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September 2020

INTERVIEW  
GWEN  
TAYLOR

RECIPES  
PORK  
TENDERLOIN  
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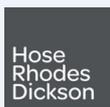


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Welcome from the **Editor**

September has arrived and the weather is starting to cool. If, like me, you spent most of lockdown tending to your garden, you may now be reaping the benefits of all the fruits and vegetables you planted. My family have loved picking lettuce and tomatoes for salads and gathering apples, rhubarb and wild blackberries for crumbles.

I'm already looking to next year, with plans afoot for hardy winter greens and garlic going in soon. Find out more about autumn-planting on page 31.

I've seen such great local support for seasonal businesses throughout August — and hope we can continue to shop local as the sun goes back behind the clouds, so the Island can recover from this year's events as best it can.

*Amy Shephard*

Editor amy.shephard@iwbeacon.com



Photo courtesy of ITV



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Photograph taken at Isle of Wight Festival 1970 by Charles Everest - Charles Everest © CameronLife Photo Library

**Beacon**  
MAGAZINE

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in that beanpole with the blonde hair,” quipped Gwen.

For nearly five years she played the dreaded Peggy Armstrong in *Heartbeat*, who was always in on some fiddle or other. And what about those teeth?

“Those awful teeth I had to wear over my own were impossible. I couldn’t eat with them on. Once I had to suck a chicken leg instead of eating it. I did try once to eat with them on but I cracked a real tooth.”

Many of her scenes were with David Lonsdale, who played dippy David Stockwell. Gwen revealed he is really very intelligent and a great family man.

Gwen was not used to being with animals before she joined the show. In the end she talked to them and loved every minute. On one occasion, she had to shoot a gun and it nearly blew her over.

When she was asked to play Anne Foster in *Coronation Street*, for nearly 50 episodes, she knew it would only be a short term contract. This suited her, as she had other work in the pipeline. Andrew, who was also on a short contract, knew the ending of the story but would never tell her. She had to wait for the script to realise she was going to murder him.

“I’m not sure where Anne is supposed to be now. Either in prison or a lunatic asylum,” added Gwen. Luckily her murdered son was alive and well and playing in the same show as her, *The Lady Vanishes*. It seemed appropriate.

In Croydon, Gwen was also keen to promote her next touring production. It was a new play called *The Croft* and set in the Highlands of Scotland. She had to perfect a Scottish accent and Gaelic curses. Sadly, the lockdown halted its national tour. I managed to stream it online and she was sensational. When we met, she was terrified at the prospect of the demanding role. Amazingly, she revealed it was actually nice at her age to be terrified by a challenge.

I’ve only met Gwen Taylor on three occasions but she is a person you feel you have known all your life. Being in her company is so relaxing. I told her wonderful husband, playwright Graham Reid, just how lucky he was. They are such a compatible couple.

Gwen has no plans to retire. There is the possible challenge of a one women play. It would be a huge script to learn. She did do *Shirley Valentine* but that was when she was 54. I’m sure she’ll be up for it — if there are enough theatres left to perform in.

I can’t say I’ve ever dreamed of kissing Peggy Armstrong. I was more than happy to steal one from Gwen, as they were her own teeth. Peggy’s went on sale at a *Heartbeat* props auction — but there were no bidders! ☹

*A day to remember with*

# GWEN TAYLOR

Gwen Taylor is one of those actors known for a wide variety of names — Amy Pearce from *Duty Free*, Barbara Liversidge in *Barbara*, *Heartbeat*’s Peggy Armstrong, Rita Simcock from *A Bit Of A Do* or even murderer, Anne Foster, from *Coronation Street*.

In reality, Gwen is very modest and just genuinely flattered to have made such a lasting impression on millions of television viewers.

I was backstage at the Theatre Royal, Brighton, interviewing Andrew Lancel, who played Frank Foster, the son she murdered in *Corrie*. As I left the dressing room, his television mother walked by. She said: “Hello, I know you.” I couldn’t believe she’d remembered the interview we had done in the same theatre eight years earlier. We quickly arranged to meet again in Croydon a month or two later.

Acting virtually saved Gwen’s life. She hated working in a bank and had suffered a very unhappy marriage. Suddenly she discovered amateur dramatics and her life took off from that moment. She impressed so much playing leading roles that she ended up at the East 15 drama school, at the age of 26. Most of the students were younger but she was readily accepted by them. Gwen has always looked younger than she is, which has been a career advantage.

Her early television appearances include *The Sweeney*, *Z Cars* and *Rutland Weekend Television*. The latter led her to *The Life of Brian* and *Ripping Yarns*.

Millions remember her as Amy in *Duty Free*, alongside her husband David, played by Keith Barron, who always had Linda on his mind.

“I still get people talking to me about that show. One person said they just couldn’t understand what David saw

*“For nearly five years she played the dreaded Peggy Armstrong in Heartbeat, who was always in on some fiddle or other”*



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# BROWN'S *Golf Course*

Brown's Golf Course was created in 1931 by Alexander Kennedy and his wife Violet Kennedy, the owners of a chain of successful south London sausage and pie shops.

As frequent visitors to the Isle of Wight, the Kennedys recognised the commercial potential of the growing coastal resort town of Sandown seafront, adjacent to the town's Granite Fort on which to lay out a pitch and putt golf course.

Mr Alexander Kennedy recruited his friend, south London neighbour and professional golfer Henry Cotton to design the course. Works were completed on schedule and the course was named Brown's on account of this being Mr Kennedy's nickname. Cotton was invited back to open Brown's in March 1932 by playing the first round.

Brown's was an immediate success prompting the Kennedys to invest in its continued improvement and expansion over the next six years. Cotton also continued his involvement in the site during this time, overseeing in 1933 the design of a 14 hole extension to the course, including the feature 'Isle of Wight' hole, which remains in play today. Once again, Cotton was invited to open the extended course which he did on 11th July 1933 playing an exhibition match against fellow golf professional and trick shot specialist Joe Kirkwood in front of a crowd of 300-400 spectators.

The outbreak of World War II saw the beginning of a new chapter in the site's story. In 1942, Brown's together with the adjacent Grand Hotel and Granite

Fort were requisitioned by the military as part of the top-secret Operation PLUTO. Operation PLUTO was about pumping fuel through pipes laid on the seabed to support the allied invasion of mainland Europe following D-Day. The Clubhouse, the former Ice Cream Factory and the Pavilion are each thought to have played a part in PLUTO and remain extant, the latter now listed at Grade II for its association with this ambitious operation. Brown's reopened to the public in 1947. By this time the Kennedy family had acquired the neighbouring Canoe Lake and together the twin attractions rode the wave of Sandown's popularity as a 'bucket and spade' coastal resort through the 1950s and 60s. Typically, Sandown struggled to compete with foreign package holidays that became increasingly affordable from the late-1960s. The impact on Brown's can be measured in terms of the loss of some of its distinctive yet high maintenance features and facilities. The Kennedys finally called time on their ownership of Brown's in 1979, selling it as a going concern to a local family.

*Brown's role in Operation PLUTO is well documented*

Little changed at Brown's over the next decade with various plans to improve the appeal of the site failing to gain much traction and in 1990 it passed into the ownership of the local authority. In 2000 the Isle of Wight Council secured lottery funding to build a new museum

on the land between Brown's and the Canoe Lake. By this time the Canoe Lake had ceased to operate and Brown's was seemingly on borrowed time.

The local authority struggled to make the site pay its way during the '00s as plans for development of the site again failed to materialise and in 2010 it called time on the attraction. Closure was only temporary and the following year, the site was leased to new tenants who, like Mr and Mrs Kennedy some 80 years ago, saw the potential of the site in a changing social and economic environment. Since then, the site has gained new vibrancy and investment thanks in part to a group of tenants keen to maximise its public use and community value. Brown's continues to function as an important public green space and leisure amenity in Sandown Bay. Alongside golf, it also now hosts a lively programme of cultural and science events, which is enabling a range of new audiences to discover the site.

Brown's role in Operation PLUTO is well documented. The story of its near 80 year continuous use for pitch and putt and its being the oldest Cotton designed course still being played are by contrast little known but no less significant. Remarkably perhaps the site retains many of the hallmarks of its past, providing historic layers within the existing soft and hard landscapes. Today it is a landscape under threat. Uncertainty over the local authority's ambitions for the site has stymied any significant planned investment in the site and once again a question mark hangs over the future of this well-loved part of Sandown's resort heritage. ☹️

You can read the Eastern Bay Regeneration Strategy online at [iwightinvest.com/regenerationprospectus/eastern-bay-regenerationvision/](http://iwightinvest.com/regenerationprospectus/eastern-bay-regenerationvision/)

Read the full Brown's Conservation Management Plan and the Gazetteer at: [tinyurl.com/arcconsulting](http://tinyurl.com/arcconsulting)



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# Cycling the Island

with Jamie White

**S**afe to say it's been a strange few months. Locked down, unable to see friends and only able to exercise for an hour a day on your own, because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Seems like a long time ago now, doesn't it? Coronavirus has affected people in many different ways. But one thing is for certain, it has highlighted how important our physical and mental health are.

As soon as Boris gave the go ahead to exercise with people from different households, things changed – for the better.

I have a good social group of mates, so we decided it was time to get on our bikes. And initially, it was a bit of an excuse to be able to catch up with each other while getting some exercise. And what started as a bit of a jolly has turned into one of the best things we've done for years.

So much so, I invested in a new bike, as did three of my good friends, and we've started exploring places on our beautiful Island.

Even just a casual ride between Yaverland, Sandown and Shanklin, along the front, has opened our eyes – and our lungs. It's a flat ride (unless you want to cycle up and along the cliff top) with stunning views of the sea and the Bay. For anyone thinking of getting out on the bike – do it. And with the Government £50 voucher scheme, you can get the bike out of the shed and get it road worthy for a fraction of the cost. 🚲




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# Students commended following results



Students from Carisbrooke and Medina College and The Island VI Form have been commended by staff for their resilience during an uncertain end to this stage of their education.

The students may not have taken exams, but The IW Education Federation recognise and celebrate their hard work and commitment over a period of years which has attributed to the grades that they have received.

A large amount of Year 11 students will be continuing their studies at The Island VI Form, while there have been some excellent results for individual students in their A Levels and BTEC studies — with some students getting straight A grades or double distinctions. The vast majority of sixth form students are going on to their first choice universities.

Any Year 11 graduate from across the Island who is still undecided on their next step but would be interested in joining The Island VI Form can complete an application form which can be found at [www.iiviformcampus.org.uk](http://www.iiviformcampus.org.uk).

Matthew Parr-Burman, Executive Headteacher for the Isle of Wight Education Federation said: "I am extremely proud of the students and wish them every success in the next stage of their lives. I would also like to acknowledge the immense amount of hard work and integrity that the staff have displayed during this challenging time. I am confident that the Centre Assessed Grades are an accurate reflection of what the students would have achieved under normal circumstances."



**Isle of Wight  
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It's not too late to apply to The VI Form for September 2020.

Applications will soon be welcomed to Carisbrooke and Medina College for entry in 2021. Contact us for an informal chat or to arrange a campus tour.



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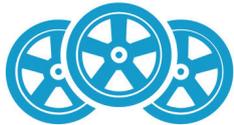


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## Wrapped & Stuffed Tenderloin of Pork

### INGREDIENTS

450g (1lb) of tenderloin pork  
4 rashers of rind-free, streaky bacon  
A little butter and seasoning

### FOR THE STUFFING

1 small onion  
A generous cupful of breadcrumbs  
2 tsp dried sage  
1 egg, beaten

### FOR THE GRAVY

1 tbs of flour  
250ml (½ pint) white wine or dry cider



### METHOD

**1** Using a sharp knife, cut the tenderloin in half lengthways, leaving some fat on the meat to keep it moist during cooking. With a steak mallet or rolling pin, batter the two halves to flatten and widen them. Season with a little salt and some ground black pepper.

**2** To make the stuffing, sauté the onion in a little butter until soft. Add the breadcrumbs, sage and some hot water until the mixture swells, then mix to a stiff consistency.

**3** Let the mixture cool a little, then add the egg and combine until it spreads easily.

**4** Spoon the stuffing into one half of the tenderloin, patting it down firmly. Spread more stuffing on top of the meat, then smear a little butter over the stuffing and season.

**5** Lay the streaky bacon over the stuffing and tie it firmly with string (not plastic) at two-inch intervals. Place the stuffed tenderloin into a

buttered roasting tin with care and roast in the oven for around one hour at 180C/350F.

**6** To make the gravy, mix flour into the cooking juices and add the wine/cider. Season to taste.

**7** Serve hot with broccoli and roast vegetables.

*Tip: Unused stuffing can be rolled into small balls and frozen for another meal on another day.*

## BAKED PEARS WITH HONEY



### INGREDIENTS

8 large Conference or Comice pears  
8 cloves  
9 cardamom seeds, cracked  
3 cinnamon sticks  
3 tbs castor sugar  
6 tbs clear honey

### METHOD

**1** Core the pears, leaving the stalks on, and then peel. Put a clove in each pear and lie them down on their sides

in an ovenproof dish. Scatter with cardamom seeds and cinnamon sticks.

**2** Make the honey syrup by dissolving the castor sugar and honey in 220ml (1/3 pint) of boiling water. Pour this over the pears – they should be half covered with the syrup.

**3** Bake the pears in a moderate oven (200C / 400F / Gas Mark 6) for about one hour, turning once or twice during the hour.

**4** Serve with crème fraiche, cream, vanilla ice cream or just on their own – a delicious result is guaranteed!

*This dessert can also be made the day before it's needed. Serve it cold, covered in the honey syrup, or warm it up and serve it hot. It can also be served in individual glasses – but do make sure the stalks stand up and the lovely syrup is evenly divided!*



For more mouth-watering recipes, visit [www.iwbeacon.com](http://www.iwbeacon.com), where you'll find a selection to enjoy with the family!



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- 2lbs a week = 2 stone 6lbs**
- 3lbs a week = 3 stone 9lbs**
- 4lbs a week = 4 stone 12lbs**
- 5lbs a week = 6 stone 1lb**



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# The Entertainment **GUIDE**

## Walk for Hope your way

Wessex Cancer Trust is inviting supporters to step up for its 2,500-mile challenge, Walk for Hope 2020, in a new way.

The charity's flagship fundraising event, which was due to be held in the New Forest in June, returns in a different format this year because of the Coronavirus pandemic.

On Sunday, September 6th, walkers will come together virtually to clock up the target mileage as a team by completing 20 laps of a route which links the charity's four support centres in Hampshire, Dorset and the Isle of Wight.

You can do your bit by signing up to walk five, ten or 20 miles, and you can do it on your own or with friends and family, at your own pace and wherever you choose.

King of the Jungle and Wessex Cancer Trust's patron, Harry Redknapp, said: "It's been a tough few months for everyone, but cancer doesn't stop and throughout the pandemic Wessex Cancer Trust has kept its services going for anyone who needs it.

"Walk for Hope is normally its biggest fundraiser so it would be fantastic to see as many people as possible out walking in their local areas.

You can register at [www.walkforhope.co.uk](http://www.walkforhope.co.uk) and set up your fundraising page. You can also link your Strava or FitBit to it. Registration is £10 with a fundraising goal of £100 per person. The walker who raises the most in sponsorship will receive a Walk for Hope T-shirt signed by Harry.

Entrants receive an official Walk for Hope t-shirt, a fundraising pack, a training and event guide.

Wessex Cancer Trust uses all of the money raised to provide practical and emotional support to anyone living with cancer in Hampshire, Dorset and the Isle of Wight. The event is being sponsored by Irwin Mitchell Solicitors.



## Witchcraft and wizardry comes to Newport

A new detective adventure game is coming to Newport — courtesy of CluedUpp Games.

The Cluedo-style outdoor adventure game, taking place on Saturday, September 26th, will take you on a magical journey across Newport town, where you'll unravel the mystery against the clock.

Find out more and book your tickets at: [www.cluedupp.com/products/witchcraft-wizardry-newport](http://www.cluedupp.com/products/witchcraft-wizardry-newport)



## Cider & Cheese at Steam Railway



The Cider & Cheese Festival is back at the IW Steam Railway, on Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th September.

With over 25 ciders and cheeses to choose from, as well as cheese platters with crunchy pickles and crackers, there will be plenty to wash down with your cider. The perfect early autumn weekend.

Entry to the event is absolutely free, while usual operating day fares apply for the steam train. The bars open from 11am.

Find out more at [iwsteamrailway.co.uk](http://iwsteamrailway.co.uk).



## Beacon's Virtual Book Club



With everyone locked up at home over the first half of this year, we have been working our way through plenty of books! So we thought it would be great to start an online book club.

Find us on Facebook at **Beacon's Virtual Book Club** and get involved in the latest chatter about books in every genre.

## Join the Great British September Clean

Show support for Keep Britain Tidy's 'Great British September Clean' campaign. You can:

- Organise a private clean-up with family and friends.
- Pledge to do your own individual clean-up, giving at least 15 minutes to the campaign.
- Attend a local clean up:

The Respect Ryde Project is taking part at midday on Saturday, 12th September. Find out more on Facebook at 'The Big September clean up' [www.keepbritaintidy.org](http://www.keepbritaintidy.org)





Guy Portelli in front of the Wight Spirit mosaic.

A major exhibition bringing together more than 60 photographs of the infamous 1970 IW Festival — some never seen before — with other works of art is being held in London.

The 1970 IW Festival saw a record 600,000 people attend to see the likes of Jimi Hendrix, The Who, The Doors, Leonard Cohen and Joni Mitchell, among others.

Running from 27th July until 5th September at Masterpiece Art Gallery, in London, the show includes photographs taken by the late Charles Everest, as well as new sculptures by Guy Portelli and a feature-length documentary which will bring to light the festival's history and legacy.

The exhibition will be brought to the Island in the early part of next year, and plans are already afoot for the documentary to be broadcast on television.

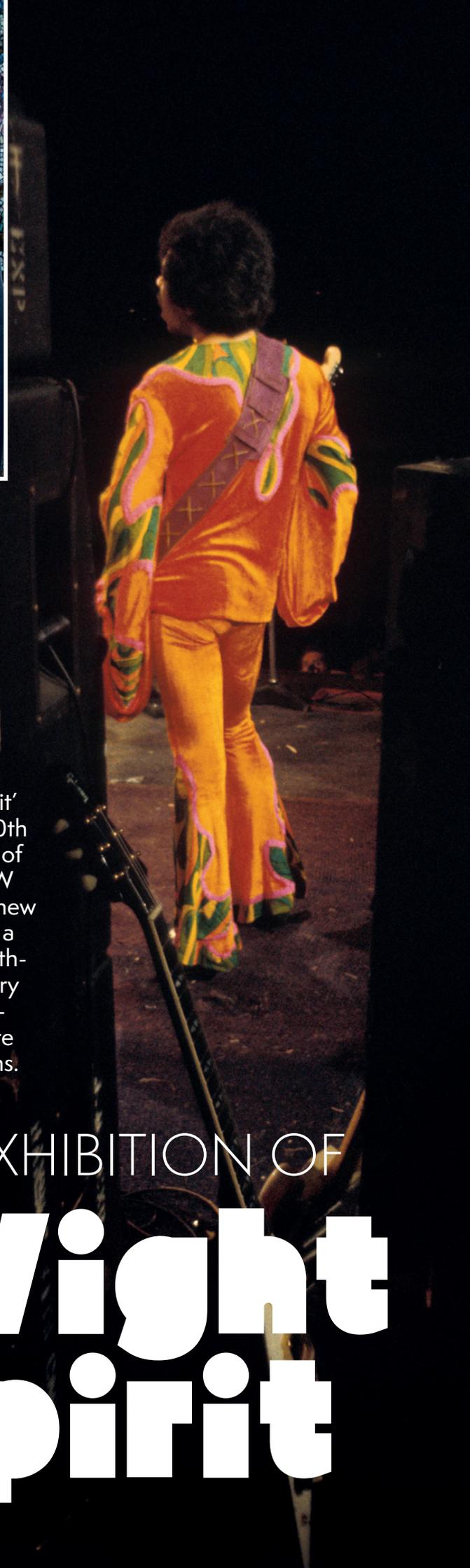
When the festival first began in 1968 at Ford Farm, near Godshill, 10,000 people attended, but by 1970, the festival had moved to Afton Down and had a massive 600,000 guests. That year the line-up included Jimi Hendrix, The Who and the Doors, and was a landmark in Britain's cultural history, as well as serving as the progenitor for countless other open-air festivals.

Guy Portelli, who has curated the show, says 'The Isle of Wight Festival is Europe's Woodstock. You could argue it has more significance, and yet it isn't venerated in the same way. I am not sure why that is, given the bands that played there and the huge number of people it attracted. My hope is that this



'Wight Spirit' marks the 50th anniversary of the 1970 IW Festival with new sculptures, a feature length-documentary and never-seen-before photographs.

# AN EXHIBITION OF Wight Spirit





Photographs taken  
at Isle of Wight  
Festival 1970 by  
Charles Everest  
- Charles Everest  
© CameronLife  
Photo Library



exhibition, along with the accompanying film, will help redress that.’

The centrepiece of the exhibition is Portelli’s large-scale glass mosaic panel. Entitled *Wight Spirit*, it features the handprints of more than 80 musicians who performed at the festival, including members of Jefferson Airplane, Free, Pretty Things and The Move.

The sculpture has been in the works over the last few years, with Portelli collecting handprints from famous faces all over the world.

“The sculpture has stimulated a lot of interest. People love to put their hand on Hendrix’s print — or to compare the size of their own hand with some of the greats,” said Guy Portelli. “I had the sculpture backstage at the last IW Festival and people loved it. I spoke to Ricky from The Kaiser Chiefs who told me that without these bands, they wouldn’t be doing what they’re doing now.”

“The IW Festival 1968-1970 did so much for the Isle of Wight. Teenagers who said they had felt imprisoned on their little Island now had the world coming to them. American acts, like Bob Dylan, had people from all over the world heading to the Isle of Wight — travelling over on the ferry.”

Showing alongside the sculptural works are over 60 photographs taken by Charles Everest (1929-2015) at the 1970 event. A highly successful newsreel cameraman and stills photographer, Everest worked as a Press Liaison for the festival organisers. In return for his services, he received unparalleled access to the performances on stage. Realised in collaboration with CameronLife Photo Library, this exhibition will see limited editions of Everest’s work available for the first time.

**“The Isle of Wight Festival is Europe’s Woodstock. You could argue it has more significance, and yet it isn’t venerated in the same way”**

*WIGHT SPIRIT, 1968-70, The Documentary* has been made in partnership with Blood Orange Film and features archival footage and interviews with eminent figures connected to the festival’s legacy. It also includes live shows performed by some of the musicians who played at the festival from 1968-70. These took place at the central London studio and showroom of guitar brand Gibson in August. Masterpiece Art will also stage a one-day exhibition to mark the 50th anniversary of Jimi Hendrix’s death on 18th September.

Alex Cousens, Executive Gallery Manager and Sales Director at Masterpiece Art said: ‘We’re honoured to be marking the fiftieth anniversary of this seminal festival, and especially pleased to be showing Guy Portelli’s astonishing mosaic and Charles Everest’s photographs. Together with the film, they eloquently capture the spirit and magic of those times.’

Guy Portelli, who is known for sculptures such as *Peace and Love* commissioned by Ringo Starr and a *Pop Icon* collection seen on *Dragon’s Den*, said: “My passion is art and music — and the festival era was very visual. We’re doing our bit to make sure the 50th anniversary doesn’t pass unnoticed.” <sup>3</sup> Visit [www.masterpieceart.co.uk](http://www.masterpieceart.co.uk) for more information about the exhibition.



## News from Sandown North

by Cllr Debbie Andre

Last month's heatwave resulted in the water level of the Canoe Lake next to Dinosaur Isle becoming critically low and endangering the lives of the carp. The local community sprang into action to save the fish.

The pandemic has highlighted the fact that leadership within the various sectors of our community is vital to achieve the resilience that is necessary to cope when situations arise that need a rapid response.

There are many lessons to be learned here. As the face of the local authority, it was important that I took a strategic approach and looked at the bigger picture to ensure that, in dealing with the immediate crisis, we didn't create a bigger, more long term one. Whilst the enthusiasm of the volunteers was commendable, I was well aware that there was little risk management.

We need effective leaders within our community to work together. People who are willing to face adversity for the greater good. The elections are still planned for May 2021. We have a good opportunity to change the face of local government, but only if we can encourage good people to come forward to represent their local community at grass roots level, irrespective of national politics.

We need to work collectively within our communities, not only to survive, but to grow and flourish, to promote sustainability and new initiatives that will create a better society for the future. That has been and will continue to be my focus.

I am continuing to support residents with local issues and am once again holding my monthly Councillor surgeries on the first Saturday of each month at Yaverland Sailing Club, from 11am until midday, at the outside area, to enable social distancing.

I'm happy to hold surgeries more frequently if residents feel that would be of value. Just let me know.

Cllr Heather Humby is available on 402024 or at [heatherhumby@sandowntowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:heatherhumby@sandowntowncouncil.gov.uk) and will resume her weekly Councillor Surgery at Sandown Library when the restrictions are lifted.

☎ 400744/07948 757977  
 ✉ [debbieandre4sandown@gmail.com](mailto:debbieandre4sandown@gmail.com) [debbieandre4sandown](https://www.facebook.com/debbieandre4sandown)

# Vehicle charging point arrives in Bembridge

A new state of the art Dual Electric Vehicle Charging Point has been installed in Bembridge — the first public highway installation on the Island.

The new Pod is situated outside the Parish Office in Foreland Road, Bembridge which is conveniently located just a one minute walk to the village centre. Although this facility is provided for everyone, Bembridge Parish Council expects it will be mostly used by those visiting from the mainland where they can park in the dedicated charging bay, spend a couple of hours having a spot of lunch and perhaps do a bit of shopping in the High Street.

Project leader Cllr Grant Stillman said: "It is fantastic that Bembridge is leading the way with this green initiative, and we are confident that as sales of electric vehicles increase (and prices continue to fall) that it will be utilised regularly. Depending on the increase in demand we will consider additional Pods in Bembridge with Steyne Park Car Park being



earmarked as the next potential Pod site, however if early indications are anything to go by then the Pod will prove very popular with visitors and demand will outstrip supply.

"With the Government's pledge to end new vehicle sales of petrol and diesel vehicles by 2035, and the EV Charging infrastructure growing exponentially, the idea of purchasing an EV is becoming more attractive. In fact, in January of this year, new EV sales were up 200% on the same period a year earlier. The growth of the charging infrastructure nationally is vital to consumer confidence and means that EV owners will not have to be concerned about the lack of charging sites available."

A generous percentage of the cost was covered by Grant Funding. While the IW Council, Island Roads and contractors JA Dempsey and Berry Electrical have all worked together to get this project completed.

For further information on the Pod, how to access it, charging tariff and availability, please download the Pod-Point or Plugshare app from Google Play (Android devices) or your App Store (IOS devices).

## Cash boost for Shanklin FC

by Jamie White

Shanklin Football Club has received a cash boost to make improvements on and off the pitch.

The Island's High Sheriff, Mrs Caroline Peel, presented club representatives with grants to help fund new goal posts, pitch improvements, provide Covid 19 safety facilities, and help develop a new youth football team.

Shanklin FC Manager,

Paul Haward, said: "It's been a difficult few months for Islanders, including those involved in sport, and these funds will help the club prepare safely for the new season."

Club Safety Coordinator, John Shannon, added: "We have done as much as we can within limited resources, and we will continue to monitor how we can play sport safely within the guidance. We are grateful to the FA for their support and much needed funding."

Shanklin FC have started training again, in line with FA guidance, with two senior men's sides, two women's teams, and a new youth team. There are further plans to develop the club to meet the increasing number of players wanting to join.



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## Plans revealed for Branstone farm scheme

“Trail-blazing” plans, which could see more than 40 new homes, a rural business park and 100 new jobs created at the site of Branstone Farm, have moved a step closer.

The IW Council has been awarded £2.4 million by the Solent Local Enterprise Partnership, under the Government’s ‘Getting Building Fund’ to bring the plans to life.

The local authority says nature and sustainability are at the heart of the ‘flagship affordable housing and rural business park’ scheme. The scheme includes proposals to provide homes and jobs for Islanders as part of a sustainable community on the site of the former Branstone Farm Studies Centre, near Arreton,

the first phase of which will involve the creation of an expanded Island brewery offer.

Plans include 42 ‘wholly affordable homes’ in a mix of two, three and four bed properties - as well as a rural business park consisting of 16 units in a courtyard arrangement, creating up to 100 new jobs.

The wider masterplan for the site is proposed to include a purpose-built biosphere centre, celebrating the Island’s status as a Unesco World Biosphere Reserve awarded in June last year.

**Read the full story at [iwradio.co.uk](http://iwradio.co.uk)**

## Blood tests to be available at GP surgeries

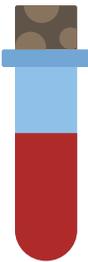
by Jamie White

Patients on the Isle of Wight will be able to get a blood test at their local GP surgery - helping to reduce the need for people to travel.

Since the start of the lockdown, the walk-in blood test service at St Mary’s Hospital has been reduced to urgent requests only. Blood tests at the Ryde Health and Wellbeing Centre were also temporarily suspended.

After listening to feedback from patients, the Isle of Wight NHS Trust says it is delighted to offer a new service available for patients whose GP has requested a blood test.

The service is funded by the NHS Isle of Wight



Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and delivered by the Isle of Wight NHS Trust.

Patients registered at Cowes Medical Centre will continue to access blood tests at St Mary’s Hospital – but they can make an appointment so do not need to sit in a waiting room for too long.

Patients registered at Esplanade Surgery will need to book an appointment at a ‘pod’ location in Westridge Centre. Some patients will still be required to make an appointment in St Mary’s Hospital and the practice will be able to provide assistance and guidance for this.

This interim change will be in place until the end of March next year.



### News from Sandown South

by Cllr Ian Ward

#### Black bag blight – have you got all your wheelie bins?

The Island is blighted by some residents dumping black waste bags and household waste in and around litter bins, on street corners and in parks etc. Much of what is in the black bags is recyclable waste that should go into our green recyclable bins. However, what I have discovered is that some households do not have their full quota of green or black wheelie bins. Each household, including flats, is entitled to have one green and one black bin. If you cannot accommodate wheelie bins you can have coloured bins instead. If you need a wheelie bin or bag, please phone the IW Council Call Centre on Tel: 821000.

#### Sandown honour trail team present green town volunteers with £500

Last Month the Sandown Honour Trail team presented Christine Jackson and Ben Holbrook from our Sandown Green Town Volunteers with a cheque for £500 from the scheme’s income, to help them with their fantastic work. Edward Archdale from Grafton Partners the Engravers and Andy Wray from Dempsey’s of Sandown, who mount the plaques also attended. The Honour Trail is proving extremely popular and is attracting tourists to Sandown, with some tourists even returning every year to see their plaques.

#### Island beach ambassadors appointed to help residents & tourists

Last month I reported that the IW Council had set up a working group to look at issues connected with the Island’s beaches. Our Byelaws need reviewing and safety in the water is an important subject. The first action from the working group was the appointment of Beach Ambassadors whose task is to patrol beaches in the Bay, Ryde and Ventnor to advise people on safe distancing, hygiene and litter disposal. The IW Council is already looking at re-instating buoys next year along the seafronts to safeguard swimmers.

☎ 403193/07772559093 ✉ [ian.ward@iow.gov.uk](mailto:ian.ward@iow.gov.uk)

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## News from Ryde North

by Cllr Karen Lucioni

What a hot and lovely August we've had! I've enjoyed the warm weather and hope the businesses in Ryde have been supported throughout the short season and beyond.

Our first Full Council since March is on 1st September. The council will take place on Zoom. To view it, please follow Ryde Town Council on Youtube.

My social-distanced councillor surgery is every Wednesday 12pm til 1.15pm at Kevars Cafe near Iceland. If you need a chat about anything, please come along.

I was invited to an online meeting with the cabinet office, Public Health England and others, regarding next year's elections and Covid. If you need a form to apply for a postal vote, let me know. I will have them at my surgery or I can drop one off for you if you're shielding.

I chair the facilities and assets committee at Ryde Town Council, I would really love to hear your views about the services or assets we run. It's your town, let's shape it together.

Services are the planting, lighting, allotments, toilets, Network Ryde, Ryde in Bloom, beach cleaning, top up rubbish collection during the summer, to name a few.

The Big September Clean, Keep Britain Tidy's new initiative this year, as we couldn't hold the normal spring clean. Respect Ryde at holding a socially distanced seafront clean on the 12th September meeting at the back of The Captain's Table on the seafront.

We still intend to run The World Cafe on serious crime and antisocial behaviour, when we are allowed to get into the same room again. I have had so many conversations over the last six months about antisocial behaviour and crime that I really hope more residents will get involved. If you would like to find out more, please contact me.

☎ 07506930109 ✉ karen.iow@icloud.com

## Seven more white-tailed eagles released

A further seven white-tailed eagles have been released on the Isle of Wight.

The five-year reintroduction programme now in its second year is led by Forestry England and the Roy Dennis Wildlife Foundation, and aims to restore this lost species after an absence of 240 years.



Over five years, up to 60 white-tailed eagles will be released with the aim of establishing an initial population of 6- 8 breeding pairs on the Isle of Wight and along the mainland coast. The first six birds were released last year.

It will take several years for the young birds to become established and breeding is not expected to start until at least 2024.

Evidence suggests that the rate of survival to breeding age is around 40%, and four of the six birds released last year have survived and are doing well.



## News from Ryde North East

by Cllr Wayne Whittle

It's good to see our local small retailers and cafes open again as we spring out of total lockdown. We are lucky to have so many beaches to offer our visitors, giving plenty of space to keep safe.

The IW Council are investigating ways to prevent jet skis coming close to shore, various options are being explored.

Our Ryde Beach lifeguards have been busy keeping bathers safe during the hot weather and have had their new rib in action.

It was great to see the Waterside Pool open once again and I wish them a well attended season.

Was very pleased to see the Fast Cat service resume the day the Government stopped subsidy for transport. I hope they can get attendants in the ticket offices as many elderly visitors are unable to buy tickets online and have to get taxis to Hovertravel.

This year we have seen many people returning to our Island and enjoying the great weather, I hope they will have the confidence to return for years to come as they are the lifeblood of our annual six week tourism economy.

Visit IW have just won Cabinet Office funding to promote our Island in the shoulder season as an attempt to extend our season this year and help our economy bounce back. Well done as our town traders have a lot of catching up to do to get them through this winter.

Our Historic England officer will be working with our community and town council to develop more projects to put forward for future funding schemes, let's hope we finally win a theatre bid to bring the old place back to life.

The Environment Agency have put extra drainage in the soft spots around Simeon Recreation Ground and repaired the subsidence that occurred around the harbour, let's hope it's all sorted now.

✉ wayne.whittle@iow.gov.uk

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CALL: 01983 874160 EMAIL: CLERK@BEMBRIDGEPC.ORG.UK

## Parish Council and partners

As we all gradually come out of lockdown, several projects are being progressed at the Parish Office some with the help of Village Partnership and Heritage Society. These include a new Village Map, restoration of the K1 telephone box, CCTV at Steyne Park and outside Parish Office, Village Hall roof, red telephone box project, a new historical project and repairs to the War Memorial step. Look out for further updates.

## IWASP

Bembridge Parish Council has pledged to support the IWASP charter by raising awareness and de-stigmatising scams and prevention and protection of residents. Scam alerts received are being sent to all Parish E-newsletter emails and placed on the parish website/Facebook page.

## Kings Road improvements

We still have not been given a date by Island Roads for the start of the Kings Road improvements. Check our website for updates.

## Bembridge Friendship Circle



To help raise funds towards a new minibus, the Friendship Circle are selling tote bags (small £5 and large £6) and tea towels (£5). These can be purchased in the Parish Office at present.

## Bembridge Heritage Society

We have found a new home for our collection in Weavers Yard, Lane End Bembridge.

**Bembridge Heritage visitor centre** will be opening soon.

Your favourite exhibits will be there in a new setting alongside new displays about our intriguing Bembridge history featuring aviation development, Bembridge Lifeboat, village life, military history and so much more. Our extensive archive

## Beach cleans for 2020

A very hot beach clean took place on 8th August with socially distanced volunteers starting at Lane End slipway and The Point, participants logging their details with the Parish Office prior to the clean. Refreshments at the Harbour View were most welcomed!



and the John Woodford files can be accessed for your own research.

There will be changing storyboard displays to focus on fascinating aspects of village life in decades past.

This will be a welcoming centre for locals and visitors to come and learn about the heritage of Bembridge.

Bembridge Heritage CIO is looking forward to seeing you.

## E-Newsletter

If you would like to sign up to receive a monthly E-Newsletter letting you know about local news, events and projects contact [clerk@bembridgepc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@bembridgepc.org.uk)

Full Council, Planning Committee and Committee meetings are taking place remotely at present, for more details see our website [www.bembridgepc.org.uk](http://www.bembridgepc.org.uk)

## Village Partnership

Work on the Grade 11 Listed K1 telephone box on the High Street has been completed following the Covid lockdown. This work has been partially funded by the East Wight Partnership.





# Ryde Town Council

Town Hall Chambers, 10 Lind Street, Ryde, PO33 2NQ Tel: 01983 811105  
Email: [clerk@rydetowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@rydetowncouncil.gov.uk) [www.rydetowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.rydetowncouncil.gov.uk)



## A Space to Grow - New Allotment for Network Ryde

Network Ryde, Ryde Town Council's Youth Service are excited to announce they are the proud owners of a new allotment in Ryde.

The organisation, which works with young people aged 11-19, usually runs sessions from their youth café '147' in Ryde High Street. However, following the Covid-19 pandemic, their doors have been closed since March. The team have been running a successful 'Virtual Youth Club', as well as small outdoor sessions. The new allotment will give Network Ryde, the vital opportunity to meet and work with their young people again, in a dedicated, safe, outdoor space.

It is well documented that spending time surrounded by nature has many benefits, both physically and mentally. Many young people in Ryde do not have their own gardens. The Network Ryde team hope that having access to an allotment will make a



huge difference to them, providing the opportunity to learn about gardening, get hands on and ultimately promote their well-being and confidence.

Network Ryde hope the allotment will forge new intergenerational links with the community, a positive space to grow, allowing the young people to gain gardening knowledge and top tips from other plot holders. The initiative will engage the young people in every stage of the development of their site; from designing the space, planting, growing and eventually using their own produce to cook with. The allotment's progress will be well documented via Network Ryde's social media platforms; the organisation are hoping to transform the plot over the autumn/winter, getting it ready for planting in the spring.

Becky Swan, Youth Work Manager, said: "We are incredibly excited to have our own allotment and to work alongside young people to help establish and grow our own produce. Post Covid-19 we know that we will have to adapt our method of working so the allotment provides a perfect opportunity of a safe outdoor space come rain or shine to engage with young people."

**Follow and keep up to date with @networkryde on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter.**

## Ryde Haz

Ryde's first HSHAZ community engagement project has been inspired by nineteenth century plantsman and Ryde Councillor, Charles Dimmick



who lived and worked in the High Street and immediate vicinity. Dimmick's first business was situated at 147 High Street, the current site of youth organisation Network Ryde, where he sold seeds and later flower and vegetable plants grown in glasshouses situated to the rear of the building. Dimmick is also notable for his writings on the Irish Potato Famine.

The project, lead by artists Teresa Grimaldi and Sarah Vardy is using art and horticulture to engage young people and the wider community with their local heritage. To date, the group have explored growing from seed and cuttings, creating flower stencils to cheer the social distancing dots in Ryde High Street and making animations from the shadows of wire weeds! On the 8th August they took over the windows of the Aspire Hub, recreating Dimmick's shop and showcasing the work they have been producing as it progresses. The project culminated in a flower and plant market in Minghella Square on the August Bank Holiday Monday.

**Please take a look and follow the amazing work of the Haz project on Instagram: @hazproject2020**

**More information on Charles Dimmick can be found on the Ryde Social Heritage Group website: [www.rshg.org.uk/history-of-ryde/charles-dimmick/](http://www.rshg.org.uk/history-of-ryde/charles-dimmick/)**

## 140 years of connections

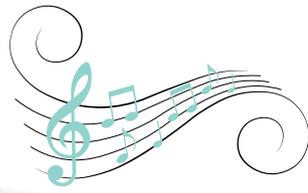
On Friday 31st July Ryde Town Council and Portsmouth City Council celebrated the 140 year old connection of ferry and train between the Isle of Wight and the mainland. The Mayor of Ryde, Councillor Michael Lilley and the Lord Mayor of Portsmouth, City Councillor Rob Wood celebrated the return of Wightlink's FastCats that link Portsmouth to Ryde and Hovertravel Ltd by taking a round trip from Portsmouth using the hovercraft, Island line and Wightlink FastCat. Thanking Wightlink Isle of Wight Ferries and Hovertravel for their essential service throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Cllr

Lilley said: "We are proud to celebrate 140 years of the historic train and ferry links between Portsmouth Harbour and Ryde Pier Head and 55 years of hovercraft crossings between Southsea and Ryde.

"We are grateful for both Wightlink and Hovertravel for their daily services. Covid-19 showed how important they are to Ryde's residents and businesses. We have much to celebrate and offer in community spirit and friendship."

Both Wightlink and Hovertravel are working closely with Ryde Town Council to encourage mainland visitors to take a 'Ticket to Ryde' this summer.





## A fun-filled August for Ticket to Ryde

Ryde saw a fun-filled August with street entertainment appearing every weekend throughout August. From music, meditation and magic, to storytelling, dancing and more. Local musicians, performers and artists were located around five different outdoor venues in Ryde Town, providing something for everyone to enjoy. Created and curated by Monkton Arts and supported by Ryde Town council, each weekend was carefully considered to avoid large crowds and to maintain social distancing and public safety at all times, whilst enjoying the sight and sounds of Ryde.



### Mayor of Ryde, Cllr Michael Lilley

The big achievement in August has been Ryde Town Council's developed relationship with WightLink and Hovertravel to encourage more visitors to the Town alongside following Covid19 regulations. The RTC team and Monkton Arts have worked hard to safely open the Town in August and I wish to thank them for this huge effort. We have our first full Council meeting since March in September and will be deciding on a 5-year Corporate plan to improve the future of the Town. Lastly, I am excited with our new links with Portsmouth City Council and had a great time hosting a recent visit with the Lord Mayor of Portsmouth, Cllr Rob Wood. I look forward on making stronger connections between Ryde and Portsmouth.



# Nettlestone & Seaview Parish Council

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## New Equipment for Kerry Fields Play Area



On the day that schools broke up for the summer holidays, Chairman of Nettlestone and Seaview Parish Council, Barry Elliott, met with pupils from Nettlestone Primary School to celebrate the culmination of a successful collaboration between the Junior Parish Council (made up of students from the school) and the Parish Council. The Parish Council took guidance from the Junior Parish Council about some changes that the children felt were required to enhance the Nettlestone play area. The Junior Parish Council informed the Parish Council that something extra was required for the younger children (pre-school to seven years old) to play on when there, along with some additional seating for grown-ups and a general renovation of the existing equipment.

The Parish Council took this onboard and purchased a Miss.Muffet multiplay unit, a new bench and have had the remaining equipment professionally renovated. The park re-opened in time for the holiday season — in a COVID19 responsible way of course.

Cllr Elliott said: "I would like to thank former Councillor Mark Gibbs for initiating the Junior Parish Council concept and engaging with them to start this process last summer. It has been a great success and hopefully marks the beginning of a long lasting collaboration with the younger members of the community."

## Community Hub Wound Down

In line with Government guidelines on shielding, the N&S Community Hub ceased operating at the beginning of August. The Parish Council would like to once again thank all of those people who volunteered to help their fellow residents during the lockdown. Rest assured, should a local lockdown be reintroduced, the Hub will be brought back online. The Isle of Wight Council still has a helpline available for those affected by Covid-19 restrictions: 01983 823 600.

## Parish Council meetings

**Monday September 21st 2020 at 7pm, online via Zoom.**

Legally, Parish Council meetings can only be virtual at the moment and the council have chosen to host their meetings via Zoom. Please look at the parish website and noticeboards for details/updates. All meetings are open to the public and agendas available to view on website seven days prior. All Councillors' details are available on the parish noticeboards and the parish website or by contacting the Clerk.



# Shanklin Town Council



## Town Mayor's Review of 2019-2020 – Part Two

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

I am pleased to announce that the second phase of our building project is well underway and working to the current health and safety rules, so we will soon have a new town office for Stella to carry out her considerable work load and to give residents access to the council. The possibilities are numerous for future uses.

Discussions are underway as to the future use of the old Library; it has had many uses in the past Shanklin School/ Shanklin Fire Station.

The War Memorial has had a professional clean. Unfortunately the 75th commemorations of VE Day had

to be put on hold. Many thanks to Terry Carpenter for all his hard work keeping the gardens looking pristine, hopefully we will benefit on 11/11/20.

Green Towns have also had a successful year and many thanks to Lesley, Bridget, Sarah, Esther, Sue for keeping things looking smart and tidy, of course like all of us, things are on hold for the foreseeable future but we hope this will soon be coming to an end for the good of the Island economy.

We were sorry to receive a resignation letter from Councillor Sara Sheath. Thanks to Sara for all her hard work over her time with the council and we wish her well for the future.

Shanklin Town Theatre has had a good year and goes from strength to strength. Unfortunately, like all other organisations, they were forced to close temporarily.

Thanks to Stella for her hard work and help she gives me and all Shanklin Town Councillors for their continued support and hard work over the past year. Please stay safe and well, I look forward to a meeting when we can discuss the future of Shanklin.

Thanks to Esther for supporting me at all the functions we were invited to. As Town Mayor, it is my privilege and pleasure to thank the people of Shanklin for their continued support for all our projects.

Town Clerk RFO: Ms S. Janeway LL.B (Hons) CILCA MSLCC, Victoria Avenue, Shanklin PO37 6PG. (01983) 865101  
E-mail: shanklintowncouncil@hotmail.com Website: www.shanklintowncouncil.co.uk



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# Power Players

Who is involved in making a Power of Attorney?

**If you wish to allow friends or family to make decisions for you, should you ever be unable to do so yourself, it is important you consider the need to prepare Lasting Powers of Attorney. Here we have explained the key people involved in power and what you will need to think about before deciding who to appoint.**

## Donor

The person making the power is known as the donor because they are the one 'giving' the power to make decisions either concerning their finances or health and welfare to someone else. The donor can decide when they want the power concerning their finances to take effect, i.e. straight away even when they are still able to make decisions for themselves or, only when they have lost capacity.

The donor can also include instructions and preferences as to how they wish the power to operate in practice. The attorneys should assist the donor to make their own decisions as far as it is possible to do so. Just because the donor might make an unwise decision, it does not mean they lack capacity. For example, someone might decide to spend £200 on a pair of sparkly shoes, this may seem unwise to some, but it does not mean the donor lacks capacity and attorneys should support the donor as far as possible to make decisions for themselves.

## Certificate Provider

Every power needs to be signed by someone

who will attest that the donor knows what they are signing, i.e. they have mental capacity and appreciate the power they are giving to other people.

They must also attest to the fact that the donor of the power is not being pressurised to enter into the power by any one. Who can act as Certificate Provider? Someone who has known you personally for two years or more, for example a trusted family friend, or someone with professional skills to act in that role, such as a doctor or a solicitor. Certain people cannot act as a Certificate Provider such as: a member of the donor's family, or a member of one of the attorney's family, owners or employees of the care home where the donor lives.

## Attorneys

These should be people you trust implicitly as you are giving them tremendous authority to make decisions concerning the most important aspects of your life. Who to choose to act as an attorney? Some people would decide to appoint their partner and children, but equally you could appoint friends or a professional such as a solicitor. It is essential to take into account whether your attorneys will work well together as well as the skills they have to act as your attorney.

Key questions to ask yourself might be: Do your attorneys make sensible decisions? Do they manage their own money well? Do you believe they will always make decisions in your best interests? You can decide to appoint your attorneys jointly so that every single decision

must be made together, or you can appoint them 'jointly and severally' such that they can act together or independently. If appointed jointly and severally it may be more convenient for one attorney to make day to day decisions but they could come together with the other attorney for larger decisions. The attorneys will need to sign the power to say they are happy to act as your attorney, however, it is a good idea to sit down with them first and explain the responsibility that you wish to give them.

## People to notify

You have the option of notifying people (other than your Certificate Provider and attorneys) that you are applying to have the power registered in order that it can be used. It is purely optional whether the donor wishes to notify people but it does provide an additional safety check. The person the donor has chosen to notify can object to the registration of the power within a set amount of time if they think that the donor has been coerced to sign, or that they would not have understood what they have signed.

At Glanvilles Damant, we can guide you through the process and have the professional skills to act as Certificate Provider. We'll ensure there are no issues with registration with the Office of the Public Guardian. If you would like to meet to discuss face to face then, due to Covid-19, we have a specially modified meeting room separated by Perspex glass, to keep contact to a minimum.



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It's all go on the veg patch this month. Sow hardy winter greens and plant onions for a tasty crop next year, says Flo Whitaker

**S**ome vegetables are far superior when home-grown. Spinach is a prime example. Shop-bought spinach quickly develops a texture resembling limp, soggy dishcloths, whereas freshly-picked leaves are another thing entirely. There are two types of spinach. 'True' spinach is a short-lived summer vegetable. 'Perpetual' or 'beet' spinach lives for a year, is fully hardy, can be sown now and will crop throughout winter.

Spinach loves rich, moisture-retentive soil. Incorporate leaf mould or compost



# WINTER GREENS

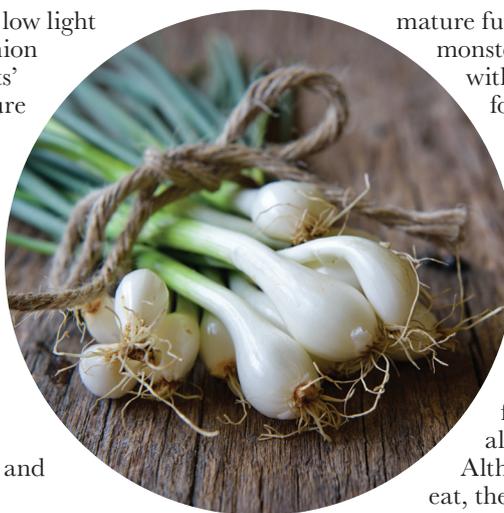
into the planting area before thinly sowing seeds direct, 2cm deep. Thin out seedlings, leaving 30cm spacings between plants. Mature plants will grow 30-40cm high. When harvesting, selectively pick a few of the largest leaves from every plant, leaving the smaller ones to help maintain vigorous growth.

As their name suggests, 'Japanese' onions were originally developed to withstand harsh winters in Japan. However, it's not just about temperature. Onions usually require strong sunlight to thrive, but autumn-planting types

also cope with low light conditions. Onion and shallot 'sets' (small, immature onion bulblets) are available now.

*Senshyu* is a deservedly popular variety, but there are lots to choose from, including *Electric*, with vivid red skins and flesh.

Onions need an open site with well-drained soil. Fork the soil gently to loosen the surface. Plant bulblets (pointy end up!) with their tips just visible above the soil, spaced at 10cm intervals in rows 30cm apart. Birds often pull at the onion tips (they won't eat them – they're just inquisitive) so place wire mesh over the area until roots develop. Water thoroughly – and that's about it! They'll be ready to crop from next spring. If space is limited, plant the bulblets 5 cms apart. In confined conditions they won't



*As their name suggests, 'Japanese' onions were originally developed to withstand harsh winters in Japan*

mature fully but will develop into monster-sized 'spring onions' with masses of succulent foliage – perfect for stir fries and salads.

Autumn is the best time to plant garlic.

Supermarket garlic may look temptingly cheap, but it's probably been grown overseas, so will not enjoy our damper climate.

Garlic bulbs grown for consumption can also harbour onion virus.

Although perfectly safe to eat, the disease can persist in soil and infect other plants, so it's best to purchase guaranteed virus-free bulbs from a reputable horticultural supplier. Split the bulbs apart and plant individual cloves 3cm deep at the same spacing as for onions. You can expect a harvest next June/July.

The upright habit of garlic and onions

gives sufficient space and light for a 'companion' crop of winter-hardy salad leaves to be sown between the rows (try rocket or lamb's lettuce). By the time the onions/garlic are ready for harvesting, the salad will be finished and running to seed, allowing the area to be quickly and easily cleared for new plantings. 🍷





*Tony Mears*

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**C**hoosing the right blinds or curtains can quickly take an interior design scheme from average to amazing. From creating the illusion of a higher ceiling and making a dark room feel brighter to increasing your home's curb appeal, window dressing is about much more than simply blocking out light. Here's how to choose the right look for your home.

**LET THERE BE LIGHT**

If your room is lacking in light, heavy curtains can compound the situation. Sheer materials offer privacy and cosiness without making a space dingy. Choose a light colour to lift a room, creating an illusion of airiness, or use floral voile fabric panels for a dreamy feel. Sheer roller blinds are an excellent solution for kitchens, bathrooms and hallways, while long drapes work well in living rooms and bedrooms.

**SHUTTERS ARE IN**

Plantation shutters have taken the hippest districts of London by storm and it won't be long before you see them in a street near you. Shutters work with both traditional and contemporary interiors, adding an extra degree of privacy and insulation while boosting the aesthetic charm of your property. As an added bonus, they can be adjusted to let in more or less light and to improve ventilation in the room.

**PLAYING WITH COLOUR**

Not sure how to introduce colour while avoiding garishness? Neutral drapes with a colourful trim will bring a touch of interest to the room without dominating the decorating scheme. Prints and patterns are currently trending as well, with abstract geometrics, plant-inspired motifs and oversized fabric prints all popular with designers.

**THE LONG AND THE SHORT OF IT**

Choosing the length of your curtains can be even more challenging than picking a colour. Classic long drapes give the illusion of a higher ceiling, but short curtains are a more practical option for kids' bedrooms and other well-used family spaces because they are less likely to collect dust and sticky fingerprints. Any room that has a radiator



# Dressing up

The right window dressing can transform the look and feel of a room without the need for a complete interior revamp. Take inspiration from the latest trends to redesign your window space, as Hanna Prince explores.

positioned under the window also lends itself to shorter styles. Another fun option for spaces where privacy is more important than light exclusion is café curtains. These half-length panels work particularly well in kitchens and street-facing living spaces.

**TRACKS AND TIES**

Once you've picked the style and length of your curtains, the next dilemma is how to hang them. Ceiling-mounted curtain tracks offer a streamlined alternative to the traditional curtain pole while also helping a low ceiling feel taller. Tab tops avoid the hassle of rings, while a pelmet will hide fixtures and fittings altogether. Match it with other soft furnishings to create a sleek, modern look.

**BLINDED BY THE CHOICE?**

Blinds and shades tend to be more popular options than curtains in modern homes, partly because there are so many different alternatives to choose from. Traditionally, blinds have individual adjustable slats,

while shades are made from a single piece of material. Venetian blinds, roman shades and roller shades all work in almost any setting, while tie-up shades are both on-trend and easy to make at home. Other beautiful styles to consider include woven wicker, bamboo and rattan shades.



**BE SMART**

Modern boilers, lamps and even coffee makers can all be controlled by smartphone – so why not your blinds? Smart blinds are usually voice operated, which means you can open them in the morning without lifting a finger. They can also be programmed to open and shut at different times of the day, a useful security feature if you're away from home frequently. Don't want to invest in new drapes? It's often possible to retrofit your existing blinds with 'smart' technology, saving substantially on the cost.

**DOUBLE UP**

Curtains or blinds? With the latest designs, there's no need to choose. Combining roman shades and drapes is a good way to block out light in bedrooms or street-facing living rooms and give reign to your creativity at the same time. Opt for complementing colours – or choose a plain blind that subtly references a shade in your patterned curtains. It's the best of both worlds. ☺



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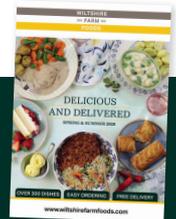
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**Terms & Conditions:** 1. This discount is solely redeemable by the presenter of the voucher, who may use it against the purchase of a Southern Co-op funeral plan for themselves or an immediate family member, but must be the person paying for the funeral plan. 2. The discount is only redeemable at Southern Co-op owned Funeralcare funeral homes. 3. The voucher may not be exchanged for cash. 4. The discount will be deducted from the retail price of the funeral plan purchased at time of sale. 5. Only one discount is available per funeral plan. 6. The voucher must be presented at the time of purchase. 7. This voucher has no cash value and cannot be used in conjunction with any other discount, voucher, offer or promotion. 8. The decision of Southern Co-operative Funerals Limited in relation to each discount is final and binding. 9. Voucher will be void if reproduced or photocopied. 10. Southern Co-operative Funerals Limited reserves the right to withdraw this promotion at any time. 11. This voucher is valid until **28.02.2021 BEA OW09/20**

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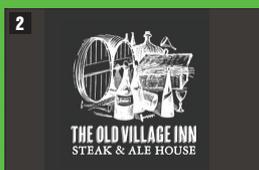
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**THIS MONTH'S PRIZES...**  
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