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WEST WIGHT

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Inside this issue:

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DAVID
CALDER

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PAELLA &
SORBET

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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.

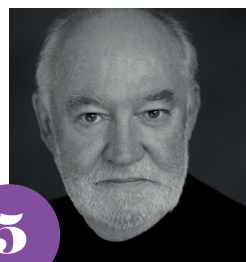
I've taken my children to some of the visitor attractions that have now reopened and I have to say, I am so impressed with how they are keeping everyone safe.

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

Amy Shephard

Editor amy.shephard@iwbeacon.com

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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.

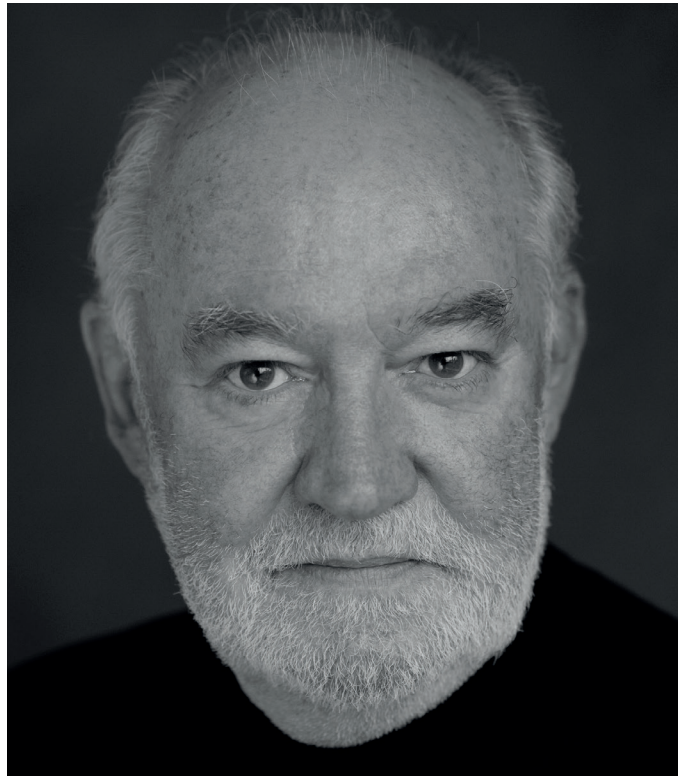
Wonderful experience for a young actor.

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*.

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

from the movie.

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

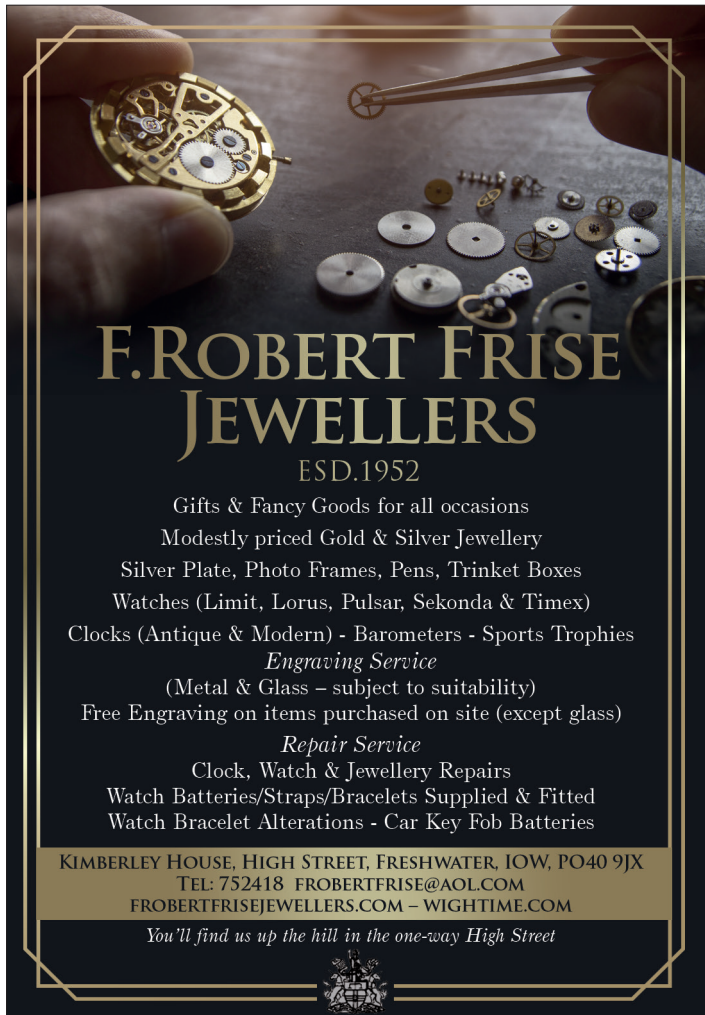
"We were even up against the blockbuster with Michael Caine. Ours was made for tuppence ha'penny in an old disused factory and has proved the most popular and the most played. No-one thought they would earn a penny from the film but now we get an income from it."

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. ☺





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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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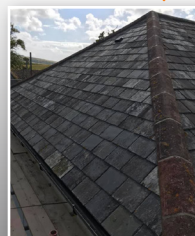
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Direct cremation is an affordable alternative to a traditional funeral. It separates the cremation from the funeral ceremony. The cremation takes place without any service at the crematorium, and without mourners or a minister present.

What's the difference between a direct cremation and a traditional funeral?

A direct cremation separates the celebration of life from the cremation. The cremation takes place without anyone present allowing you and your family the freedom to celebrate your loved one at a time, place and venue of your choice. We carry out this service in the same dignified, professional way as we would do for any funeral that we undertake. The simple nature of a direct cremation is reflected in the price.

How much does a direct cremation cost?

We have 2 options to choose from:-

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- Our 'Wessex Way' is £1,495.00, this is for a direct cremation at a mainland crematorium.

We offer this option for families that would like to take advantage of the savings that mainland crematoriums offer. We then pass this saving onto families. Both these options are all inclusive with no hidden additional costs; unlike mainland providers who charge additionally for ferry fares.

Why Choose it?

- Less expensive than a traditional funeral
- It allows you the freedom & flexibility to focus on celebrating a life well lived.
- Freed up from the cremation it opens up the options for venues and times, even weekends, to hold your celebration.
- A simple and easy to arrange process

What's the difference between Isle of Wight Direct Cremation and a mainland provider?

- To start with we are based here on the Island. We can promptly take your loved one into our care without the need for travelling over by ferry involving lengthy and distressing delays.
- We usually meet you face to face either at our island offices or in the comfort of your own home, but due to current restrictions of social distancing we can make all arrangements on the telephone
- Mainland providers courier the ashes back to you whereas we provide a more personal service by returning them to you at home, or you can come into either our Bembridge or East Cowes office.
- We are locals too and understand the local community.

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We get asked this question a lot and the answer is, Yes! Often people like to get their affairs in order to avoid expense being left to their loved ones at a distressing time. Our plan holders often tell us that this can be a big weight off their mind.

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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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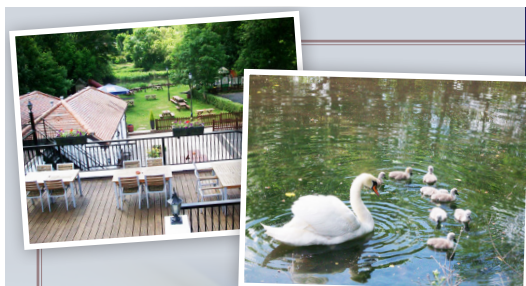
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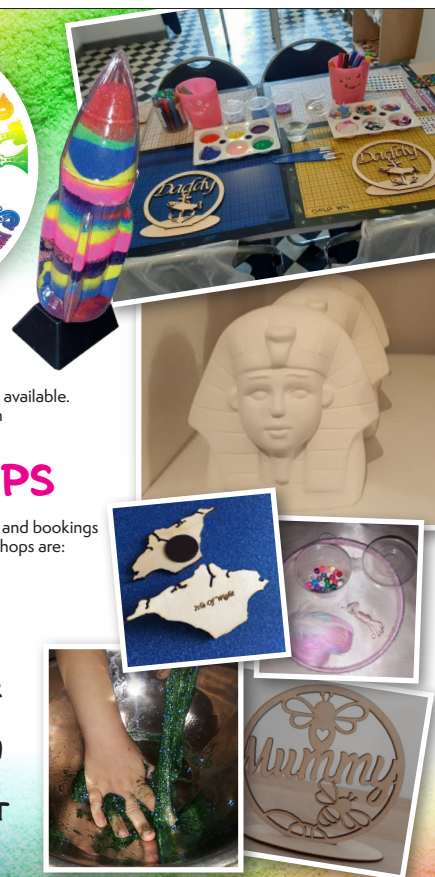
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- CERAMIC
- DREAMCATCHER MAKING
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The Entertainment GUIDE



Tonnes of fun at Tapnell Farm

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



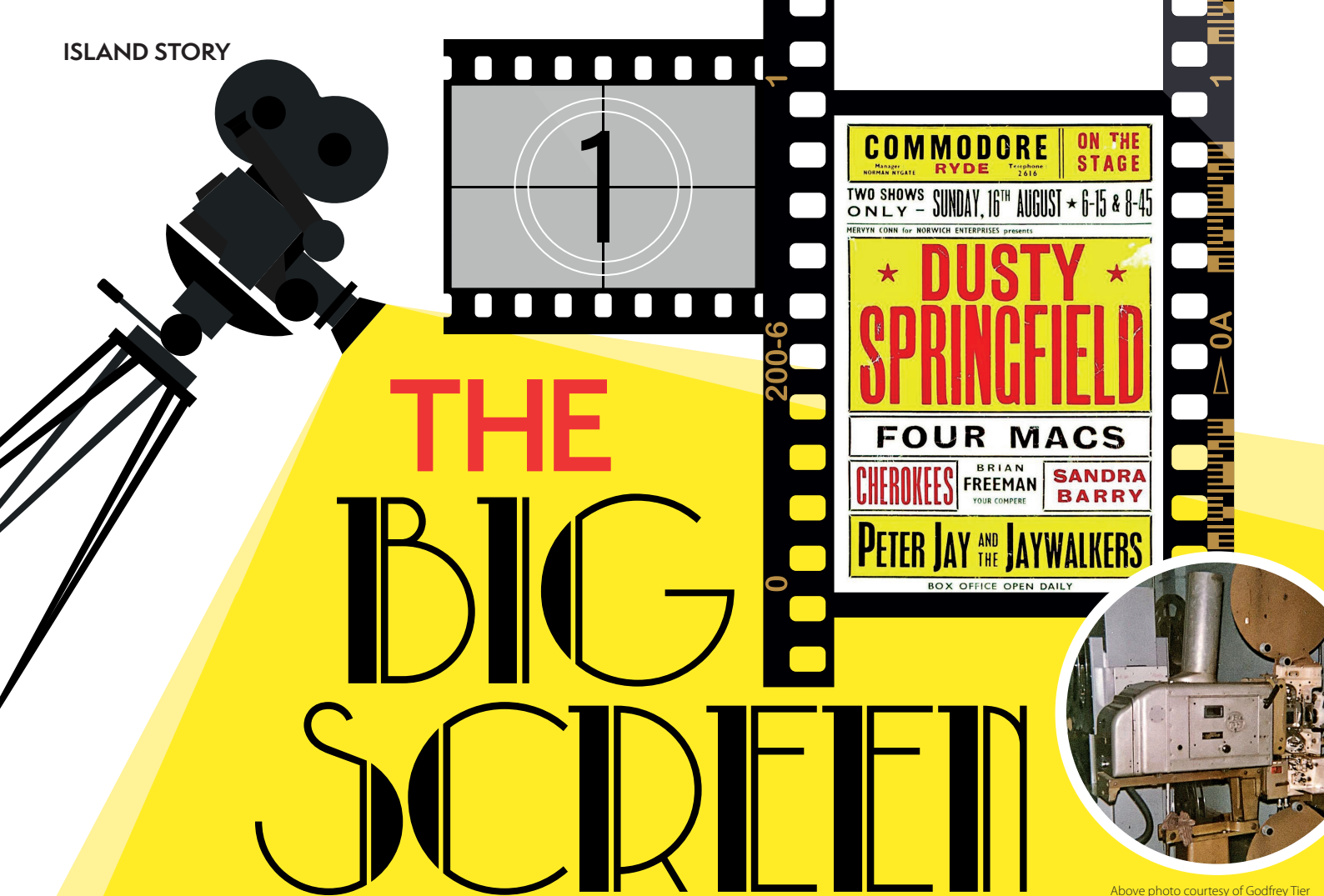
Market in the Park

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

RETURNS

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

The Animals performed at the Commodore in 1964.
Picture courtesy of Loris Valvona





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.



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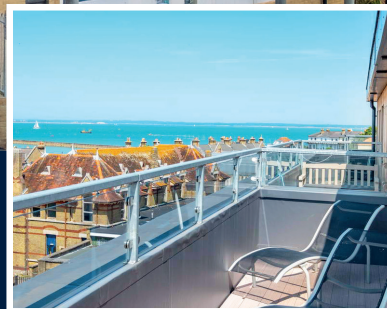
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News from Cowes West

by Cllr Paul Fuller

Public Toilets, Gurnard Green: Toilets on Gurnard Green refurbished by Gurnard Parish Council were recently transferred from the contractors to the Council. My thanks to residents for their patience during the refurbishment.

Police Matters: The police ask for crimes to be reported via www.hampshire.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/.

Rogue Tradesmen: I've received several calls concerning substandard roofing contractors. On this, I have been liaising with residents, trading standards and the police. Please let me know if you have been targeted!

Councillors Surgeries: With the easing of lockdown restrictions, Councillors Surgeries have recommenced. At present these are being held 'out and about' in the community. I am available outside these times to receive calls. For details please visit: paulfullercc.blogspot.com/

Oil Exploration: I have received calls concerning interest in the planning application for the exploration of oil near Arreton. Details can be found on the IW Council's Planning Portal with the reference number: 20/00513/FUL.

You can contact me by post to: 45 Oxford Street, Northwood, Cowes, Isle of Wight. PO31 8PT.

Tel: 01983 289595 (24 hours) / 07935 090 835

Email: paulfulleriw@gmail.com

Website: paulfullercc.blogspot.com

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 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."



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

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



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Mountbatten appeals to public over dodgy donations

by Adam Richardson

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 Cowes Medina

by Cllr Lora Peacey-Wilcox

Harbour Commission merger: The Cowes Harbour Commission are considering becoming a charity with Cowes Yacht Haven. I have raised my personal concerns over the public access, the transparency over financing and actions being taken. Visit cowesharbourcommission.co.uk/consultation cowesyachthaven.com/news for more information.

Place plan urgent: We need 300 people from Cowes and Northwood to help us. www.arc-consulting.co.uk/cn-place-plan/

Medication: If you have been having your medication delivered, please be aware that it may stop. Ask at the pharmacy for other ways from August. The government were paying for the service but as we come out of lockdown, that will change. Boots do a service for £55 for a year's worth of deliveries. £5 one off delivery.

Hedge trimming: Nearly time to cut them back, especially if you live on a bend or junction. To allow pedestrians and car users alike to be able to move safely.

Wight Proms: Sadly, unable to go ahead, however there will be some virtual opera, musical theatre and arts workshops for children. Register at: www.wightproms.co.uk

Men in sheds: Back open. Fabulous plants and so cheap! Pop up to Somerton Industrial Estate, look for the STOREROOM. Tel: 01983 298679

Hearing aid batteries: 079818740936
Cowes Covid-19 help: 823600
My sincere thanks to those who keep Cowes going during this pandemic. We must support our local businesses.
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Daisy 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.



News from Central Newport

by Cllr Julie Jones-Evans

Newport and Carisbrooke Community Council (NCCC) have been holding informal online meetings, but in September we hope to hold a formal meeting, although this may be online. We are working on how the public can watch the meeting and of course there will be the ability to send in questions.

Post Office Lane toilets are progressing. The old building has been demolished and is being taken away, services being installed after the archeologist has done an inspection. Once the new building will be put in its place, we will then follow up with remedial works and landscaping to make the area safe and pleasant.

NCCC has agreed to provide new lights for the fire station. I think all of us who live in Newport and our visitors love seeing the tower with its Christmas tree lights, marking the start of the season.

The High Street Heritage Action Zone first community engagement project is being developed which will seek to give an understanding of what the HSHAZ is all about. The scope of the design code for buildings is also being written. This will help guide any renovation work so that it fits into the town. Once the shop front improvement grants begin we will really see an improvement.

I've just begun planning a project for the Biosphere, bringing out our local links and helping people to understand what it's all about.

'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**

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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.

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**





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.



West Wight's proposed new primary school

Plans for the much anticipated new primary school in Freshwater have been revealed, subject to planning permission.

It was confirmed earlier this year that All Saints CE Primary in Freshwater was set to close and pupils would be offered a place at Yarmouth CE Primary. All children would then relocate to a newly built school on the Freshwater site.

Plans on the council's planning portal include the demolition of the Freshwater school and the construction of a new purpose-built, single storey school, accommodating 210 pupils. Children from Yarmouth Primary and All Saints are expected to move

into the new building by spring 2022.

The new school building will be funded by a multi-million-pound grant from the Department for Education and will incorporate some materials from the current building to provide a link to its 150 year old history.

Yarmouth based pre-school 'Little Stars' is also included in the plans, relocating to external buildings already standing on the Freshwater site.

Visit the council's planning portal to view or comment on the plans: **20/01068/FUL**.



News from Central Wight

by Cllr Steve Hastings

Island recycling shortlisted for national awards

The IW Council has been shortlisted in two categories at the annual MRW (Materials Recycling World) National Recycling Awards, which take place in December.

The first nomination is for the 'Campaign of the Year - Up to £20K' for the highly effective communications campaign to improve recycling at holiday lets across the Island.

The second shortlisted category is for 'Public/Private sector category for Partnership Excellence' for a project delivered in 2019 between the council and Amey. In 2019 the Island was the first 'twin stream' Mechanical Treatment plant in the UK to process dry mixed recycling, food waste and enabling dirty recycling to be extracted from the black bin waste that has been incorrectly disposed of.

The shortlisted finalists are being invited to participate in a Covid-19 safe way at the awards on Tuesday 15th December 2020 at London Hilton on Park Lane.

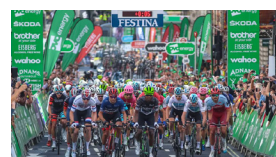


Tour of Britain confirmed

Rather than completely cancelling the 2020 Tour of Britain when the coronavirus pandemic ruled it out, race organiser Sweetspot simply bumped the whole thing forward a year and as such the original plans for 2021 also had to move.

Following the date changes it has now been confirmed that the Isle of Wight will host the final stage of the 2022 Tour of Britain, promising the race its most spectacular finale to date.

This will be the Tour of Britain's first visit to the Island and was confirmed by an agreement between Sweetspot and the IW Council, signed on 4th July.



The news was announced in a special ceremony on Ryde seafront, which also marked the start of The Great Tour. This is a 64-day, 6,700 kilometre charity fundraising cycle starting and finishing in Ryde and tracing the coastline of Great Britain.

As has been the case for a number of years, the 2022 Tour of Britain will be broadcast live to a worldwide audience giving those unable to attend the chance to glimpse the glory of the Isle of Wight.

Venture Quays approval at Cabinet

A 'flagship' investment opportunity to protect jobs and secure the future of one of the Island's most iconic buildings must not be squandered, the leader of IW Council has said.



After months of negotiations with Homes England, Cabinet members made a unanimous decision to purchase the historic Columbine site – famous for its huge Union flag doors that Boris Johnson was photographed in front of during his visit prior to him being elected as leader and Prime Minister.

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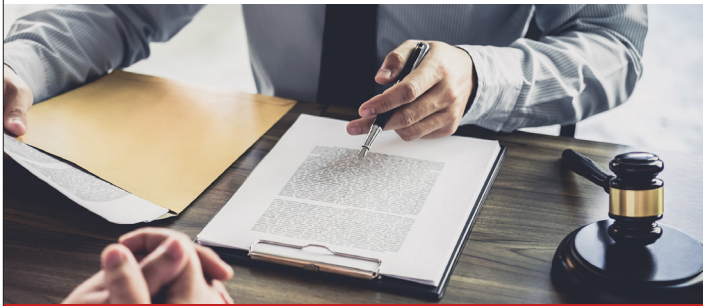
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Spicer's Accounting Services

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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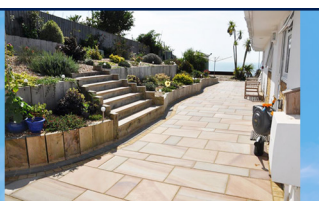


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