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INTERVIEW
JOE McFADDEN

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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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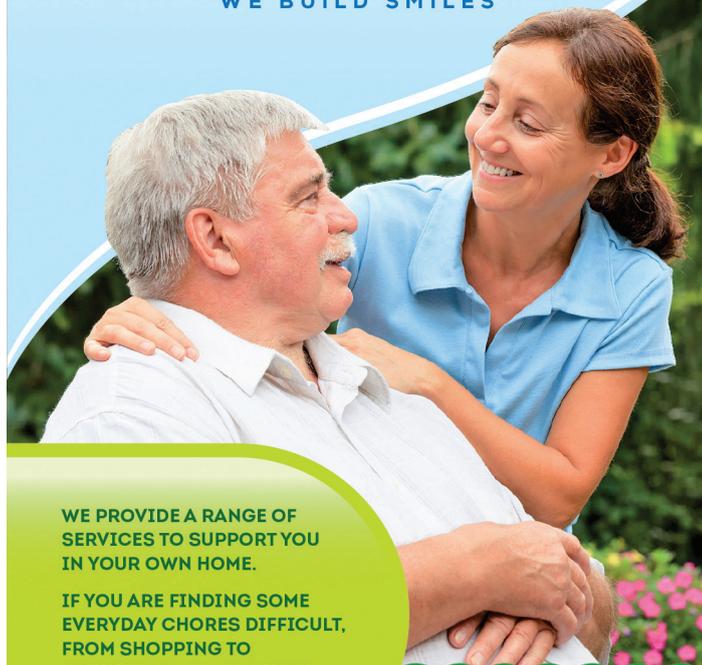
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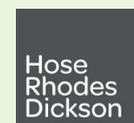
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A day to remember with

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*.

Nowadays, 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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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

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. ³

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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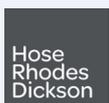


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Cycling the Island

with Paul Topping



Earlier 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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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.

It'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 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/



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.

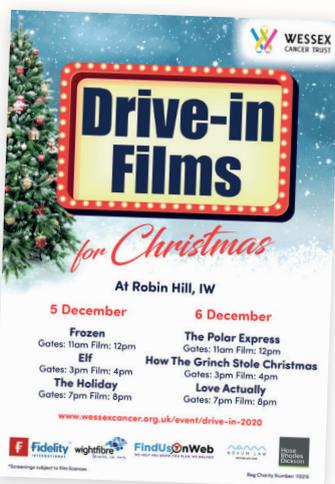
The cinema will feature six epic festive films screened over two days to raise money for Wessex Cancer Trust. The films to be screened on the Saturday are Frozen, Elf and The Holiday, while, on Sunday, The Polar Express, How The Grinch Stole Christmas and Love Actually will be aired on a giant LED screen, 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. 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.



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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



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Mountbatten



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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.

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Isle of Wight Direct Cremation

Located on the Isle of Wight for the Isle of Wight

Brought to you from an Independent Funeral Directors who has nearly 200 years of experience looking after families on the Island. We are the only funeral directors based on the Isle of Wight dedicated to this style of service at isleofwightdirectcremation.co.uk or call us on **01983 632598**

How does it work?

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

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

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

How much does a direct cremation cost?

We have 2 options to choose from:-

- Our 'Island Way' is £1,695.00, this is for a direct cremation at the Isle of Wight Crematorium
- Our 'Wessex Way' is £1,495.00, this is for a direct cremation at a mainland crematorium.

We offer this option for families that would like to take advantage of the savings that mainland crematoriums offer. We then pass this saving onto families. Both these options

are all inclusive with no hidden additional costs; unlike mainland providers who charge additionally for ferry fares.

Why Choose it?

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

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

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

Who is Isle of Wight Direct Cremation?

We are independent family funeral directors based here on the Isle of Wight. We are the Isle of Wight's longest running established undertakers.

We have offices based in Bembridge & East Cowes so you can come in, or call us on **632598** or even visit us on line at www.isleofwightdirectcremation.co.uk. With over 190 years of experience we are on hand to make a difficult time easier.

Do you offer pre paid direct cremation funeral plans?

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

A pre paid funeral plan offers total security. There are flexible payment options too. We use Golden Charter pre paid funeral plans as they allow you to pay at today's prices and avoid rising costs.

Who is Golden Charter?

Golden Charter is the UK's market leader for providing pre paid funeral plans to Independent Funeral Directors since 1989. Your funds are safe and are placed into The Golden Charter Trust. The Trust will pay out for every plan that pays into it.

Golden Charter
Funeral Plans



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Becoming 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.

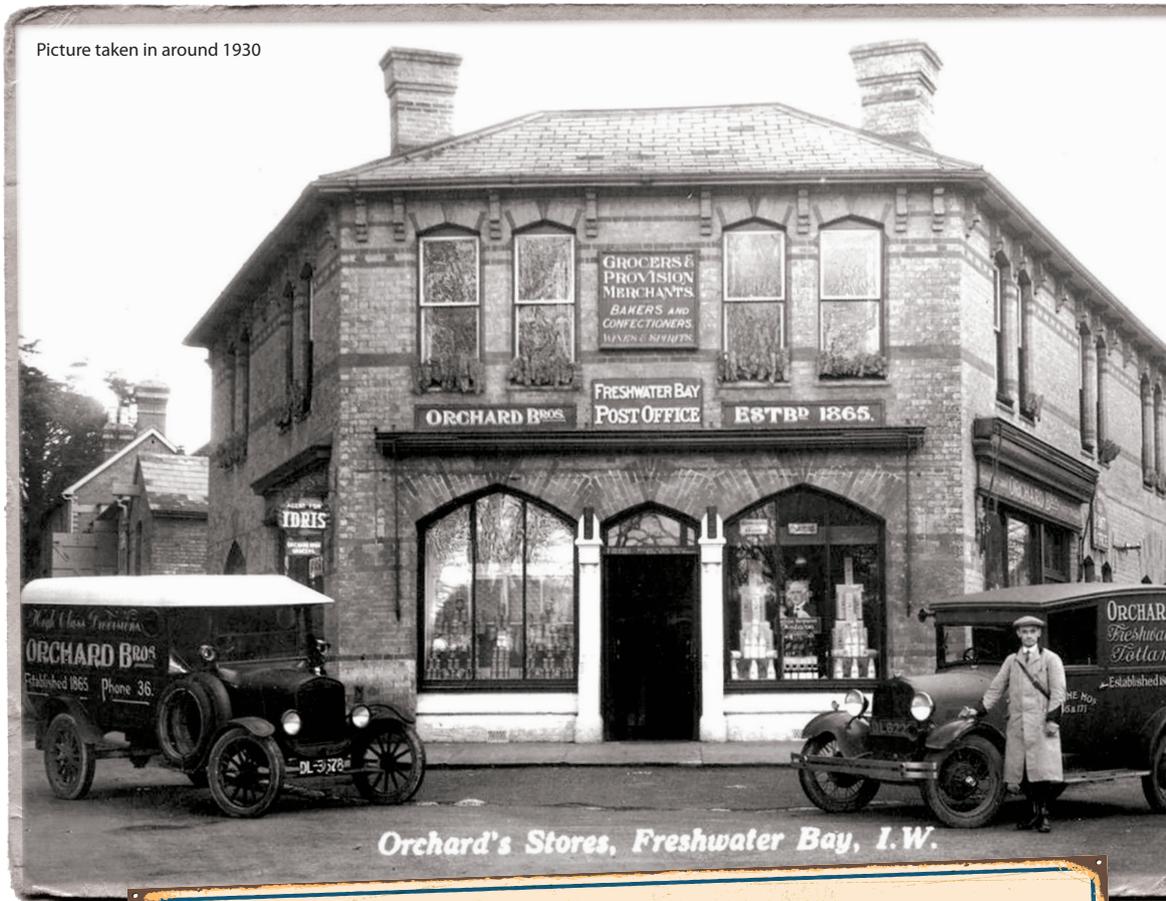
"Mr Tennyson's correspondence is very large as you know & my correspondence averages 300 letters every month, my fortnightly correspondence to Ceylon being about 10s to 12s every month. This I tell you to convince you that it is important to us to have a central and convenient Post Office," she wrote.

"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, Brighthelm – 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 Orchards 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. Orchards 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.

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

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



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.



Isle of Wight
Education Federation



We are an increasingly over-subscribed, smaller than average 11-16 school, small enough to know each and every student and treat them as individuals. We may be small and caring, but we have huge ambitions and expectations. We also benefit from a brand new, state-of-the-art building which has been designed and built specifically for our young people.

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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 and 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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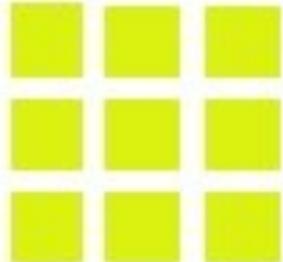
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News from Central Newport

by Cllr Julie Jones-Evans

We were hoping to resume physical Council meetings at Newport and Carisbrooke Community Council, however due to the current Covid-19 situation we have decided to carry on holding virtual meetings for the time being. At our last meeting we donated £150 to Victim Support and discussed the co-opting of a new member for Carisbrooke and Gunville. If you are interested in representing this area please contact the office for further information, on 559119 or clerk@newportwight.org.uk



Post Office Lane toilet green roof has been installed and the landscaping begun, including a lime tree which is an excellent pollinator.

Shaping Newport is still making and the High Street Heritage Action Zone will be selecting a contractor for the Design Code shortly and a website will be launched.

I've been giving feedback to the IW Council regarding the pop-up active travel schemes, I'm concerned that putting in half-baked schemes will be detrimental to the overall aims to create a better walking and cycling environment.

I'm really pleased that the IW Council, NCCC and Newport Business Association are putting in funds to support my proposal that we have an Island Card, essentially a pre-loaded payment card that can be spent at local businesses to help rebuild our Island economy.

☎ 01983 521068 / 07886437688
 ✉ julie.jones-evans@iow.gov.uk

Newport boutique hosts raffle for domestic abuse charity

Below left-right: Rachel Lamy, Sarah Murphy, Georgia Kohn-Smith, Imogen Dixcey

By Iona Stewart-Richardson

A Newport boutique is holding a raffle in aid of the Island's domestic abuse charity Wight DASH.

Pin Up Girls in Lugley Street has 40 prizes on offer for Islanders who take part. All you need to do to enter is go and visit the store and buy a ticket. Tickets are either £2 or five for £5.

Winners will be drawn from the hat — which will be streamed live on social media shortly after October 10.

Owner of the boutique, Emma Melson, said: "Domestic abuse is more common than many realise and it's been on the rise recently through lockdown. We all wanted to help raise awareness and funds for IW DASH, the amazing

charity that supports people on the Island if they find themselves in an abusive relationship. Charities have suffered through the pandemic as their normal fundraising routes have been limited.

"We're very excited to be able to help and with so many fantastic prizes on offer, we hope our customers and friends will be keen to be involved!"



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New dedicated direct cremation service



The Island's longest running undertakers have set up a dedicated direct cremation service — providing grieving families with the freedom to celebrate their loved one in their own way.

Weaver Brothers have been independent funeral directors for nearly 200 years. Over the years they have been asked to carry out simple, direct cremations by families who wish to hold no funeral service before the cremation, or for a service which is unattended by ministers, family and friends. Since then, demand has grown so much that Weavers decided to set up a dedicated service called 'Isle of Wight Direct Cremation'.

A direct cremation separates the celebration of life from the cremation. The cremation takes place without anyone present,

allowing you and your family the freedom to celebrate your loved one at a time, place and venue of your choice.

Isle of Wight Direct Cremation carry out this service in the same dignified, professional way as they would do for any funeral they undertake. The simple nature of a direct cremation is reflected in the price.

Isle of Wight Direct

Cremation also offer pre-paid Golden Charter funeral plans, which provides people a way of planning ahead by making arrangements and paying for the cremation in advance. A pre-paid funeral plan offers total security and allows you to pay the cost at today's prices, thus avoiding rising cremation costs. It also gives peace of mind and avoids any unnecessary stress on loved ones left behind.

isleofwightdirectcremation.co.uk



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.

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 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 difference by becoming a foster carer, visit www.fostercarers.com.



News from Cowes Medina

by Cllr Lora Peacey-Wilcox

Traffic orders: IW councillors have been issued with a raft of traffic orders for all over the area, Stanley Rd, Cotton Close, Ash Grove, Newport Rd, St Faiths, the list is large. I am trying to speak with residents to gauge their opinions. I will go with the majority when I fight/agree the outcome!

Police: We have nine new recruits joining us, hopefully by the end of the year.

Distancing: More complaints over the fact people are not 2M apart in our high streets. We must remember, that some people are petrified of catching Covid, so try your best to give people space.

No Sail GP: A huge shame, but dates and timings have not worked out.

Medina Yard: Still not a lot of movement at the site; however, huge thanks to Medina Yard chaps for sorting out a noise issue for residents.

Parking Gurnard Esplanade: Like many of you that have contacted me, I am totally

against this idea.

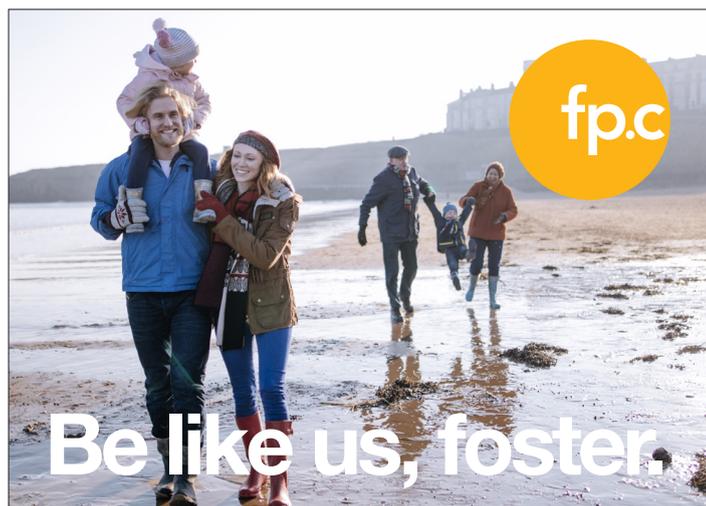
Cycle lanes: Beckford Road scheme. The cycle lanes have been put on hold. I understood these while we were at the peak of lockdown; however, a lot more cars are now on the roads, so I feel this is too little too late. Thanks to those residents that formed a very dynamic group in opposing the scheme.

Whitegates pontoon: My grateful thanks to the two harbour masters, Cowes and Newport who met and agreed a way forward to maintain and keep the area free of a 'raft' of not very sea worthy craft from being stored there. We are considering putting in CCTV to the area, due to anti-social behaviour in the area also.

Literary Festival: Like everything else, it is online this year. Please look at the website for up to minute details: isleofwightliteraryfestival.com.

As always, I know you are my extra eyes and ears. I will get back to you, as soon as I can.

 [lora08@sky.com](https://twitter.com/lora08@sky.com)



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)

Call: **01993 706925**

Visit: **www.familyplacement.com**

Email: **info@familyplacement.com**



News from Cowes West

by Cllr Paul Fuller

Gurnard: Gas main essential works: Coming as a surprise following the summer, was 'essential' roadworks that took place from last month. After an initial lack of warning, contractors were then brilliant working weekends to ensure Worsley Road opened ahead of schedule. Many thanks to residents and businesses for their patience!

Cowes/Gurnard seafront charging proposals: Thank you to the many residents who expressed their views concerning this suggestion. Despite the deadline for comments ending – the fight goes on! Please visit my website for updates and details.

Other parking matters: In addition to proposals above, the IW Council are also intending to implement charges at Cowes Park and Ride, as well as charging 24hrs per day, 365 days per year in Queens Road.

Cowes Floating Bridge: I continue to receive unending questions concerning the functionality of the Floating Bridge. Answers and updates from officers can be found again on my website.

Firs Close: A very big well done to residents from Firs Close who have taken it upon themselves (no interference from the local councillor!) to look after a grass verge in the close! I continue to be in full support of this initiative, which will be overseen by Cowes Town Council. Thank you, to all involved!

Oil Farm Application: I continue to receive feedback on this application, and support this planning application being considered in public to ensure openness and transparency.

Cowes Medical Centre: Patients Participation Group: My grateful thanks and appreciation to the volunteers who were members of the Medical Centre's Patients Participation Group, who took the decision to resign last month. From my perspective I remain in touch the Medical Centre and will feedback information once received.

☎ 01983 289595/ 07935 090 835 ✉ paulfulleriw@gmail.com



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

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Dimbola Museum and Galleries opens

Dimbola Museum and Galleries, in Freshwater has reopened, with social distancing and cleaning measures in places, as well as a new circular one-way route around the house.

The museum will be limiting visitor numbers, and strongly advises buying your tickets in advance to avoid disappointment.

The exhibitions that were planned for the lockdown period on the links between Dimbola and South East Asia, and a major Jimi Hendrix summer show, have been postponed until 2021. The museum has also completely rehinged their celebration of the Solo IW Festivals.

Dimbola Museum and Galleries is delighted to welcome back long-standing customers, new visitors, supporters and friends to the newly renovated building and asks for a little patience while they get used to the new way of operating.

Check the website for opening hours in October and to purchase tickets: www.dimbola.co.uk. Use promo code Dimbola10 to enjoy a 10% discount.



News from Central Wight

by Cllr Steve Hastings

Next year's county elections: Yes folks, it cometh around again and I can't believe we are back to election time again already; it has flown past and has been incredibly busy in the Council.

This is a good time to remind everybody to get registered for your say if you haven't already done so and to confirm your details when the form comes in the post, which it will do if it hasn't already. When you get your form just check the details and if anything needs to be changed send the form back ASAP or adjust it online. If you don't already have a postal vote, you might want to apply for one which you can do with the same form or online, I have to say since I have had a postal vote I find it much better and so easy to deal with and you don't have to go out in the cold, wind and rain, just deal with it from your sofa in front of the fire! The elections of 2021 have another twist to them as we have now had the decision from the Election Commission on boundary changes and as you can see by the map my ward is to change considerably. The new ward with Brighthorne in it will be called Brighthorne, Calbourne and Shalfleet, they did want to call it just Brighthorne but I objected to that, as the other villages would not be named. Unfortunately the maximum number of names for a ward is three so they wouldn't allow Newbridge, Porchfield etc. to be added also.



Portfolio Changes: I am very pleased to announce that the Leader has asked me to take on the Environment and Heritage portfolio following Cllr Hobart's request to step down from the Cabinet. Cllr Hobart will be a hard act to follow as he has been a very hard working Councillor and there is a lot happening in the portfolio but follow him I will and I am very excited to take this on as well as keeping Waste Management within my portfolio which also has some exciting things happening going forward.

Cllr Hobart will still be dealing with the coastal path though until the end of his term as we approach the elections of 2021. Sir John has worked especially hard on our coastal path and it is only right and proper that he has the opportunity to complete this work in the coming months. I think once he has achieved the completion of the coastal path we should erect a statue for him somewhere on the path of his choice!

New retaining wall at Brook: Island Roads are applying for planning permission for a 25m retaining wall to be placed at Brook to halt the erosion, which is rapidly approaching the Military Road at that point.

This is within the contract with Island Roads and was going to be a bridge but it is now considered better to be a non-intrusive retaining wall which can cover more area than a bridge would have done and at no extra cost. As the erosion is somewhat unpredictable it means that if it moves position then the retaining wall can be moved also to align with it unlike a bridge that would remain static.

The plan is to install piles under the south side of the carriageway to isolate the road from on-going coastal erosion. The piles would be buried so would not initially be seen from either ground level or from the beach/sea below. It is anticipated that it would be between five and ten years before the piles become visible from the beach as a result of erosion.

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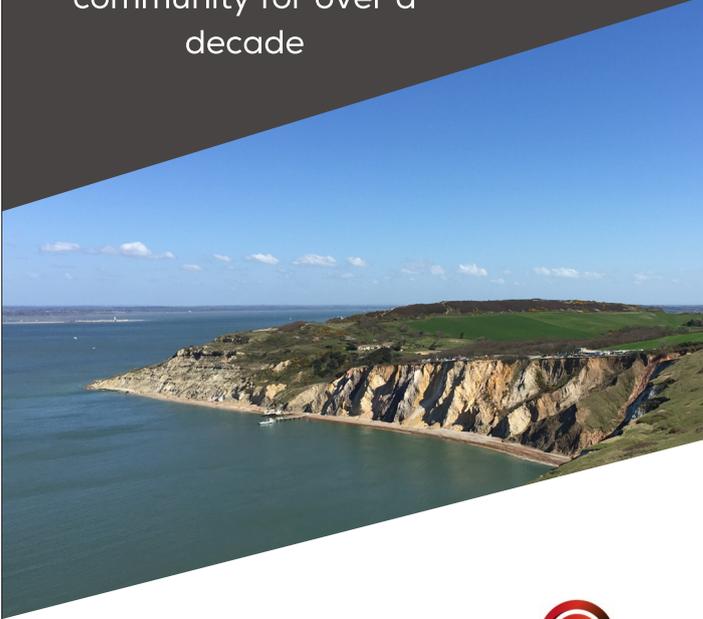
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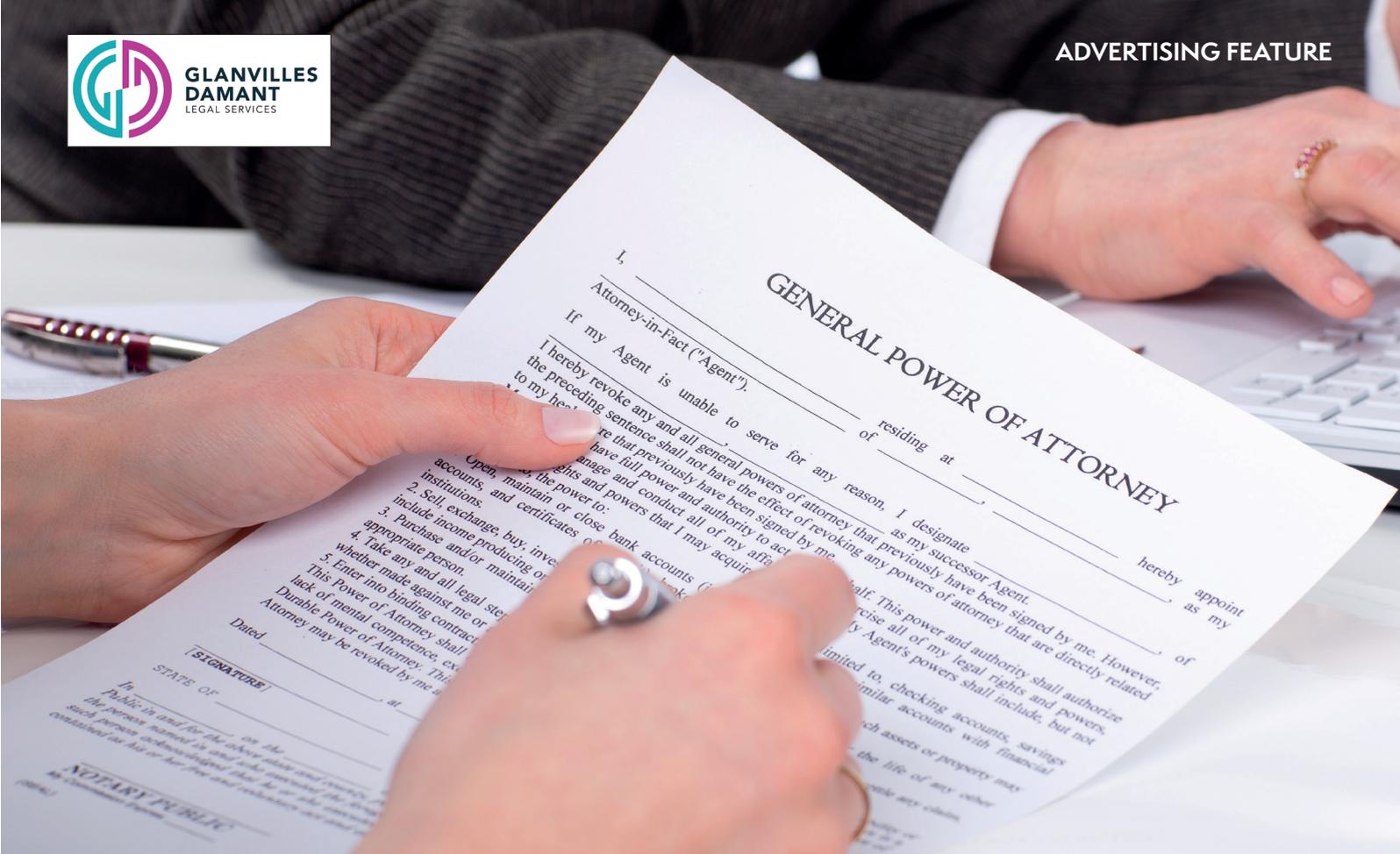
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General Power of Attorney

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 or phone 03444 111 444 or The Footprint Trust info@footprint-trust.co.uk or phone 01983 822282.



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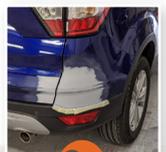
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Versatile and long-lived, no plants give better fiery autumnal colours than acers, says Flo Whitaker

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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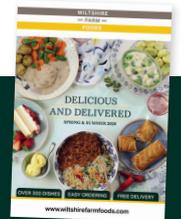
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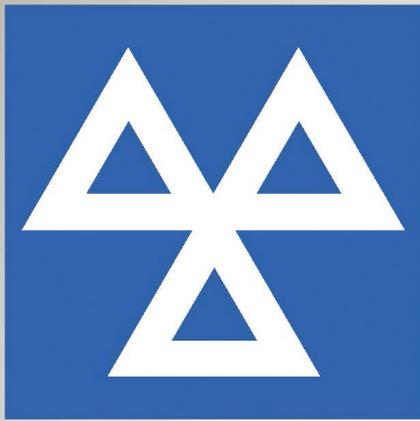
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