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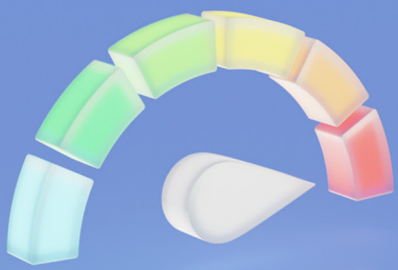
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Welcome from the EDITOR

As the vaccine roll-out continues, I feel lucky to be able to say that I have now received my jab — and so have many of my family, friends and colleagues. A year on from the start of the pandemic, it really feels like the light at the end of the tunnel is edging ever closer.

With the arrival of April, we'll start to see non-essential shops, hair and beauty and outdoor dining re-open. It'll be great to see the Island back in action — and I know many businesses are desperate to start bringing in the pennies again. This really is a crucial time to support local, wherever possible.

Whether you'll be spending April catching up with missed family and friends in your back garden, or perhaps heading out in a Covid-safe way, we've gathered together a selection of fun things to do this month, including a mouthwatering recipe for traditional Easter Bread and a fun challenge to unscramble the Isle of Wight road names.

Amy Shephard

Editor amy.shephard@iwbeacon.com

5



Photo courtesy of Jim Sumaria



POWIS PINDER'S COMPANY

18

7

- 5 A Day to Remember with Bill Wyman
- 7 History: Shanklin's Hidden Summer Theatre
- 9 Do You Care?
- 11 Walking the Island: The Warrior Trail
- 13 The Entertainment Guide
- 15 Recipe: Easter Bread
- 18-19 Mr Athletics
- 20-29 News from your area
- 33 Gardens: Ferntastic
- 35 Spot the Difference Competition

33



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It had long been a dream and my previous interview requests had been unsuccessful. Then, in 2015, a press release arrived from Judy Totton, one of the best PR people in Britain. She knew I didn't do telephone interviews and quickly arranged for me to meet him in his Sticky Fingers restaurant in Kensington High Street, in mid May. I could barely wait.

I was due to visit at 1.15pm. I arrived on time but Bill had been delayed en route. He was so thoughtful and had phoned to say he would be late. The legendary bass player duly arrived and was delighted to see the restaurant so busy. In reality, it was not quite the ideal location for a radio interview.

There were two radio interviews lined up for Bill that day. The other guy had come over from the Channel Islands and had also arranged to visit the Chelsea Flower Show, for another story, before flying back. I thought it would be much fairer if he went first, with a flight to catch. That, innocently, led to two pieces of luck. Bill was impressed with my generosity and told me to order any meal on the menu while I waited for my turn. It was easily the best Caesar Salad I had ever eaten.

Amazingly, by the time my interview was ready to roll, the lunchtime rush was over and the restaurant had suddenly become so much quieter with just the right atmosphere for a 30 minute conversation.

The only pre-interview advice I had been given was that it was, primarily, to be about Bill Wyman and not the Rolling Stones. That made sense because his first solo album for 20 years, *Back To Basics*, was about to be released. It was a gem, too. He also knew I was not interested in his private life, which was another obvious advantage.

Bill turned out to be the perfect host. He was genial, modest and very thoughtful. It was just like two senior citizens meeting up to reminisce — and we were.

I did have just a couple of Rolling Stones stories to get out of the way — and he was happy with that. Firstly, I wanted to take him back to that Ryde Pavilion gig on March 22, 1964, when the band had just enjoyed their first hit, *Come On*.

After their two shows, at which they had support from local bands the Cherokees and the Shamrocks, the Stones stayed right opposite at the Hotel Ryde Castle. They were told not to tell anyone — and kept their word. It didn't go to plan.

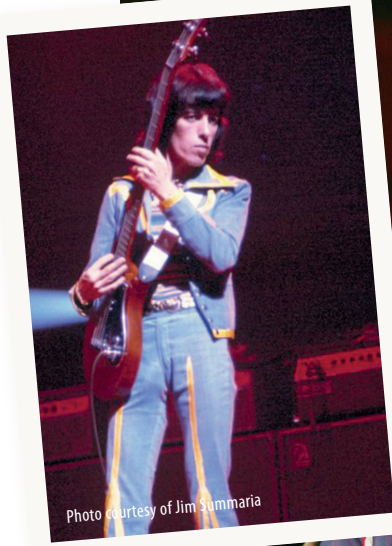


Photo courtesy of Jim Summaria

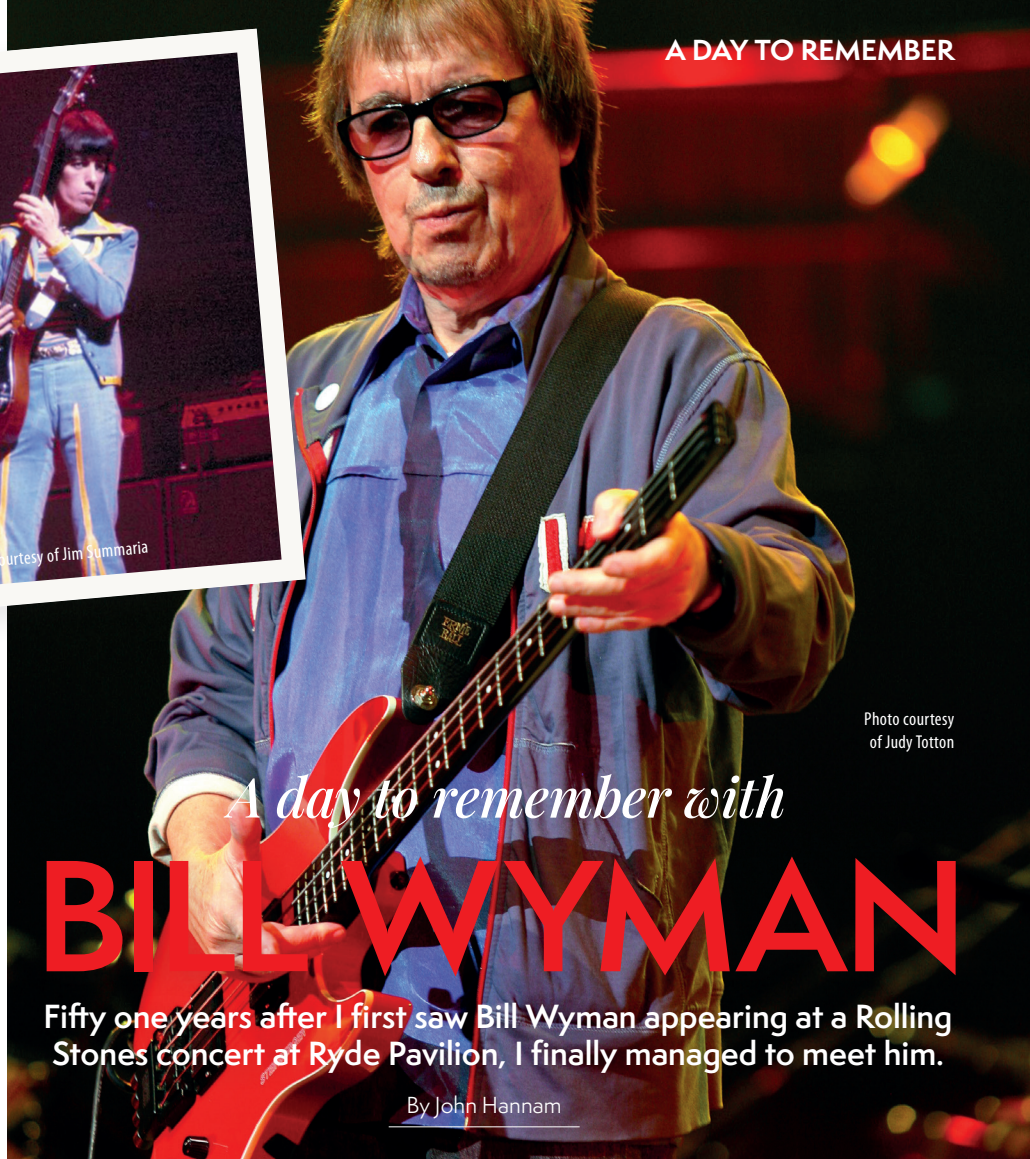


Photo courtesy of Judy Totton

A day to remember with **BILL WYMAN**

Fifty one years after I first saw Bill Wyman appearing at a Rolling Stones concert at Ryde Pavilion, I finally managed to meet him.

By John Hannam

Bill explained just why: "Somebody at the hotel couldn't keep quiet about it and told everyone. The place was bombarded by hundreds of people and at 4am some fans were still trying to find us in the hotel." For the record, their line-up was Mick Jagger, Brian Jones, Keith Richards, Charlie Watts and Bill. They were paid £300 and the best seats cost 12 shillings (60p).

"I wanted to take him back to that Ryde Pavilion gig on March 22, 1964, when the band had just enjoyed their first hit, Come On"



I also wanted to find out the real story about the Stones and our own Newport-born major pop star Craig Douglas. By 1963, he'd had a dozen hits, including the number one *Only Sixteen*. He was asked by the *Melody Maker* music paper to review some new singles, which included *Come On*, the first Stones single. He didn't like it and gave it a poor review. Would revenge be sweet?

They later both appeared on the same *Thank You Lucky Stars* television show. The Stones found out he'd been a milkman before becoming famous and left two empty bottles outside of his dressing room with a note for two pints of milk. It was all quickly forgotten and years later they did socialise together on a few occasions.

Eventually Bill left to go solo and enjoyed a remarkable career with hits like *Je Suis Un Rock Star* and sell-out gigs with his highly acclaimed Bill Wyman's *Rhythm Kings*.

As a restaurateur he's also been very successful. He opened Sticky Fingers back in 1989.

He's worn so well for an old Rolling Stone? What's his secret? He told me back in 2015.

"No drugs and I take care about my alcohol. Otherwise, I just do what I please with no regimes, special foods or exercise. I don't do any of that stuff." ☺

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SHANKLIN'S HIDDEN SUMMER THEATRE

Shanklin Summer Theatre was constructed on the Esplanade in 1921 – opening later that year with the first Sunshine Concert Party, which went from success to even greater success.

Behind the success of the Hidden Summer Theatre was fireman Henry Powis-Pinder and his wife, Ethel. Powis-Pinder was a Leading Fireman of Shanklin's Auxiliary Fire Service.

When researching the lives of firemen of the past, it's common to find that their family backgrounds were one of manual labour – typically in construction or agriculture. The life of Henry Powis-Pinder is therefore contradictory to all expectations being as remote from that of the stereotypical fireman as one could imagine. Henry had never served in any fire service until volunteering for the AFS when he was in his 60s, which makes his story quite remarkable.

A son of the late Dr Edward Pinder of Camberwell, he devoted his life to theatrical interests and became known far and wide as founder of the famous Sunshine Concert Party, the nursery of many stage, screen and radio celebrities. Henry was born in Camberwell on 6th September 1872 and grew up in the expansive family home in the leafy Grove Lane, London – where the average property sells for in excess of £900k today.

Henry was the possessor of a splendid baritone voice and this with his acting ability brought him early success in his performances of Gilbert & Sullivan operas at the Savoy Theatre London. He scored his biggest success as Colonel Popoff in the 'Chocolate Soldier'. Other hits in which he appeared included 'The Earl and the Girl' and the 'Talk of the Town' with Sir Seymour Hicks.

Henry married Ethel Florence Quarry in 1897 and his wife was associated with him when he ventured into theatrical management in 1914. This appears to have been the time at which Henry detached himself from the bright lights of London and was entranced by Shanklin with his first concert party 'The Burlesques' which he presented in the Grand Pavilion on Shanklin Pier.

The first printed reference connecting Henry with the Isle of Wight appeared in a County Press article in 1915. Shanklin Town Hall (Theatre) had been the venue for 'an evening entertainment of singular artistic excellence' – in aid of the St John Ambulance Association. The crowded performance concluded with a one-act comedy, 'Jerry and the Sunbeam' starring Miss Dorothy Gouldsmith and Henry

Powis-Pinder.

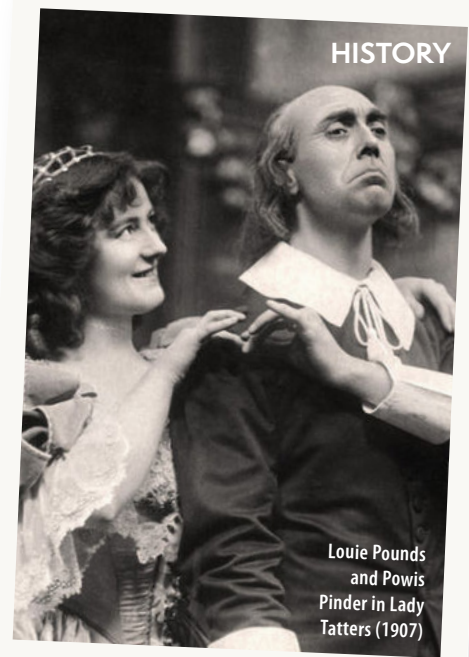
Finding Shanklin a worthy home, the couple embedded themselves in local society with Henry becoming a freemason of the Chine Lodge in 1919. Henry and Ethel's contributions to Shanklin's entertainment industry were relentless from there on, eventually establishing the new Summer Theatre, on Shanklin Esplanade in 1921. It was actually a brick-by-brick reconstruction of a former large sea plane hangar sold from the Bembridge Harbour Station. The hangar originally housed WWI Fairey Campania Seaplanes of the Nizam of Hyderabad's RAF Squadron. The Summer Theatre was reconstructed on its new site by construction engineers Messrs Simmonds. The interior was redesigned as a Concert Pavilion that included a platform stage and proscenium arch.

During WWII the theatre was used as storage for the PLUTO project which was a pipe line under the sea, and was later badly damaged. There is no doubt that it has had a large amount of repair work over the last ninety nine years or so. Today the former Summer Theatre is in use as an amusement arcade.

After the reconstruction was completed, the theatre opened in the later part of 1921 with the first Sunshine Concert Party with great success. Henry was also responsible for concert parties at



Below: Powis Pinder's Sunshine Concert Party, Sunshine Theatre, Shanklin – c1930



Ventnor. Among artists that he had helped along the road to fame were; Edwin "Teddy" Styles, Arthur Askey, Bernard Lee, Webster Booth, Mario de Pietro and Raymond Newall.

Although Henry was a busy man, he found time for relaxation as a member of the Shanklin Club and on the links of the Shanklin and Sandown Golf Club, of which he was club captain in 1939. In

Today the former Summer Theatre is in use as an amusement arcade

recent years he put his wealth of experience as an old Savoyard at the disposal of the Sandown & Shanklin Operatic Society. It is a striking coincidence in Henry's acting career that he started on management in 1914 when WWI broke out and finished in 1939 in the year that the WWII began. Through all those twenty five years he had the enthusiastic and sympathetic support of Ethel and

for much of the time was assisted by his son Arthur Powis Pinder.

Three days after the declaration of war Henry celebrated his 67th birthday – but his age didn't prevent him from volunteering to serve with the Auxiliary Fire Service. Henry continued 'doing his bit' as a crew leader in the AFS during the war and ironically for the last four months of his life he had been reading the Lessons at the Old Church, Shanklin. Sadly in 1941 his previous good health suddenly failed him, and he was unable to continue his fire fighting duties.

Henry passed away on the 25th July 1941. His funeral was held at St Blasius Church, Shanklin and was attended by a mass of local friends and dignitaries. Also attending were notable friends and admirers of the stage from London. Representatives were also sent from the Brigade and AFS units in Ventnor and Sandown. ☹

Text and images courtesy of Derek Stephens (Shanklin Theatre Archivist) and Damon Corr. Story compiled by Michael Beston.



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Are you a naturally caring person who enjoys helping others? Then perhaps you should consider a career in the care industry.

The role of a care worker is incredibly versatile – and can involve both working in care homes or out in the community. It includes everything from simple companionship and shopping to more physical handling and palliative care.

Care can mean supporting those with varying levels of health to live happy comfortable lives, or simply helping those in their own homes to remain independent for as long as they can.

Although a care worker is a paid professional, there are also many unpaid 'carers' here on our Island, many of whom look after a family member, neighbour or friend. This includes young carers who offer support at home to parents, siblings and grandparents.

Care work can be a short term arrangement, while somebody is recovering from injury or illness, or it can be a long term plan.

With an ageing population here on the Isle of Wight, the care industry is a large one, with huge demand out there for people to support the elderly. But care workers also look after those with disabilities, both visible and invisible, including children and vulnerable adults.

Care work can be hard, but it is also incredibly rewarding. It might be a career you've considered from a young age, or perhaps through personal experiences you've thought about a career change in later life.

“The best part is the bond you create and at the end of a busy day, their smile and gratitude for all your help”



Having a meaningful impact on somebody's life often drives care workers to come to work each day – watching the person you support flourish, or simply putting a smile on their face when there may not have been one the day before.

Many say no two days are the same. You might spend the morning providing personal care for somebody with a neurological condition, before spending an afternoon taking another client out for a social engagement.

Clients have varying levels of needs. But you might find you are required to complete the following tasks:

- Preparing meals
- Housework
- Companionship
- Personal care
- Medication management
- Lifting and helping with mobility
- Attending appointments or social engagements

Charlotte Shephard, who has worked in the care industry for 10 years said: “I love my job. The fact that you are making a real difference in the lives of adults and children is amazing. To know that you are guiding them and helping them have a more independent life, whilst enjoying all opportunities available to them. The best part is the bond you create and at the end of a busy, stressful day, their smile and gratitude for all your help.”

If you're interested in finding our more about working in the care industry, visit everydayisdifferent.com, or carersiw.org.uk.



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The Longstone

By Amy Shephard

The Warrior Trail is a stunning walk bursting with history, forest strolls and sea views.

Its name comes from famous war horse, Warrior, who fought in World War One alongside General Jack Seely – and incredibly, its path forms the shape of a horse head.

The trail is a celebration of Warrior, who was locally known as the horse the Germans couldn't kill, and the route on which he was regularly exercised.

The route starts at the National Trust Mottistone Manor Garden car park, turning upwards into the forest towards Mottistone Down. You'll come across popular Isle of Wight landmark, The Longstone. The Longstone is the only megalithic monument on the Isle of Wight. The 6,000 year old stone is all that remains of a Neolithic tomb.

Here you might also spot

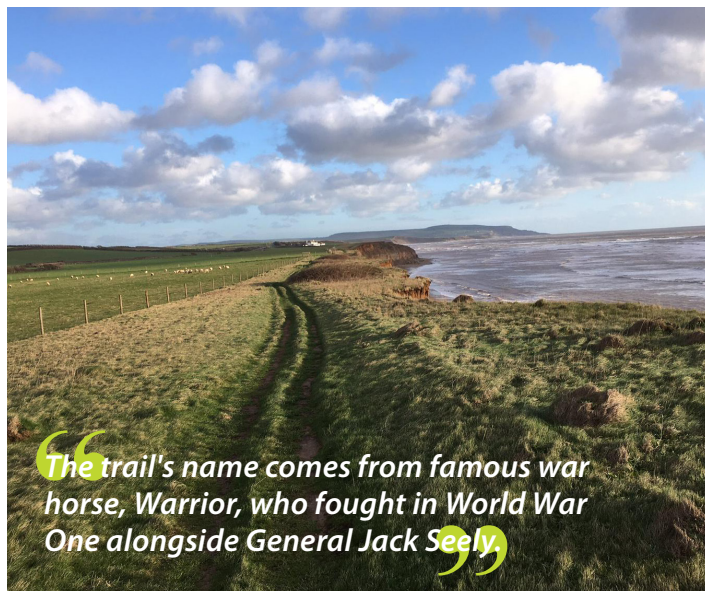
the tree decorated with hanging wooden kitchen utensils. A nice little touch if you've got children walking with you. My daughter suggested these were for the animals of the forest to bake with in the middle of the night.

Continue along the trail towards Brook Hill House, along the BS39 and onwards to Brook Down.

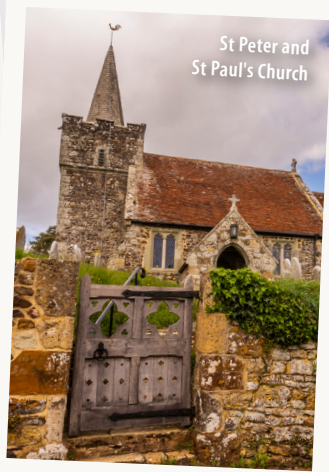
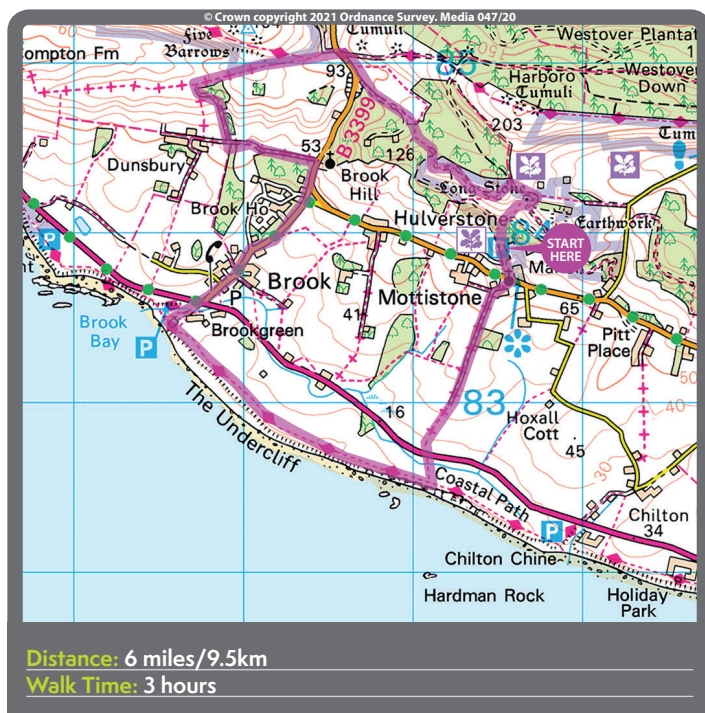
You'll walking mostly along country roads now towards Brook Bay, where you'll stroll along the cliff edge with beautiful views towards the English Channel. Take care along these cliffs.

Turn left through a gate, and cross the cow field before joining Ridget Lane, leading to Mottistone.

You'll arrive at St Peter and St Paul's Church, where Benedict Cumberbatch was married in 2015. The church is also where General Jack Seely is said to be laid to rest. Now walk back up the road towards the car park where you started. **B**



The trail's name comes from famous war horse, Warrior, who fought in World War One alongside General Jack Seely.



It's OK...



not to be ok

We all have times when life gets on top of us – sometimes work-related like a stressful workload, a negative atmosphere or even being made redundant. Sometimes it's something else; our health, our relationships, or our circumstances.

Whatever the reasons, if you feel you are not coping as well as you would want to be, **help is at hand.**

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We all have times when we come across unexpected problems.

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Farringford Garden opens



Farringford Garden will re-open from Wednesday 19th May, on Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

No booking is required. Online payments only. Visit farringford.co.uk/house-isle-of-wight/garden-and-grounds for more details.

Carisbrooke Castle Quest



Carisbrooke Castle is open for visitors throughout the Easter holidays, with an exciting outdoor quest for everyone to enjoy on the castle grounds.

Hunt for the hatched dragon and receive a special chocolately surprise.

Takeaway catering will be available, however indoor areas will be closed.

Book in advance via www.english-heritage.org.uk. Normal admission fees apply, plus £1.50 to take part in the adventure quest.

Virtual Duck Race

A virtual duck race is to be streamed via Facebook Live on Easter Saturday to raise funds for Aspire Ryde. Ducks are just £1 each and there are some great prizes to be won, including £50 for first place and many other Easter surprises.

All money raised will support Ryde community hub, Aspire.

To get involved, visit www.totalgiving.co.uk/mypage/duckrace

Round the Island Race Returns

Organised by the Island Sailing Club,

Round the Island has always been one of the UK's largest participation sporting events and regularly attracts more than 1,500 boats and thousands of sailors.

This year, the race will be held on Saturday July 3rd and celebrates its 90th anniversary.

With so many high-profile events being cancelled, Round the Island is being tipped as one of the biggest events to be staged since the UK's first lockdown a year ago.

One of the unique attractions of the race is its even-handedness and the opportunity for Olympic and World champion sailors to

compete on the same racecourse with amateurs, families and club sailors of all ages. Whilst the majority of the boats will simply enjoy the challenge of getting all the way round, there will be many teams aiming to beat the existing course records.

The current monohull record continues to be held by Mike Slade on ICAP Leopard, who in the near-perfect conditions of 2013 posted a time of 3 hours 43 minutes and 50 seconds.

Round the Island Race continues to support and fundraise for its official charity, the Ellen MacArthur Cancer Trust.

To enter, visit www.roundtheisland.org.uk



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Think you know the Isle of Wight like the back of your hand? We're putting Beacon readers to the test by mixing up ten Isle of Wight road names. All you have to do is head over to www.iwbeacon.com to download the activity sheet and unscramble them before sending your answers to win@iwbeacon.com.



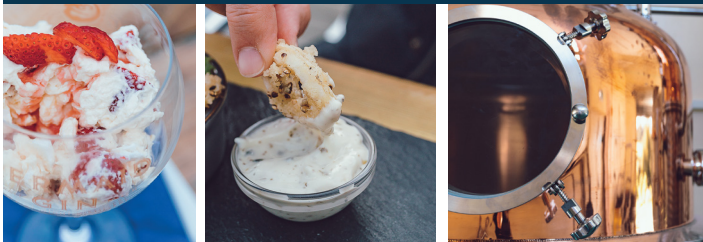
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EASTER BREAD

INGREDIENTS

To make the bread:

565g plain flour
110g butter, cubed
240ml milk
50g of caster sugar
7g of active dry yeast
2 tsp salt
2 eggs plus 1 for brushing
Sprinkles, optional
Fry light or something to grease a large bowl

To make the coloured eggs:

2 eggs
Food colouring
240ml water
2 tsp white vinegar

METHOD

1 Add milk, yeast and one teaspoon of sugar to a small bowl and leave to froth.

2 In a large bowl, combine flour, salt and the rest of the sugar, before combining your yeast mixture.

3 Mix for approximately five minutes in a stand mixture, or by hand, to form a dough.

4 Now add your butter, a cube at a time, until combined.

5 Grease a large bowl and add your dough. Leave to prove until doubled in size. This should take around an hour.

6 While your dough is proving, make your coloured eggs. Do this by firstly hard-boiling the eggs. This should take around 10 minutes. Take out to cool.

7 Boil 240ml water in a separate pan and distribute between two bowls.

8 In each bowl, add a teaspoon of vinegar and some food colouring.

9 Place an egg in each and allow to colour. This should take around 10 minutes. Remove and leave to dry.

10 Preheat your oven to Gas Mark 5/190°C and line a baking tray with greaseproof paper.

11 Tip your dough out on to a floured surface and split into six equal pieces.

12 Roll each piece into sausage shapes and plait three together, twice. Now form two wreath shape and pinch the ends to secure.

13 Press your eggs into the centre of each wreath.

14 Now cover your dough and leave to prove for a second time. This should take around half an hour.

15 Make an egg wash and brush the surface of both breads, before adding sprinkles.

16 Bake in the oven, for 30 minutes, or until golden. **B**

Note: While you can eat the eggs, many people simply add them for decoration.



WHAT A DIFFERENCE A DAY MAKES

"It's the best home improvement we have ever made. Our conservatory is now our dining room in the garden."

Mike Millis,
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"There is no doubt that the conservatory is much warmer than previously, and no, the room is not darker either!"

David Birch, Chichester

USABLE ALL YEAR ROUND

"The conservatory is now used throughout all seasons of the year and is far more comfortable to sit in whatever the weather outside."

Mr & Mrs Gibson, Portishead

MOULD & CONDENSATION

"This is the best thing we have done in this house. Used to run with condensation and now zero."

Karen Thomas, Chippenham

COOLER IN SUMMER

"You could have fried an egg on the table in there in the summer, I now look upon the conservatory as a new room. It is quiet, restful and cosy."

Carol Doyle, Surrey

REDUCES ENERGY BILLS

"I've already turned the underfloor heating down. Lovely job guys, thank you!"

Anne Bird, Bristol

QUIETER IN BAD WEATHER

"For the first time in 10 years we do not have to close the door to the conservatory when it rains, as the noise is minimal and before I found it difficult to hear the TV over the loudness of the rain on the old roof."

Mr & Mrs Bailey-Webb, Warsash

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Mountbatten Isle of Wight

YOUR LIFE, YOUR LEGACY

For almost 40 years, Mountbatten has supported our community through death, dying and bereavement. With a gift in your Will, you can ensure they will still be here for future generations of Island people.

Mountbatten supporter, Liz Runco, explains what she would like to achieve with the gift she has left in her Will. "Including a gift in my Will is a way of remembering my husband, Joe, and doing what I can to protect more people like me from the heartache of losing someone you love.

"After Joe died, I was desperately lonely and grieving. I did not see any point in going on until Mountbatten saved me. I was all over the place. I just did not know what to do.

"Thankfully, Mountbatten was there for me in my hour of need, and for Joe when he was dying. I will never forget the love and support given to us both, which is why I have pledged to leave a gift in my Will.

"I want my gift to help Mountbatten care for future generations of my family and friends, so they will get the same support I had. I feel lucky to have had Mountbatten by my side when I needed them most, and this is my way of giving something back to a charity which is so important to the Isle of Wight.

"I would really encourage you to do the same. We're all going to die, and we'll all be bereaved. I don't want anyone on the Island to face death on their own, so please remember Mountbatten in your Will."

Liz recalls how Mountbatten's care for her late husband, Joe, brought them comfort in their final days together. Joe was Liz's world. She doted on him, and the couple were virtually inseparable — they did everything together.

When he died, Liz relied on Mountbatten's bereavement support to get her life back on track. It was not the first time the charity had changed her life.

"When Joe was diagnosed with terminal cancer, we did not know where to turn, I was so frightened," said Liz. "He was not one to complain, and he always put on a brave face,



but I was struggling to cope.

"The doctors told us there was nothing more they could do for Joe except for palliative care — we didn't even know what palliative care was!

"We had no support from anyone until I got in touch with Mountbatten."

Liz has not forgotten the impact of 'wonderful Mountbatten'. In addition to pledging to leave a gift in her Will, she also regularly supports the charity's work so that services like the John Cheverton Centre and the In-Patient Unit can continue.

"Joe and I went to Mountbatten's John Cheverton Centre for a while together, which was so nice. It was not a dark place like I imagined; it was bright, happy and full of life. Joe loved it.

"I want to ensure future generations of my family and friends get the same support I had"

"As his condition worsened, I was asked if he could be admitted to the hospice ward, and I was so relieved because I was exhausted," she said.

"I knew Joe would be so well looked after, which is all I wanted for him. Because he loved all the staff and everyone was just so kind, considerate and compassionate."

And when Joe died, Liz was not alone. Mountbatten was there with her. She now wants to help make sure Mountbatten can be there for others in the future, by leaving a gift in her Will.

A gift in your Will help ensures Mountbatten will be there to comfort the people you love after you have died. Your legacy will be the nurse that visits in the middle of the night to care for your loved one, the medicines and equipment they need to live out their final days with dignity and support for those they leave behind to help them adjust to their loss. ☺

Mountbatten's Make a Will pack helps you consider everything you need when making or updating your Will.

To get your free copy call: **01983 217300** or
Email: **fundraisingiow@mountbatten.org.uk**

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Ray with grandson Simon Apsey, at the Annual Medina Parkrun Ray Run

MR ATHLETICS

The family of the late Ray Scovell — otherwise known as the Isle of Wight's 'Mr Athletics' have launched a fundraising appeal in his memory.



Described as thoroughly kind, selfless, energetic and supportive, Ray brought joy and community spirit to so many on the Island. He was the founder of the Island's Medina Park Run and the driving force behind Island athletics, coaching youngsters at the Isle of Wight Athletics Club for more than 30 years.

Sadly Ray passed away in January having contracted coronavirus. His wife Rose, another key figure in the world of Island athletics, also died with the illness just two weeks after Ray.

Ray would often be seen at the running track at Sandown Bay Academy. He coached a number of Island sporting stars, including hammer throwers Andy Frost and Amy Clarke (nee Church). He also coached Stephen Duff, who won gold and silver medals at the World Fire and Police Games in the US. In 2011, Ray was the co-ordinator when the Island Games were held on the Isle of Wight. Even at the pinnacle of their career, daughter Claire said sporting stars still spoke incredibly highly of Ray's valuable input.

Ray said that he always wanted to get more children active in athletics and



Ray with Andy Frost in Melbourne for the Commonwealth Games



Ray with gold medal hammer winner, Amy Clarke (nee Church) at the Island Games

cross-country, with events such as the Primary School Games. He was described as a true inspiration by Medina Junior Park Run.

Rose was also an advocate for children and mental health — and was involved with the South Wight Youth Theatre.

In a bid to continue Ray and Rose's incredible legacy, daughter Claire Apsey has created a fundraiser to promote the work of youth organisations and encourage athletics within primary schools. Ray's mantra was to always "invest in children because they're the future."

Ray signed up for the Navy at just 15 years old, where he discovered a love of hockey. But it wasn't until many years later, in his fifties that Ray really explored his true passion for athletics. The family lived next door to Andy Frost, who was planning on competing in a shot put event. Andy looked to Ray for some guidance, and Ray went straight to the

library to take out a book on the subject. He soon got involved with the athletics club, coaching youngsters from all over the Island and providing opportunities to compete in mainland tournaments.

It has been a difficult time for the family, but daughter Claire said she has been "overwhelmed" by Islanders' messages of support: "Knowing how fond people were of both my parents is amazing and it's so lovely to read the things people are writing about them."

She told us what wonderful parents they both were — and even though he was so busy with athletics, Ray always had so much time for his daughter and grandson, Simon.

Ray picked up Isle of Wight Radio's Volunteer of the Year award in 2014.

At the ceremony, he was described as a "thoroughly kind, selfless, energetic and supportive individual, who has brought joy, community spirit and the opportunity to improve to so many on the Island!"

Ray's mantra was to always "invest in children because they're the future."



Ray and Rose Scovell

Even during lockdown, Ray found ways to encourage achievements in young people, running a couch to 5k programme from afar — and ensuring participants still managed to claim their precious medal.

"He took pride in getting kids out on a proper athletics track at Sandown," said Claire.

"For Dad, it was never about who was the best. He gave you as much support regardless of your ability. It was about getting out and having fun."

Claire is planning to organise a remembrance service and fundraiser later this year, or in the early part of next year for people to share their memories of Ray and Rose. She is also going to be walking the coast of the Island. While friends on the mainland are doing their bit by walking a total of 72 miles to raise funds. ^(B)

You can donate to the fundraising appeal at www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/rayscovell which currently stands at £4,255.

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A New Traineeship with HTP is the Fast Way into Work for Young Islanders

Employers across the Isle of Wight are offering 19–24-year-olds the opportunity to learn a new career and start a brand new job.

Are you looking for a new start? Do you want to learn new skills, in a new workplace and get a new job? A brand new Traineeship with HTP could kick start your dream career. As part of a government campaign to help young people to get back into work, businesses across the Isle of Wight are being encouraged to take on trainees. If you're aged 19-24, a Traineeship gives you the opportunity to learn real-world skills in your choice of business, helping you to progress straight onto a job with an Apprenticeship.

LET'S GET STARTED!

You can take up a Traineeship right now at businesses including The Tomato Stall, Everycare, Buckland Care, Heritage Attractions, Quayside Leisure and Island Equine. You can learn skills and qualifications including Food Hygiene and Health and Safety, with places available in care homes, restaurants, legal firms, education providers and horse riding.

If you're a business looking to take on a trainee, talk to HTP. There's a £1,000 payment for every person that you give work experience to. HTP works with employers to devise a bespoke learning programme for each individual trainee.

Rachael Randall, HTP's Principal and Chief Executive explains: "We have places available that can lead to genuine jobs and progress learners through to Apprenticeships. It's also a chance for young people who might have been made redundant or

furloughed in the last year to start again, by upskilling or reskilling in a new working environment. We're excited to be working with health & social care providers, visitor attractions, the public sector and voluntary sector to give young people opportunities in these difficult times.

"The programme is highly flexible, tailored to the employer and is fundamentally a low-risk proposition. There's no commitment to employ the trainee at the end of the programme, although our strong track record in this area means that we're confident that the vast majority of the trainees will move to an Apprenticeship or further learning."



"Traineeships are all about job creation, with real jobs on offer to young people that are looking for a change. The scheme also gives employers the opportunity to take on staff in new roles that they can help to shape."

Rachael Randall, HTP's Principal and Chief Executive



HTP TRAINEESHIPS FOR BUSINESSES

Businesses play an active role in the recruitment of their trainee, with the costs of the training funded by HTP.

There's no requirement to pay wages and the employer will receive £1,000 for each trainee they take on.

The Traineeship programme delivered by HTP is part of a £111 million investment by the Government to triple the scale of Traineeships in 2020-21, ensuring more young people have access to high quality training.

Apply online or find out more at
www.htp.ac.uk/traineeships or call HTP
Apprenticeship College on **01983 533926**



News from Ryde South

by Cllr Charles Chapman

Ryde town centre, with its shops, cafes and Victorian arcade give Ryde its uniqueness. The flower display, both in the town and on the esplanade, which every year blooms and transfers parts of Ryde into a vision of colour is the envy of other Island locations. The town parades give our town its cohesive community feel. Such gatherings are an investment in how we all live, attract visitors and revenue and secure jobs. During the summer Ryde becomes a hub for people to visit and enjoy. Something which we have all missed throughout the pandemic. This enforced time out will enable us to re-evaluate such important sign posts marking our social year and ensure that we rebuild existing and introduce new ideas, all of which encourage social cohesion and community spirit.

St Thomas' Church has successfully been purchased for community use. Scaffolding is up, as many of you will have seen, and external repairs underway. This is being done by grant aid including Heritage England, at no cost to precious local funding, which can now be used elsewhere. St. Thomas is part of Ryde's Victorian heritage and includes many artefacts and unique stained glass windows. It is up to all of us to 'show off' the many facets of Ryde, its businesses, entertainment and places of interest. Investing in our heritage for example, Vectis Hall in Cross Street, was the first Free School in Ryde, is now owned by us, Ryde residents, and it now has a future. Ryde Town Hall in Lind Street, is a magnificent grade II listed building we are going forward

with Heritage Funding, which will enable the Town and Parish Council to get further funding for this building, for Ryde. Ryde is not just about the preservation of existing sites. It's about building a future for us all, especially our children and grandchildren. Keeping greedy developers out! We might need to keep one foot in the past but we also need to build a modern and vibrant future. The extension of WightFibre into our homes providing better broadband and faster connection ensures that Ryde will be able to provide for those who will continue to 'work from home', once the pandemic has passed.

Improvement to our local railway will bring further investment and local jobs to Ryde.

Fly tipping is of major concern at present, littering doesn't help our image. I am doing all that I can to get it cleared up and a thank you to those who have promptly reported it. Car parking, in the Ward, especially cars being driven the wrong way up one way streets is dangerous. It might seem amusing but the problem is that it will lead to serious accidents. Parking wardens have been asked to be alert to the situation.

Hoping that you are all having a good Easter and taking care to keep social distancing and wear your mask where necessary. Keep safe!

☎ 07867626733

✉ charles.chapman@iow.gov.uk

Printed by Beacon Magazine and Promoted by Charles Chapman, 40 Newport Street, Isle of Wight PO332QB.



Photo courtesy of Tracy Curtis

Children's carnival week

Barton Primary School

The New Carnival Company (NCC) has been working with school teachers and national carnival organisers to bring the joy of carnival to children, teachers, and families. The National Children's Carnival Week will replace annual Mardi Gras celebrations this year, and everyone is invited to take part!

The ever-resourceful company has hatched a scheme to enable not just one Mardi Gras, but many, to pop up all over the Island, in playgrounds, sports fields and outdoor community spaces, as part of a UK wide project to launch a National Children's Carnival Week, 12th-18th July.

Clary Salandy, Artistic Director at UKCCA, who is leading the national programme, said: "Our dream is to have all the children in the UK celebrate carnival together in their schools. We aim to inspire children and young people through the creation of costumes, music, songs and dance, in a celebration which will provide uplifting experiences and radiate the warmth and camaraderie that everyone desperately needs".

The New Carnival Company will be sharing their special theme 'Colours of the Rainbow' and are offering all schools and community family groups FREE online workshops, plus supported packages where artists can securely visit schools to help out (small charge). There is even an online dance session planned and a specially written children's carnival song!
More information via 07794699558 or frankie@thenewcarnivalcompany.com



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The paramount objective of Our Island candidates is to serve the Island and their local communities and to articulate their wishes.

Our Island stands for

1. Protecting our Environment and looking after the place we live.
2. Making sure all decisions we take have regard to future generations.
3. Ensuring residents can actively take part in developing policies and making decisions

Find out more on our website or get in touch by sending an email to

ourislandiw@gmail.com

Promoted by Our Island of Lilac Cottage, Upper Green Road, St Helens, Isle of Wight, PO33 1UG



Save Haven Falconry

A popular Isle of Wight attraction that specialises in birds of prey – along with other animals – has launched a mission to save its facility.

Haven Falconry, at IW Steam Railway, Havenstreet, has faced a year of uncertainty following enforced closures due to the coronavirus lockdowns, as well as an outbreak of Avian Flu in nearby Ryde.

In a statement on social media, the falconry said: "With Covid, lockdowns and bird flu, the last year has been difficult for us all. We need your help and support to keep this haven open for business!

"The truth of the matter is, even with the Government allowing us to open our doors from the 12th of April, for us to reach this date – we're in need of a miracle.

"As many of you will know, we haven't been able to secure the funding we had hoped for from the Government/Council.

"To keep the food coming in for our beloved animals and to keep a roof over their heads, please donate to our funding page."

Haven Falconry ordinarily operates all year round, with over 50 birds and 21 species from around the world being exhibited and cared for.

If you'd like to donate to Haven Falconry's cause, visit www.gofundme.com/f/support-haven-falconry



Last Surviving Island Windmill Has Makeover

By Iona Stewart-Richardson

The last surviving windmill on the Isle of Wight has been given a makeover.

Owners, National Trust say new sails (known as sweeps) and their timber beam supports, are being put back on the mill this week — after they were taken off before the pandemic because they were going rotten.

Father and son millwrights Geoff and John Wallis from Dorothea Restorations are using a crane and a cherry picker to lift the heavy timber sails and their new supporting 11m beams (known as stocks) almost 50ft in the air and bolt them into position.

This kind of work is rare to witness these days; there are only between 40 to 50 complete windmills left in the country and just a handful of practising UK millwrights.

The total cost of removing, building, and installing the new sweeps and stocks is costing the National Trust £38,000. Approximately one third of this was met by local fundraising support and a grant from the Government's Culture Recovery Fund.

Operations Manager at National Trust, Kathryn Wilson said: "It's a grade one listed building so we have a duty to look after it and make sure it is still part of the wonderful landscape. It was painted by Turner — an



Photo courtesy of Paul Knights

unfinished painting. It is just really important to look after it for future generations.

"When I first came to the windmill, I just fell in love with it — it is such a wonderful, iconic building, inside it still has its original machinery."

History of the Windmill

In the early 1700s, when Bembridge was almost an island in its own right the windmill was built.

For two centuries the windmill provided a service for the local community and work for generations of millers.

Little is known about the millers, although in January 1811 the Hampshire Chronicle reported that 'Mr Cook, miller of Bembridge [was] found frozen to death by his own mill'.

Built in the early 1700s, Bembridge Windmill is a treasured and much-loved local feature and an important part of the Island's industrial past. For over 200 years, this little industrial gem has served its community.

Poignantly, milling stopped and never resumed when the men left to fight in the Great War. In more recent years, the mill has been a wartime shelter, a Home Guard HQ, and has faced dereliction.

It was rescued by the National Trust in 1961 and this year celebrates its 60th anniversary in the care of the conservation charity.

Nestled in the quiet corner of a field, Bembridge Windmill is perched high enough for its sails to be seen across the surrounding countryside — a view that remains almost unchanged since it was immortalised in watercolour by JMW Turner in 1795.

Visitors and Islanders will once again be able to discover the mill's stories, and explore its 18th-century machinery as they clamber to the top, taking in glorious views half-way up across rolling fields and out to the sea. Entry will be by pre-booked ticket only, via www.nationaltrust.org.uk/bembridge-windmill



News from Lake South

by Cllr Paul Brading

I hope residents are keeping safe and well, and that many of you have received your vaccinations. The last 12 months have been an extraordinary challenge, but I do now feel there is light at the end of the tunnel.

COVID VACCINATIONS

I want to recognise the amazing progress the Island has made with the roll out vaccinations. We have delivered a higher percentage of vaccination than our neighbouring authorities and most of the country.

LAND BEHIND PREMIER INN/KFC

Despite attempts at meaningful dialogue, the owner has still failed to comply with the enforcement actions. The land levels remain completely different to before the unauthorised works happened, and there still remains buried materials that need removing. As an authority our position remains robustly unchanged and enforcement actions will have to move to the next level speedily if non-compliance continues.

ILLEGAL MOTORCYCLE USE

It is pleasing to report that the use of this land as a racetrack, creating damage and noise disturbance seems to have stopped following police intervention. However, the police will continue to visit regularly. Please do contact me if you see happening again.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The 2nd application for the large bungalow up the footpath by the Premier Inn has

again been refused which I hope will be the end of it. This would have been, in my opinion, a wholly inappropriate development for this location.

The new laundry on Spithead Business Park has applied for increased use for its commercial side, which I support, and it's good to see a new local business thriving. A revised scheme for new houses has been submitted for the strip of land along Whitecross Lane, just past Aldi.

FOOTBRIDGE WORKS

The new railway bridge at Alresford Road is now complete ahead of time. The Skew Bridge repairs have been completed off site, and Island Roads are just waiting for the railway authorities to allow the crane to access the railway line for assembly.

COPE MEAD

Copse Mead has been run for many years by Wight Nature under a lease agreement, but the trustees recently handed back the lease to the IW Council. I am pleased to report that negotiations are well underway for Gift2Nature to take this on.

SCHOOLS

I am delighted that all Island schools are now fully open again, and staff are working hard to put in place suitable programmes to catch up any gaps in students' education. I cannot praise enough all school staff for the amazing work they have done during the pandemic.

☎ 07719174690
✉ paul.brading@iow.gov.uk



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News from Shanklin South & Central

by Cllr Chris Quirk & Cllr Michael Beston

Tree Work Begins at Shanklin's Big Mead

Essential work at Shanklin's Big Mead Park has started with the aim of keeping park visitors safe. Following inspections of hundreds of trees around the park, 65 have been identified in need of urgent expert arborist work. Many trees can be made safe by removal of limbs or other minor works, including reduction to the crown of trees that reduces loss due to strong wind. Only seven trees have been identified to be removed completely. The planned work includes planting new native species trees as replacements next winter to ensure the popular park keeps its distinctive tree-lined landscape for future generations. A similar exercise will be carried out in other locations, including Rylstone Gardens. So if you see work going on, please be reassured that we're committed to keeping our public open spaces safe for everyone – with plenty of trees and woodland.

Cliff Paths and Shanklin Sea Wall

The Council has secured £40million funding over the next four years to support sea defences and the impact of coastal erosion, and has set up a Coastal Communities Forum identifying specific issues; work on the Shanklin sea wall is specifically included in this programme. The forum has already secured the re-installation of safety buoys in the Bay. This supports the principle of restoring the historic cliff paths around Shanklin and Luccombe, essential parts of the Coastal Path that the council is committed to supporting.

Island Line Upgrade Update

The Shanklin Station platform height upgrades are progressing well. At this point, it's not clear if the new platform will be the surface cladding similar to that completed at Sandown and Ryde. Island Line unit 484003 has now arrived in Eastleigh - Southampton for testing

and crew training. Once completed, the unit will be transported across the Solent for its new life on the Ryde to Shanklin network. In the meantime, the first two new Island Line train units that were introduced to the line back in November are undergoing further tests at Ryde St John's station. As part of the £26 million upgrade project, work to upgrade the line and infrastructure on Ryde Pier is also underway. Contractors have been installing the train protection and warning system grids to be used to improve the performance of the line. The Pier rail sleepers are also being treated with a formula to preserve the timbers.

Task Force to Tackle Fly-Tipping

The IW Council is to develop a litter and fly tipping action plan to tackle the growing problem of fly-tipping on the Island. The new approach includes a proposal for a task and finish working group with the aim of developing a strategy and a two-year rolling plan to crackdown on fly-tip and littering and increase enforcement action against culprits. The action plan will set out additional resources needed to protect the environment, reduce fly-tipping and littering and take action against those who blight the landscape. Drawing together a single strategy will make sure our neighbourhood services have the resources to maintain clean public spaces, and support the enforcement policies for environmental crime. Local councils in England dealt with nearly one million cases of fly-tipping in the year up to March 2020. There were 525 fly-tips collected by the IW Council and its contractors in that period. Visit www.iwight.com to book a bulky waste collection or a slot to visit one of the council's household waste and recycling centres.

☎ 07802 705831 ✉ chris.quirk@iow.gov.uk
☎ 07885 644426 ✉ michael.beston@iow.gov.uk

LEARN EXPERT PLANTING TIPS

Can't wait to get back out in the garden? Want to know how to get the best of your outdoor space all year round? Let our gardening expert take you through her tips in our latest online event.

Does your garden have dull 'downtimes' when it lacks colour and interest?

Gardening expert and designer Juliet Sargeant is set to share her best advice and tips for avoiding those 'downtimes', and will share with you her secrets for keeping your garden colourful and vibrant all year around.

Juliet is an award-winning designer with 20 years of experience in delivering entertaining and informative garden talks and workshops. As part of this online event, she'll be talking through what you need to know, followed by a Q&A led by you.

Register at iwbeacon.com for this free Hidden event, on Tuesday April 27th at 7pm.

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Have Your Say on Ryde's Historic Vectis Hall

By Oliver Dyer

What do you want to see become of Ryde's famous Vectis Hall? The Town Council is asking for ideas.

The historic site is being put back into community use, having sat derelict on Melville Street for a number of years. In its former glory, the building's dancehall was used as a setting for film *That'll be the Day*, starring musicians David Essex and Ringo Starr.

The hall was Ryde's first free school after being given to the town by Princess Diana's great, great, grandmother.

Ryde Town Council (RTC) agreed to buy the grade II listed building for £125,000 in November last year. Works have already started at the site to make it safe and all asbestos has been removed. RTC now wants Islanders ideas as to what to do with it.

Clerk Lisa Dyer added: "This is a very exciting opportunity to have your say in a historic building at the heart of Ryde.

Community involvement and engagement is a key belief of Ryde Town Council and we want to make sure that Vectis Hall is somewhere the community of Ryde believe they were listened to.

"It is important to remember that this is a building to be redeveloped rather than just a plot of land, but we are very keen to hear how the community feel Vectis Hall should be used in the future."

To put forward your ideas you can fill out the form on the website, email hall@rydetowncouncil.gov.uk or visit the Ryde Town Council Facebook page.

Plans for Bembridge Micro-brewery

A new micro-brewery could be coming to Bembridge's newly refurbished Pilot Boat Inn.

In plans submitted to IW

Council, existing storerooms behind the inn will be converted into a micro-brewery and bottling room. The new company, named Wight Knuckle Brewery will bottle approximately 500 litres of ale and lager/beer a week.

You can comment on proposals on the council's planning portal until April 13th, ref: 21/00417/FUL.

More details about the brewery can be found at www.wightknucklebrewery.com



News from Bembridge

by Cllr Michael Murwill

Regrettably this will be my last article for residents as a county councillor. My business commitments are such that I will not be standing at the forthcoming election on 6th May. As much as I enjoy helping people and representing their views at County Hall, my work ethic has always been to give 100% to commitments, and that is what the residents of Bembridge and the Island deserve.

I hope that I have made a positive difference since being elected and have always strongly represented the local views and priorities. Something I shall continue to do for the remainder of my term of office. I have monitored issues raised over the years in order that I can review response times, identify common issues across the ward (a legacy habit from my long financial and project management career!).

There has been a varied assortment of concerns raised over my years in the ward; one recurring issue is planning. I have recently drafted some guidance notes for residents who have planning application questions. These notes are available as part of the Bembridge Parish Council meeting minutes (16th March 2021) or by contacting me directly.

In 2017, as cabinet member responsible for waste management, I introduced the Household Garden Waste Scheme, which continues to be a great success on the island. This scheme enables residents to have their garden waste collected from their home and

reduce the need to go to the household waste recycling centres.

In 2018, I progressed the 'Plastic Free Island' and environmental friendly vision by setting up and chairing the IWC Community Plastic and Environmental Forum; a monthly meeting with the aim of bringing together like-minded Island based organisations/businesses to discuss local issues and reach our goal of being the most environmentally friendly county in the UK. It is pleasing to see that this is now continuing with the Environment and Sustainability Forum (ESF).

It has been a pleasure to be a part of and support local charities and community initiatives including Bembridge Football Club, Bembridge Heritage Centre, the Bembridge Youth and Community Centre, Bembridge beach and street cleaning and in my role as Local Authority Governor for St. Helen's Primary School. Sadly, the Covid-19 pandemic has prevented many fundraising initiatives in the last year, but I wish these organisations success and great support for 2021 and beyond.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the people who voted for me in 2017; it has been a privilege to represent the ward as your county councillor.

I wish health and happiness to you all for the future.

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Up until 2017, the IoW Council was led by a chaotic coalition of "independents", who were more focused on internal rows than giving County Hall (and the Island) a clear direction. Eventually they resigned, leaving the Conservatives to pick up the pieces.

This year's election provides a clear choice between:

- a return to a chaotic coalition of independents & left-wing allies;
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Conservative councillors have a strong track record of championing the communities they are elected to represent. Our team combines the experience of current councillors with the fresh input of new candidates, ready to serve the Island.

Voting will take place at polling stations on 6th May, however there is also the opportunity to register (by 20th April) to vote by post instead. Please contact us on 522404 to receive a registration form, or download one from the Council's website (iow.gov.uk).

For a strong and effective voice at County Hall — working as an influential part of a wider team — please vote for your local Conservative candidate to represent you on the IoW Council.

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Ryde Town Council

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Email: clerk@rydetowncouncil.gov.uk www.rydetowncouncil.gov.uk



Adrian Axford

Ryde Town Council are saddened to hear the news that Councillor Adrian Axford, Deputy Mayor of Ryde has passed away. The loss of Cllr Axford will be felt by many, especially here at Ryde Town Council.

May the memories of

Adrian's warmth and wit, and his many valued contributions to the community of Ryde be remembered by all, our thoughts and sincere condolences are with Adrian's family.



Ryde in Bloom allotment

Herb garden

NHS 2020



Mayor's Notes

It is now over one year since the first Lockdown and the Covid pandemic was in full crisis. It has been a really tough year with much sadness and loss of loved ones. My heart goes out to everyone. The positive news is that the vaccination programme has been amazing on the Isle of Wight and the Government roadmap to come out of Lockdown.

Ryde Town Council has been fully operational throughout the year and not only supported vulnerable residents but planned for recovery. I wish to thank all those involved in the Ryde Covid19 Community Response Team led by Ryde Aspire who meet consistently each week to make sure those in Ryde who need help receive it. Ryde Town Council has an on-going list of residents and organisations that have been incredibly kind in helping others through this difficult time. Once Lockdown is over Ryde Town Council will be officially honouring all those who have contributed in making life better for others. There has been so much kindness and community spirit.

I am devastated by the sad news that Cllr Adrian Axford, the Deputy Mayor of Ryde, has died. We send all our condolences and thoughts to his family. Adrian loved Ryde and he always put Ryde first above politics. Over the past two years we worked as a team as Mayor and Deputy Mayor in making sure the community and residents got support through the Covid crisis and that the town had a viable recovery and future. Adrian has given selfless outstanding service to Ryde and the Town Council for decades and we owe him a great deal. He was an excellent Ward Councillor for the North West of the town and he was helping his residents right up to the time he sadly had a stroke. He put people before himself and was particularly a strong advocate for those with disabilities. Adrian and I worked on the transformation of Ryde Town Council over the last two years. He championed local shops, Ryde's new Historic Action Zone, the purchase of St.Thomas's Church and potential Ryde Theatre/Town Hall and the new Ryde Kick-Start programme creating work placements for young people. He will be dearly missed especially his dry and very witty humour. He was a real gentleman.

He put people before himself and was particularly a strong advocate for those with disabilities

Ryde in Bloom

This year Ryde in Bloom is going to be bigger and better than ever before!

The last year has shown our communities how important gardens and outside spaces are for mental health and wellbeing and we at Ryde Town Council are determined to do our part.

This year we are making the competition simpler and easier to access so that more people can enter than ever before. Ryde in Bloom is open to all residents in Ryde, and we want to encourage everyone with a



garden, patio, allotment, window-box or even a windowsill to get creative and get involved. It really will be an accessible, inclusive event that gives everyone equal opportunity.

You don't have to be a seasoned professional to win the competition either because we have two distinct categories – Adults and Under 16.

Ryde in Bloom is due to launch on April 12th 2021, with deadline for entries on 2nd July. Final judging will take place in July before the schools break up for their summer holidays.

For more information on how to enter Ryde in Bloom email facilities@rydetowncouncil.gov.uk or call 01983 811105. Check out our Facebook page for more updates.

Upcoming Council Meetings

Date	Meeting	Time	Venue
12th April	Full Council	7pm	Youtube link on RTC website under - Minutes and Agendas
13th April	Planning Committee	4pm	Youtube link on RTC website under - Minutes and Agendas
27th April	Facilities & Assets committee	2pm	Youtube link on RTC website under - Minutes and Agendas
4th May	Planning Committee	4pm	Youtube link on RTC website under - Minutes and Agendas
10th May	Full Council	7pm	Youtube link on RTC website under - Minutes and Agendas

*Please note between 22nd March and the Election date no public questions will be taken at Council Meetings.

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Ventnor Park Lease

The final Lease has been agreed with the Isle of Wight Council for the Town Council to manage the park for the next 30 years. Our thanks to our County Council colleagues for working with us to ensure that their budget restrictions will not reduce the very high standards to which they have maintained it to date.

Support for Vulnerable Residents

The number of collections of shopping or medications carried out by our remarkable team of volunteers has passed the 1,000 milestone. Of that total, 220 have been shopping collections with a total value of £10,000, reclaimed from the residents, by Covid-compliant arrangements. The majority have been collections of medication for residents unable to leave home and having no other

person to collect for them. Our thanks to the volunteers without whom this level of support would not have been available.

Local Elections

We will have a new Town Council following the elections of 6th May. Nominations of candidates for the four new Ventnor Wards close on 8th April but there's still time for anyone interested in standing to submit to the Isle of Wight Council the three required short forms. There's a link on the home page of our website with all the forms and information needed. There are six Councillors needed for the new Ventnor West Ward, two for each of Lowtherville and Bonchurch & Ventnor East and one for St Lawrence.

Meeting Virtually

We've now completed a full year with all our meetings taking place

virtually, including our monthly Town Council Meetings, the meetings of our Planning and Staffing Committees, our two Working Groups and our Staff Meetings. Contact with Isle of Wight Members and Officers are also virtual as is the fortnightly meeting the Island's MP has for representatives of Town and Parish Councils.. As all involved have adjusted to the new format so well, none of our business has been affected by the change.

South Wight Parishes Health and Wellbeing Forum

The forum is for representatives of the 13 Town and Parish Councils in the South Wight to discuss the Island's Health & Wellbeing Services. Its meeting on 13th January had two guests to its virtual session: Claire Collins of Autism Inclusion Matters and Mark Kelly from Socialising

Buddies. On Thursday 25th February its guest speaker was Sharon Kingsman, a Public Health Principal with the Isle of Wight Council for Care and lead for Public Health Commissioning, to talk about the Mental Health Alliance.

Budget & Precept

Ventnor Town Council's meeting last Monday agreed that its Precept for 2021/22 would be £355,889, a reduction of £4,350 or 1.2% on last year's Precept. The predicted total spend in the year is £487,682 with the balance being offset by income from the activities that incur the costs.

More Information

The Town Council's website, with contact details for Town Councillors and staff, is at www.ventnortowncouncil.org.uk; our **Twitter account is: @ventnorclerk.**

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Council consider community asset for Eddington road

Seaview and Nettlestone Parish Council convened an Extraordinary Meeting of the Parish Council (23rd February 2021) to consider proposing Eddington Road as an Asset of Community Value, following the Isle of Wight Council identifying the site as potential land for development.

Barry Elliott, Chairman of the Parish Council said 'We wanted to ensure the views of the residents and the community are heard in this process, and are very concerned about the implications of what is being proposed by the IW Council'.

The Local Residents

Association have voiced concerns over the Local Authority's handling of the process and the Parish Council have been critical of the lack of community engagement.

Cllr Elliott added 'Although we welcome the March Q&A session with the Leader of the Council, this should have happened earlier and we should have been more involved – the implications of what is being proposed is significant and could have negative consequences for this and neighbouring areas'.

The Council heard from local residents and the Ward Councillor – Cllr Reg Barry, with everyone agreeing that the proposed 90-100 units were too many for the community to

accommodate. The members resolved to nominate the Eddington Road site as an Asset of Community Value.

The application has been lodged and the council looks forward to finding out if the application has been successful. At the Q&A session on March the 3rd, The Leader of the Isle of Wight Council (Dave Stewart) stated that numbers of units at the site are not set in stone and negotiations are ongoing.

Local Elections – May 6th 2021

Local elections for the Parish Council and Isle of Wight Ward Councillor will take place on May 6th 2021. Visit www.nettlestoneandseaview-pc.

gov.uk/news/ for further details on how to register as a candidate for either council.

Parish Council meetings

● Monday April 19th 2021 at 7pm, Online via Zoom

In line with national guidance, Parish Council meetings are being held virtually at the moment and the council have chosen to host their meetings via Zoom. Please look at the Parish website for details/updates. All meetings are open to the public and agendas available to view on the website seven days prior. All Councillors' details are available on the Parish Notice Boards and the Parish website or by contacting the Clerk.

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There are currently around 850,000 people with dementia in the UK. This number is predicted to increase to over 1.6 million by 2040. 209,600 people will develop dementia this year, that's one person every three minutes.

It's certainly not inevitable that you will develop dementia, but with 1 in 6 people over the age of 80 diagnosed with the disease, it is something you may wish to consider preparing for.

Most of us would wish to have a say in who can make decisions about where we live and what care we receive, and who looks after our finances and property. The simplest and most cost effective way of ensuring the right people are looking out for you is to make Lasting Powers of Attorney.

There are two types of Lasting Power of Attorney – one which deals with property and finances, and one which deals with health and welfare decisions.

A Property & Finances Lasting Power of Attorney gives your Attorneys the authority to manage your bank accounts and any

investments, and to buy or sell property on your behalf. It can be used as soon as it is registered if that is what you wish. This doesn't take any power away from you, and you can continue to run your affairs so long as you wish, but it might be useful if you were indisposed for a period of time and unable to deal with your financial affairs, for example if you required an extended stay in hospital.

A Health and Welfare Lasting Power of Attorney allows your attorneys to make decisions about where you live and what care you receive, and you can also give your attorneys the authority to give or refuse consent to life sustaining treatment. This type of Lasting Power of Attorney can only be used once it is registered, and then only if you lose the capacity to make these

decisions for yourself.

You should consider who you would wish to appoint as your attorney – this could be a trusted friend or relative, or a professional. If you are appointing more than one person you will need to decide how they should make decisions – jointly or separately? Do you wish to appoint replacement attorneys? A qualified adviser can take you through all the options and give you the best advice for your individual situation.

We all hope to live out our lives being fully in control of the decisions which affect us. Making Lasting Powers of Attorney ensures that if there is ever a time when we are unable to do this it will be the people we trust who are looking after our welfare and financial affairs.



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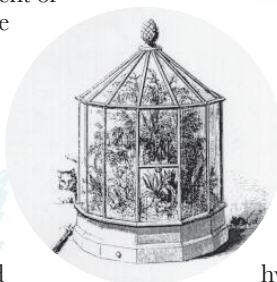
FERNTASTIC

On the evolutionary timeline, ferns, (Pteridophyta) are a staggeringly ancient family of plants. The earliest-known fern fossils date back to around 360 million years ago – long before the arrival of flowering plants. Ferns were the first plants to evolve a vascular system and ‘proper’ leaves with distinct veins and stems. They occur in great variety across the globe; from tiny alpine types just a few centimetres high to Australasian ‘tree fern’ giants that reach 20 metres.

In 1750, approximately 15% of the British population lived in a town. By 1850, it had risen to 85% – the Industrial Revolution had arrived. Rapidly expanding towns and cities struggled to cope; disease, poverty and pollution were rife. Recognition that workers needed healthy outdoor exercise and recreation resulted in the creation of the first gardening clubs and public parks. Once the exclusive domain of the gentry, horticultural pursuits were now accessible to the lower classes, which is how, bizarrely, a tiny London fern played a pivotal role in the development of global horticultural knowledge and trade.

For centuries, explorers had returned from their voyages of discovery with extraordinary stories and souvenirs, but preserving specimens of flora they had encountered was fraught with difficulty. Live plants perished during long sea voyages. Attempts to dry plant material for later study usually resulted in samples rotting in the humid air or being eaten by insects. In 1829, Dr Nathaniel Ward, a keen amateur naturalist and medical doctor practising in London’s East End, stumbled upon the solution. Placing a moth chrysalis inside a sealed jar to study its development, he noticed a tiny fern emerging from the damp soil surrounding the cocoon. Nobody knows the fate of the moth, but he keenly observed the plant as it grew and thrived. Water condensed on the inside of the jar, ran

Dinosaurs ate them, and the Victorians obsessed about them; ferns are astonishing survivors from the prehistoric world and still have the power to enchant us, writes Flo Whitaker.



“Ferns have horrid, mind-boggling names that only a devoted Fernatic could love”

down the sides and kept the fern hydrated. Whilst others before him had witnessed similar phenomenon, Dr Ward was the first to correctly surmise that the sealed microclimate protected the plant from polluted air. He experimented with different containers, eventually designing the ‘Wardian Case’ which was an early forerunner of the modern-day terrarium and aquarium. The largest cases were a metre long and could hold hundreds of seedlings. Living plants, many of great economic significance, could now be successfully shipped across the globe. In 1849, 20,000 *Camellia sinensis* (tea) plants were sent from China to India;

‘Assam’ tea had arrived. Commercial air travel eventually rendered Wardian Cases redundant, but Kew Gardens continued to receive consignments by this method until the 1960s.

Ferns make excellent garden plants, give a long season of interest and require little maintenance or specialist care. Start with a few reliably hardy native types that require similar conditions of humus-rich, damp soil in semi-shade. *Athyrium filix-femina* (‘Lady Fern’) reaches 1 metre high and bears finely dissected, graceful fronds. *Asplenium scolopendrium* (‘Hart’s Tongue Fern’) has glossy evergreen leaves and reaches approximately 50 cms. Many varieties of the *Dryopteris* family (‘Buckler Fern’) are hardy and also have the added bonus of tolerating dry shade – water them regularly for the first year and they’ll make long-lived clumps that will thrive on neglect.

Non-native *Matteuccia struthiopteris* or ‘Shuttlecock Fern’ (1.5 metres maximum), is reliably hardy. In a spring-themed border its upright architectural fronds perfectly complement tulips, lunaria, and aquilegia. Some Asian forms of *Athyrium*, known as ‘Japanese Painted Ferns’ are hardy here. Diminutive *Athyrium niponicum* ‘Pictum’ (30cms), has astonishing beetroot red stems and veining, while the variety ‘Ghost’ (90cms), is well-named, bearing silvery/grey spectral fronds.

A mature fern produces millions of spores, but only a few will land on a suitable surface and germinate. Given the right conditions, baby ferns sometimes appear in peculiar places and can be easily transplanted.

Potted ferns do well in a sheltered location. Add a few handfuls of water-retaining leaf mould to the potting mix. Water daily in hot weather and dampen the foliage to help maintain humidity. Grouped with other shady characters such as potted acers, hostas and violas, majestic ferns will add timeless grace and a touch of mystery to your garden. ☺

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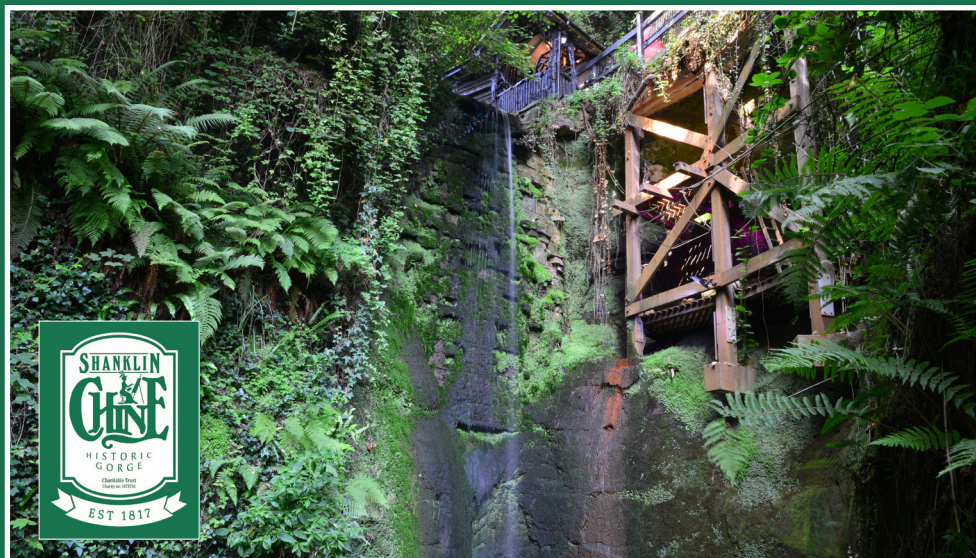
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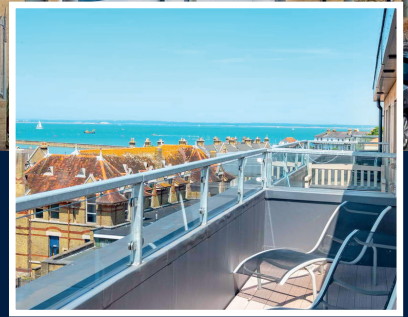
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