons learned from Covid is that we can play a very significant role in promoting the wellbeing of our residents. And the main message that emerged from the Topic Meeting was not only that we can, but that we must.



The first two presentations highlighted the formidable problems that the Island's health services face, due to a combination of factors, including our demographic structure, the impact of Covid and inadequate financial and human resources. For example, we already have the highest proportion of over-65s in the UK and this will inevitably increase over the next decade or so, the demands on GPs are much higher than they were before Covid, and the shortage of NHS dentists is such that residents who cannot afford a private dentist are being advised to go to the mainland. Joanna Smith, Healthwatch manager, described access to dentists as the greatest social inequality on the Island. Both presentations emphasised two main points: the need to give more attention to preventive action and the need for everyone to work together.

The second two presentations demonstrated some of the ways in which this can be done. The main aim of both the Resilience Project and the Living Well and Early Help Service is to strengthen the capacity of local communities to support the wellbeing of their residents. In both projects, the approach varies from one part of the Island to another, since each community has its own particular needs and resources. However, as Ian Boyd, Resilience Project manager, said, one thing they all have in common is a local council. Our local councils are permanent institutions, they have the capacity to raise money and they have a better knowledge of their local community than anyone else. Therefore, he said, it is essential that they get involved.

I hope that all our members will take up this challenge. Most will already have been contacted by their local Resistance Coordinator and Living Well staff will soon be getting in touch with all local councils to discuss ways in which they can be involved. For a full report on the Topic Meeting, see IWALC News below.

Are there any topics that you would like us to discuss in future meetings? If so, please let us know.

*Diana Conyers*

### **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...

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**Website - [www.iwalc.org](http://www.iwalc.org) - Check out our Facebook page too.**

**The Bulletin - Communications Officer - Jill Webster - [jwebster.iwalc@outlook.com](mailto:jwebster.iwalc@outlook.com)**

**We've moved the deadline for the June issue forward to Friday June 10th....to be able to include all your news about the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations.**

## ***Training***

Our most recent training event was a Code of Conduct course, which was held on Wednesday 4 May at the Riverside Centre. It was presented by Trish Redpath, a Nettlestone and Seaview parish councillor with extensive experience in local government training, and Heather Rowell, Clerk of Freshwater Parish Council. Trish provided an overview of the subject and Heather some case studies. There was a lively debate and all the 12 participants said that the session had been interesting and useful. IWALC would like to thank Trish and Heather for stepping in at relatively short notice, when the original presenter had to stand down.

The next training session will be on Wednesday 15 June. The subject will be Local Plans and Housing Needs Surveys. It will be a face-to-face session, presented by the Isle of Wight Council's Planning Team. Details will be circulated shortly. This will be followed in July by a session on Equality and Diversity, presented by Mandy Ainsworth, a lecturer at HTP Enterprise College

## ***April Topic Meeting***

Our April Topic Meeting, which was held at the Riverside Centre on 28 April, focused on Community Wellbeing. The main aim of the meeting was to update members on developments since the Community Resilience Workshop held last September.

There were four presentations. The first was on the new IW Health and Care Plan. It was presented by two speakers from the IW NHS Trust: Dr Nikki Turner, Director of Strategy, Partnerships and Digital, and Michelle Young, Programme Director. They explained that the Plan is a joint effort by the NHS Trust, CCG, IW Council and the community and voluntary sector. They highlighted the challenges facing the Island's health sector, due to a combination of factors, including the ageing population, the long-term effects of Covid and staff shortages. They said the Plan will focus on preventative action and emphasised the need for everyone to work together.

The second presentation was by Joanna Smith, local manager of Healthwatch. She explained that Healthwatch is currently focusing on the problems of access to GP surgeries, NHS dentists and pharmacies. Although the problems are formidable, her message was not entirely negative. She said that local GPs are now attending to more patients than they were before Covid (although not all face-to-face) and that she is working with a group of local dentists on innovative ways of addressing the crisis in dentistry.

The third presentation was by Ian Boyd, currently manager of Community Action's Resilience Project. He explained that the aim of the project is to develop the long-term resilience of local communities, in order not only to facilitate responses to future emergencies, but also to reduce the likelihood of their occurrence and/or the severity of their impact. It is currently focusing on two main activities: the preparation of emergency

resilience plans and the development of a local volunteer base. It employs six local resilience coordinators, who work closely with local councils in their areas. Ian emphasised the diversity of local communities, the importance of 'place', and the essential role that local councils can play.

The final speakers were Trevor Nicholas and Steve Johnson from Aspire Ryde, who talked about the new Living Well and Early Help Service. The main aim of the service is to support people in their own communities, thereby not only improving the quality of their lives but also reducing the demands on statutory services. Although Aspire is the lead agency, the project is a partnership between four organisations: Aspire Ryde, West Wight Community and Sports Centre, Ventnor Town Council and Pan Together. These four organisations, although very different in their approach, have all been successful in working with other community-based organisations to provide integrated, person-centred support for their residents. The new service will build on this experience by promoting and supporting the development of similar 'community hubs' in other parts of the Island. Local councils will have a vital role to play in this endeavour.

Following the four presentations, there was a question and answer session. Topics raised ranged from shortages of dentists and pharmacists to youth services, public transport and the possible role of 'citizens' assemblies'. The session was useful, not only as a means of updating councillors on these activities but also by giving the presenters an opportunity to talk to each other. The main message that emerged was the need for everyone, including local councils, to work together to address the formidable challenges our society faces.

### ***Feedback from Topic Meeting on Affordable Housing***

February's Topic Meeting was on affordable housing. We are pleased to report that John Prickett, the IW Council's Community Led Housing Officer, has had a number of enquiries from local councillors since the meeting. Meanwhile, Cllr Ian Stephens, Cabinet Member for Housing, would like to remind councils to report any empty properties or brownfield sites to the Council.

### ***Meeting with Isle of Wight Council***

About 15 local councillors attended the last monthly online meeting with the Leader of the IW Council and other Cabinet members, which was held at midday on 14 April. The Leader, Cllr Peacey-Wilcox, welcomed councillors and thanked them for all the work they do.

The main topics discussed were:

- Draft Island Planning Strategy (IPS): Cllr Fuller explained that they had decided to delay taking the draft IPS to Full Council because comments received, including some from local councils, suggested the need to reconsider some points.
- Road safety: Cllr Jordan said that the Island's high accident rate was due to a number of factors, some of which the Council is already addressing (e.g. priority given to road works required for safety reasons, speed review currently underway). It was agreed that the Council will take the lead in reviewing the situation.
- Poor Police response to 101 calls: Residents are advised to call 999 if an incident is actually happening at the time.
- BT phone network: Cllr Jarman explained the background and implications of the forthcoming 'analogue switch-off' and 'retirement of the copper network'. Members were invited to contact him if they require further information.
- Quality of road works: Cllr Jordan reported that there have been many complaints about the quality of road works. He is following these up with Island Roads.
- IW-Coburg twinning: Cllr Bob Blezzard agreed to pursue the possibility of exchange visits with Coburg, with whom the IW has a twinning agreement.
- Tour of Britain cycle race: Cllr Jones-Evans encouraged local councils to participate in preparations for the event, the final stage of which will take place on the Island on Sunday 11 September.

The possibility of holding these meetings at a different time and/or face-to-face was discussed. However, it was decided to maintain the present arrangement for the time being.

**The next meeting will therefore be from 12 noon to 1.00 pm on Thursday 12 May.** Members are requested to send questions in advance to Jill at [jwebster.iwalc@outlook.com](mailto:jwebster.iwalc@outlook.com)

### **Meeting with Bob Seely MP**

There was a short online meeting with Bob Seely on Wednesday 27 April. About 12 councillors joined the meeting. However, there was only time for two questions because Bob was then called to the Chamber to vote.

Both questions related to the draft Island Planning Strategy (IPS). The questioners suggested that one of the reasons for the delay was the possible imminent publication of a white paper or draft bill, which could propose the removal of housing targets and/or the 'sanctions' for planning authorities that don't meet targets. Bob said that a bill, known as the Levelling Up and Planning Bill, is in the final stages of preparation but he emphasised that this should not be a reason for delaying the submission of the draft IPS because the details are as yet unknown and the process of passing it through parliament could take a year or more. He said he had advised the Council of this. He also said that there was no chance the government would waive the sanctions in the meantime.

Bob apologised for having to cut the meeting short. A follow-up meeting was held on Friday 6 May. Despite the fact that it was at 4 pm on a sunny Friday afternoon, there was a good turnout, with about 17 participants.

Bob began by reporting that in the forthcoming Queen's Speech two new bills, both with implications for the Island, will be announced: the Landscape Protection Bill and the Levelling Up and Planning Bill. He hopes to be able to use the former as a way of facilitating some sort of special island status and the latter as a way of eventually eliminating or reducing housing targets on the Island. He repeated his previous message that the immediate priority is to get the IPS approved but said that he had asked Cllr Fuller to ensure that it will be possible to revise it when the Levelling Up Bill comes into force.

Questions focused on two main topics. The first was planning. Councillors asked about the extension of settlement boundaries in the draft IPS, Natural England's concern about the discharge of nitrates into the Solent and the proposed extraction of gravel in Wootton. Bob said that it would be good if the settlement boundaries could be modified in the current draft but, if not, this can be done after the Levelling Up Bill is enacted. He maintained that the discharge of nitrates was not a concern here and expressed frustration that this is delaying development. Regarding the extraction of gravel, he said he was not aware of any concerns but would get more information.

The other topic was road safety. Bob was informed that there had been six road accidents on the Island the previous day and two today. Another councillor described his own serious accident and a third raised the need for patrols in the evenings as well as by day. Bob acknowledged the problem and said he would do everything possible to address it. He said the forthcoming Roads Policing Unit (RPU) will help and urged local councils to engage with it in order to ensure that the Unit has accurate information about local issues.

Bob was also asked if there was any news about the possibility of a new ferry service to the Island. The answer was no.

### **Congratulations to Richard Priest**

IWALC would like to congratulate Richard Priest, clerk at Sandown Town Council and Havenstreet and Ashley Parish Council, for his appointment as Deputy Lieutenant. *For further details, see Other News.*

## Publicity for IWALC!

Following last week's Topic Meeting IWALC appeared in two of the Island's media outlets....

<https://onthewight.com/hour-long-queues-for-prescriptions-and-staff-facing-abusive-customers-pharmacy-issues-persist-on-the-isle-of-wight/>

And ....

<https://www.countypress.co.uk/news/20104711.isle-wight-pharmacy-problems-lead-abuse-staff/>



### For Users of the Riverside

Parking at the Riverside is for users of the building only.

**Please ensure everyone attending your event enters their car registration into the iPad located on the reception desk every time you visit.**

Failure to do so will result in a fine being issued by the parking company.

## 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.

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.



## Monthly 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 monthly Heads of Organisations meetings with Bob Seely,



**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.**

## Tributes to the Late Sue Waters

Sue worked as Assistant Town Clerk at Cowes Town Council from February 2012 to September 2016; she was very popular with staff and Councillors alike.

Sue and I attended several national and local SLCC meetings together, including the odd Christmas lunch which Sue always made an enjoyable experience.

When I joined Cowes Town Council in October 2014 Sue showed me the ropes and made sure that I was well fed and watered.

I have also known Sue for many years in a personal capacity enjoying many a social occasion with mutual friends. Our heart goes out to her husband, daughters and grandsons, as Sue was just starting to enjoy her retirement in Wales. She will be sadly missed by everyone who knew her.

*Debbie Faulkner, Clerk, Cowes Town Council*



*Sue and Debbie*

I knew Sue in both a personal and professional capacity since first arriving on the Island some 17 years ago, and it is Sue I have to thank (I think!) for first introducing me to the wonderful world of Clerking and Local Councils, suggesting I apply for my first position of Clerk to Chale Parish Council 6 years ago now.

Sue's enthusiasm, generosity and 'can do' attitude were unique, always a smile on her face, she never let anything stand in her way. She was my friend and mentor, and I shall always be grateful to her.

*Katie Riley, Clerk, Gurnard Parish Council*

Cllr Fuller has provided the following words about her time at Gurnard where she was Clerk from March 2014 until December 2018: *"Sue was loved by those that knew and worked with and alongside her.*

*"As a Clerk she was a fountain of knowledge not only supporting those who came to her for advice, but Sue knew just about everything about what was going on in our community- often before the community itself did!*

*"Sue's lovely bubbly personality, her sense of fun and her seriousness - when it was required, will be sadly missed."*

# News from NALC

## **Management Board Meeting - 29th March 2022 (held remotely)**

### ***Co-options to Management Board***

The meeting considered responses to an email from the Chief Executive for expressions of interest from assembly members to serve on the Management Board. Expressions of interest had been received from the Cheshire, Staffordshire and Hampshire CALCs.

All three were from female members which was good in that it helped to restore the gender balance. Whilst the current rules prevented the Board recommending the co-option of the Cheshire member, as she is already in membership of the Policy Committee, the Board agreed to recommend the co-option of the other two applicants. I did take the opportunity to voice my ongoing concern about the operation of the Hampshire Association.

### ***National Employment Contract***

A draft national contract of employment for clerks and other staff had previously been considered and rejected as not been fit for purpose. It has now been passed back to the employment consultants who drafted it for amendment.

My own view is that a much better document could be produced in house using the skills which exist within the staff and Board members.

### ***Support for CALCs***

The Chief Executive presented a report setting out a range of recommendations for NALC to provide enhanced support for CALCs. The proposals include team building initiatives for CALC staff, regional engagement and a standard job description for county officers.

I am sceptical about this latter proposal as I don't believe it is possible to have a "one size fits all," job description. CALCs, like councils, come in all shapes and sizes with differing staff and financial resources.

### ***NALC Governance Review***

The long overdue national governance review is underway. A task and finish group is being established to fully review NALC's constitutional arrangements.

I expressed the view that there should be no "no go areas" and will welcome any input from member councils and the Exec.

## **National Assembly Meeting - 5th April 2022 (held remotely)**

### ***Financial Update***

We were given an update by the Vice-chair (Finance) who proposed unsuccessfully at last year's AGM to have the date for the first payment of subscriptions brought forward from 30th June to 31st May, the argument being that if all CALCs did not pay until 30th June there would be a cash flow problem.

The reality of course is that this never happens, with 36% of subs being paid by 31st May last year. Staffing costs are likely to be £50K under budget for 2021-22.

### ***Smaller Councils Committee Report***

The chair of the committee reported on the survey being undertaken of smaller councils regarding their expectations from the committee. The results will be analysed by Councillor Lilian Burns from Cheshire.

**I would encourage councils with fewer than 6,000 electors to consider the letter which appeared in the last bulletin and respond as soon as possible.**

### ***Task and Finish Group: NALC Governance Review***

Following the discussions at the Management Board meeting it was agreed that the task and finish group would be led by Councillor Paul Harvey from Bucks and Milton Keynes with one National Assembly member from each of the eight regions. Councillor Steve Cosser of Surrey has been appointed to represent the SERCAF region.

### ***Vacancies on NALC Committees***

The Assembly approved the co-option recommendations of the Management Board outlined above. Vacancies on the Management Board, Finance and Scrutiny Committee, Policy Committee and Smaller Councils Committee remain to be filled.

### ***Code of Conduct and Civility in Public Life***

The Government finally responded to the Committee on Standards in Public Life 2018 report on local government ethical standards.

The response was disappointing as it rejects the reintroduction of meaningful sanctions against members breaching the code and the Assembly overwhelmingly passed a resolution supporting this position.

### ***Ukraine Crisis***

An informal virtual meeting will be held to share information on what CALCs and councils are doing to aid the resettlement of refugees from Ukraine.

*NOTE: The full minutes of the above meetings are available on the NALC website.*

Bob BLEZZARD May 2022

### **Fortnightly meeting with County Officers**

Given it had recently been the Easter holidays in many parts of the country, it was great to be joined by so many, including some new, county officer colleagues at our post-Easter remote meeting.



Issues covered included the upcoming legal bulletin and an update to one of our model standing orders, the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, communications and our governance review. Resilience and emergency planning were identified as a topic for a future meeting.

This week, the main discussion was on the UK Shared Prosperity Fund recently launched by the government, and the need for lead local authorities and local councils to work together, with colleagues sharing their experiences of local dialogue to date. The topic of parish borrowing was also important with some ongoing concerns about the speed at which applications were assessed and approved.

County officers were also briefed on the forthcoming survey on local elections (for those areas with elections this year) and also the governance review.



# Guest Article

## The Isle of Wight German Twinning Association (IWGTA)

The original concept of town/area twinning hoped to restore trust and friendship in Europe after WW2.

It formalised its aims with specific areas of mutual contact in charters which were signed by civic authorities on both sides and displayed in their respective town/county halls. This included regular contact between those authorities as well as a variety of projects involving clubs, societies, and other institutions.



### **Ostholstein**

1954 unofficial start of a partnership with the Isle of Wight

1982 Signing of a formal twinning and mutual friendship charter in Newport / Isle of Wight

1991 Formation of a registered Ostholstein - Isle of Wight twinning association .

1995 Renewal and confirmation of the twinning and mutual friendship charter (in German and English) on the reorganisation of local government boundaries on the Isle of Wight.

### **Statement on current Ostholstein Council twinning website page:**

Self-government: One visit / return visit in each four-year term of office of the district council or council.  
Administrative level: For example, the Youth Welfare Office, the District Music School, the Education Authority and the Ostholstein Museum ensure regular exchanges of teachers, international youth meetings, school and other free time activities by independent organisations, exchanges of youth orchestras, mutual exhibitions or visits by theatre groups. Closer economic contacts and, through the partnership association, the expansion of private contacts of broad sections of the population are aspired to. It has been agreed to intensify cooperation in the areas of culture, social affairs, health and environmental protection.  
Eutin 11/8/2010.

### **Coburg**

Charter signed in 1983 and confirmed 2008

On August 27th, 1983 the mayors of Coburg and (the Borough of) Medina signed the official town twinning certificate. The responsibilities defined in this document to cultivate and to develop friendly relations, mutual understanding and mutual respect between the citizens of the Borough of Medina and the town of Coburg have been filled with life in the last 25 years. Since then there have been regular contacts and exchanges of ideas in all sectors of municipal life - between schools, youth groups and adult organisations, clubs, associations and individuals.

*May this partnership between our towns also continue to develop in future and serve as a firm foundation for friendship, respect and understanding between our citizens, and as well be an example of a peaceful and rewarding coexistence for the peoples of the world.* Signed Arthur Taylor - Coburg, 31st August 2008

## **IWGTA**

Formed from the merger of two separate twinning associations for Coburg and for Ostholstein in the early 2000s, the IWGTA has been active in many mutual projects, including:

1. IoW Council delegations to both Coburg and Ostholstein to affirm the twinning ideals
2. A Council visit to Ostholstein to discuss coastal protection issues
3. Concert tours by young IOW musicians to Ostholstein
4. A teacher exchange with Ostholstein
5. Numerous exchange visits between our twinning associations
6. Collaboration between Island youth organisations and Coburg, particularly circus skills, drama, music and scouting
7. Participation in the Coburg Christmas Market, promoting IOW products and tourism
8. Promotion of IoW products by Coburg itself e.g. a wholesale arrangement for The Garlic Farm with a Hamburg wholesaler.
9. Extensive funded projects by Coburg to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the birthdays of Queen Victoria and Albert in Coburg, the Isle of Wight and London.
10. Several proposed projects that raise the profile of the Isle of Wight in Coburg e.g. a proposed exhibition of Island art, the "Coburg and Wight Then and Now" project etc.
11. Regular Zoom meetings with Coburg and representatives from the Coburg network of twinned areas: Niort, France; Oudenaarde, Belgium; Gais, Italy and starting from the next meeting in March 2022, Toledo, U.S.A..

In the Solent area twinning and contact with Germany appears to be active. Lymington, Southampton, Portsmouth and Fareham all maintain links with towns in Germany. *Bob Blezzard*



# 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

## Fishbourne Parish Council

On Thursday 5 May we held our first Coffee Morning. It was organised in conjunction with Aspire Ryde and held at the Royal Victoria Yacht Club. There were about 12 people there, including two parish councillors, Lucy Nicholson from Aspire and Alison Pearce, the local Social Prescriber.



In addition to enjoying a drink and chat, we heard more about the services that Aspire can offer, Alison explained her role as a Social Prescriber attached to GP surgeries and I put on my Citizens Advice hat to explain what help Citizens Advice can offer. Many thanks to the Yacht Club for providing tea and coffee and to an anonymous donor for some very nice biscuits!



The Book Box (or Little Library, as it is often called) continues to be well used. I'm told that one of the most frequent patrons is a gentleman from Shanklin, who uses it every time he visits his daughter in Fishbourne!

Our May Newsletter has just been published and distributed to all households in the parish. There is so much going on in Fishbourne at present that it is two pages longer than usual! You can read an online copy on our website at: <https://www.fishbourneiow.org.uk/newsletters/>

*Cllr Diana Conyers*

## Godshill Parish Council

Hello All,

This is a big moment for Godshill Parish Council with the publication of its first monthly newsletter of 2022. Hopefully it won't be the last newsletter from one of the Island's smaller Parish Councils.



Most Islanders know of Godshill as a tourist hub, however not many people know about the part the Parish Council plays in the community. Hopefully regular newsletter updates can change that.....

Godshill is always quiet over the winter months, with very few visitors and with our all-important tourist attractions and tea rooms closed down. This 'off-season' has been no different, and all our businesses are looking forward to a 'lockdown free' Summer season.

The Parish Council have been busy with the much-needed refurbishment of the public toilets, located in the public car park opposite The Griffin pub. Overall, the project has been successful and the feedback so far has been very positive. Importantly, in this current climate of ever-increasing costs, the refurbishment and upgrade work has not over run its original cost budget.

An area of Godshill that too few people know about is Munsley Bog. This small wetland site and a Site of Interest for Nature Conservation (SINC) has much declined in recent years through lack of management. The site is split into three areas, of which one is publicly accessible. This is the plot owned by Godshill Parish Council and this has been managed by the environmental group, 'Gift to Nature,' with subsidies from the parish council.

Much work has been done at Munsley Bog and the parish council encourage and continue to financially support the good work done to keep this environmentally sensitive, and very important area as it should be.

The awful situation in Ukraine also brought out the best from the parish community. Shona McMillian and Councillor Amanda Taylor, of Koala Cottage, set up and coordinated a collection point for donations to help the people of war-torn Ukraine. Assistance and storage space was kindly donated by Councillor Astrid Bysouth. (Please note that no further donations can be accepted).

The good people of the parish rose to the challenge and a truck, loaded with useful donations, was soon on its way across Europe. We all wish the people of Ukraine an end to the awful situation they find themselves in.

The parish council is also looking forward to the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations on the 5th June. A packed agenda in the Central Mead area of Godshill is being organised by the very hard-working Councillor, Astrid Bysouth.....come along, it'll be fun!

Well, that's a snapshot of what's going on in Godshill Parish.

In these difficult times of ever-rising costs for everyone, and the appalling loss of life and destruction in Europe, the parish council's small contribution in trying to improve the local community may seem trivial, however, it still remains important to everyone in the Godshill Parish Council.

Take care, - Parish Councillor Carl Donoclift

## Cowes Town Council

The draft Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) has been received and comments from all councils involved will be passed to People Powered CIC before the Plan is finalised. Once completed, we will have clear information on improvements to our area's infrastructure that will benefit cyclists and walkers and also be in a better position to apply for funding to implement the improvements.



A new community orchard will be planted at Northwood Recreation Ground which, in time, will provide fresh produce for the community's benefit. The fruit trees and new Silver Birch trees were kindly donated by Red Funnel as part of their 160th birthday celebrations.

In addition to our usual summer planting programme, new hanging baskets will be installed through the town centre, working in partnership with local businesses.

In May we will celebrate the 80th anniversary of the Defence of Cowes by the ORP Blyskawica. There are a number of events scheduled in Cowes and East Cowes between 4 and 8 May. The Polish warship ORP Wodnik will arrive on Thursday 5 May between 0800 and 1000 hours, signalled by a 5 gun salute from The Royal Yacht Squadron.



Arrangements are gathering pace for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations. The town centre will be decorated with Platinum Jubilee flags and Union Jack bunting. The lighting of a beacon will take place on The Parade on Thursday 2 June at 9.45pm, with music on the Bandstand from 7.30pm. Will someone please book the weather!

*Kate Gibbs (Assistant Town Clerk)*

## Chillerton & Gatcombe Parish Council

Chillerton and Gatcombe Parish Council held its Annual Parish and Annual Parish Council meetings on 3rd May. Nigel Phillips was re-elected as Chairman with Peter Whitehead as Vice Chair.

We are involved in preparations for the Platinum Jubilee. On the day, there will be a cream tea in the afternoon with scones, cream and jam. Glasses will be raised to the Loyal Toast.

In celebration of the Jubilee, we have already planted a new hedgerow in Gatcombe with the help of volunteers, and a number of trees on the edge of the Village Green.

The Council has been heavily involved in the Save our School campaign to retain a village school in Chillerton. We are very close to the final decision now and we are hopeful of a positive outcome.

*Cllr Nigel Phillips (Chair)*



## Shalfleet Parish Council



Shalfleet Parish Council

**Shalfleet development:** A presentation was recently given by Simon Jacobs, land owner and Andrew Neale, architect, on the proposed plans for land adjacent to Burt Close.

70 properties; consisting of 24 x 2 bed roomed, 36 x 3 bed roomed and 10 x 4 bed roomed. Of these 24 would be 'affordable' and 10 bungalows. The plans are for clusters of properties in cul-de-sacs, with pedestrian and cycle routes to the village. A mix of red/brown and buff bricks, cladding, with white render for the bungalows. Car parking to be set back from the road and lots of tree planting.

Discussion on need, who gets the affordable units and local connections, as well as Housing Associations, the benefits the Parish could receive i.e. woodland, sports field or more graveyard space.

It was confirmed the hedgerow along Warlands Lane would be retained.

A question and answer session took place with many residents expressing concerns over Southern Water (and the need for them to upgrade the existing sewage system), water supply, increased traffic in Burt Close and the potential pressure on village life. Request made for provision of battery storage and that skylights not be included.

A full detailed planning application, including a detailed landscaping plan, would be submitted to the Local Authority in May 2022.

**Parish Crest:** Shaun Cuff, Graphic Designer, attended April the meeting to finalise the design of the Parish Crest. He showed the Councillors boards with the original designs he had provided, as well as one showing a combination suggested by Parish Councillors. This represented a shallow stream (the meaning of Shalfleet), bricks and an oak tree. The Councillors agreed this design (in black and white) and the Parish Council will receive a logo suite which will enable the crest to be used in varying formats.



### Queens Platinum Jubilee:

**Events:** Councillors were made aware of two events being held in the Parish and agreed to donate up to £250 to the Newbridge event being organised by Cllr Helena Hewston: to be held on Blacksmiths Green on Sunday 5th June and £200 to the event at Wellow.

**Water flasks:** it was agreed to purchase water flasks, in 3 colours; red, white and blue, with both the Jubilee and new Parish Logo on, to give to children attending both the Pre-School and Primary School at Shalfleet.

**Queen's Canopy:** Cllrs agreed a metal plaque to commemorate the Jubilee be obtained and put on a larger piece of greenheart. This will be installed by the 100 newly planted trees on Bouldnor Field.

**Conservation Area Appraisal:** Cllrs agreed to commission an appraisal, based in accordance with the template approved by the IW Council, which will form a supplementary planning document.

**Annual Parish Meeting:** This was held on Wednesday, 27th April 2022 at Newbridge Community Centre and the Parish Council had a guest speaker Karen Eels, Fundraiser for Aspire Ryde attending. Karen gave a very interesting presentation on the much varied work that goes on at Aspire, too numerous to list here.

Cllr Shirley Stables Chaired the meeting and read out the Annual Report.

Sally Woods (Clerk)

## Yarmouth Town Council

### *Home Thoughts from your Mayor Abroad!*



Taking a short break in Brittany, first time away in three years!

I am always encouraged by seeing small communities taking such a pride in their areas. Here, all the small villages look so well cared for with neat floral displays, streets clean and litter-free, lots of traffic-calming, and walkers and cyclists given their own spaces along sides of the roads. SEE PHOTO

The area we are in has similarities to the Island with businesses based on Tourism, and Farming and Fishing. There are few tourists at this time of the year and a lot of businesses are not open, some saying that they have insufficient staff.



The countryside banks are full of spring flowers, bluebells, red campion and stitchwort that we're always pleased to see at home. Virtually all of the land is actively farmed, mostly to feed dairy cows. For me, the large number of cows out grazing reminds me of the Island 40 years ago!

Like the Island, Finistere is a UN designated Biosphere. One area of sand dunes visited was very managed, with people using walkways. There were many birds, - I was pleased to hear a cuckoo - and butterflies including a swallowtail butterfly.

There are a good number of houses being built and renovated, with building permits displayed. I believe the Mayor has control here - thank goodness Mayors do not have these powers locally.

*Steve Cowley (Yarmouth Mayor)*

## Newchurch Parish Council

### Newchurch Community Garden

In 2010 Newchurch Community Partnership, obtained a grant to pay for a community project, which would enhance the amenities within the parish. A piece of land situated between All Saints Church and the main road was designated as the ideal place to build a community garden. The land was very overgrown, derelict and unloved but within 18 months the land had been transformed to a tranquil and green area, a place to get away from it all. Three benches were placed around the garden, these too have been rejuvenated by Councillor Harris .



Once the project was finished Newchurch Parish Council became responsible for its maintenance and over the next intervening years this low maintenance garden was looked after by Mr E Read. Twelve years later a decision was made by the Parish Council to replant the larger flower beds, to bring a greater variety of plants, with colour throughout the year.

Councillors West and Davison sourced the plants from the local nursery and some parishioners donated larger, established bushes. As ever Mr Read did the hard labour, now just waiting for the chippings to arrive but it's looking good. The other beds will be changed over the coming years.

*Cllr June Davison*





## Ventnor Town Council



– Housing Support Fund: During April the Town Council distributed grant funding of over £25,000 from the Isle of Wight Council to support local residents in 150 households known to be in serious need. The support has been our direct distribution of Vouchers exchangeable at the town's Coop for food and pre-payment metres top up. But, as far as we know, no further funding is available. So what next for our local residents without enough food, heat, light or clothing to live normal lives?

– South Wight Health & Wellbeing Forum: We organise this regular Forum for the 13 South Wight Town & Parish Councils to meet with senior health services. April's guest speaker was planned to be the Isle of Wight Council's Director of Adult Social Care Laura Gaudion but as she was unable to attend on the day the Isle of Wight Council's Ian Lloyd attended instead and spoke about Ukrainian refugees coming to the Island, Living Well and the Resilience Project. County Councillor Karl Love also came and contributed.

– Dog Fest: An event arranged by our Deputy Mayor to mark the last day of dogs on the beach until the season ends included fun competitions, a raffle with prizes donated by local businesses and voluntary donations to Ventnor Carnival; it attracted more than 100 residents and over 60 dogs.

– Wellbeing Café: Now with over 50 people and meetings three times a week in our Green Room, thanks to the generosity of the owner of an open top bus and its volunteer driver members of our Wellbeing Café enjoyed a visit to the Island's Donkey Sanctuary on Saturday 30 April accompanied by Terri Expodite (the group's leader), Deputy Mayor, Steph Toogood and Councillor John Watkins. So successful was the visit to the Sanctuary the group have adopted a Donkey (Pinky).

– New Web site: Our new web site went live on Friday 30 April and is now available to all at the new address of [www.ventnortowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.ventnortowncouncil.gov.uk). Thanks are due to our web site working group of Councillors Ian Bond, Brian Lucas and Julie Hutchison and to our Business Development Officer, Nigel Slater-Bishop as the lead staff member.

– Youth Work: Members met on Monday evening 18 April with our Youth Worker Jordan Royle to discuss the activities provided for over 50 young people and plans for our new Youth Club in Boniface Fields.

– Glyphosate Use: As the Town Council took over responsibility for Grounds Maintenance in the town in 2015 and has its own contract the April Town Council meeting resolved to stop the use of Glyphosate on the 19 areas for which it is responsible. Discussions are ongoing with our contractor about the use and costs of an alternative.

– Living Well and Early Support: We're delighted to be part of the partnership, led by Ryde's Aspire and including Pan Together and West Wight Community Centre that bid successfully for the next five years of this substantial project providing support for residents.

David Bartlett (Clerk)

## Sandown Town Council

### ANZAC Day Remembered

Sandown Mayor, Paddy Lightfoot Memorial, following a brief service



ANZAC Day is a National Day of Remembrance in Australia and New Zealand, for those who served and died in all wars, conflicts, and peacekeeping operations and "the contribution and suffering of all those who have served."

The Day was established to recognise the sacrifices of those who served in the Gallipoli Campaign, in Turkey: a campaign in which 800 men from the Princess Beatrice Isle of Wight Rifles served.

Cllr Lightfoot said, 'The Town Council has renovated the War Memorial in its Centenary year, as well as working with Green Town Volunteers to install commemorative planters, and it is fitting to remember the sacrifices made by service personnel, including Sandown families, on this Day.'



Christ Church maintains Commonwealth War Graves, and is currently recognising its 175th anniversary with an exhibition which includes details of those interred in the grounds of the Church.

Rev Williams added, 'It is poignant to remember that Princess Beatrice unveiled the Memorial 100 years ago, in memory of those involved in the First World War, and we wished to ensure ANZAC Day was honoured.'

Cllr Frank Baldry, curator for the Memorial, concluded, 'We've secured grants to replace the flagpoles and residents wished us to use the Memorial for more commemorative events given the sacrifices made by residents of the town in conflicts across the generations.'



In addition to the exhibition at the Church, there is also a youtube film about the Centenary of the Memorial (Growing Up In The Bay), and also a film about Christ Church's 175th anniversary.

Richard Priest (Clerk)

## Ryde Town Council

### **Ryde Marina**

Ryde Town Council are delighted to announce that they have finalised the takeover of Ryde Harbour from the Isle of Wight Council from Friday 1 April.



The re-named Ryde Marina will be undergoing a sustained programme of changes to give it a much-needed facelift. This has started with the replacement of the existing Harbour Office with a new, temporary Marina Office and will see new pontoons being laid out along with electricity, Wi-Fi, CCTV, new website and booking system and refurbishment of the Hospitality Suite.

The longer-term business plan calls for a relocation of the Marina Office and incorporated Hospitality Suite with an increase in the number of visitor berths to capitalise on the shorter-term visitors who will be encouraged.

### **Annual Town Meeting Celebrating Ryde Expo**

This year's Annual Town Meeting is in the theme of celebrating Ryde. This year we will be holding a day event and we will have stands from local organisations for members of the public to ask questions and receive updates on the activities, achievements and various regeneration projects in Ryde during 2021/22 along with looking ahead to 2022/23.

Come and join us to celebrate Ryde at this year's Annual Town Meeting in partnership with the Isle of Wight Council. Please help spread the word and bring friends, family and neighbours along.

The Annual Town Meeting is on Saturday 14 May at Methodist Church, Garfield Road 10am – 4pm.

### **Ryde in Bloom 2022**

Ryde in Bloom 2022 has officially launched it is open to all residents in Ryde and we have 10 thriving categories to suit all spaces. This year's Ryde in Bloom is also supported by Haylands Farm providing more than 700 packs of seeds to primary schools in Ryde.

### **Allotment Update**

Alfred Street fence has been replaced with new fence along with Tree surveys being completed on all allotment sites, and rectifying works are being disused. Quarry Road pathway repairs are ongoing.

### **Appley Toilets**

Underground Service Engineering have done a great job completing the following works on Appley Toilets. They have replaced blown-out manhole covers along with all damaged and collapsed pipework. Reconfiguration of pipework in addition to new pipework will hopefully help prevent any future blockages.

### **St Thomas' Church**

Roof repairs on St Thomas' Church are being undertaken and are currently ongoing. Some of the damaged stained glass windows will be taken out shortly for repair works.

### **Lifeguard Station**

Planning permission has been submitted for much needed renovations on Ryde lifeguard station.

Hannah East – Marketing & Administration Officer

## Gurnard Parish Council

The Annual Parish Meeting was held at Gurnard Village Hall on April 27th. The evening proved to be interesting, informative and lively. There was an early start for councillors with a couple of business meetings first and then at 6.30 our guest speaker, Cllr Jonathon Bacon, arrived; he was to talk about the Biosphere Status awarded to the Island in 2019.



All members of the press and public were cordially invited to attend and the lure of refreshments being served was held out but attendance was, sadly, sparse. Encouraging more residents to take an interest in issues raised at Parish Council level needs to be addressed as so often comments, objections and concerns are only raised after decisions have been made. With luck, the attendees may pass on their enjoyment of the evening and we may have more present in future.

Councillors were very pleased that Mike Rainey was able to attend as he was the recipient of the Village Award, his generous sharing of expertise and long-standing knowledge of the parish was recognised with a certificate.

Cllr Bacon's talk gave an introduction to the background of the application for UNESCO Biosphere Reserve Status for the IOW, considered the special nature of this status (there are only seven such reserves in the whole of the UK) and looked forward to how this very special status could be more widely recognised in Island life and add value to the Island's future. His talk was engaging and informative so that those in the audience who already knew quite a lot about the Biosphere were as interested as those who were complete Biosphere novices.

In the final formal session of the evening there were certainly plenty of questions and a lively, wide-ranging discussion followed. We were lucky enough to have Rob Sauvin (Gurnard resident and a founding member of Together for Mission Zero group) also attend. His expertise and knowledge enhanced the discussion and also helped to show how local councils may help to move the Island towards achieving Mission Zero's targets.

The Chairman's annual report was equally full of achievements: applications for Village Green Status completed for the Green, new disabled access to the hard standing seating area and the retention of the original route of a long-loved footpath. A successful grant application resulted in seven new benches from the Welcome Back Fund being installed and hard work in protesting about the proposed Parking Meters in Gurnard helped result in no meters being fitted. He noted the dismay that destruction of the shrubby, wooded SINC on Princes Esplanade had caused, but nature is already fighting back and green shoots are showing through. There is plenty of work still to be done with items ranging from maintenance of existing assets to a follow up of a public meeting held with Southern Water concerning sewage outfalls in Gurnard, a matter of importance as we have residents who cold water swim all year round.

The evening finished with a convivial and enjoyable continuation of the discussion over a glass of wine and nibbles.

*Cllr Penny Acton*

# Other News...

## ***The Isle of Wight Council is inviting residents to make a positive difference to the environment by using its new household battery recycling scheme***

From 2nd May, householders can leave their spent household batteries out for collection with their general waste (black bins/black gull-proof sacks). All the batteries collected by the crews will be placed in a special box fitted to the collection vehicles and sent for sorting and processing.

Metals and chemicals will be extracted and used to make new batteries and other products.

To ensure the batteries are kept separate to other household general waste, batteries should be placed safely and separately on top of your closed black bin or gull-proof sack in their own clear sandwich sized bag. You can recycle small batteries of all shapes via the scheme. These typically include AA, AAA, of any size, small round (watch type batteries) and square batteries, and old rechargeable household batteries.

Batteries must always be removed from electrical items before being collected. Large batteries such as laptop/phone/power tool batteries and car batteries or items where the batteries cannot be removed should be taken to your nearest Household Waste Recycling Centre.

Councillor Jonathan Bacon, Cabinet lead for environment and waste management, said: "I am pleased to announce our new battery collection service. According to recent figures by Let's Recycle, around 600 million batteries reach the end of their usable life and become waste each year in the UK. "More people are now recycling batteries at their local supermarkets or shops but we hope that this will make it easier for people to dispose of them responsibly at the kerbside on waste collection day too and make even more of a positive difference to our environment."

Recent incidents show that batteries thrown into ordinary bins, household waste or with other recycling are extremely dangerous. They can easily get squashed, compacted, punctured, shredded or soaked in liquids. When this happens, they can ignite (see picture attached), resulting in fires that endanger lives, cause expensive damage and disrupt waste services.

Natasha Dix, the council's waste and environment manager, said: "Many people may not realise that up to 90 per cent of a standard household battery can be recycled. Some have potentially toxic metals in them such as cadmium, lead and, historically, mercury. Diverting these metals from landfill and recycling them instead is important to ensure the metals don't leak out of landfills and pollute our drinking water. In the recycling process, metals and chemicals are extracted and then used to make new batteries and other products."

## ***The first round of payments in response to the government's energy bills rebate scheme has been made to Islanders***

The £150 payment has started going out to those eligible to benefit from the scheme designed to help households in council tax bands A to D. In most cases, the rebate will go directly into bank accounts of those paying council tax by Direct Debit.

Councillor Chris Jarman, Cabinet member for strategic finances, said: "Payments will be made in batches each week until all Direct Debit cases have been paid — therefore, please do not worry if you have not received your payment straight away. The council will shortly be writing to those who do not pay by Direct Debit with further information about how to claim a rebate. The letter will contain an online code to complete our application form and provide us with your bank details. Once we have received this, we aim to process your application as quickly as possible. Please do not contact us to find out when you will receive your payment as this will mean the payments take longer to be sent out."



You are eligible to claim this payment if your property is in Band A - D and:

you were living at the address on 1 April 2022;  
the council tax bill was in your name on 1 April 2022;  
the rebate has not already been claimed by another household member;  
the property is not a second home or unoccupied.

For more information, visit: [www.iow.gov.uk/Residents/Benefits-Council-Tax-and-Business-Rates/Council-Tax-Services/Council-Tax/Energy-rebate](http://www.iow.gov.uk/Residents/Benefits-Council-Tax-and-Business-Rates/Council-Tax-Services/Council-Tax/Energy-rebate)

Further details of the discretionary scheme for those not eligible for the mandatory scheme will be issued in due course.

### ***Improvements to Property-Buying Process on the Island***

Buying a property on the Island has now become quicker and simpler for everyone. As part of its digital transformation, the Isle of Wight Council has worked with HM Land Registry to transfer its local land charges (LLC) service to their national digital register. The LLC Register (<https://search-local-land-charges.service.gov.uk/>) allows users to search information online instantly, enabling buying decisions to be made earlier in the conveyancing process.

Most local land charges are restrictions or prohibitions on the use of property or land, such as some planning permissions or listed building status. A search of the national register will reveal whether a property is subject to a charge, and enable the buyer to make an informed decision about the purchase. The council transformation supports wider government priorities to make property transactions quicker, simpler and cheaper.

Anyone can access the register's search for local land charges service. Business customers can also access it through their HM Land Registry portal account or Business Gateway. Users of the national register can download a personal search free of charge or buy an official search for £15. This will allow unlimited repeat searches for six months. All information is delivered in a standard easy-to-read format, with geospatial maps.

Councillor Ian Stephens, deputy leader and Cabinet member for digital transformation, said: "We are pleased to be among the early adopters of the new register, which enables our customers to benefit from a transparent user-friendly service."

For more information, visit GOV.UK (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/hm-land-registry-local-land-charges-programme/local-land-charges-programme>).

## **Trading Standards**

The Scams Team has produced the Friends Against Scams awareness raising video in BSL format so I have put the link below along with the regular session which some of you may wish to do as a refresher or share with those colleagues that haven't had any scams training.

Friends Against Scams - British Sign Language for Friends Against Scams  
[https://www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk/article/593/british\\_sign\\_language\\_for\\_friends\\_against\\_scams](https://www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk/article/593/british_sign_language_for_friends_against_scams)

Friends Against Scams - Updates/News  
<https://www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk/updates>

Trading Standards have received reports from residents about the following –

- Please be wary of any company phoning you and advising you that the spray foam insulation you had installed needs to be removed. These will generally be rogue companies who have obtained your details from the previous company which has now gone bust. They will arrange to carry out a survey and invariably find damp in the loft, perhaps using machinery to show you measurements that may or



may not be true. They will frighten you into agreeing and put you under pressure to act quickly – often turning up the next day to carry out the work – not giving you time to consider your decision. Do not engage with these companies – if you are at all concerned about your homes insulation we would recommend that you contact the Footprint Trust who should be able to advise you in the first instance.

- This report is a new one on us! A resident has queried a text he has received allegedly from the DVLA stating that his driving licence is due for renewal and he should click on the link to renew. This will be a SCAM – the DVLA would NEVER contact us in this way. Any texts that you receive like this either from the DVLA, HMRC, delivery companies or banks you can forward to 7726 where they will be used for intelligence.
- The scammers are still trying to use Covid to their advantage and try to trick us into parting with money – A couple of texts have been reported, one stating that your Covid Pass is available and tells you to click a link to apply. You can obtain your Covid Pass through the NHS App or by calling 119. The other states that you have been in contact with someone who has Covid and you need to buy a test followed by a link, allegedly to the NHS. There is no longer a test and trace process – nobody would know if you had covid or had been in contact with somebody who did. These are SCAMS they can be forwarded to 7726 where the information will be gathered as intelligence into scams.
- Another reminder about calls from domestic insurance providers. These are prolific and persistent – do not engage with them and don't agree to take any insurance. These insurances generally aren't worth the paper they're written on and once you have signed up they will keep ringing. These cover items such as white goods, tv's, Sky and drainage and all operate in the same way. We recently heard of a victim who had over 40 direct debits on his account to these insurances!
- We have been contacted by a resident who had a couple of men at his door this week asking to buy his motor home – which they said they believed was for sale. These weren't islanders and were travelling around in a white pick up. Their approach would be to try to negotiate a silly price or pay a deposit and drive the motor home away and you would never see it or the money again. DO NOT engage with anyone on the doorstep.

*Sally Ash (Fair Trading Officer)*



## **IW Chamber of Commerce**

### ***Business Start-Up Course***

The Isle of Wight Chamber of Commerce provides help and advice on starting a business or being self-employed. Do you know someone that would like to be their own boss? We offer new businesses the opportunity to take their ideas from paper into practice.



Every month, we offer a business seminar aimed at people who are starting a business. They can get the tools they need to take their idea from the drawing board to the real world. This course is designed for those with a business idea through to those who have been in business for six months. We go through market research, marketing, elevator pitches and getting people to talk comfortably about themselves and their business. We cover cash flow, forecasts, tax, National Insurance and VAT, bookkeeping, raising finance, business plan, legal status and insurances. It's a real primer and a taster for each area.

The next course is on Thursday 26th May in the Chamber office. Please note there is a £5 admin fee for this course. This course is available for members and non-members

Find out more via <https://www.iwchamber.co.uk/> or email [chamber@iwchamber.co.uk](mailto:chamber@iwchamber.co.uk)

*Emma Spinelli*

## Celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

**A service is being held to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on  
Sunday 5th June 2022, 6pm at  
The Minster Church, St Thomas's**

All are welcome and it is hoped to accommodate a wide cross-section of our Isle of Wight Community, both individuals and organisations, at this celebration. Please give an indication of numbers attending to [christie.taylor@iow.gov.uk](mailto:christie.taylor@iow.gov.uk) at the Lord Lieutenants office.



## Congratulations to Richard Priest!

***Two new Deputy Lieutenants have been appointed to serve on the Isle of Wight.***

In this formal voluntary role, Richard Priest and Didi Nicholson will assist the Lord-Lieutenant in her work. The appointment is until retirement on their 75th birthday.

The Lord-Lieutenant of the Isle of Wight, Susie Sheldon, said: "I am delighted to welcome both Richard Priest and Didi Nicholson to the Lieutenancy team where their in-depth knowledge of their particular sectors will be invaluable to the Lieutenancy role on the Isle of Wight."

### ***Richard Priest OBE***

Richard was born in Lake, and met his wife Jane, when Lake Middle School was first opened in 1971. They live in Shanklin and have a son Adam, daughter-in-law Jennie, and grandchildren Benjamin and Isabelle.

From 1995 to 2015 Richard managed the Riverside Centre in Newport, as well as being chair of Medina Housing Association, a school governor, and he is actively involved locally and nationally with charities such as Community Action (IW) and ACRE.

Richard remains involved with town councils on the Island, as well as with Shanklin Voluntary Youth and Community Centre, and his interests include football and cricket, sports writing and making local history films





## Monthly Report from MP Bob Seely (27 04 2022)

### ***IW Policing***

I recently met with Superintendent Jim Pegler who has taken over as District Commander for policing on the Isle of Wight.

I was pleased to hear about his plans to move the police force forward on the Island and implement new approaches to tackling crime here.

I raised the issue of dangerous driving and the need for better enforcement on the Island's roads, especially on the Military Road, but other areas as well.

I will be talking more with Supt Pegler's teams about road traffic policing and where the police should be focusing their efforts.



### ***East Cowes***

I was delighted to hear the news that East Cowes Esplanade has been added to the list of bathing waters in England by the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

This achievement recognises the good work of East Cowes Town Council, as well as the involvement of many Islanders that raised this issue with me and took part in the government's consultation.

This is also significant for the Island as a whole. For too long our coastal waterways have been damaged by pollution from several sources. I welcome this new status for East Cowes as confirmation of great progress and a sign of good things to come.

### ***Mental Health***

The government has recently opened up a call for evidence to inform a new 10-year mental health plan.

The public, those with lived experience of mental ill-health, and health and care professionals are invited to share their views on how support and services should adapt for the future.

I urge anyone on the Island with experience of these services to respond to the consultation by 5 July.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/mental-health-and-wellbeing-plan-discussion-paper-and-call-for-evidence?fbclid=IwAR2JVltVMlsl3Diqwfwlr0UfW4pnaEEoUJ74aApdpMISO5sD3B2mkARw4ao>

### ***MAD-Aid***

I recently visited the charity MAD-Aid in East Cowes to hear more about the Island's response to the ongoing situation in Ukraine.

I saw for myself the mounds of generous donations received from Islanders, and I heard about the amazing work being done by MAD-Aid to get this aid to Ukrainian refugees.

Thank you to everyone on the Island who has supported MAD-Aid, which continues to welcome donations.

If you would like to help, please head to the MAD-Aid website for further information <https://www.mad-aid.org.uk/>

Bob Seely MP

Open Evening:  
Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> June, 4.00-6.30pm



First year Photography students have been working on a live client brief for the Student Services department at college, whereby they have been asked to produce abstract images to be displayed in communal areas. Here are some examples of those selected ...



The Isle of Wight College is the Duke of Edinburgh Awards Centre for the Isle of Wight. I am very proud of the college's Public Service students who recently completed their Duke of Edinburgh Award Bronze and Silver expeditions here on the island; the weather was very challenging however the students coped amazingly well with the high winds and rain.



Debbie Lavin, Principal, The Isle of Wight College

## Visit IOW Tour of Britain Race Update

Last month we shared that the Isle of Wight will host the final stage of the UK's most prestigious cycle race, the Tour of Britain. Now we are excited to share with you the full route.

The race will start from Ryde mid-morning and finish around four hours later with an exhilarating climb for the title at the Needles Battery. The Tour of Britain race starts in Aberdeenshire on September 4, and between then and the grand finale, the riders will make their way down to the Island, completing a new 'stage' each day.

On Sunday 11 September, the teams will race over 150km across the Island, passing through a wide range of towns and parishes; from Ryde the race will go on to pass through Bembridge, Sandown, Rookley, Shorwell, Mottistone, Freshwater, Yarmouth, Shalfleet, Cowes, Newport, Godshill, Shanklin, Ventnor, Niton to finish at The Needles Battery.



The approach to the finish line will be impressive, around 39km of hard cycling along the Military Road. All eyes will be on the Island as all stages of the race can be watched on ITV4 in the UK and will be broadcast in more than 20 territories around the world.

There will be plenty of opportunities for local communities to get involved, both on the day and in the build-up. Visit IOW will share an information booklet with activation ideas shortly.

Head to [visitwightpro.com](http://visitwightpro.com) for all the latest race and event information.



## Reaching Communities: Involving Older People in Decision Making

Age Friendly Island have secured further funding to work in partnership with Town & Parish Councils and community groups to ensure there is a range of engagement opportunities for older people. This is one part of the overall project.

Over the next two years, Age Friendly Island will be working with a broad range of groups to ensure older people have consistent opportunities to shape services they receive and the environment in which they live.

If you are an existing Age Friendly Champion, your council holds an Age Friendly Charter or you would like to know more, please contact Helen Lewis, Age Friendly Island Engagement Officer on [helen.lewis@ageukiw.org.uk](mailto:helen.lewis@ageukiw.org.uk) or call Age UKIW on 01983 525282 to be involved.



**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



## News from Wightlink



Easter started the summer season going in fine style with good weather and plenty of people crossing the Solent to visit friends and family, take a break or even enjoy some retail therapy. It was lovely to welcome so many customers on board. We have just had another Bank Holiday and are preparing for the long weekend to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee.

On busy days, our car ferry Captains may take the decision to depart a little earlier than scheduled once everyone is on board, to keep the service running to time. As you may know, low tide can mean our Fishbourne-Portsmouth ships have to take a longer route because of low water over the Swashway shingle bank off Southsea and this can cause delays. These few extra minutes can make a difference to keeping to the timetable, so please don't be late.

Unfortunately, our repairs at Portsmouth Harbour FastCat station are taking longer than expected as our estates team found more work was needed, but we are still on track to open the passenger ramp in June and the rest of the terminal a few weeks later.

Wightlink has been awarded £276,800 from the Government's Maritime Accessibility Fund to help improve travel for disabled customers.

Fully accessible 'Changing Places' toilets for disabled adults and children will be built at both the Portsmouth car ferry terminal and Ryde Pier, and improved ticket machines at accessible height for people using wheelchairs will be installed at all ports. There will also be new intercom systems at Ryde Pier and Portsmouth Harbour to help arriving foot passengers with disabilities to seek assistance.

The spacious Changing Places toilets, equipped with hoists, will give disabled people the confidence to embark on ferry travel knowing their needs can be met during the journey.

Have you heard of our Green Fund for Schools? Fifteen Island primaries have received a share of around £10,000 from us to support local environmental projects. They are the first to benefit from our initiative to support projects that bring lasting environmental benefit to schools and their communities and help Islanders to live in a more sustainable way. Successful schemes include those to reduce energy consumption, encourage and facilitate recycling and create new and improved habitats for wildlife.

If you use Facebook, you can find out more about the Green Fund, as the youngsters get going on the projects, and the other Island groups we sponsor. Search for 'Wightlink in the Community'.

*Karen Woods*

*(Communications & PR)*



## Latest News from Hovertravel

Hovertravel has been recognised by a number of regional and national award schemes this month. Firstly the company won a silver award at Tourism South East's 2021/22 Beautiful South Awards in the Resilience & Innovation category with a submission detailing their rapid off-island stretcher patient transfer service. Hovertravel was also highly commended in two categories at the national Blue Badge Access Awards; Most Inclusive Organisation and Accessibility Champion.



Hovertravel has also announced that it is the first cross-Solent ferry operator to officially recognise the Hidden Disabilities Sunflower. Customers can choose to wear a Sunflower lanyard as an indication that they may require additional support, assistance or simply a little more time while travelling. This announcement further enhances Hovertravel's award-winning accessibility initiative HoverCare.



By partnering with Hidden Disabilities Sunflower we are continuing on our journey to make hovercraft travel accessible to all and we want to become the cross-Solent ferry of choice for customers with visible and invisible disabilities.

Hovertravel's teams have added Hidden Disabilities Sunflower bespoke video training on the company's intranet so employees have already gained a better understanding of what an invisible disability is and how to become more confident to approach and support customers wearing a Sunflower lanyard.



Finally for the 2021/22 football season Hovertravel has operated a record number of late night flights operated with the specific purpose of allowing Portsmouth FC supporters on the Isle of Wight to watch the entire game and catch a hovercraft flight home.

Thanks to our staff who volunteer for overtime and our inherently flexible operation, we have the ability to offer flights outside our normal timetabled hours.

We are grateful for the assistance of the Isle of Wight Pompey Supporters Club in helping us create this service and this season very clearly demonstrates that Hovertravel can answer the needs of the local community if there is sufficient demand.

Hovertravel offers extra flights throughout the year; on an ad hoc basis due to demand and also when there are specific events such as these football matches or the Victorious Festival where flights operate as late as 0130. The interactive timetable on Hovertravel's website provides details on all flights available (<https://www.hovertravel.co.uk/interactive-timetable/>)

*Stephen Forster (Creative Director)*

## News from Red Funnel

### ***New Red Jet timetable***

Red Funnel has announced a new Hi-Speed Red Jet timetable, offering passengers more frequent crossings. The new timetable will take effect from Monday 11th April and adds a total of 40 additional crossings to the operator's timetable over the week.



During the peak Monday to Friday morning commute, Red Jet crossings from West Cowes will depart every 35 minutes starting at 06:05 through to 09:35, and from Southampton every 35 minutes between 05:30 and 09:00. On weekdays, the Red Jet peak evening service will start at 15:35 from West Cowes, with crossings every 35 min up to 19:05. From Southampton, crossings will be offered every 35 min, starting at 15:00 through to 18:30. The last crossings of the day will depart at 23:10 from Southampton and 23:45 from West Cowes.

The timetable adjustments will also enable greater connectivity for customers travelling to/from London via South Western Railway. Red Funnel's Quayconnect bus service timetable will also be updated to reflect the new Red Jet arrival and departure times

### ***Red Funnel superfan celebrated his 10th Birthday on Red Falcon***

Red Funnel played host to 10-year-old superfan, Tayo who was celebrating his birthday in style, with an exclusive tour of the Red Falcon. The bespoke celebration came after Red Funnel customer services team member, Sandra Whatley was contacted by Tayo's mum, Stacie, who wanted to organise a surprise celebration for her son's 10th birthday.

The day's festivities saw Tayo starting the day by assisting Captain Alice Duncan with the Red Falcon sailing, which was then followed by Tayo and his family observing the vessel loading and waving her off on her return journey. Tayo was then given the opportunity to say goodbye to Captain Alice over the radio and was gifted with a limited-edition Red Jet toy to add to his already growing collection. Once arriving in East Cowes, Tayo was able to meet the operations team and given a tour of the bridge and before returning to Southampton.

### ***Holidays with Red Funnel made national press***

Holidays on the Isle of Wight, starting with travel on Red Funnel, were highlighted as top destinations in mainstream media including in The Sun and the Times. The Times: "25 of Europe's best ferry holidays" #17. Party on the Isle of Wight The Sun: Top 10 travel brands to make your holiday money go further # 4. Set sail for an island escape thanks to Red Funnel

### ***Red Funnel continues to plant 160 trees for 160 years***

As part of ongoing 160th birthday celebration, Red Funnel has gifted 160 trees to 11 different partners across the Isle of Wight, as a way to contribute to such an important aspect of what makes the Island so unique – it's scenic spaces and biodiversity. 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.

As part of this, a representative from Red Funnel attended a tree planting ceremony with representatives from East Cowes Council at Northwood Recreation Grounds, to celebrate the amazing work they are doing to create green spaces where they can relax and reflect.

*Josey page (Account Executive)*



from  
Southern  
Water

## What can I do?

Small changes can have a big impact



### Clear your plates

Scrape any leftover food or grease and fat residue from plates, pans or cooking utensils into the bin



### Use containers

Butter tubs, yoghurt pots or jam jars can all be used to collect cooled fat and oil – then just put them in the bin



[southernwater.co.uk/keep-it-clear](http://southernwater.co.uk/keep-it-clear)

from  
Southern Water

1000 42

Only flush

PAPER

PEE & POO

down the loo!