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DAVID CALDER

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HOSPITALITY
BACKYARD FEST OPENS



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Welcome from the Editor

The summer holidays are now in full swing and the Island is re-opening for tourists.

Although there aren't many planned events going ahead this summer, what we do have is much more freedom to see our loved ones, to enjoy our outdoor spaces and visitor attractions — and to head out for dinner using the Government's 'Eat Out to Help Out' discount.

There's a few pubs and restaurants across the Island that I've been so looking forward to getting back to. And by using this discount, I can support them getting back on their feet, while saving some money myself.

I've taken my children to some of the visitor attractions that have now reopened and I have to say, I am so impressed with how they are keeping everyone safe.

Fingers crossed for good weather so we can start to make the most of 2020.

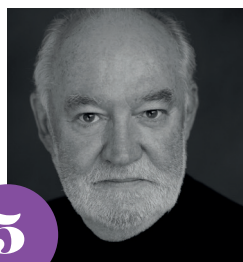
Amy Shephard

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It's no real surprise that David comes here as often as he can. It's almost a family tradition. His mother was born in Newport's Hunnyhill, his brother ran a pub in Shanklin and he was born just across the water in Portsmouth. Sadly, the Coronavirus put an end to him spending a few weeks working on the south coast. He was due to appear in the Chichester Festival Theatre's production of *The Life Of Galileo*. This was obviously cancelled, which was a major disappointment for him. In fact, his career had started as a stage hand in a play called *Armstrong's Last Goodnight* at the Sussex theatre. The cast included Albert Finney.

Via the Bristol Old Vic Theatre School, David has gone on to a very satisfying career. Luckily, he has made his mark in the vastly different worlds of stage acting, television and movies.

"I have been fortunate but I have never planned anything. Without being pompous, my ambition has always been to just be good at what I do," said David.

In the early days of his career, he worked with budding star, Ian McKellen, with the Prospect Players and later joined the Royal Shakespeare Company.

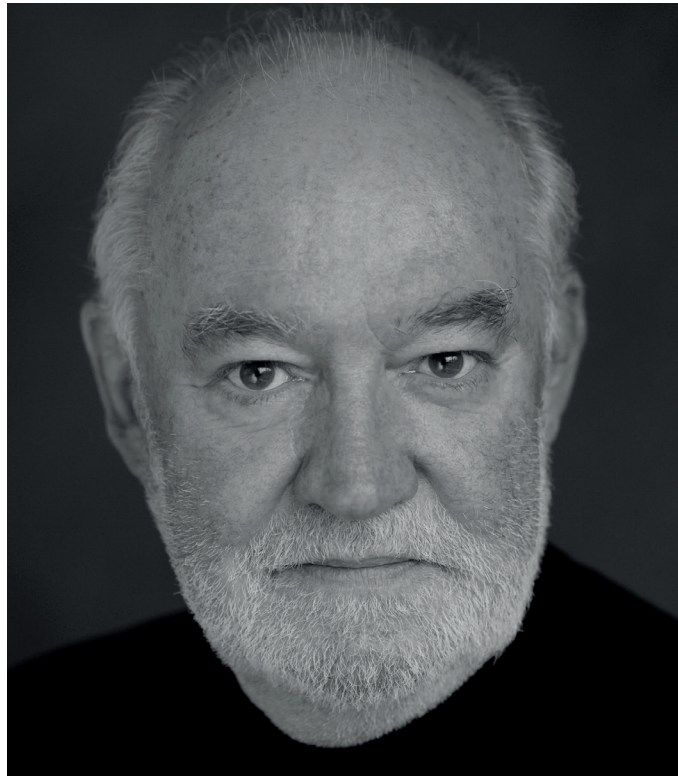
Wonderful experience for a young actor.

His early TV appearances included playing DI George Resnick in *Widows*, which gave his small screen career a major boost. *Star Cops*, now considered a cult show by sci-fi fans, was a series that David considers the BBC should have done more with. It never reached its true potential.

Following guest appearances in all the major shows, from *Cracker*, via *Boon* and *Bergerac*, he was suddenly in the brilliant hit series *Bramwell*. He was cast as Dr Robert Bramwell, alongside his on-screen daughter Eleanor, played by Jemma Redgrave. That was compelling viewing and ran for four series.

Actually, his character went missing from the last series, which was only two episodes, and no-one knew where he'd gone.

“His appearance as Sir Robert King in the Bond movie, *The World is Not Enough*, was rather unique.”



A day to remember with

DAVID CALDER

Over the years, top actors like Celia Imrie, Jason Cumberbatch, Penelope Keith and Geoffrey Hughes have all fallen in love with the Island. The latest to join them is David Calder, whose credits include *The World Is Not Enough*, *The Hatton Garden Job* and *The Lady In The Van*.

from the movie.

David was also in the movie *The Hatton Garden Job*, playing Terry Perkins. In total there were three movies made.

"We were even up against the blockbuster with Michael Caine. Ours was made for tuppence ha'penny in an old disused factory and has proved the most popular and the most played. No-one thought they would earn a penny from the film but now we get an income from it."

Many of his television roles have been as tough guys. In the early days it was coppers. For many years he was never considered for comedy roles. He is delighted this has now changed and it's due to his appearances in *Motherland*, *Inside No. 9* and *Plebs*.

In complete contrast, he was cast as an Alzheimer's patient in *Call The Midwife*. It was a stunning and emotional performance. He is a great admirer of the series and how they create the past history of the NHS.

A London cabbie once summed up David's life as an actor. He said: "It's you, isn't it? You're one of those unsung heroes. Everybody knows your face but not your name." In reality, David quite liked that. ☺

I found out why during my last interview before the lockdown. David was actually on stage playing Prospero in Shakespeare's *The Tempest*. Carlton TV waited until their very final decision day to confirm they would go for a fourth series. At 10am that very morning, David was offered the stage role of Prospero and an hour later, in came the offer for *Bramwell*. After a weekend to decide, he went with his heart.

Many still remember David for his role of Captain Smith in the television adaptation of *Titanic*.

He was also in another memorable series called *Drover's Gold*. His appearance as Sir Robert King in the Bond movie, *The World is Not*



Enough, was rather unique.

"In the Bond movies they have this pre-title moment. That one was the longest introduction to the film, involving me, and I'm dead before the titles come up. I was blown up," revealed David. It looked good on his CV and after theatre performances he is still often asked to sign photos



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Ye Olde Village Inn presents BACKYARD FEST

With years of festival experience behind him, building bars at festivals across the world, landlord Jay Chapman decided that to survive post-coronavirus, he needed to come up with something completely new, using the space that they did have. And so, the Olde Village Inn Backyard Fest was born.



As one of the oldest pubs on the Island — Ye Olde Village Inn has been serving the Bembridge community and beyond since 1787. Incredibly popular with Islanders, the family-run, innovative pub won the recent Isle of Wight Radio Pub of the Year Award. Shortly after the awards ceremony in February, Covid-19 hit and things drastically changed for the hospitality industry.

Being a historical building and one of the oldest coaching houses left on the Island, the Olde Village Inn realised that, with social distancing, the pub would only be able to serve 19 customers — which just wasn't viable.

With just weeks to turn their business around, Jay, wife Kelly along with their business partner Emma — and the help of local tradespeople and a willing army of volunteers — totally transformed the car park into an amazing outdoor area, with social distancing and

sanitisation at the heart of it. For weeks they worked hard to create a space which would allow them to keep trading — and the doors re-opened on Saturday, 4th July.

“There are 20 areas available for pre-bookings.”

So what can you expect from the OVI Backyard Fest? The whole experience is designed to offer a safe, sanitised and socially-distanced environment so that groups of people in their ‘bubbles’ can enjoy socialising again. There are 20 areas available for pre-bookings. From VIP pods with your own fridge, to booths in an undercover outdoor area.

Your host will welcome you on arrival, take your details for track and trace and then show you to your pre-booked area. All areas have hand sanitiser in them and food and drinks can be ordered by the OVI app or via your host — so there's no crowded bar and all drinks and food will be delivered by tray. The whole area will also be sanitised at 90 minute intervals.

With sanitisation and social distancing at the heart of the project, guests can now enjoy the usual great customer service with added festival-style fun, while feeling completely safe. ☺
Visit www.yeoldevillageinn.co.uk to make your booking and to browse the Backyard Fest menu.



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Summer TREATS

With summer in full swing, Gillian Reay-Young shares these recipes for family paella and sorbet to enjoy in the sun




 SERVES
8

Paella

INGREDIENTS

8 mussels
100g (3½ oz) peeled prawns
1 small cooked lobster
600g (1⅓ lb) diced chicken breasts (pork, or a mixture of pork and

chicken works well too)
4 tbsp olive oil
2 cloves of garlic, chopped
1 onion, chopped
1 red or green pepper, chopped and seeded
4 tomatoes, peeled and chopped
350g (¾ lb) long grain rice
1.3l (2¼ pints) chicken stock
100g (3½ oz) peas (frozen are fine)
A little saffron and seasoning

METHOD

- 1 Heat two tablespoons of oil. Shell most of the mussels and peel most of the prawns (if using fresh), leaving a few for decoration later.
- 2 Remove the cooked lobster meat from the shell and dice.
- 3 Put the oil in a large paella dish or frying pan and sauté the garlic, onion and pepper for five minutes until soft but not browned.
- 4 Add the chopped tomatoes and the diced meat. Lightly brown the meat.
- 5 Stir in the rice and most of the stock, leaving a little to blend the saffron powder before adding to the mixture. Season to your taste (if you use stock cubes, then a little salt will be needed).
- 6 Bring the mixture to the boil, then reduce and simmer for approximately 20 minutes, until the rice is just cooked and the meat tender.
- 7 Stir in the mussels, peeled prawns, lobster meat and peas, and simmer for a further eight to ten minutes.
- 8 Serve the paella with a few strips of raw red/green pepper and scatter a few whole cooked prawns and cooked mussels in their shells over the top.
- 9 Serve indoors or alfresco, with a mixed salad and perhaps some garlic bread.

GIN & TONIC SORBET


 SERVES
4

INGREDIENTS

170g (6 oz) of caster sugar
Zest and juice of 2 limes
6 tbsp of gin
425ml (¾ pint) tonic water (NOT diet)
Fresh lime and mint to decorate

METHOD

1 Dissolve the sugar in 425ml (¾ pints) of water over a moderate heat.

- 2 Stir in the juice, zest and skin of lime and boil for five minutes until reduced.
- 3 Put to one side to cool, then squeeze out the peel and strain.
- 4 Mix in the tonic water and gin and put the liquid into a freezer container (I use an old ice cream carton) and freeze.
- 5 When frozen, take out of the carton and beat until it goes creamy in texture,

then return to the freezer until you're ready to serve.

- 6 Serve in a glass with a little grated lime peel and a spray of fresh mint. Of course, alcohol does not freeze, so the more gin you put in, the more slushy it will be. However, it does have a wonderfully fresh taste!

Note: This recipe is suitable for adults only.



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Island homes to benefit from energy scheme

Thousands of homes on the Isle of Wight could benefit from a new and improved energy efficiency scheme.

Warm Up Wight has been operating since 2016 and aims to help householders on the Island to access a range of energy efficiency measures that could help to make their homes warmer and cheaper to heat.

The qualification criteria for the scheme has now been widened meaning many more people that may have missed out in the past could now qualify, including those on low incomes or properties that are hard to heat.

The scheme is operated by heating and insulation company J&J Crump & Sons Ltd and supported by the Isle of Wight Council, Cllr Steve Hastings, Cabinet Member for Procurement, Waste Management, Special Projects and Forward Planning, said: "Fuel poverty is still a real issue on the Isle of Wight, and as energy prices rise, those living in homes without sufficient energy-efficiency measures in place are often hit the hardest.

"We know that following the Covid-19 lockdown, many homes will be facing the reality of a reduced income whilst their fuel bills are likely to increase as a result of being at home all the time. This is an ideal time to do what we can to help people make their homes warmer and cheaper to heat."

Under this new scheme, thousands of homes on the Island will be eligible to apply for a range of energy efficiency measures,

such as cavity wall insulation, loft insulation, room in the roof insulation and in some cases replacement boilers or new heating systems.

"We know that there are tens of thousands of homes on the Island that could still benefit from insulation and heating measures, said Steve Crump, MD of JJC Crump.

"Our teams will be out on the streets soon and residents will receive a letter through their doors which will provide more information about the scheme, list the eligibility criteria and the various ways in which they can apply. For many residents, the energy efficiency measures will be free.

"While the weather is warmer, there's no better time to prepare their homes for the winter months and the colder conditions, and we would encourage anyone who thinks they may be eligible under the scheme to get in touch."

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Eat out in August for half the price

In August, everyone in the country will be given an 'eat out to help out' discount — 50% off at participating restaurants, cafes and pubs.
 "Meals eaten at any participating

business, Monday to Wednesday, will be 50% off, up to a maximum discount of £10 per head for everyone, including children," said Chancellor, Rishi Sunak.
 Businesses will then be able

to claim the money back, with funds in their bank account within five working days. The scheme, described as the first of its kind, is designed to help an industry employing 1.8 million people. **B**

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The new Aqua Park at Tapnell Farm features a floating, inflatable course with over 20 obstacles, joined together to create a series of fun challenges for varying standards of ability (age 8+). Now open and taking bookings online.

Next door at the Farm Park, you can grab a great value Multi-Pass Card for the summer holidays.

Available to purchase online only, the Summer Multi-Pass Card will entitle the bearer to six visits for just £25, working out at just £4.16 per person, per visit. The price is the same for adults, children and concessions and under twos are free.

The pass is also completely transferable, meaning another adult can use your pass to take the kids to the park for the day.

Summer Multi-Pass Cards can be purchased up until the 31st August and used until 31st October. All trips must be booked online and there are a limited number of passes available.

www.tapnellfarm.com

Donkey Sanctuary re-opens

The Isle of Wight Donkey Sanctuary, in Wroxall is happy to be welcoming visitors back on site, following a major conversion, including a new cafe and Covid-safe measures. Re-opening July 27th, just in time for the school summer holidays.

Visit www.iowdonkeysanctuary.org for more details.



Sky Nets open in Sandown!

New for 2020: Sandham Skynets is a gigantic open-air bounce park opposite Sandown Bay with huge nets suspended high off the ground, where children and adults can play and bounce together.

Isle of Wight residents receive a fantastic 20% discount on Sandham Gardens attractions. Just bring along photo ID and proof of address to receive your discount. Not valid in conjunction with any other offer.

www.sandhamgardens.com/attractions/skynets/



Robin Hill and Blackgang Chine re-open



Robin Hill and Blackgang Chine re-opened both parks from July 25th with new safety measures in place.

Now you've got the freedom to enjoy time outdoors in the parks like you'd planned, make this summer the best it can possibly be! 2020 passes are now back on sale — and not only will these passes grant you unlimited access for the rest of this season, you'll also be securing entry

throughout the full 2021 season too, making them the best value FVPs ever!

Already a 2020 FVP holder? You don't need to take any action at all. Your passes have already been extended until the end of next year.

www.blackgangchine.com
www.robin-hill.com

FEATURED EVENT

Market in the Park comes to Northwood House & Park during August weekends

A fantastic selection of Isle of Wight businesses will be taking a regular pitch in beautiful Northwood Park in Cowes every August weekend selling everything from boutique art and craft to local produce starting from Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd August.

The outdoor market will meet all current Covid-secure guidelines to ensure the safety of all the stall holders and visitors alike. Enjoy Northwood House Tea Garden and Lawn Bar when you visit too, all with free entry!

More details: www.northwoodhouse.org/events

Market in the **Park**

AUGUST WEEKENDS IN NORTHWOOD PARK, COWES

FEATURING A QUALITY SELECTION OF BOUTIQUE ISLAND BUSINESSES & TRADERS

FREE ENTRY 10.30-17.00 EVERY SAT & SUN
Covid-safe outdoor experience (all weather)

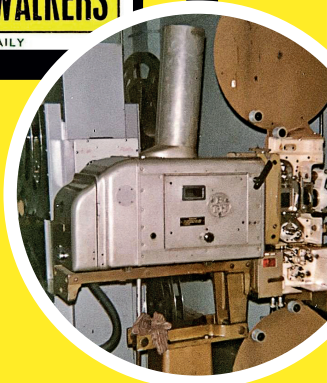
PLUS ENJOY NORTHWOOD HOUSE TEA GARDEN & LAWN BAR TOO!



THE BIG SCREEN RETURNS

First opening its doors in 1936, The Commodore in Star Street, Ryde has had a fascinating past.

RETURNS



Above photo courtesy of Godfrey Tier

Run by several different owners over the years, the building has been used as a cinema, bingo hall, theatre, ballroom and cafe. Stars including Dusty Springfield, Lonnie Donegan and The Animals have graced its stage — while the cinema has seen all manner of cinematography, through 35mm film, which had to be threaded through cogs and pulleys, CinemaScope and the periscope method, before digital took over in 2013.

Built in place of the old Sweetmans brewery, the auditorium originally had a capacity of 1,507 seats and housed live shows on a Sunday night.

Islander, Shirley Stallard said on Facebook: “Saturday morning pictures were sixpence in the 1940s. They used to take a photo of the queue each week and a lucky person was circled to win a prize the next week (an ice lolly). I never won but I did win a ticket to the pantomime by writing an essay, in about 1950! I remember Tchaicovsky being played waiting for the film shows to start, my first real experience of classical music.

The 50s brought Skiffle in the ballroom and shows in the theatre featuring famous pop singers. Great memories!”

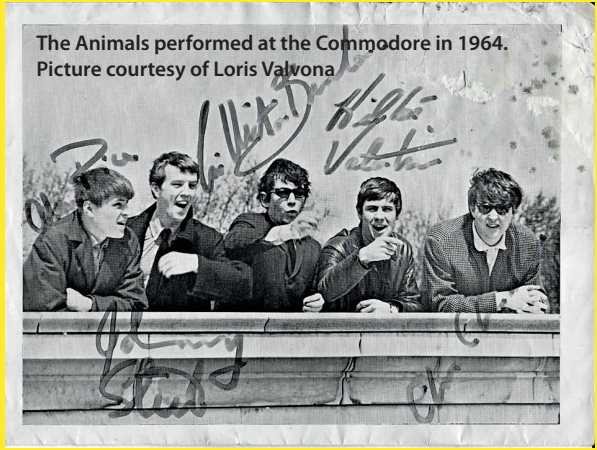
Former projectionist, Godfrey Tier, said: “I remember visiting my uncle in the projection room when I was about five. And my aunty was a waitress in the restaurant, which is how they met. Forty years later, I was chief at The Commodore...in the same projection box as my uncle was in the sixties.”

Jeffrey Morris said on cinematreasures.org in 2011: “I’ve a fond memory of visiting this cinema back in 1969/1970 while on a family holiday in Ryde. My sister and I went along to the Saturday morning picture show, we sat through a Children’s Film Foundation programme with a packed auditorium, presumably a mixture of local children alongside us holidaymakers. There

was no bingo then the entire cinema was a single screen operation. It is hard to imagine it as a three screen cinema with bingo in the original stalls.”

Between 1964 and 1973, The Commodore operated primarily as a bingo hall before re-opening as an independent cinema.

Now a three-screen cinema and bingo hall, The Commodore is owned by family-run Leo Leisure — and is glad





to be welcoming guests back through its door after three months closed during the Coronavirus pandemic.

The Commodore offers great value for money, offering all the latest movies at just £4 per ticket. Saturday morning reduced price showings and family-friendly events throughout the year make it the perfect visitor attraction for all ages.

Any internet search will tell you how much Islanders love to visit the 'retro' cinema, reminding them of cinemas of days gone by, with its historic building and inviting smell of freshly popped corn. The nachos have been

Islanders love to visit the 'retro' cinema, reminding them of cinemas of days gone by, with its historic building and inviting smell of freshly popped corn.

are temperature checked and provided with hand sanitiser on arrival. Socially distanced queuing, additional cleaning and a one way system is enforced and screens have been erected at till points. Now customers can feel safe and protected while enjoying the same nostalgic cinema experience of which The Commodore has become renowned. **B**

described as 'impossible to find as good anywhere else' and locals can't get enough of the low-cost ticket price.

The Commodore reopened its doors to the public on Saturday, July 4th with new measures in place to protect its staff and customers. Guests

1936

First opened its doors with 1,507 seats. Used over the years as a cafe, cinema, ballroom and theatre.

1946

Summer show with Bernard Delfont.

1953 - 1967

CinemaScope used in film.

1957

Lonnie Donegan performs with Denny Wright and J. Nick Nicholls.

Tommy Steele performs to crowds of screaming girls.

1964

Performances from Dusty Springfield, the Cherokees and The Animals, to name a few.

1965

New owners divided the building up into a bingo club where the stalls had been and a twin-screen cinema replaced the circle, seating 184 in each area. The ballroom became Screen 3, seating up to 176.

Ryde Carnival's popular night dance in The Commodore Ballroom with Buccaneer Garrad and The Commanders Band.

1973

Re-opens as a three-screen cinema.

2009

The Commodore purchased by family-run Leo Leisure.

2013

Cinema goes digital.

2020

Re-opens after three months closed due to Coronavirus pandemic.



Ryde Town Council

Town Hall Chambers, 10 Lind Street, Ryde, PO33 2NQ Tel: 01983 811105
 Email: clerk@rydetowncouncil.gov.uk www.rydetowncouncil.gov.uk



New country park in Nicholson Road, Ryde

15 acres of greenfield land is now available to the Ryde community, to form a new country park in Nicholson Road, Ryde. This will enable residents to exercise and enjoy the countryside, whilst socially distancing, on their doorstep.



Ryde East and Ryde South IW Ward Councillors Michael Lilley and Charles Chapman have campaigned for some years for part of the proposed Nicholson Road development site to be used as a small country park. There has been a lack of accessible green space in the area and the proposed park is within a part of the site that is unsuitable to build on. During Covid-19, the need for safe accessible recreational and exercise space has become a real issue for residents.

Ryde Town Council since March 2020 and during lockdown has been lobbying the IW Council, in partnership with Natural Enterprise, to open up the site. This has now been achieved and the site is now officially open.

The Town Council would like to thank Natural Enterprise for their hard work in getting the site open to the public so quickly and thank the IW Council for allowing these plans to go ahead.

Local residents will be asked for ideas to name the park and Natural Enterprise will be launching a consultation with the local community to develop the area further. This will include establishing a volunteer group to care for the site, to work with them on projects to improve it, and protect the important nature on site.

Great news for Network Ryde



A grant has been awarded from HWCAF for laptops to enable the full Network Ryde staff team to continue to create and deliver online services from their homes. Network Ryde, Ryde Town Councils Youth Service, usually provides youth work sessions from their youth café, 147, for young people aged 13-19 years.

In light of the Coronavirus pandemic they have had to adapt their services, closing their doors temporarily to its Youth Café premises and seeing the staff work remotely from home, providing an innovative and creative online Virtual Youth Club where they can continue to promote and support the young people who normally access the services. The virtual youth club runs daily sessions through its social media accounts incorporating parts of its normal curriculum, fun activities and a weekly young person take over session which is designed and led by young people.



Pedestrian Precinct update

A Traffic Order is in force banning all traffic from driving or parking in the pedestrian precinct seven days a week. Deliveries to businesses are permitted between 6am and 10am. There are loading bays in Garfield Road and Minghella Square and access to Anglesey Street is now from George Street.

Creating a cancer-free tomorrow for the children of today

We are delighted to announce the opening of two new Caring Cancer Trust shops in Ryde High Street. Caring Cancer Trust provide Way2Go programmes, meaning



they can offer special healing holidays of adventure, art and music workshops for local children recovering from cancer. Enabling them to regain their self-confidence and re-ignite their passion for life after the trauma of their illness and lengthy treatment. Generating funding for animal-free research into cancer causes, cancer treatment and cancer prevention. The Caring Cancer Trust are able to provide comforts and amenities for children suffering from cancer and support for their caring parents and siblings, as well as providing emergency funds for amenities, equipment and facilities to adult cancer sufferers.

Caring Cancer Trust opened 165 High Street on Friday 3rd July which Adrian Axford Deputy Mayor officiated with the charity's chairman Chris Ody. The Caring Cancer Trust thrift shop is selling second-hand children's and adult clothes, bric-a-brac, china and glassware, books/CDs/DVDs and toys.

The Boutique shop at 138 High Street opened the week before on Monday 22nd June. The boutique complements the Trust's thrift shop, selling donated antiques, jewellery, spiritual artefacts, arts and crafts handmade by supporters and fragrances.

Caring Cancer Trust has been totally run by unpaid volunteers since 2008. With unsalaried officers, trustees and patrons working hands-on to provide support for local children with cancer and their caring families, with an operational range that covers the Isle of Wight and southern England.

Harry Spencer-Whitcombe of Ryde who enjoyed a recent Caring Cancer Trust Way2Go art and music therapeutic holiday group for kids with cancer, celebrated the 138 High Street opening occasion with a song.



Mayor of Ryde, Cllr Michael Lilley

In May 2019, when I was elected Mayor of Ryde, I could not have envisaged that by the end of my year in office the country would be facing the biggest crisis since the Second World War. This report highlights some of Ryde Town Council's achievements in this eventful year.

Supporting the Community and Voluntary Sector

In the course of this year, I have learnt that what I love most about our 'Town on the Beach' is the wonderful sense of community. The Council has supported this in various ways. We have:

- Provided more than £250,000 in grants and support to over 30 Ryde community organisations

- Co-funded with the IW Council a post of Community Connector, based at Aspire Ryde, to strengthen community services, especially for the town's most vulnerable residents

- Facilitated the establishment of Ryde Unite, a group of community organisations who are now working together to support the town's community and voluntary sector.

Promoting our Arts and Culture

One of the Council's roles is to support and promote our arts and cultural activities. Ryde is a carnival town and we love a street parade. In 2019:

- Ryde Carnival was voted the most popular carnival in the UK

- Our Mardi Gras festival celebrated the Island's award of UNESCO Biosphere status

- The town hosted many other events, including IW Pride, the Scooter Rally, a beach sports festival and the vintage Car Extravaganza.

Supporting the Next Generation

The Council has continued to run its award-winning youth service, Network Ryde. My 2019-20 Mayoral Appeal was to raise funds for the emotional well-being of young people in the town and monies raised have gone initially to Network Ryde projects.

Regenerating our town centre and saving our historic buildings

Ryde also has a rich architectural heritage. In late 2019 the Council, with support from IW Council, Ryde Business

Association and other community organisations, won a prestigious award from Historic England to regenerate the High Street. This is the start of a radical programme to regenerate our town centre. We are also working with Natural Enterprise to reopen Appley Tower and exploring ways of bringing the Ryde Theatre/Town Hall back into community ownership.

Taking over Ryde Harbour and rejuvenating the Esplanade

The Council is finalising negotiations with IW Council to take over the ownership and management of Ryde Harbour and adjacent parts of Eastern Gardens for £1. The Town Council has plans to invest in the Harbour over the next five years to improve facilities for both permanent berth holders and visiting yachtsmen.

The plans for improvement include, adding additional berths, installing WIFI and electrical hook ups on the pontoons. The IW Council would otherwise have sold the harbour to a private buyer.

Responding to the Covid-19 emergency

During the Covid-19 outbreak, the Council has worked with Aspire Ryde, other local organisations and the IW Council to support vulnerable residents and the community as a whole. We have:

- Enrolled 151 volunteers, who have supported 160 vulnerable people
- Delivered about 700 prescriptions, 600 food parcels and 620 frozen meals
- Provided regular emotional wellbeing support by phone to 30 people
- Run a virtual youth club
- Liaised with the IW Council and Ryde Business Association to ensure the safe reopening of the town.

Ryde Place Plan

In consultation with other local organisations and the general public, the Council has produced the Ryde Place Plan. The Plan (available on our website) provides a vision of our town's future and a road map for achieving this vision.

It has recently been updated to take account of the implications of Covid-19.

Organisational change to manage change in Ryde

There have been a number of organisational and staffing changes during the year. We have:

- Appointed a new Town Clerk, Lisa Dyer, to lead our committed and enthusiastic staff team
- Recruited new staff, reorganised the staffing structure and made efficiency savings
- Held a strategic planning workshop and begun the preparation of a Corporate Plan
- Operated as many of our services as possible remotely during the Covid-19 crisis

The Year Ahead – 2020-21 Investment and Growth

Due to the Covid-19 crisis, the Council had to postpone its 2020 AGM until May next year, which means that I am continuing as Mayor for another year. We have an exciting year ahead. Thanks to the restructuring made in 2019/20, we have approved an ambitious budget for 2020/21 without any increase in the precept, and we have adequate reserves and an energised staff team. We are therefore well placed to continue implementing the projects begun in the last year and to achieve the vision set out in the Ryde Place Plan.

Thank you all

I have been honoured to be Mayor in the past tumultuous and dramatic year and I wish to thank all the Ryde Town Council staff, councillors, all the Covid-19 local volunteers, community organisations, faith groups, businesses and most importantly Ryde's residents. You all make Ryde the wonderful and special place it is and will make it great in the future. My 2020-21 Mayoral Appeal will raise funds to support Ryde Residents of all ages recovering from Covid19 and experiencing post-traumatic stress and depression or anxiety caused by the crisis.



News from Ryde North East

by Cllr Wayne Whittle

I attended the the contract signing ceremony for the Isle of Wight to host the last leg of the 2022 Tour of Britain. It will be a great PR opportunity to promote our picturesque Island as a cycling destination. Will need private sector sponsorship to make this happen.

The Environment Agency engineers have been working for several weeks repairing the damage to the footpath around Ryde Harbour caused by subsidence from escaping water around the new outfall pipe.

Good to see the Ryde Beach lifeguard service back on duty for the summer on Ryde Beach, they have added a new Rib to their lifesaving equipment.

We have had quite a few jet skis speeding too close to the shore during sunny days, with our shallow water many bathers are able to swim further out and there's a high risk of the jet skis running into them at speed. The IW Council are considering interventions and new bylaws as an attempt to prevent an accident.

Our children's public play areas have reopened just in time for the summer. Let's hope we get some more nice weather.

Email: wayne.whittle@iow.gov.uk

Fundraising target hit for 'Phoebe's Light' at Children's Ward

by Adam Richardson

The Isle of Wight NHS Trust is celebrating reaching its £4,800 fundraising target to buy 'Phoebe's Light' — a piece of equipment that makes blood tests less traumatic for poorly children at St Mary's.

The Accuvue vein finder, nicknamed Phoebe's Light, after a very special girl in the Children's ward care, helps medics see difficult-to-find veins, reducing the need for multiple attempts at blood taking or cannulation.

Having witnessed how the vein finder would help first hand, Phoebe's family headed the fundraising efforts with dad Peter being sponsored for the three peak challenge.

They were joined by friends and family and challenges were set — first by Kirsty for running every day for a month and then Becky's social distancing fundraiser online during lockdown.

As news spread the fundraising gained momentum with generous donations from the public and organisations added to the pot.

Dionne Davies, Play Specialist said: "We are so happy to be able to purchase Phoebe's Light. The vein finder will make such a difference to all children who have to

have their bloods taken or medication given.

"It isn't nice for any child or their parents to watch them being poked and prodded, this will cause much less discomfort for all.

"We are overwhelmed with the support shown to the children's ward

We are overwhelmed with the support shown to the children's ward

and we cannot thank everyone for raising or contributing the funds enough, we also got to purchase a trolley stand

too. Thank you."

Phoebe's parents, Peter and Hollie said: "Thank you so much to everyone who has donated to Phoebe's Light. You can't imagine how much it means to us to know that when Phoebe goes into hospital again that this piece of equipment will be there for her and all the other children on the Island."



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Safe travel charter launched for cancer patients

As lockdown measures begin to ease and more people start to use public transport, Wessex Cancer Trust and Hovertravel have launched a charter to reassure cancer patients that their journey between the Isle of Wight and Portsmouth will be as safe and relaxed as possible.

This includes giving Wessex Cancer Trust clients priority boarding, directing them to Wessex Cancer Trust's Daisy



Mountbatten appeals to public over dodgy donations

by Adam Richardson

Bin bags with cotton buds, sofas with faeces, and boxes with mice droppings are all things that have been 'donated' to Mountbatten charity shops, leading to the charity appealing for people to be sensible when giving away their goods.

Mountbatten is urging the community not to drop off or take their generous donations to their local charity shop as they reopen across the Island.

After an overwhelming increase in the number of donations, and because of changes to the way donations can be processed, they can only be received by the team at Mountbatten's Warehouse on Newport's Riverway Industrial Estate. Although the warehouse is open for donations seven days a week, between 10am and 4pm (closed between 12 and 1pm), there have been a number of times when capacity has been reached within a couple of hours of opening.

Mountbatten Retail Area Manager, Jodie Wilmott, said: "We've been receiving in just two hours of opening what we would normally receive in a day, with people queuing in their cars to drop off donations.

Sometimes, by the time we reach lunchtime, we are in the position of having to turn people away. We are so grateful for donations that

we can sell to support our work, and we know it can be frustrating when people want to give us their high quality donations, but we only have a limited space in which to store them in quarantine for 72 hours."

The charity is also asking people to ensure donations are of saleable quality. Since the easing of lockdown restrictions, a large percentage of what is currently being donated cannot be sold on through Mountbatten's shops.

Jodie added: "Unfortunately, that means we have to divert money away from supporting our wide range of end of life and bereavement services and into the cost of getting rid of what we can't sell to raise funds.

"Among the items we've received are sofas with animal faeces on them, bin bags containing cotton buds and other potentially



contaminated rubbish, as well as boxes with mice droppings in them. We really need people to stop and think, 'would you buy it yourself? Is it clean and in good working order? By asking these questions in advance, it helps our staff and volunteers, as well as our ambition to raise as much money as possible, much easier."

You can find out more information at www.mountbatten.org.uk



News from Ryde South

by Cllr Charles Chapman

Strange times need innovative solutions: It has been rewarding to see the innovative ways in which people have adapted. Whilst not detracting from the damage caused by this virus, it is also an opportunity to make exciting changes to the way we open up our pubs and restaurant and support our tourism industry. Utilising outdoor space more imaginatively with seating pods, outside bars etc, will support jobs and provide youngsters with career opportunities. Unemployment is the spectre on the horizon, it destroys people, families and communities.

Our ferry costs need to be more affordable to attract tourists from going elsewhere. Although not an advocate of subsidies, our Government could help. It should be thought of as an investment in creating local jobs. The more jobs created the less claimed in benefits!

Final thought: this virus has clearly demonstrated the need for this Island to retain, in full, its hospital services. Over the years many of our services have been eroded to the mainland in the name of efficiency, and cost saving something which £10million spent on a UK App for Covid-19, would have covered for years.

Bus for transport to the QA Hospital and limiting the number of passengers on the Daisy Bus to allow additional space between passengers.

Hovertravel and Wessex Cancer Trust have developed a special lanyard so cancer patients can display their HoverCare ID badge and are easily identifiable to Hovertravel staff. The lanyards can be ordered at www.wessexcancer.org.uk/wessex-cancer-trust-support-lanyards

Hovertravel staff are following a strict set of protocols in order to minimise the risk to their passengers and staff. As guidelines are being regularly reviewed, this particular charter will remain in place until the end of July.

Hovertravel is asking everyone to prebook so that capacity can be managed onboard and patients can travel at their preferred time and not experience delays if they arrive at a fully booked craft. NHS patients are entitled to a discount and are asked to use this link when booking - www.hovertravel.co.uk/?aff=NHSPATIENT.



HELP KEEP OUR BEACHES CLEAN & SAFE



You brought the rubbish with you, if you can't bin it, take it home!

✉ karen.iow@icloud.com ☎ 07506 930 109



News from Ryde South

by Cllr Karen Lucioni

A big thank you to all the volunteer Respect Ryde Project Ambassadors who have all been out making sure our beach and public spaces are clear of litter, which is damaging to our ocean and beautiful green spaces.

Between the 11th and 27th of September, the Big September Clean is going on nationally and The Respect Ryde Project, alongside Co-op, schools and other community groups will be getting involved. The Respect Ryde Project event is on the 12th September and I am hoping that everyone will get involved in tidying outside their home and business. Equipment is available from the project as well as Ryde Library and Co-op.

I have received messages from residents saying how lovely all the planting looks this year and I have to agree. I have also had compliments on the cleanliness of the public toilets. I think it is very important to get feedback on Ryde facilities as it is our community's money that makes this happen.

If you are aware of antisocial behaviour or crime, report it to 101 or online, as it is very important for the police to be aware of issues so patrols can be changed to include troubled areas or a piece of information could help build a better picture on a particular situation.

Please get in touch on 07506930109 or karen.iow@icloud.com.

Chris Packham launches Big Butterfly Count

by Jamie White

Isle of Wight Zoo ambassador and TV presenter, Chris Packham, is launching this year's Big Butterfly Count.

With millions of people gaining comfort through nature during the lockdown, the TV naturalist believes the Big Butterfly Count is an easy way for people to give back and help conserve our natural environment for future generations.

After a record 113,502 people took part last year, wildlife charity Butterfly Conservation believes this summer's UK-wide event could be even bigger.

Fine spring weather has seen the earliest average emergence of butterflies for 20 years, sparking thousands of extra enquiries from a curious public about their butterfly and moth sightings.

The Big Butterfly Count asks people to spend 15 minutes in an outdoor space in sunny weather counting the amount and type of butterflies (and two day-flying moths) they see. They then submit their




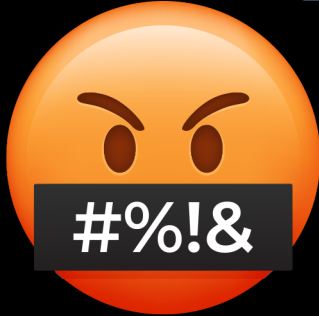
findings to complete being part of the UK's largest citizen science project.

Last year 1,595,579 butterflies were counted – an average of 16.25 per 15-minute count. The Painted Lady was sighted 420,841 times, followed by the Peacock (207,814) and Small White (179,715). Others sighted over 100,000 times were the Gatekeeper (161,987), Large White (139,671) and Meadow Brown (110,858).

Each year the data is used to map and measure populations and the geographic spread of species across the UK. It is a key indicator of the health of our environment, including the effects of climate change.

The annual event, the world's biggest survey of butterflies, runs until Sunday August 9th. Anyone can sign up by downloading the app or species charts for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland from Bigbutterflycount.org






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Protect yourself against scams

Members of IWASP (Isle of Wight Against Scams Partnership) have been working together for over three years to raise awareness around scams and doorstep crime and protect Island residents from becoming victims.

Scammers are incredibly sophisticated criminals who have access to all types of technology which helps to convince us that they are genuine. They are able to clone telephone numbers so that you think you are being contacted by your bank, they will clone Facebook pages to convince you your friend is in trouble and in need of money, and can access laptops showing bank accounts, which they have the skills to doctor to fit their narrative. All of which seems entirely genuine to us.

How do we know if it's a scam?

- An unexpected email or telephone call. Scammers will claim to be from a variety of organisations including Amazon, the Police, HMRC, your bank – Remember no legitimate organisation will contact you in this way.
- You will be put under pressure to respond either by threats “a warrant out for your arrest” or enticements “you have been charged for Amazon Prime – press 1 for a refund”.
- Be wary of anyone knocking your door offering to carry out jobs for you – even if they need doing. Anyone behaving like this is liable to be a rogue trader who will over-charge you, take your money and do a poor job.

There's not a lot that can be done to stop the calls, emails and messages coming in but there are things we can do to protect ourselves.

To find out what to watch out for, how to combat it, and for more information about IWASP, visit www.iwasp.org.uk.

Yarn bombing brings smiles to Sandown

Sandown Yarn Bombers have been adding colour to Sandown and bringing smiles to faces, with this unique form of 'graffiti art'.

Formed in October 2019, a group of local ladies met in Lulu's Café in Sandown High Street to plan a summer yarn bombing activity in the town. Bringing together local community groups and Sandown Green Town Volunteers — and to publicise the local Sandown Community Association 'Sandown In Bloom' competition with the theme 'The Power of Flowers'.

Sandown Yarn Bombers bring creative people together for a common purpose, to knit and natter and to regenerate areas of Sandown that have been neglected and provide splashes of colour to run down areas.

The group met monthly until lockdown and as the numbers grew, changed venues to The Wight Hotel, who generously gave a donation to assist the cause.

One of the group members has a wide Facebook following and as



word spread, parcels of flowers started arriving from Bolton, Portsmouth, Basingstoke, Greenhithe, Newcastle and many other locations.

In July, some of the group who were able to go out started to yarn bomb Sandown High Street at the empty Kings House Bar and an empty shop window next to the microbrewery Boojum & Snark. They also added colour and floral knits to Christ Church on the Broadway, the derelict Ocean Hotel, and Henry and Henrietta the post box chickens have been very popular.

There have been so many positive comments, with both residents and visitors saying the knits have cheered them up when they ventured out as restrictions lifted.

Founder Jackie Joyce said: "We aim to continue our creative yarning — who knows what we will come up with next! The group does not know this yet, but there are thoughts of a Christmas display!"

'Out & About' Cards created for vulnerable Islanders

Age Friendly Island and its partners have created a set of 'Out & About' Cards to help people to feel more confident to navigate social distancing and other Covid-secure measures that are now in place.

With the lockdown restrictions easing, Emma Lincoln, Age UKIW's Age Friendly Island project manager said that some people were finding the new situations challenging: "In our high streets, shops, cafes, pubs and hairdressers and on the buses and ferries we are all navigating the new measures that the government has brought in as a response to coronavirus.

We are social distancing, wearing face coverings, being served from behind a clear screen, and using contactless payments. For some people these measures bring additional difficulties due to a medical condition or disability. For others the idea of returning to places that have changed can be daunting."

The new cards, part-funded by the National Lottery Community Fund,

are designed to be used to let people know that the cardholder finds these new situations challenging.

These cards are for those who: Find social distancing challenging — they may have a visual impairment or have difficulty in understanding social distancing instructions; Are exempt from wearing a face covering under the government guidance; Find the use of face coverings by other people challenging — face coverings make communication difficult for those who rely on lip reading and facial expressions; Feel they need time and space — they may have been shielding and are just starting to get back out and about.

If you or someone you know would benefit from using these cards, please contact Age UK Isle of Wight on **01983 525282**



News from Bembridge

by Cllr Michael Murwill

Bembridge New Electric Point

The new charging point for electric cars, arranged by the Parish Council, is now up and running in Foreland Road. I have received very positive feedback from residents and visitors.

Tour of Britain 2022

It is excellent news that it has been announced that the Isle of Wight has been chosen to host the final leg of the Tour of Britain in 2022. The road cycling race starts in Aberdeen and will finish on the Island.

This is another opportunity for the Island to be a leading light in Britain and the world and show businesses and possible future residents and visitors that it is a great place to live, visit and work. The Tour of Britain can be a window for the Island to promote itself and encourage businesses to set up here.

I hope that you continue to keep safe and healthy. Should you need help, please telephone the IWC Coronavirus helpline 823 600 or, for the latest Government advice, please visit the IWC Coronavirus website: www.iow.gov.uk/Council/OtherServices/Public-Health-Coronavirus-COVID-19/Advice1 Island residents can also access mental health support and advice online at www.iwmentalhealth.co.uk.

Tel: 07754 463 040

Email: michael.murwill@iow.gov.uk

Facebook: Councillor Michael Murwill

Twitter: @cllrmurwill



News from Sandown South

by Cllr Ian Ward

Progress with ocean hotel site

I have been in discussion with the agent for the receivers of the Ocean Hotel. The Ocean Hotel is just one of 22 properties that belonged to the Carlauren Group; of which three are on the Island. The receivers are dealing with these three first because of their cross Solent location. 70 people have bought apartments proposed for the Ocean, each has a lease and therefore have a vested interest. Clearly, those buyers will not recover their investment, but negotiations with them is showing some promise and if agreement is reached with them, the Ocean could be up for sale within a matter of months.

Sandown bay – beach management - working party established

During the lockdown people understandably made use of our beaches, but there were fears and complaints about lack of separation between bathers, jetskis and other issues. My efforts to establish who was responsible to supervise such matters concluded that local Bye Laws and old rules had become obsolete. Also, it is impractical for the Portsmouth based Maritime Police to cover the whole Island.

This situation affects all the beaches on the Island, so I raised the issue with the IW Council Cabinet, and we decided to try and establish a beach supervision regime that was fit for purpose. We now have a working party that will focus on the Bay Area first but will include the whole of the Island.

Email: ian.ward@iow.gov.uk

Tel: 403193 / 07772559093



News from Sandown North

by Cllr Debbie Andre

As we continue through the fast-changing way of life that the pandemic has imposed upon us, it's good to stop for a moment and reflect on how we can use this situation for positive.

The Island has always had a strong community spirit and sense of identity, but we are going to have to ensure that this spirit not only endures, but acts as an enabling force for new initiatives to take root and grow. Greater care for our environment with shopping locally, growing our own vegetables and walking and cycling more. It's likely that we will have to accept some restrictions to our lifestyles for some time to come so I would encourage you to embrace these changes and look after ourselves and those whose lives we share.

I will be starting my monthly Councillor surgery again from Saturday 1st August at Yaverland Sailing Club, at the outside area to enable social distancing. I'm happy to hold surgeries more frequently if residents feel that would be of value.

Cllr Heather Humby is available on 402024 or at heatherhumby@sandowntowncouncil.gov.uk and will resume her weekly Councillor Surgery at Sandown Library when the restrictions are lifted. Stay safe everyone.

Tel: 400744/07948757977
 Email: debbieandre4sandown@gmail.com
 FB: debbieandre4sandown

Sea Eagles caught on camera

The UK's largest bird of prey, which was re-introduced to the Island in 2019, has been recorded flying alongside an Isle of Wight paraglider.



The White-Tailed Eagle – also known as a Sea Eagle – was wiped out throughout the UK, with the last pair breeding on Culver Cliff in 1780. But now a groundbreaking project from Forestry England and the Roy Dennis Wildlife Foundation plans to reestablish them in their ancestral home over the course of five years. Six were released last year, of which one or two are still regularly spotted still here on the Island.

Search for Isle of Wight Life's video 'Flying with sea eagles' on YouTube to watch the Sea Eagles from the air – and follow @SeaEagleEngland on Twitter for more details about the project.



News from Lake South

by Cllr Paul Brading

I hope all my residents are starting to enjoy the relaxation of the COVID-19 rules, but at the same time remaining safe and alert.

IW Council business has continued as virtual meetings, with my main focus being on the safe partial reopening of Island schools, which has gone very well. My thanks and gratitude to all school staff. Also, as a member of the Cabinet I am involved in the IW recovery plan, to ensure we come out of this pandemic in the strongest position possible.

Locally, the Planning Inspectorate's decision on the Enforcement appeal on the land behind Premier Inn is expected in July, which will be the next step in moving this issue forward.

Sadly, some jet ski users are causing real problems in the Bay, being far too close to the shore, speeding, and going under the pier. This is creating safety concern for swimmers and other water users. I have raised this serious issue with the respective authorities and am pushing hard for the urgent installation of buoys across the whole bay.

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 Email: paul.brading@iow.gov.uk

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Shanklin Town Council



Town Mayor's Address

*Councillor Steve Knight
Shanklin Town Mayor
(2018-2020)*

Esther and I were delighted to be invited to judge and present the prizes for an art competition organised by Steve Oatham who runs the All in One shop at 72 High Street, Shanklin.

Steve sells models of Super Heroes and Marvel characters, the aim of the competition was for the children to paint or draw their favourite character. 1st prize was the actual model the winner painted, 2nd and 3rd prizes sweets. 1st prize went to Jack Woodward, 2nd Lily Rose Miles and 3rd prize to Charlie Green.

The standard was extremely high, congratulations to all the children that took part.

Town Mayor's Review of 2019-2020 – Part One

I can hardly believe that another council year has nearly passed by. I must be getting old!

Thank you to Shanklin Town Councillors for allowing me the honour of representing our Town and Council this year. It has been a most exciting and enjoyable year, so many functions about forty! And projects that have been a long time in the planning stage are now well on the way to completion.

Thanks to Jon Gilbey for taking the public toilet replacement scheme to completion. They are now a top class asset that is a funding source for the town. We regret that Jon resigned as a councillor but has stayed on in a supporting role.

We are delighted to say that our new Shanklin Community Library

is completed and ready to go but Covid-19 had other ideas. Thanks to Maria for organising the layout of the new building Thanks to Ben the Architect and Tim the Builder. They worked to a tight schedule under difficult conditions, a special opening ceremony was put on hold to open the library by HRH Prince Edward and The Lord Lieutenant of the Isle of Wight Mrs Susie Sheldon JP. This will happen as soon as it is safe to do so. FOSCL are still doing an amazing job fundraising and promoting the library.

Sadly we hear of the passing of a well-respected councillor and past Town Mayor, Mr Jack Luscombe. He will be remembered as a very knowledgeable member of the council and sadly missed.

Town Clerk RFO: Ms S. Janeway LL.B (Hons) CiLCA MSLCC, Victoria Avenue, Shanklin PO37 6PG. (01983) 865101
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News from Shanklin South & Central

by Cllr Chris Quirk and Cllr Michael Beston

Shanklin - Social Distancing

Following discussions initiated by ourselves, including Shanklin Town Councillors and the IW Council, a decision has been made that the programme is now complete in respect of short term measures. These measures promote social distancing in towns which have an active retail frontage of shops. The measures involved the installation of signs and pavement graphics to raise awareness with the aim of facilitating social distancing in areas where that is difficult. The locations have been determined to meet the government guidance on such interventions as part of an overall package to support high street businesses reopening. Signs and pavement graphics to raise awareness and promote social distancing have now been installed in Regent Street and Shanklin High Street. These measures will be maintained until early September, after which further extension of the scheme will be reviewed.

Road Upgrades and Improvements

Island Roads have resumed their carriageway and footway improvement programme following a suspension of work due to the Covid-19 outbreak. As part of this, night-time work will once again

be undertaken where it will help reduce disruption. Although the most intensive period of resurfacing work is over, Island Roads is planning a further four years of significant activity to ensure it is well placed to meet the requirements over the remaining 18 years of the Highways PFI contract. With over 90% of the main roads now improved, much of this year's work will focus on lesser used residential roads and streets.

Bay Action Group

After initial action by ourselves, a Bay Beach Group has been formed with Bay councillors and the cabinet member responsible for public safety. The group is currently in negotiation with IW Council to take measures to provide supervision of the beaches in the Bay area including the installation of effective safety buoys. The need for this has been brought to light lately by reports of badly piloted jet skis, anti-social behaviour including excessive consumption of alcohol and littering etc. These actions will fit with the recently achieved Solent Water Quality Awards and the Southern Water Bathing Water Enhancement Programme.

Email: chris.quirk@iow.gov.uk

Tel: 07802 705831

Email: michael.beston@iow.gov.uk

Tel: 07885 644426.

Spicer's Accounting Services

Spicer's Accounting Services provides accounting services to local individuals or businesses on the island.

The business is run by Richard Spicer who has been in practice for over 15 years. As a sole practitioner Richard aims to offer a personal service. This is done by specialising in certain areas these include self-employed, independent retailers, service providers, providers of furnished holiday lettings or residential lettings and smaller businesses in the hospitality sector.



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Where there's a Will there's a way

When the lockdown was announced earlier this year, Solicitors all across the country were hard at work, writing Wills for people who, fearing the worst, wanted to make sure their affairs were in order should they fall ill.

Thankfully after a difficult few months, with the virus now in retreat, people are gradually starting to get back to normal. However it remains vitally important that people still consider the need to make a Will to ensure their loved ones, or chosen charities benefit in the manner they would like them to.

If someone does not make a Will then they are known as 'intestate' and the intestacy laws laid down by government will apply to their estate on their death.

It may well be that the intestacy laws mean that their estate will be inherited by their chosen relatives. However, there are many instances when this would not be the case. It is terribly sad to see families fall out when it would have been the very last thing their relative would have wanted, but unfortunately this happens more often than you would think.

The law is somewhat rigid and it can not take into account everyone's personal circumstances. Therefore if you do not make a Will and you have very few living relatives it could be that your distant cousins stand to inherit on your

death, you may not have met them, or you might not like them! Your preference may be to leave money to charity, in which case you would need to make a Will to ensure this happens.

One common misconception is that unmarried partners, which are sometimes referred to as 'common-law partners', will inherit from the estate of their partner. This is not the case and they will not inherit anything at all, aside from any assets they held jointly with their partner. This can lead to some truly unjust outcomes, as can be seen with the example of Mr Brown and Mrs Smith below:

Mr Brown and Mrs Smith are in their 80s and have been in a relationship together for 40 years. They have always considered that they live together 'as man and wife', although they have never actually married. They live in a property owned solely by Mr Brown with a value of £200,000. Mr Brown and Mrs Smith run a joint account for household expenditure, but never let the balance get too high. Mr Brown has two sons from his previous relationship.

Mr Brown passed away suddenly before he

made his Will, it was always on his 'to-do' list but he always let other tasks leap frog over it. If you had asked him before he died he would have said he wanted Mrs Smith to live in his house after his death, so that she could live out the rest of her days in comfort. He only wanted his sons to inherit after Mrs Smith had passed away. However, because Mr Brown did not make a Will his two sons inherit everything now, apart from the joint account.

If Mrs Smith can not reach an agreement with Mr Brown's two boys she will have to start legal proceedings if she wants to receive anything from Mr Brown's estate, which in her 80s Mrs Smith will find quite stressful.

If Mr Brown had made a Will then he and Mrs Smith would have had the peace of mind that Mrs Smith would be well provided for on his death.

No one likes thinking about death, let alone their own. However, it is important to remember the need to provide for those you would want to inherit on your death, otherwise this will be left to the laws of intestacy to decide for you.



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Queen OF THE BLUES



Coming in every shade from darkest inky purple to purest white, no summer garden is complete without the extraordinary blooms of agapanthus, writes Flo Whitaker

Agapanthus are native to South Africa but they've spread themselves all over that continent – and much of the world besides. They've picked up many different names in their travels, including African Lily, Queen Lily and Nile Lily. This is a classic example of how confusing things can be when you stray off the botanical classification path. Agapanthus doesn't naturally occur by the Nile, nor is it a lily; it's a member of the amaryllis family.

A warm, well-lit spot is what agapanthus craves. They'll enjoy a sunny border location in gravelly soil. However, their long, succulent leaves can easily dominate the scene and smother surrounding plants (to be honest, the leaves alone are not terribly interesting to look at), so they are best grown in containers



where they will enjoy free-draining conditions and their foliage is less likely to encroach onto neighbours. Another advantage of growing agapanthus in pots is that they can be moved into prominent positions as they come into flower, then relegated to the sidelines as the blooms fade. These drought-tolerant characters will also relish the heat rising up from sun-baked patio paving.

The belief that

agapanthus prefers an overcrowded root system and a starvation diet is wrong. Just because they'll survive on neglect doesn't mean you shouldn't give them decent conditions to thrive. Soil type is critical; it sounds perverse but it should be damp, but also free-draining.

A mixture of 70% peat-free potting soil combined with a scoop of moisture-retaining leaf mould and 30% horticultural grit is ideal – the grit will prevent water pooling around the fleshy roots which are prone to rot. A springtime feed of multipurpose fertiliser will give them a boost, but don't overfeed as that will create

lush foliage at the expense of flowers.

Agapanthus need repotting every few years, preferably in spring. It's a brutal process, as they make impenetrable spaghetti-like roots that cannot be teased apart. Employ a sharp kitchen knife (and a steady nerve) and slice through the rootball from top to bottom, cutting it into chunks. Ensure each piece has a healthy growing shoot attached and discard any material that looks old and tired. Repot into fresh compost, leaving soil spaces between each segment for new roots to grow into.

In southern England, most agapanthus varieties will be hardy. Herbaceous types (they lose the majority of their leaves and semi-hibernate during winter) are tough characters and will survive all weathers, including salt-laden gales, which is why they are such favourites in coastal areas. Tender varieties retain their leaves and can be damaged by frost, so are best overwintered in a cool greenhouse. Whatever you choose to call them, the stunning architectural blooms of agapanthus will grace any garden. ☺

“A warm, well-lit spot is what agapanthus craves”



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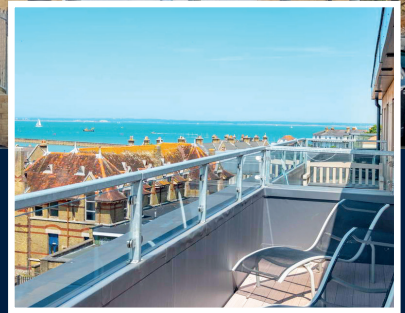
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