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# Beacon

October 2020



INTERVIEW  
**JOE McFADDEN**

ISLAND STORY  
**ORCHARD BROS  
FAMILY GROCERS**

RECIPE  
**HOME-BREWED  
SLOE GIN**

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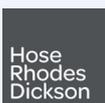


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Welcome from the  
**Editor**

October is possibly my favourite month of the year! I love it as the nights draw in and we spend more time snuggled up on the sofa, under blankets with the candles lit. There's lots of great TV dramas I am looking forward to catching up on — see our must-watch list at iwbeacon.com.

On page 9, discover how to brew the perfect batch of Sloe Gin, in time for Christmas. We've also compiled a free e-mag with Beacon's best autumn comfort food recipes — so I'll be spending lots of time in the kitchen. Head to our website to find out how to get your hands on a copy.

This issue is packed with more of your favourite gardening features, interviews, local news, entertainment and history. Discover the fascinating past of Orchard Bros in Freshwater, as well as all the gossip from Gene Vincent's 1969 trip to Ryde.

Whatever October brings, look after your loved ones and your neighbours — and stay safe.

*Amy Shephard*

Editor amy.shephard@iwbeacon.com



Photo courtesy of Flickr.com

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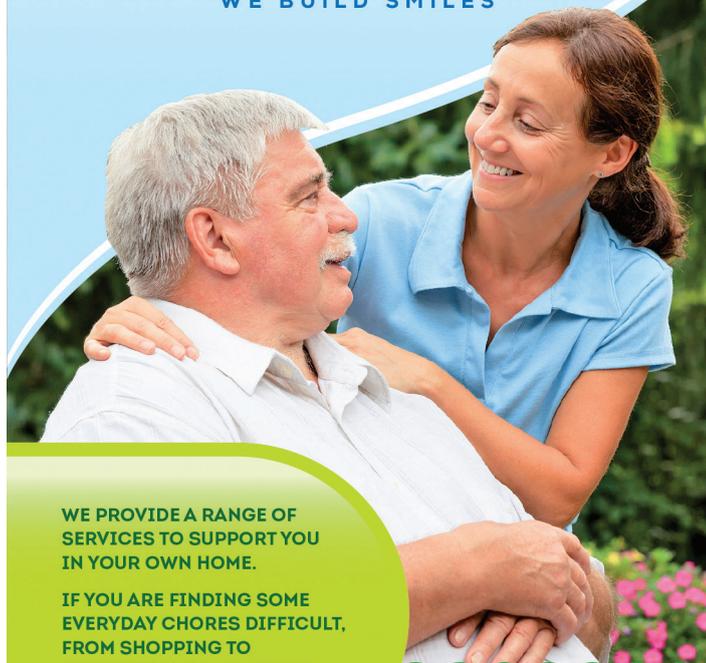


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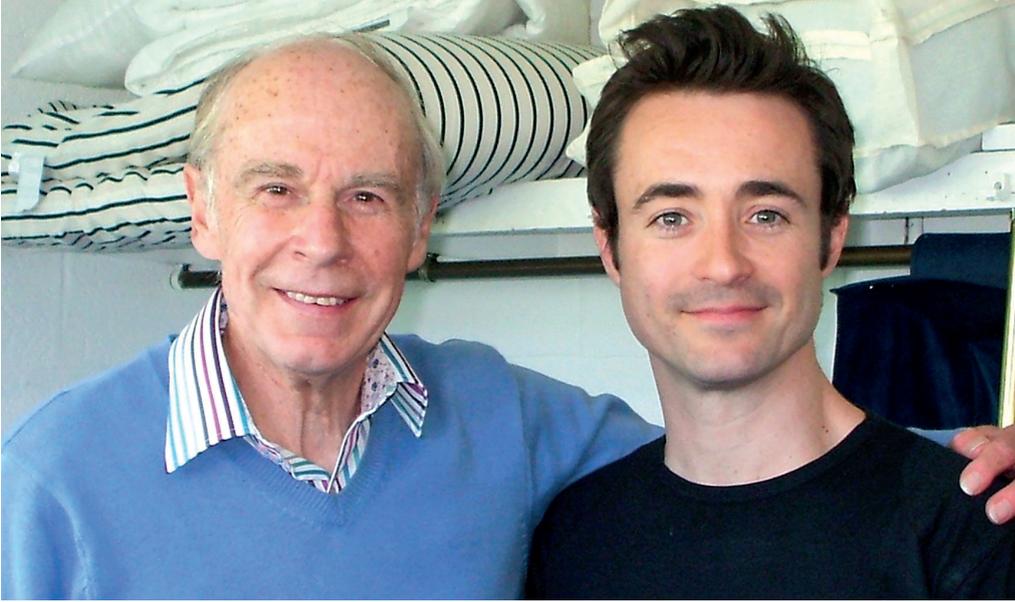
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# JOE McFADDEN

Life has been wonderfully unpredictable for Scottish actor Joe McFadden. Before winning *Strictly Come Dancing* in 2017, he'd been a rock star in *Sex, Chips & Rock 'n' Roll*, cast as maverick cop, Joe Mason in *Heartbeat* and surgeon Raf di Lucca in *Holby City*.

**N**owadays, since wooing Saturday night television audiences alongside Katya Jones, he's come back from the dead in *Holby* and toured as drag queen Mitzi in *Priscilla*.

Joe is always up for a challenge and this has made him one of Britain's busiest actors. For him and many others, the Covid-19 lockdown brought flourishing careers to a premature halt.

He's an actor who always has the time for you. It was the third occasion we had met and both of us had looked forward to it. Not many actors run for an interview. He rushed into the stage door at the Brighton Theatre Royal gasping for breath and apologised for being late. He still had plenty of time before he was due to slip into Mitzi's dress, which did suit him, by the way.

It was the first time we had met since *Strictly* and I could barely wait for his memories of that night when millions of Britons were cheering for him. In fact, he'd been one of the last to be announced for the show.

"There is a lot of juggling with that show. They put out a lot of offers and you have to wait until you see who's been accepted. They like a wide demographic of people to appear on it. I was so shocked to be even asked to do it and never expected to be there at the end.

"I didn't even know what the dances were. I had never heard of a foxtrot. It was as nerve wracking as it looks. Every Monday you were told of the new dance

and you had to perform it by Thursday afternoon. I was so lucky to have a perfect partner like Katya," revealed Joe.

Winning the show introduced him to an even wider audience and led to tours like *Priscilla*. Joe admits to having learned a lesson from *Strictly*. When he first became an actor they would never be associated with any form of reality television shows. They just never mixed but times had changed and he was prepared to go with them.

I love teasing the likeable Joe about some of his on-screen love scenes, with beautiful actors like Gillian Kearney, Lisa Kay and Patricia Kerrigan. I must admit to being a little jealous. Apparently, they are not always what they seem.

"A lot of them can be highly embarrassing for us actors, especially in front of a film crew. In *Crow Road*, Patricia was as

*“He still had plenty of time before he was due to slip into Mitzi's dress, which did suit him, by the way.”*



embarrassed as I was. That seduction scene was a baptism of fire. I was 19 and she was 14 years older," admitted Joe.

When Joe burst into *Aidensfield* in *Heartbeat*, the script demanded he play a maverick copper. He'd come from a big city and was always looking for a good punch-up. It was only a short term idea and his character soon mellowed into the more secure image of the good old friendly Yorkshire beat bobby. It was just as well, as he stayed and became the show's very last new policeman. He drove away on his motorbike from the last episode he did, not knowing, like the rest of the cast, it was being axed after 20 years.

He was in it long enough to finally fall for the nurse — a real tradition in the series. He didn't realise for two years that in *Heartbeat*, the heart represented the nurse and the beat was the local copper.

Millions loved him as Raf di Lucca, the registrar general surgeon, in *Holby City*. Before starting the part, he visited a real hospital to watch open heart surgery. He loved every minute. In that hit show he had some strong storylines and ended up dying from gunshot wounds. When I told him he obviously couldn't go back he hinted it might just happen. Obviously, he knew he was going back in as a figment of Essie's imagination. Very clever.

What about Mitzi in *Priscilla*? It was such a challenge and he was a revelation. It would have certainly shocked the regulars in the *Aidensfield Arms*. **B**





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As we are unable to host open evenings this year, please see the Apply 2021 Information Hubs on our websites where you will find a wide range of information and videos: [www.iwef.org.uk/carisbrookecollege/apply2021](http://www.iwef.org.uk/carisbrookecollege/apply2021) and [www.iwef.org.uk/medinacollege/apply2021](http://www.iwef.org.uk/medinacollege/apply2021)

We will also be hosting Virtual Q&A Sessions at the beginning of October. See the websites for details of how to take part.



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The composer and singer of *It's All Over Now*, *Baby Blue* — which became the inspiration of one of Bob Dylan's greatest compositions — died just two years later at the age of 36.

Gene Vincent performed *Baby Blue* at the Ryde hotel on 8th November 1969 alongside the Wild Angels. He'd recorded the song two years earlier, having written it on the road with Blue Caps bass player, Bobby Jones.

Bob Dylan is quoted as saying: "I carried the song around in my head for a long time."

Gene Vincent was born Vincent Eugene Craddock on February 11th 1935 in Norfolk, Virginia. He served in the U.S. Navy but in March 1955 he developed a passion for motorcycles and, on a weekend trip to see his girlfriend, was hit by a car — crushing his left leg.

He spent six months in and out of hospital. Here, with a fellow patient, he wrote *Be-Bop-a-lula* — which was to become his first and greatest hit.

Vincent performed the song on the radio and was soon signed by Capitol Records, hailed as their answer to Elvis Presley.

In 1959, he came over to the UK, brought by maverick producer Jack Good to appear on TV series *Boy meets Girls*. This polite southern gentleman was not the wild rock 'n' roller Good had imagined. So he dressed him up in black — black jacket, black jeans and black gloves with a heavy gold medallion hanging from his neck.

Mick Farren in *Gene Vincent, There's one in Every Town* writes of his hero:

"The entire image had been lifted from Laurence Olivier's 1955 movie version of Richard III, although it's debatable who knew, or even, who cared."

There is a story that when Vincent was on stage with his leg in a metal splint, in an attempt to reinforce this image of the hard rocker, Good shouted from the wings: "Limp you bugger, limp".

Gene Vincent toured the UK with rock 'n' roll's Eddie Cochran in 1960 and was injured in the car accident which famously killed Cochran — damaging Vincent's leg further.

A 1970 edition of the BBC's *Late Night Line-Up* followed Gene Vincent on four days of his UK tour, starting on 5th November 1969 and included his Isle of Wight performance. Entitled *The Rock and Roll Singer*, the show follows a singer at the end of his career, down on his luck and pursued by his former manager, the infamous Don Arden.

It begins with Gene Vincent arriving at Heathrow to a rapturous reception from his fans and purports to show the



# Gene Vincent

## at the Royal York Hotel, 1969

A few months after Bob Dylan performed at IW Festival 1969, American musician Gene Vincent performed for one night only at the Island's Royal York Hotel in Ryde.

By Nick Wilde

first four days of the tour.

He is seen sitting on an Isle of Wight ferry and talking between excerpts from his stage show. The performances are classic Gene.

Whilst in the dressing room, he is complaining about not being paid in his polite southern American drawl. As well as *Baby Blue*, Vincent sang *Say Mama*, *Lonesome Whistle*, *Rocky Road Blues*, *Be-Bop-A-Lula* and *Long Tall Sally* as an encore. The whole programme is available to watch at [www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p02mpbst](http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p02mpbst)

It is alleged that Vincent was plied with drink in an attempt to get him drunk before the performance, so that he didn't go up on stage and there would be an excuse not to pay him. Those in question didn't count on Vincent's ability to take his drink, nor the fact that his friend Adrian Owlett poured the Mickey Fins down the sink.

It was also reported that they went to

an after-hours club after the show, which Owlett described as: "like a Chicago gangster club in the thirties with guys running around in striped suits, black shirts and white ties."

In the morning the BBC paid for the rooms and suggested they take a different route back to the ferry to avoid any danger. They reported being chased by another car, further encouraging the paranoid Gene that the managers were all out to get him. Reports in recent years refute these claims.

The tour continued with highlights such as at the Speakeasy in London where Georgie Fame took over piano and John Lennon, Yoko Ono and George Harrison were in the audience. The Beatles were great fans and played at least 14 of his songs in their early live shows.

Gene Vincent continued to make records, performing his last live gig in Liverpool in 1971, but his failing health was obvious and he flew back to California and died of gastrointestinal haemorrhage on 12th October 1971. He was buried at Eternal Valley Memorial Park in his black leathers.

Mercifully Gene is not forgotten. Since his death, his reputation has grown. In 1977 Ian Dury had a hit with tribute *Sweet Gene Vincent*.

Gene Vincent also had an influence on David Bowie. Bowie was introduced to Vincent in LA and was recorded to have used one of Vincent's signature stage moves (crouching at the mic with his injured leg behind him) in his Ziggy Stardust act. <sup>3</sup>

**"The Beatles were great fans and played at least 14 of his songs in their early live shows"**



Photo courtesy of Ian Boynes-Butler



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# Home-brewed *Sloe Gin*

October is the perfect month to start picking sloe berries and to get a delicious batch of Sloe Gin underway for Christmas.

**I**t's often said you should wait until after the first frost of the year before picking sloes, to ensure the skin of the berry is nice and soft. However, as long as they feel soft when gently squeezed, you can pick them. Just pop them in the freezer overnight to help break them down before you use them.

Don't be tempted to eat them raw, they don't taste great straight off the bush.

## INGREDIENTS

500g of sloe berries  
70cl bottle of gin  
250g caster sugar

## METHOD

**1** Pour all your ingredients into a large jar or demijohn. Pop the lid on and give them a good shake.

**2** Store the jar in a cool, dark place, shaking twice a week to infuse the flavours.

**3** Taste your gin after about four weeks and add more sugar if you would prefer it sweeter.

**4** Continue to store and shake the gin for up to three months, until you are ready to serve. The longer you leave it, the richer the flavour will be.

**5** Once you're happy with your gin, strain the mixture through a clean cloth, into bottles.

**6** Store in the fridge or a cool, dark area and consume within a month.

Sloe Gin goes beautifully with a number of mixers, including tonic water, ginger beer, lemonade — and even added to a glass of prosecco for a fruity take on your usual glass of fizz.

For a hot toddy, heat 50ml of Sloe Gin with 100ml cloudy apple juice, 100ml clementine juice, tsp vanilla extract, cinnamon stick, three whole cloves and a slice of orange and serve, for the ultimate winter comfort drink.

*“Sloe Gin goes beautifully with a number of mixers, including tonic water, ginger beer and lemonade”*





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# The Entertainment GUIDE

Visit [iwbeacon.com](http://iwbeacon.com) to see our full events guide

## Paddington is coming to Havenstreet!

On 17th and 18th October, Paddington will be making appearances at Isle of Wight Steam Railway, so fans have the chance to see him and have their picture taken from a socially distanced photo point!

Visitors attending the Railway over the weekend will need to purchase tickets to The Railway, at standard entry prices. They will have the chance to see Paddington around Havenstreet at various intervals during the course of both days.

**Pre-booking train tickets to the Isle of Wight Steam Railway is strongly encouraged, from [www.iwsteamrailway.co.uk/events/](http://www.iwsteamrailway.co.uk/events/)**



## Drive-in Christmas cinema returns

December 5th and 6th.

Back by popular demand, Wessex Cancer Trust's drive-in Christmas cinema will return to the Island at the beginning of December.

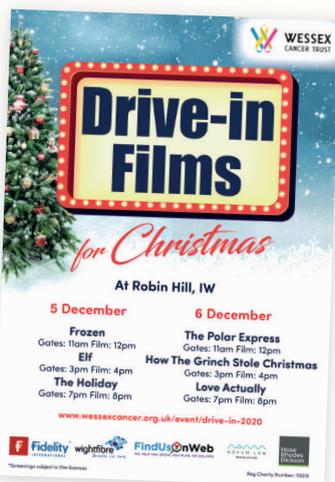
The cinema will feature six epic festive films screened over two days to raise money for Wessex Cancer Trust. The films to be screened on the Saturday are Frozen, Elf and The Holiday, while, on Sunday, The Polar Express, How The Grinch Stole Christmas and Love Actually will be aired on a giant LED screen, with the soundtrack played through each car radio. Community Engagement Manager Lorraine White said: "After the year we've all had, we thought Islanders could do with something to look forward to and what better way to welcome Christmas than with a weekend of festive films? From family favourites to classic Christmas rom coms, we will be showing them all on a giant LED screen in the car park at Robin Hill."

Grab your hot snacks and drinks on site before snuggling down in the comfort and safety of your own car with your family and favourite festive film."

The event will take place with Covid-19 restrictions and social-distancing rules in place. Tickets for each screening are limited and are available at [www.wessexcancer.org.uk/drive-in-2020](http://www.wessexcancer.org.uk/drive-in-2020). The suggested donation is £25 per car.

All money raised will help Wessex Cancer Trust support Islanders affected by cancer.

**If you're interested in advertising on the big screen, contact [lorraine.white@wessexcancer.org.uk](mailto:lorraine.white@wessexcancer.org.uk).**



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Take the opportunity to enhance your 'Dine and Stay' by exploring the picturesque Steephill Cove and beautiful Ventnor Botanical Gardens, before heading back to the hotel to relax in one of the Premier, Deluxe, or Classic Rooms... all fit for a king or queen.

The Royal have adapted many of their procedures to comply with government guidelines, while providing their usual high quality service.

Prices start from just £90 per person (a weekend supplement will apply) and will include a Full English breakfast, overnight accommodation in a classic room, and a delicious three-course meal in the two AA Rosette restaurant (up to the value of £40pp).

## Isle of Wight Virtual Challenge 2020

Want to get fit and support a local charity? Isle Access, has joined forces with Nosy Marketing to produce a fitness challenge that most people can join in with. The challenge is supported by IW Council and Visit IOW.

All the daily exercise a person performs (including housework!) counts towards a virtual journey around the Isle of Wight, passing well known venues on the way. A medal is awarded on completion of the challenge, courtesy of Diametric.

The challenge started on 1st September and people have until 31st December to complete it, making it available to all.

There are options to enter solo or as part of a team, and special arrangements have been made for school classes, care settings and children's activity groups, such as Scouts, to enter as a group, combining their activity to earn a group trophy.

**Further details of this exciting challenge can be found at [www.isleaccess.co.uk](http://www.isleaccess.co.uk)**





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# Spooktacular ideas

## FOR THE FAMILY

From pom pom pumpkins to homemade outfits, Hanna Prince shows us how to make this Halloween your most creative one yet

**W**hat better way to enter into the spooky spirit of Halloween than by getting stuck into a family craft project? Low-cost, easy and fun for everyone, these creepily cool creative challenges will offer hours of entertainment for all ages.

### DIY DRESSING UP

No outfit sorted for trick-or-treating? Simply make your own. All you'll need for a DIY witch's hat is black construction paper, scissors and glue – fashion a cone from the paper, cut a fringe at the base and stick on a circular brim for an instant outfit-topper. Pair with a black top and a tutu made from strips of bin liner looped around a long ribbon.

If monsters are more popular than witches in your house, make a spine-chilling mask using papier-mâché layered onto a giant balloon. Paint on the scariest face you can manage and add pipe cleaner hair for a seriously frightening costume.

### HAIR-RAISING DECORATIONS

Get your house Halloween-ready with some crafty décor. Paper garlands are straightforward and super fun to make. Create your own ghostly paper garlands by accordion folding paper into three-inch sections, tracing a ghost shape on the uppermost piece and cutting it out (making sure you leave one arm



connected). You can do something similar with pumpkins, spiders or any other Halloween-themed shape that takes your fancy. For added sparkle, cut eyes out of your paper figures and attach them to a line of fairy lights so that the bulbs show from behind the holes.

### PERFECT PUMPKINS

Pumpkins are a Halloween staple, but there's far more you can do with this seasonal vegetable than simply carving a face into its flesh. Give your pumpkin a quirky touch by painting it with a monster, a bat or a spine-tingling Halloween scene. Melt wax crayons down from the top to create colourful 'hair', stick on sparkly craft pom poms for a bit

*Use household materials to create your very own Halloween characters*

of bling or dip the stem in glue and then cover it with glitter. If you like the idea of a traditional candle-holding pumpkin, try carving and painting a haunted house, bats or a ghostly figure. There are plenty of online tutorials available that will help get you started.

### MONSTER MAKING

Use household materials to create your very own Halloween characters. Paint a toilet roll in your favourite colour, then add goggle eyes, woollen hair, pipe cleaner arms and a toothy black marker grin for a perfect monster. Leftover ice lolly sticks can be used to craft a haunted house – or build a bigger version with old boxes. Go scavenging for rocks in the garden, paint rock monsters and place them around the house as spooky surprises. Or use an old tissue box to model a monstrous Halloween-themed face. It's amazing what fun you can have with the contents of the recycling box! 🧛





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# Cycling the Island

with Paul Topping



**E**arlier in the year, I switched over from a manual bike to an electric, not really knowing what to expect.

I love an early morning commute along the four-mile Cowes to Newport cycle track — with the picturesque River Medina running alongside me.

The electric bike is good, but maybe not as good as I first expected. 15 miles per hour seems quite fast when you see it written down, but when you're actually cycling, it feels a lot slower.

Even so, I would still choose an electric over a manual, for that extra uphill boost!

I have had a few close calls when on the roads, with cars and lorries not paying enough attention to cyclists — something which all road users, especially on our cycling-friendly Island, should be doing.

I rarely get time to cycle for pleasure, but the Isle of Wight is the perfect place to do it when I can...weather depending. ☺



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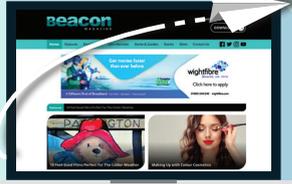
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# Mountbatten



## KEEP CONNECTED WITH MOUNTBATTEN

Are you in need of a friendly voice? Someone to talk to, as we all find our feet during these unprecedented times? Don't let COVID-19, bereavement or any other issue you may be dealing with isolate you from the rest of the world.

It is very natural to feel confused and bewildered by what is going on around us. We know that there are many Islanders who are navigating these uncharted waters alone. We also know the power of keeping connected and the good that can come of sharing our experiences. After all, as the

saying goes, a trouble shared is a trouble halved.

That is why Mountbatten has extended its existing patient and family care, support and advice line to anyone who needs a listening ear. You may be living alone, you may have been recently bereaved - no matter who you are and what you're facing, we are here to help. You don't need to already be known to our services, just call our helpline (local rate) at any time of the day or night to speak to a friendly volunteer or member of our team.

**Call (01983) 217297 and keep connected with Mountbatten. We're here to help you through this.**

**B**ecoming a family grocers in 1865, the business has been operated by five generations of Orchards and to this day, continues to be a thriving local business, loved and visited by many.

The fascinating history of this iconic Isle of Wight business spans a century and a half. Originally a branch of Misslebrook and Weston, grocers, based in Newport, the premises were rented to William Orchard from 1865 for the annual rent of £50.

In 1867, William Orchard had the opportunity to purchase the business outright when it was put up for auction at Murrow's Hotel, Freshwater Bay – now known as the Albion Hotel. With the help of his son, 23 year old William Thomas Orchard, the Orchards started to expand the business and so it was named 'Orchard and Son'.

By 1870 the population of Freshwater Bay had grown to such an extent that demand existed for a local post office. Pioneer photographer, Julia Margaret Cameron, wrote to the Post Office authorities and recommended William Thomas Orchard as a suitable candidate for local Postmaster.

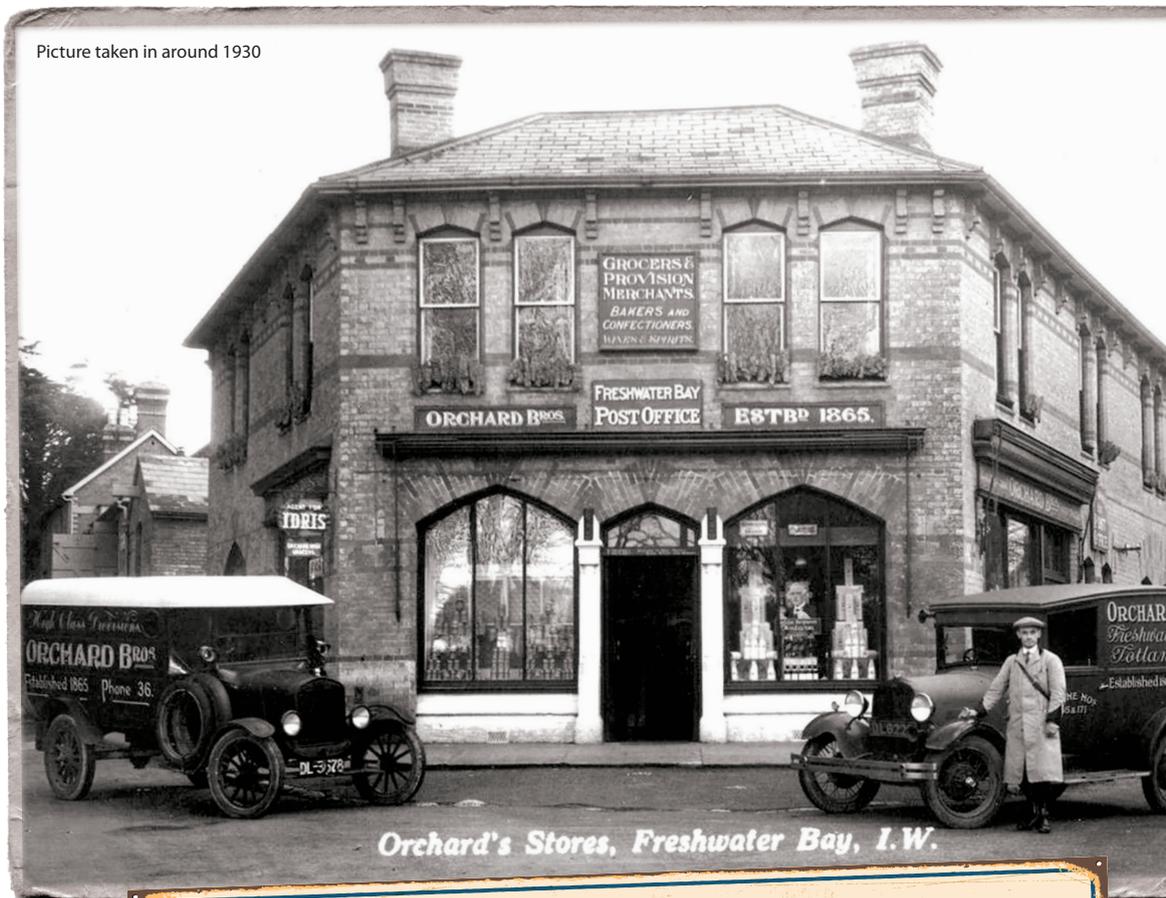
"Mr Tennyson's correspondence is very large as you know & my correspondence averages 300 letters every month, my fortnightly correspondence to Ceylon being about 10s to 12s every month. This I tell you to convince you that it is important to us to have a central and convenient Post Office," she wrote.

"Mr Orchard the other man who applies is at the very foot of Mr Tennyson's Park close also to me and close also to the two large hotels close also to the lodging houses at the Bay & Mr Tennyson himself & I & the landlords of the two hotels all signed a paper to request that Mr Orchard of Freshwater might be appointed Postmaster as he is a very respectable & businesslike man. He has a separate room & hall at Alexandra House fitted for the reception of letters & his locality is the most desirable."

The 1871 Census return for Alexandra House gives an idea of the state of the business during the late Victorian era. William and Mary Orchard were living on the premises, along with their son, William Thomas, a grocer's assistant, a telegraph clerk, a baker, a general servant and a domestic servant.

In 1882, the shop obtained a licence

Picture taken in around 1930



Orchard's Stores, Freshwater Bay, I.W.

# ORCHARD BROS



Founder  
William Orchard

## Serving the West Wight through five generations

Originally built as a private residence in 1845, Freshwater Bay's Alexandra House has been in the hands of the Orchard family for more than 150 years.

to sell wine, spirits and beer, with various types of drink bottled on the premises. Around this time, the family were also acting as coal merchants and house letting agents. By 1883, Orchard & Son became agents of Capital and Counties Bank, later part of Lloyds Bank.

The third generation of Orchards entered the business in 1887, when the founder's grandson, another William, left school in London at the age of 15 and headed back to the Isle of Wight to help run the family business. His grandfather was seriously ill and died soon after, aged 72. Will started work in the post office, learning Morse code to send and receive telegrams and delivering them all over the West Wight. In his memoirs he said: "Before I was 16 years of age I

was sending and receiving telegrams on the Morse Printer...When a lad I had sometimes to deliver telegrams – have walked over to Brook House lots of times, and several times to Pitt Place, Brighthstone – which was our longest delivery – a boy and cart were used sometimes but this was not always available and you often had to walk, no cycles except the penny farthings and a small lad couldn't ride them – Can you see a boy nowadays walking to deliver telegrams six miles – and return?"

At the age of 26, Will became postmaster, succeeding his father, William Thomas – and incredibly remained in the post until his retirement in 1954 at the age of 82!

In his memoirs he recalled handling

telegrams between Queen Victoria at Osborne House near East Cowes and the poet Tennyson at nearby Farringford House:

"I remember receiving quite a number of telegrams over the wire from Queen Victoria to the poet – they were always signed by Minnie Cochrane, or one of the Gentlemen in waiting and usually they were to ask Tennyson to lunch or dine. Only one, I remember, was from the Queen herself direct – it was just after the rather sudden death of the Duke of Clarence [1892] and was as follows – 'Thank you for your beautiful lines on the death of my dear Grandson' – Victoria R.I."

William Thomas, the founder's son, died age 64 in 1908 and his sons Will and Fred inherited the business.

Will ran the post office and the house letting agency whilst Fred ran the grocery business. The shop was renamed 'Orchard Bros', a name that has continued to this day.

Fred died aged just 53 in 1927, leaving the business in the sole hands of Will.

Around 1933, the fourth generation entered the business. Fred's son, Dick Orchard, was to remain actively involved in the business up to his death in 2005, apart from his years of service in the Royal Navy during the Second World War.

During the 1930s the old stables were converted into a new bake-house as motor vehicles took over the deliveries from horse-drawn vehicles. Two bakers were employed and Orchard's supplied a wide range of breads, cakes and pastries including wedding and birthday cakes to order. The steam ovens were the most modern on the Island.

In 1953, after the Second World War, Will was awarded the Coronation Medal in recognition of his long service in the post office - some sixty four years. He retired the following year in 1954, aged 82, and the post office was transferred from Orchard Bros to Woolf and Geer's stationery shop across the road.

Dick Orchard took over the running of the business and when his five children



Dick and Mark Orchard

*William recalled handling telegrams between Queen Victoria at Osborne House and the poet, Tennyson, at nearby Farringford House*

were old enough his wife Barbara joined him at his side.

Current proprietor and Dick Orchard's son, Mark joined the family business straight from school in 1968; the fifth generation to be involved in the running of the shop.

Today, Orchard Bros offers a wide range of everyday products including groceries, fresh fruit and vegetables, beers, wines and spirits, confectionery, newspapers and National Lottery tickets. Orchard's also offer local delivery and customer and business accounts and will make up Christmas hampers to order.

Their renowned home-cooked ham is regularly commended across the Isle of Wight, along with other local produce which is

available to purchase.

Orchard Bros to this day provides a friendly, personal service to the local community – something which has been their hallmark for the past 155 years. 

**Orchard Bros is situated at the junction of Victoria Road and Bedbury Lane, near the thatched church of St Agnes, about three miles south of Yarmouth.**

[www.orchardbros150.com](http://www.orchardbros150.com)



**1865:** William Orchard rented the premises for £50 per year.

**1867:** William Orchard purchased the business outright at auction. With the help of his son, William Thomas 23 years old, expand the business and renamed it "Orchard and Son".

**1870:** Becomes a post office

**1882:** The shop obtained a licence to sell alcohol

**1883:** Orchard & Son became agents of Capital and Counties Bank, later part of Lloyds Bank.

**1887:** Grandson of founder William Orchard (also called William) returns home from school in London at the age of 15 to help run the family business.

**1908:** William (the grandson) and his brother Fred inherit the business after the death of their father. The shop is rename Orchard Bros.

**1927:** Fred dies aged 53 leaving the business solely in the hands of William.

**1933:** Fred's son, Dick Orchard enters the business

**1939:** Freshwater Bay branch of Lloyds Bank closed at the start of World War Two.

**1954:** William retires aged 82. Dick Orchard took over the running of the business. The post office relocated to Woolf and Geer's stationery shop across the road.

When Dick's five children were old enough, his wife Barbara joined him at his side.

**1968:** Dick's son Mark Orchard joined the family business straight from school; the fifth generation to be involved in the running of the shop.

Mark eventually came to run the business in partnership with his parents until his father's death in 2005.

**2015:** Orchard Bros celebrates 150 years in business.



## News from Shanklin South & Central

by Cllr Chris Quirk & Cllr Michael Beston

### Recycling Centres

IW Council tips are now accepting kerbside general waste. The relaxation is the latest step in the managed re-opening of the Island's household waste recycling centres (HWRCs) at Lynnbottom and Afton Marsh, following the easing of lockdown restrictions.

The successful booking system will remain in place to maintain effective social distancing measures to protect staff and visitors. Bookings can be made online at: [www.iwight.com/hwrcbooking](http://www.iwight.com/hwrcbooking)

Residents are being reminded that most items can be recycled rather than putting them in general waste. A study last year revealed that more than half of general waste dumped at the tip could have been recycled. Residents are urged to avoid placing hazardous waste such as batteries and household chemicals in their general waste, as this causes damage and fires at the new mechanical treatment plant. To help tackle this, from November, people using the recycling centres will be asked to place their general waste in clear or white sacks so the content is visible. This does not apply to kerbside collections.

### The IW Council completes the purchase of Venture Quays at East Cowes

The £1.3 million acquisition follows many months of negotiations with Homes England and a Cabinet commitment to purchase the land which includes the historic Columbine site famous for its huge Union flag doors. Investing in the prime waterfront site, with its crucial deep water access will preserve key employment land for the benefit of the Island's workforce for many years to come. Despite the clear economic challenges presented by the pandemic, acquiring this site will assist in protecting Island jobs and preserving marine engineering in this location, as well as providing land for housing on a Brownfield site.

### NHS Test & Trace App & QR Codes

The IW Council is very pleased to continue to support the NHS Test and Trace app, which has been tested here on the Isle of Wight before the national rollout. A new feature of the app will allow users to check in to participating venues and businesses anonymously, using their phones. Businesses who want to join in will be able to download a unique QR code to display at entrances: [www.gov.uk/create-coronavirus-qr-poster](http://www.gov.uk/create-coronavirus-qr-poster)

QR check-ins at local businesses will let you know whether you have visited a venue where you may have met someone who later tests positive for Covid-19. As we write, the current rate of infection for the IW continues to be amongst the lowest in the country. Our community is in a really good place and we have a great chance to continue in keeping it that way if everyone continues to excel at following the guidelines we know so well. If we let our guard down for a second that advantage could easily slip away. The latest 'catchphrase' to remind us of the behaviours that prevent the transmission of the virus is:

- Hands – wash them often and for at least 20 seconds
- Face – wear a covering whenever required
- Space – observe all of the social distancing measures (minimum 2m wherever possible)

Anyone displaying symptoms of coronavirus, no matter how mild, should book a free test immediately by visiting the NHS website or by calling 119. The coronavirus testing centre for the Island is based at Newclose County Cricket Ground, Blackwater Road, Blackwater, PO30 3BE. You will be contacted by the NHS Test and Trace service if you test positive for Covid-19.

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☎ 07885 644426 ✉ [michael.beston@iow.gov.uk](mailto:michael.beston@iow.gov.uk)

# Dream team open new fine dining restaurant

The previous owners of fine dining restaurant, Fine Nammet, renowned for relaxed professional service and amazing food have teamed up with outstanding chef, Robert Green to bring Horizons to Shanklin.

Paul and Jenna Massey have created an exclusive fine dining restaurant at the Brunswick Hotel, offering eight tables, three times a day for lunch, afternoon tea and dinner.

Robert Green started his career working under Gordon Ramsey in London. His food is described as contemporary British, with some French twists. Booking for one of the three settings is essential. Guests are asked to call 01983 863245 to book. When the

weather is nice, Horizons will also be running a relaxed dining menu in the garden, with walk in tables available.

A loyalty card will be available for regular visitors, with a free three course fine dining experience and bottle of wine, available for those who have enjoyed eight lunches, eight dinners and eight afternoon teas at Horizons.

Chef Robert Green said: "We have the perfect location, with the restaurant overlooking the Solent horizon, hence why we called the restaurant Horizons. I love the idea of the exclusivity of the restaurant and I'm sure with my Three Buoys following and Paul and Jenna's Fine Nammet following, it will be hard to book a table. So book now to avoid disappointment!"



## Go Yellow this October

Mountbatten has asked Islanders to get behind their annual 'Go Yellow' fundraiser on 2nd October by planning an event or activity which is themed around yellow.

New features for this year include The Big Yellow Tea Party, organised as either a socially distanced event, in family bubbles or virtually.

"We are really excited for the return of Go Yellow," said Mountbatten's Community Fundraiser Dani Johnson. "We want people to have lots of fun with it. There are lots of options, from bathing in custard to selling yellow cakes and wearing yellow outfits for the day."

Posters, bunting, cake flags and other yellow accessories, including a special pack for organising a Big Yellow Tea Party, are available on Mountbatten's website to download.

A virtual sunflower field is also online for people to 'plant' a sunflower, perhaps with a special message in memory of a loved one.

Mountbatten's online shop is also selling 2020 sunflowers and other gifts for people to buy and wear for Go Yellow.

For more information, visit [mountbatten.org.uk](http://mountbatten.org.uk)





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# Foster carer encourages others to consider fostering

Isle of Wight-based foster carer Ros had long dreamed of creating a loving and nurturing home for both her own children and young people in care.

Working for almost four years as a support worker for vulnerable 16-25 year olds, Ros's eyes were opened to the different issues and challenges these young people had to face without a loving supportive family. At the end of each shift, Ros struggled to leave them, realising that she could do so much more by taking them into a home environment and offering 1:1 support – so she embarked on her life-changing journey as a single foster carer, and is currently caring for a 16-year old young lady.

After researching various options, she chose to foster through FamilyPlacement.com, part of National Fostering Group, attracted by its welcoming family feel, comprehensive training and support network and 'Good' Ofsted rating. "The children's wellbeing is at the heart of everything and staff are

dedicated to finding the right match between the foster carer and the child in your care."

Almost a year on, Ros knows it was the right decision. "The moments I treasure are when I can share in their success – it may be making a meal from scratch that they haven't made before, or conversations where they start to let you into their world and start trusting or relying on you. Being able to praise and talk about their positive progress with professionals – and letting them hear how proud you are – is also a joy. It is a wonderful feeling to know that you are slowly making a difference and helping these vulnerable young people to reach the future they deserve."

If you would like to make a similar difference to the lives of vulnerable children and young people in your local community by becoming a foster carer, visit [www.fostercarers.com](http://www.fostercarers.com) today and start your highly rewarding fostering adventure!



## News from Lake South

by Cllr Paul Brading

I hope everyone is keeping safe and well, but also managing to return to some form of normality.

Council life has continued to be extremely busy, with all meetings still remaining 'virtual'.

The issues relating to the land behind Premier Inn continue. At the owners request the meeting with the Planning Inspectorate, to determine the appeal against enforcement, was delayed from July to 8th September. I am waiting for that decision before considering the next steps, in the meantime I regularly visit the site where recently an incredible amount of earth movement has happened.

In my County Council Cabinet Role, I have been dealing with the partial reopening of schools, exams results, and now the full return to school of all students. I congratulate all students on their results in such a difficult year and cannot thank all school staff enough for all their hard work and commitment.

I have become increasingly concerned about safety in the Bay. I have witnessed dangerous behaviour from a handful of jet skis and motorboat users, and cyclists weaving dangerously in and out of people on the revetment. I managed to get the Bay used as a test area for the Beach Ambassadors project, which is working well, but I will push for further permanent measures to be put in place.

Thank you to one resident who asked me to have a look at the condition of the footbridge over Skew Bridge. I am pleased to report this is due to be replaced, and until this happens Island Roads are monitoring its condition monthly.

Local issues I have dealt with over recent months have been varied, Planning Applications; Bonfires in residential areas; rubbish lying around; disputes over cutting of grass verges, and benches.

☎ 07719174690 ✉ [paul.brading@iow.gov.uk](mailto:paul.brading@iow.gov.uk)

# Sandown Bay could become Island's "Jurassic Park"

By Oliver Dyer

The leader of the IW Council says he hopes to transform the "whole of Sandown Bay" into the Isle of Wight's very-own Jurassic Park, as he addressed the future of Brown's Golf Course.

The closure of Brown's Golf has raised questions over whether the council will include the land Brown's is on as part of any future deal for a new investment partner of Dinosaur Isle.

Speaking exclusively to Isle of Wight Radio, Councillor Dave Stewart — whose mother used to work at Brown's — hinted that this could be the case.

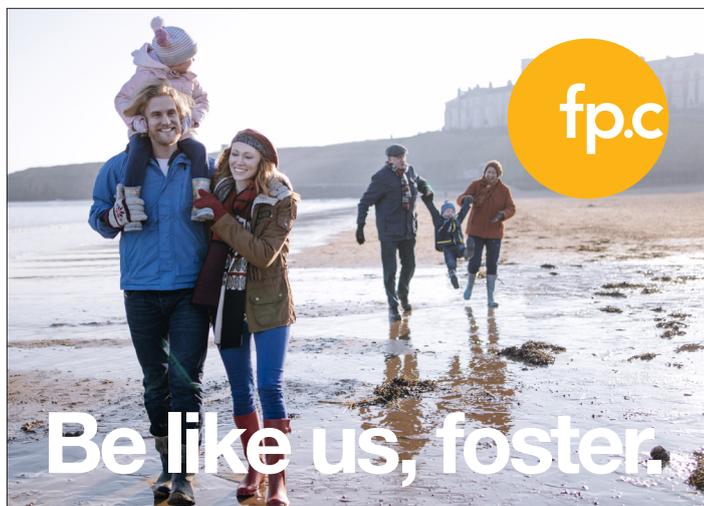
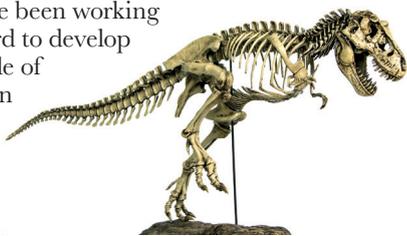
He said the area, including Brown's, "offers a fantastic opportunity, on the dinosaur theme, for development. We're looking at that whole area. We have a very big aspiration and have been working very hard to develop the whole of Sandown



Bay as what I might describe as our own dinosaur-destiny. It's a fantastic location, all the way through The Bandstand at one end, to the zoo at the other, and everything in between."

Brown's Golf Course has been run by Clare Oatley, John Deacon and Cheryl Brazer for the past seven seasons. After hearing the news of its closure, Islanders flocked to social media to thank the family for their years of service at the helm.

The IW Council says it is currently looking at options for Browns Golf, including a short-term tenant, whilst the long-term future of the site is decided as part of the Bay Regeneration.



## Be like us, foster.

**'The moments I treasure are when I can share in their success... It is a wonderful feeling to know that you are slowly making a difference and helping these vulnerable young people to reach the future they deserve.'**

(Ros - FPC Foster Carer, Isle of Wight)

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## News from Ryde South

by Cllr Charles Chapman

During my years in Office I have tried to support, encourage, and preserve various meeting places: be it art galleries, youth groups, pubs, coffee house, preschool clubs, lunch clubs etc. I have repeatedly gone on about the importance of people having places to meet, greet and socialise.

The importance of the internet has never proved so vital as during the 'lockdown'. People have used, relied and experimented with friends and family links over the internet. Pub, family and group quizzes have never been so popular. The use of shopping channels and online shopping has doubled, already local shops have closed and giant delivery concerns have increased their staff by thousands. We are all questioning when and if our high streets shops will return. It's up to us now how much of our future local services will survive.

For our mental health, we need places to meet, to shop, to talk, to socialise. So I put a plea in for to keeping our local shops open, our pubs, restaurants busy and especially keeping in contact with people, of all ages.

The Ryde Town and Parish Town Council have agreed to go forward with the purchase of St. Thomas's Church. Many of you already use the gardens with it's spacious and welcome open space at the top of Ryde High Street. It will provide additional services especially for our young people, as we have lost the battle over Wells Street Youth Club. It will provide a useful space as a gallery, indoor market and work area. It will bring an historic building back into public use. It no longer has a spire, which I believe was removed sometime in the 19th century. Anybody who has any information or pictures about the church and its spire, can you please drop them into the Ryde Town and Parish Council Office in Lind Street.

The Waterside Pool is open, with restrictions and by appointment. Ryde library is open, phone to get further information. Currently it is open from 10am to 12pm and 2pm to 4pm Monday to Friday. You will need to wear face mask and sign in.

I reported subsidence in Harding Road and Great Preston Road and a number of pot holes. I have been told that the subsidence is being monitored and that the pot holes will be filled. In the New Year I am looking at a mainland scheme which uses local volunteers to identify pot holes and ensure that they do not get overlooked.

VJ Day was attended by the Ryde Branch of the Royal British Legion, of which I am very proud to be its President. It was held at Ryde seafront where the flag was raised. Thank you for those who attended in the pouring rain!

📞 07867 626 733 📧 charles.chapman@iow.gov.uk



# Isle of Wight chosen for e-scooter trial

By Iona Stewart-Richardson

The Isle of Wight is among four places pitching for an E-Scooter trial, which could see Islanders hop onto the two-wheeled vehicles at the touch of a button as soon as next month.

Solent Transport, working with local authorities is attempting to launch the trial in Hampshire, Portsmouth, Southampton and on the Isle of Wight. It comes just months after the rental vehicles became legal on our roads at the start of July.

Just last week, retailer Halfords said sales of electric bikes and scooters more than tripled over the summer, as people looked to avoid using public transport because of Coronavirus.

The Department for Transport (DfT) says any area can apply to be considered for the 12-month e-scooter scheme, in a bid to support a 'green' restart of local travel and take the pressure off public transport links.

If the contract is awarded it would see Ryde, Newport and Cowes be the main areas of focus. Users, aged 16 or over, need a full or provisional license to be allowed on an e-scooter.

But you will not be required to complete a mandatory training course (such as the compulsory basic training (CBT) course required for motorcycles and mopeds). Providers who can offer training courses are being considered by local authority.

To ensure the scooters cannot be used outside designated trial zones, there will be an onboard GPS restricting you to a certain zone. You can not exceed 15.5 mph under any circumstances and the limit may be set to a lower top speed in some areas. They are powered by an electric motor and battery, with a maximum continuous power rating of 500W.

Once the green light is given by the DfT and the local authority, trials will commence in phases from October 2020 through to March 2021.

The initial aim is to build evidence about the safety, benefits, public perceptions and wider impacts of e-scooters so legal changes can be made after the trial period is over. The e-scooters will be subject to the approval of the local highway authorities as well as the DfT and no formal decision has yet been made.

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## Salvation Army receive table football



The Lions Club of Ryde have presented a table football game to The Salvation Army IW Homelessness Service.

Lion President, Barrie Jehan, presented the plaque to Tim Wilkes, Programme Co-Ordinator. Due to Covid-19, the presentation was made outside of Fellowship House, Ryde. Also in attendance were John

Smith (Community Service) and prospective new member, Theresa Bignell.



# 1920s telephone box restoration

A 1920s telephone box located in Bembridge High Street has been lovingly restored. Installed in the early 1920s, it is believed to be the last surviving K1 box still in daily use. As a 'building of special historic or architectural interest', this K1 telephone box was listed on 6th August 1986 by Lord Elton, the Environment Minister of the day, giving it Grade II status.

This telephone box is the property of Bembridge Parish Council and the telephone equipment remains the property of BT.

Grant funding was obtained from the Eastwight Landscape Partnership for the restoration and after some delays due to Covid, works began in June 2020.

These works included repairing door and all window frames, new glass, clearing off all old paint and repainting with heritage paints, all carried out by local tradesmen.

Parish Lengthsmen

and Village Partnership Group members were involved with cleaning the box, the surrounding area and publicising the restoration.

Works were completed in September 2020, and Bembridge residents and tourists will benefit from the restoration and continued service of the telephone box, whilst saving a small piece of history for the village and country.

Thank you to George Archer, Duncan Spite, Richard Buckley Decorators, East Wight Landscape Partnership and the Village Partnership for preserving this iconic Bembridge landmark.



# Over 50s challenge themselves with new scheme

A new personal development programme has been created to help adults over the age of 50 to invest in themselves during these challenging times.

Covid-19 has had profound effects on how we interact with others. It is very easy to feel overwhelmed. The news seems so negative, particularly if you are older and it feels like we must withdraw from ordinary life.

Project Director, Christina Conroy OBE, said: "Challenge Age has been designed to enable participants to gain the skills they need to fully participate in the new order but also to challenge themselves to realise greater personal fulfilment and confidence."

Inspired by the Duke of Edinburgh scheme, Challenge Age promotes wellbeing (both physical and mental), positive

lifestyles, preparation for retirement or new employment outcomes. It is about ageing positively, gaining new skills and new social networks to achieve self-fulfilment. The programme is supported by the IW Council.

The overall programme is arranged so that learners gain the digital skills to be confident online. They then progress to undertake four challenges at Bronze, Silver and Gold. The four challenges are to undertake a sport or exercise; engage in a community service; undertake a new interest or skill and complete an expedition. Learning takes place online, in virtual meetings and outdoors. The programme is designed with a high level of user safety for all staff and participants to reduce risk.

[www.challengeage.com](http://www.challengeage.com)



## News from Bembridge

by Cllr Michael Murwill

**UK Government Consultation - Planning for the Future:** I believe this is one of the most critical consultations that the UK Government have put forward to the public. It is our chance as individuals (and councils) to have our say. If the government is successful with its reforms, we could see the housing target for the Isle of Wight double to approximately 1,100 new properties per year. You can find the consultation document at: [www.gov.uk/government/consultations/planning-for-the-future](http://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/planning-for-the-future). This consultation will close at 23.45 on Thursday 29th October 2020. Responses can be submitted online or by email to [planningforthefuture@communities.gov.uk](mailto:planningforthefuture@communities.gov.uk). Alternatively, write to: Planning for the Future Consultation, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, 3rd Floor, Fry Building, 2 Marsham Street, London, SW1P 4DF.

**IW Council tips now accept kerbside general waste:** Good news. The Island's household waste recycling centres (HWRCs) at Lynnbottom and Afton Marsh, now accept kerbside general waste. The booking system remains in place to maintain effective social distancing measures to protect staff and visitors. Bookings can be made online at: [www.iwight.com/hwrcbooking](http://www.iwight.com/hwrcbooking). Most items can be recycled rather than being in the general waste and a recent study revealed more than half of general waste dumped at the tip could have been recycled.

I hope that you continue to keep safe and healthy. Should you need help, please telephone the IWC Coronavirus helpline 01983 823 600 or, for the latest advice, please visit the IWC Coronavirus website: [www.iow.gov.uk/news/Council-ramps-up-reminders-for-Covid-19](http://www.iow.gov.uk/news/Council-ramps-up-reminders-for-Covid-19). Island residents can also access mental health support and advice online at [www.iwmentalhealth.co.uk](http://www.iwmentalhealth.co.uk)

**Meetings:** To ensure safety, meetings are held virtually via Microsoft Teams.

### October dates for your diary:

1st - 17:00	Policy and Scrutiny Committee for Neighbourhoods & Regeneration
6th - 17:00	Corporate Scrutiny Committee
8th - 17:00	Cabinet
14th - 14:00	Isle of Wight Fire Authority Fire Fighters Pension Board
15th - 09:30	Health and Wellbeing Board
28th - 10:30	Isle of Wight Pension Fund Committee

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# Ryde Town Council

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## Charles Dimmick's Fantastic Flower Market – A blooming success

On Monday 31st August, Charles Dimmick's Fantastic Flower Market took place in Minghella Square, Ryde. The project, which engaged a group of Network Ryde's young people during July – August, was part of Ryde's HAZ funding (Heritage Action Zone). The young people made merchandise such as badges, cloth bags, seed bombs and cards, and propagated plants to sell at the market. The market was a huge success, and the young people raised an amazing £358. The proceeds of which will go towards Network Ryde's new allotment. The young people will decide what to spend the money on and will all benefit directly from the funds raised.

Becky Swan (Youth Work Manager) commented: "The Flower Market was an amazing success and it was so wonderful to see so many of the public support the event. For our young people it was a fantastic

opportunity to learn new skills and engage with support over the summer holidays. For some this was a lifeline for social interaction with others following lockdown. We look forward to spending the money raised on equipment for the Network Ryde Allotment."

Network Ryde has re-opened with Covid secure measures in place, which will include sessions at the new allotment as an integral part of their schedule.

Network Ryde will be running a 6-week timetable. All bookings for the week are to be made during our hot chocolate and toast takeaway on a Monday 15:15pm -17:00pm. **Please follow us @networkryde on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter to keep up to date with the new timetable.**

## Ryde Corporate Plan 2020 – 2025

Ryde Town Council's Corporate Plan 2020-2025 was approved by Full Council on 1st



September 2020. The Corporate Plan is our main strategic document, providing a framework for the delivery of services. It is a clear statement of our vision and priorities.

The Corporate Plan has five main objectives:

- Protect and improve access to public services
- Protect, enhance, support, and celebrate the town's environment
- Promote and support the local economy
- Protect and promote the interests of residents
- Improve the efficiency, effectiveness, and accountability of governance in the town

A copy of the corporate plan can be found on our website [rydetowncouncil.org.uk](http://rydetowncouncil.org.uk).

## Grants

The Town Council has recently created a separate committee to consider grant applications and is in the process of reviewing criteria and information required for applications to be considered. It is hoped that this will be in place sometime in October and further information and the redesigned application forms will be added to our website in the near future.



*The Flower Market was an amazing success and it was so wonderful to see so many of the public support the event*



Mayor of Ryde,  
Cllr Michael Lilley

Ryde Town Council has made some important decisions during the summer. At its September Full Council meeting it approved our first Corporate Business Plan 2020-25. This plan was developed prior to the Covid19 crisis, however it has become very relevant as the focus is the health and well-being of Ryde residents. We are faced with the consequences of Covid19 this winter and need the Town Council to be proactive in making sure the town survives and prospers. We have already started to remarket the Town as a safe tourist destination and in August launched the Ticket to Ryde campaign with Wightlink and Hovertravel.

This Corporate Plan is a live working document to enable all the stakeholders and residents in the town to come together to maximise its potential. It is very proactive in tackling issues such as revitalising our High Street, retail areas, harbour and esplanade. It encourages our existing vibrant creative and socially orientated business sector to develop and grow. It also faces up to the reality of the need to bring back empty and decaying historic buildings such as St. Thomas's Heritage Centre and Ryde Old Town Hall and Theatre into active community use. Together, we will enable the Town on the Beach to be resilient and successful. Ryde is a strong community spirited town that is a healthy, innovative and beautiful place to live. Stay safe knowing there is support for you and your family in our town.

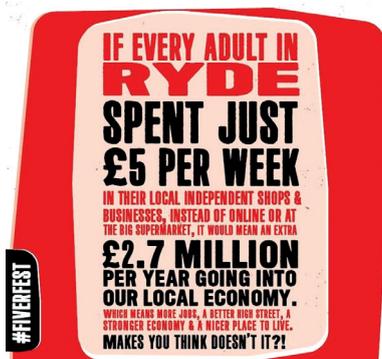
## Council meetings scheduled for October

Date	Meeting	Time	Venue
6th October	Planning committee	7pm	Youtube link on RTC website under -Minutes and Agendas
8th October	Acquisition and commercial Management Committee	2pm	Youtube link on RTC website under -Minutes and Agendas
20th October	Facilities and Assets Committee	2pm	Youtube link on RTC website under - Minutes and Agendas

## Fiver Fest

Ryde Businesses will once again be taking part in National Fiver Fest. From the 10th-24th October, look out for the Fiver Fest offers and incentives at a variety of shops and businesses.

The aim is to continue to promote the shopping habits by using your local independent shops, little and often, even just £5 a week can make a big difference.



For more Ryde Business info follow: Ryde Business Association Facebook page @RBAIsleofWight



# Shanklin Town Council

Town Clerk RFO: Ms S. Janeway LL.B (Hons) CiLCA MSLCC,  
Victoria Avenue, Shanklin PO37 6PG

☎ 01983 865101 ✉ shanklintowncouncil@hotmail.com  
🌐 www.shanklintowncouncil.co.uk

## Annual Report of 2019-2020 – Part Three

The cost of the Town Council's activities is financed by levying what is known as a precept set by the Town Council, which is then added to the Council Tax Levy set by the Isle of Wight Council. The precept for 2020-2021 is £295,000 + a transitional grant of £2,918.

Shanklin Town Council are well aware of the financial pressures faced by Shanklin residents and have worked hard to only increase the precept when necessary.

Relentless public sector funding cuts has seen us taking on services stopped by the Isle of Wight Council, which include the library, beach bin emptying, grass cutting, beach safety, five toilets in the town and school crossing patrol and in 2020-21 bedding plants. We have taken these services on because residents have indicated they want them to continue. We shall continue to control costs and give value for money.

We have the freehold to five of the toilets. We will continue to exercise prudent financial management without compromising essential services for the community.

We refurbished two toilet

blocks with state of the art fittings for which we have won two platinum awards. March saw the completion of the new library in Falcon Cross Road.

My new office will be completed in the autumn, these projects we have achieved with no borrowings; the toilets we raised the precept for after asking residents if that is what they wanted, the rest through prudent financial management.

We contribute to the services of an Environment Officer which means that we have direct access so issues in the town are responded to faster.

The Town Council has its own Financial Regulations, which set down the rules by which the finances of the Town Council are managed. The Town Council employs an independent internal auditor who makes two visits each year to review the financial records. At the end of the year, an audit return is completed and submitted for the purposes of external audit.

Included in this report is an internal audited external unaudited financial summary for the Town Council for the year to 31st March 2020.

### Internal audited simplified summary Income & Expenditure for the year ended 31st March 2020

Income	£
Precept + transitional grant	287918
Interest & Investment Income	231
Falcon Cross Receipts	5691
Grants	1500
Library Income	833
Toilets	9760
Miscellaneous + (VAT recovered)	11568
Total Receipts	317501
Expenditure	£
Running Costs	118276
Other Expenditure	71317
Falcon Cross Payments	4413
S.137 Payments	20
Capital payments	100767
Total Payments	294793



# Ventnor Town Council

1 Salisbury Gardens, Dudley Road, Ventnor PO38 1EJ.

☎ 01983 857840 ✉ [townclerk@ventnortowncouncil.org.uk](mailto:townclerk@ventnortowncouncil.org.uk) 🌐 [www.ventnortowncouncil.org.uk](http://www.ventnortowncouncil.org.uk)

## Supporting vulnerable residents

Our amazing team of residents that volunteered to support the town's vulnerable people unable to leave their homes due to Covid-19 –by doing their shopping and collecting their medications– have completed nearly 1,000 collections within arrangements made by our staff team. Over 200 shopping trips have been completed with a total value of over £8,500 with payments made by card by the volunteers, refunded by the Council and reclaimed from the residents.

## Reopened services

We are delighted that we have been able to re-open our local services that were closed by the lockdown in time for most of the main holiday season. The Esplanade and Ventnor Park public toilets re-opened on 5 June with the Outdoor Gym open again from 25 July followed by the Paddling Pool on 1 August after detailed Risk Assessments and clear signage.

## 31 bus service

On Tuesday 18 August we were able to

restart this community bus service linking St Lawrence and Bonchurch to the town centre following a risk assessment by and signage and social distancing agreed with the supplier. It now runs regularly on Tuesdays and Fridays.

## New staff

Three new staff joined us in September. The postponed interviews for replacement of our Youth Project Officer post resulted in the appointment of one of our Sessional Workers to the lead role from 21 September; we recruited an additional cleaner in response to the increased cleaning time our risk assessment required for our toilets and outdoor gym; and we have replaced our original part-time staff member leading our Anxiety Café project.

## New funding

We've secured two more funding application successes: Natural England recently funded us to develop an area at Wheelers' Bay as a natural habitat for the rare Glanville Fritillary Butterfly; it has now confirmed that it will make a further £1,000 available this year for the maintenance of the area. The Violence

Reduction Fund from the Isle of Wight Community Safety Partnership has agreed a contribution to our youth work of £2,880.

## New public toilet

Our application for Building Regulations Approval for our proposed new public toilet on the Central Car Park has now been granted. The detailed specification for the works is now being prepared and we expect the tender process to be complete by the end of this month.

## Ventnor Park

Following the decision of the Isle of Wight Council to fund only the grass cutting at Ventnor Park from this year the Town Council, with strong resident support, opted to take on the additional cost of full maintenance to the long established high standards in exchange for a lease of the park to the Town Council. An important milestone in those discussions was reached at the August Town Council meeting when Heads of Terms for a 30-year lease were agreed. The full lease is now in preparation by the Isle of Wight Council.

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# General Power of Attorney

Recent events have highlighted problems for people managing to carry out basic every day tasks whilst shielding, or in lockdown.

**We have seen the community come together to deliver food supplies and medicines to help out, which has been fantastic. As we approach winter and the number of Covid cases are rising, it seems a good time to think about how we will deal with a second spike and plan ahead.**

To make sure someone has the authority to help you when you are unable to get out and about or in hospital, you could consider setting up a temporary document called a General Power of Attorney. It allows you to give legal permission to someone else to make decisions and sign documents on your behalf or, for example, go to the bank. It is only for use when you still have mental capacity but are unavailable to act in

person and is usually used on a short-term basis.

The person you choose to help you would be your 'attorney'. The most important factor in choosing someone to act as your attorney is that you trust them. They need to be over 18, have mental capacity and not be discharged or interim bankrupt.

You can set an end date in the General Power of Attorney or you can revoke it by deed. It will also come to an end if you lose mental capacity. General Powers of Attorney are much quicker, cheaper and easier to set up than a Lasting Power of Attorney and can be a useful 'quick fix' in an emergency.

If you want to limit what your attorney can do, or you want your attorney to carry on helping you if you lose mental capacity, then you may be better off considering a Lasting Power of Attorney.

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# Event helps those hit financially by Covid

Island charities and help organisations are holding a free event to help people hit financially by the Covid-19 crisis.

The event will take place at the Riverside Centre, Newport Quay on Thursday 15th October, from 9.30am-1.30pm. It is organised by the local Footprint Trust and the Islehelp Partnership. Those attending include; Citizens Advice, AgeUK, People Matter, SSAFA and IW Council.

Guests can have a friendly chat with experts from a range of organisations, and will get a free cup of tea and a slice of cake! Thanks to The Southern Co-operative a free raffle has been provided, with the chance of winning a delicious food hamper.

The Island's Footprint Trust have issued a stark warning about growing levels of poverty on the Isle of Wight, post-Covid. This is due to increased levels of unemployment, shorter working hours, and the hit on the tourist trade. This adds to the general underlying child and fuel poverty on the Island, one of the highest in south-east England.

After the event experts will be available via a Facebook link, or by phone to take questions, for those not able to attend.

In the meantime anyone with any concerns or needing immediate help can contact Islehelp: [enquiries@iwcab.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@iwcab.org.uk) or phone 03444 111 444 or The Footprint Trust [info@footprint-trust.co.uk](mailto:info@footprint-trust.co.uk) or phone 01983 822282.



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There will be an info session on Facebook from 2pm to 4pm with local experts on hand.

**For more information or immediate help contact the organisers The Footprint Trust:**  
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Versatile and long-lived, no plants give better fiery autumnal colours than acers, says Flo Whitaker

# BLAZE AWAY!

**A** long-held gardening myth confidently states that acers require shade and acid soil. In fact, many varieties are unfussy about soil type and enjoy a brightly-lit spot. All acers require two fundamental things to thrive; nutritious, moisture-retentive soil and wind shelter, so if you can provide that environment, there are varieties that will suit your garden.

As a general rule, red/dark-leaved types are tougher and require more sunlight than their paler/variegated-leaved relatives. When planted in shade, red-leaved acers often produce dull mahogany brown leaves instead of the dramatic fiery foliage they are so famous for. Dark leaf pigmentation is Mother Nature's sunscreen (that's why juvenile leaves of many plants have red/pink colouration), so if you have a dark-leaved acer that's sulking in shade, try moving it to a sunnier location and you may be pleasantly surprised next year.



A young acer should be moved into a slightly larger pot every couple of years, preferably in early spring. Carefully choose the right container. 'Ali Baba' style pots (where the rim is a smaller diameter than the body of the pot) are best avoided

fallen in love with a particular acer variety? Think before you reach for your credit card – acers aren't cheap! Can you provide the right conditions? Is it a sun-lover or a shady character? Also, consider its eventual height/spread. Acers do not respond well to pruning – a bad haircut on a mature acer that's outgrown its allotted space is a sorry sight.

A solo-planted specimen makes a dramatic 'eye-catcher', but acers are equally at home in a mixed border – their foliage compliments any flower. They also look splendid when grouped together in pots. In a shady location, potted acers, ferns and violas make classic planting partners, while in springtime, a patio pot display incorporating acers and the vivid blooms of tulips, primulas and cyclamen coum is hard to beat.



*"In a shady location, potted acers, ferns and violas make classic planting partners"*

as the restricted top makes it virtually impossible to remove a plant with a substantial root system – sadly, smashing the pot is often the only solution. When the maximum practical pot size has been attained, refresh the soil by 'top-dressing' every spring. Gently remove the top few centimetres of soil and replace with a fresh soil-based compost that has leaf mould and multi-purpose fertiliser added to the mix.

Potted acers will enjoy a fortnightly feed throughout spring and summer. Seaweed tonic is marvellous stuff and can be applied to the roots or used as a foliar feed; dilute the recommended amount into a watering can and sprinkle over the foliage or water directly onto the soil. Acers are long-lived plants that become more characterful as they age. Given a little care, they will continue to add interest to your garden for many years. ☺

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