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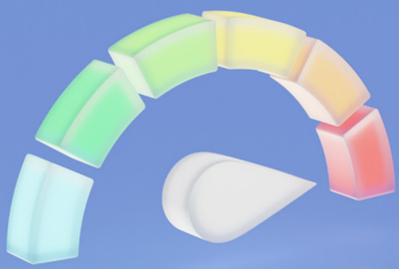
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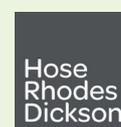
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Welcome from the EDITOR

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

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Photo courtesy of Jim Sumaria



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Beacon

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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.

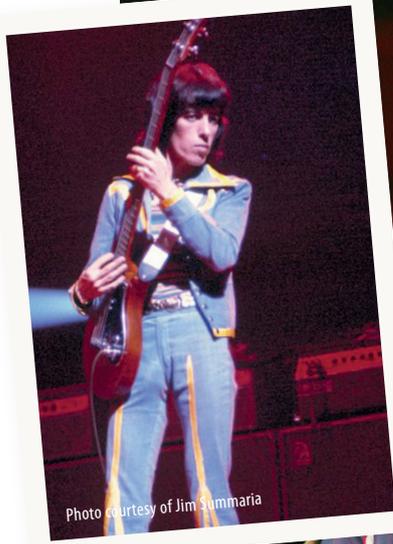


Photo courtesy of Jim Summaria

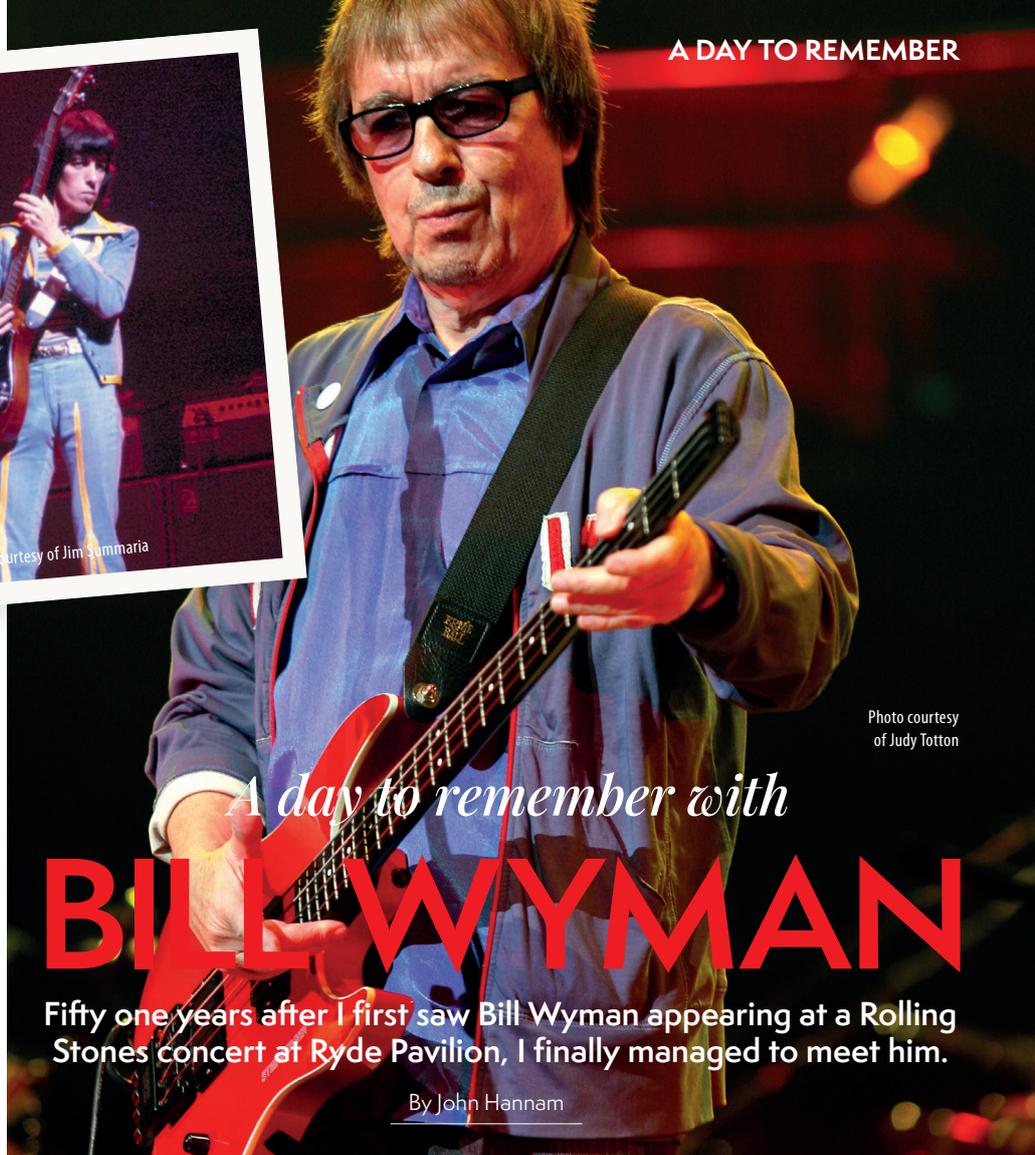


Photo courtesy of Judy Totton

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

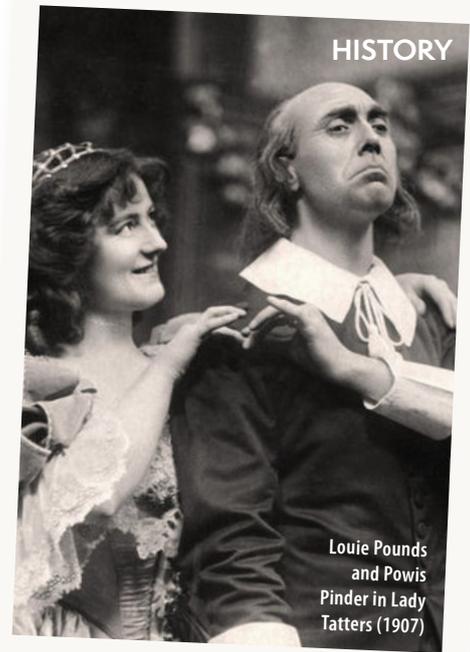
Powis-Pinder.

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

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



Louie Pounds and Powis Pinder in Lady Tatters (1907)

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 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.



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



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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 out 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

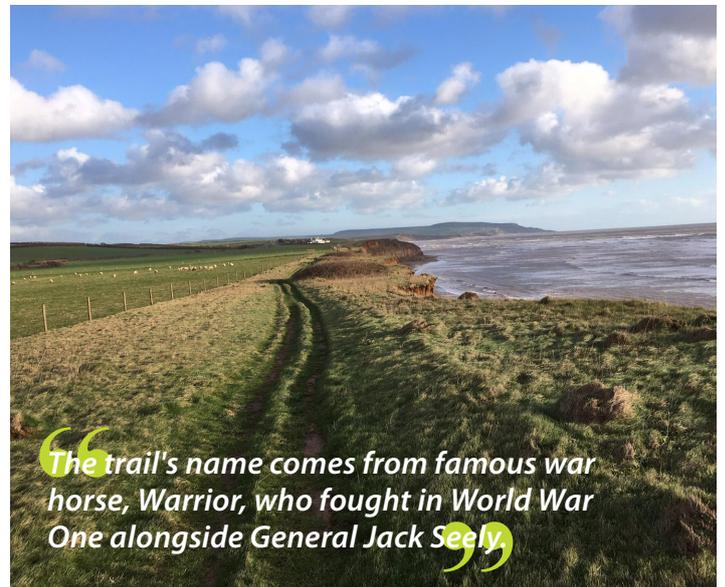
the tree decorated with hanging wooden kitchen utensils. A nice little touch if you've got children walking with you. My daughter suggested these were for the animals of the forest to bake with in the middle of the night.

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

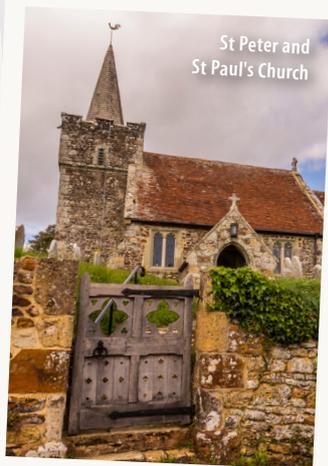
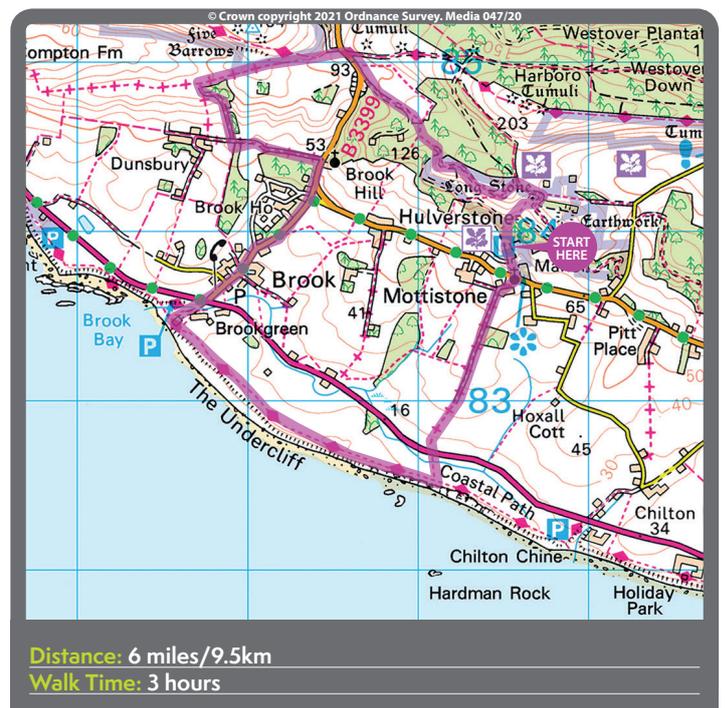
You'll walking mostly along country roads now towards Brook Bay, where you'll stroll along the cliff edge with beautiful views towards the English Channel. Take care along these cliffs.

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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www.iwmentalhealth.co.uk

to ask for help

We all have times when we come across unexpected problems.

It might be employment issues, housing difficulties or worrying about money. And sometimes it can be hard to ask for advice.

Whatever your circumstances, if you need support and guidance, **help is at hand.**

Freephone 0800 144 8848
or visit www.islehelp.me

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 chocolate 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.

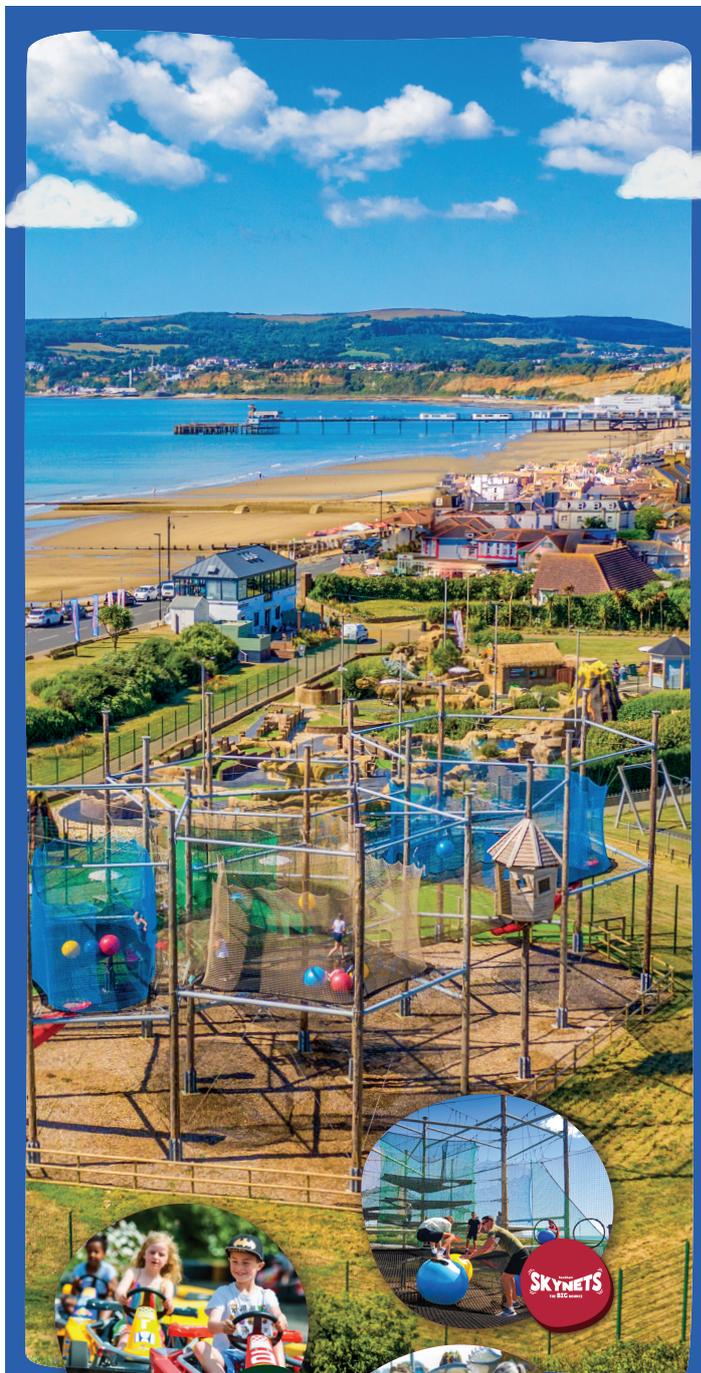
One of the unique attractions of the race is its even-handedness and the opportunity for Olympic and World champion sailors to

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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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.

This sweet Easter Bread is a traditional recipe baked in Italy and Greece, which tastes similar to brioche. The wreath shape of the bread symbolises the crown of thorns said to be worn by Jesus, the three braids illustrate the Holy Trinity and the egg represents rebirth. Easter Bread makes the perfect addition to any Easter lunch table, sliced and served warm or cool.

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.



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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. ☺

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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.

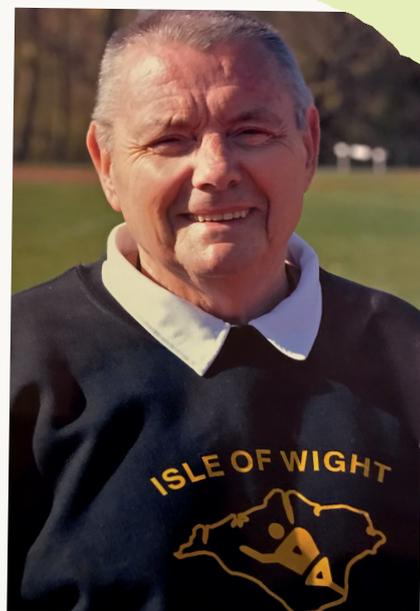
It has been a difficult time for the family, but daughter Claire said she has been "overwhelmed" by Islanders' messages of support: "Knowing how fond people were of both my parents is amazing and it's so lovely to read the things people are writing about them."

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 Cowes Medina

by Cllr Lora Peacey-Wilcox

Easter: I love this time of year. I always feel it gives hope that the dark, cold days are behind us. Try to enjoy this special time. We are blessed with such beauty on our Island.

Covid Cards: A number of you attended your job but did not receive a card. I have contacted NHS/CCG and am awaiting a response. I will update you.

NHS Dentist: I have had meetings with MP, NHS and others regarding the lack of NHS dentists available, not just in Cowes but across the Island. There is an issue with recruitment and retention to the Island. I hope after years of making the 'powers that be' aware, something can finally be achieved. It is simply not good enough.

Parking Charges: Gurnard/Cowes: Seriously? This is a very short term gain financially. The health implications both physical and mental far outweigh the finance. I will continue to work with Cllr Paul Fuller to fight against the charges.

Walking on Roads: Was I the last generation to be told to walk facing the cars? Too often I see people walking on the opposite side. If you can't see the traffic, they cannot see you. Please stay safe.

Floating Bridge: I will continue to raise my concerns over the issues with FB6. We need a solution for an efficient and consistent crossing across the river. (I am very concerned about side thrusters as a solution).

Beryl Scooters: Should only be used on the

road or cycle lanes. Be over age 16 and have a UK or provisional driving license. Remove headphones or earpods. Must not ride on pavements or use indoors, use another Beryl account, or ride under influence of drink or drugs. Avoid roads with speed limit of over 30mph. Avoid weaving through traffic.

COVID- Returning to Normal: For many elderly and vulnerable residents this is going to be really difficult. Please give people space. Please give people time. A small amount of consideration goes a long way.

In Need of Help: Whatever you think or feel cannot be helped...it can! Please do not sit and suffer. Call our wonderful, amazing people at Citizens Advice on the Island. **0800 1448848** seriously, they can help with any issue you are worried about, and they have contacts for all organisations to assist. Ask for help!

Election May 6th: If you are worried about leaving home, contact me and I will arrange postal votes to be sent to you. You have until 5pm Tues 20th April to apply. All people wishing to vote (unsure if you're registered) have until midnight 19th April.

As always you are my extra eyes and ears. Please keep in touch.

☎ 645765 📧 lora08@sky.com

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Art Exhibition Brings Cheer to Freshwater

Residents of Inglefield Nursing & Residential Home have been so inspired by the huge effort the local communities have made to keep everyone safe, they wanted to give something back by creating an outdoor art project to cheer everyone up.

The residents have created a series of artworks that are going to be placed around their local area in Freshwater. They have created three pieces of work, some painted canvases inspired by the cheerful work of Keith Haring, A series of wooden hearts, fairy doors and mandalas with drawings and messages from the resident and a small flock of clay birds which have been painted by the residents.

Charlotte Willis the manager of Inglefield said: "We are hoping the art cheers everyone up and we would love it if everyone that finds one of our birds could take a picture and post it on social media with #inglefield. While our residents cannot get out and about, we are hoping our birds will fly free and our residents can see where they have been."

Resident Barbara Parker said: "It's wonderful to feel part of the community and to be able to do something to show how grateful we are for the sacrifices everyone has made."

The Keith Haring inspired art is being shown in the window of Elliot's shop. "Art can do wonders for raising everyone's spirits," explained Elliot's owner Frances Chambers "It's a real inspiration and heart-warming to see what the residents have done."

The artwork can be viewed throughout Freshwater though March and April.



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Cowes Looks Set to Welcome Poundland Store

By Oliver Dyer

It looks as though Poundland could be coming to Cowes.

The chain is recruiting for a number of roles at a store in the High Street.

A sign has been posted on the door of one of its existing Isle of Wight shops, as spotted by Islander Christopher.

Poundland has stopped short of confirming the news, however. A spokesperson said: "The Isle of Wight is a great location for Poundland and we'd love to come to Cowes. As soon as we have any news to share, we will."

Job ads have already appeared online, looking for a store manager and supervisor at 6 High Street, Cowes. The location was formerly home to Woolworths and most recently, M&Co.



Photo thanks to Christopher Jackson and Google Maps

Children's Carnival Week

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 at the end of what has been an extremely challenging academic year. The National Children's Carnival Week will replace annual Mardi Gras celebrations this year, and everyone is invited to take part!

As we head towards the summer, many carnivals around the country are being forced to move online for the second year running. The New Carnival Company's Mardi Gras has also announced it will not be taking place on the streets in June.

All is not lost, however. 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 school 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



Photos courtesy of Tracy Curtis

Eco Refill Scheme Now Offers Home Delivery

The West Wight Timebank is operating a delivery eco refill scheme in the Freshwater, Yarmouth, Totland, Shalfton and Newbridge areas.

To reduce the amount of single use plastic being discarded into the environment you can have your empties collected and refilled with environmentally friendly products at your door. Washing up liquid, multipurpose cleaner, liquid soap, shampoo, conditioner, shower gel, laundry liquid and fabric conditioner, toilet cleaner and hand sanitiser are all available.



Prices are competitive and calculated by volume. Contact Gina on 07790 329859 for more information. Payment can be made by cash or card. Government Covid guidelines will always be followed.



News from Central Newport

by Cllr Julie Jones-Evans

Everyone is looking forward to the shops reopening this month and Newport Business Association has set up the Blooming Newport hanging basket scheme to celebrate. Care In The Garden are creating displays in yellow, blue and white, traditional Newport colours, also representing the NHS and hope.

The High Street Heritage Action Zone is going well and our website has just launched <http://iwahaz.uk/> and you can find out exactly what the project is about and keep up to date with the progress. The design guide is being put together at the moment and will be ready by June, this will be adopted by the IW as a supplementary planning document and will greatly assist planners with guidance on new developments and shop front treatments.

Local artist and author Jules Marriner is producing a set of colouring sheets depicting three scenes from Newport's past and present. They will be available to download very soon.

I have had my first meeting since securing some funding to go towards improving the pedestrian environment in Mill Street. We had IWC Highways, Island Roads and IWC Active travel officers present to discuss the way forward.

Work has started on an abandoned piece of land at the bottom of Holyrood Street, to create a Biosphere Garden, my project with Artecology to bring the IW UNESCO Biosphere to more people.



☎ 521068 / 07886437688

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News from Central Wight

by Cllr Steve Hastings

Dark Skies Designation

I am very much a supporter of Dark Skies. On our road, in Brighstone we have no streetlights so we have beautiful sunsets and then later on when we have a clear sky I look up and it is amazing to see the stars, there is no better feeling.

This is a tourist Island; it is a good tourist offer that we have all these special designations (Unesco Biosphere, AONB, SSSI) so Dark Skies is another one I think would be really good if we could add to the list. Local residents and Brighstone Parish Council are very supportive and monitor planning applications to ensure things like sky lights have a good blind system to avoid affecting it.

Unfortunately last year's application was not successful and it would appear this has a lot to do with the type of lights that had been installed during a recent upgrade. In the area we were hoping to achieve the official status, the streetlights were upgraded to LED lights but are said to be the wrong temperature for Dark Skies.

Turning the lights off, sadly, will not help us either, as the issue is the colour temperature of the LEDs rather than having the lights themselves. I also think that some residents may be reluctant to have the lights turned off. Changing the colour temperature would not impact on their efficacy for night-time navigation but reduces the glare and impact on nocturnal wildlife as well as human sleep patterns.

I am currently holding talks with officers, Island Roads and the Cabinet Member for Transport and Infrastructure to see if there is any way of doing a swap of lights to get the lower temperature lamps in the designated area.

Right of Way Closure

Please be aware that the permissive path that runs through Brighstone Holiday Centre has been closed, this is due to works taking place within the Holiday Centre. Because the actual definitive footpath has been lost to erosion this now means there is no through route along the cliff top between IW Pearl Centre and Grange Farm.

The diversion route will be on the Military Road/Military Road verge to bypass the closed section. It is important to take extra care on this section due to fast moving traffic.

I have spoken with David on site and it seems there was some damage caused by vandals to an electrical system, water and drainage, which he has repaired some with more to do.

Fly Tipping at Whale Chine

It is disgraceful that some people can treat our beautiful Island with such contempt as to fly tip masses of their rubbish at such a beauty spot as Whale Chine.

Between the council's Waste Team and Island Roads, the car park and right of way were cleared, but so much has been thrown over into the chine including mattresses, paint tins and builders rubble. This will prove more difficult to retrieve and it is on private land, as the chine is privately owned. The council will be offering support to the owners should they require it.

My wife and I went to see the site and walked along the side of the chine to the edge of the cliff and another fly tip appeared at 12.15pm. It is a shame because we could have greeted the fly tipper if we had been a couple of minutes less walking the pathway.

I am pleased to report that following my reporting of this further fly tipping that the Waste Team arranged for Amey to collect it.

I have asked for a Task and Finish Group to be set up at the council with relevant officers and cross party members to see what our options are going forward.

There have been some incidents of waste collection recently by registered collectors who have taken the waste to a field and then burned it rather than take it to the commercial waste lane at Lynnbottom Tip and as some of materials cause toxic fumes, they are being investigated by the Environment Agency.

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More Than 800 Businesses Help Youngsters into Work

By Iona Stewart-Richardson

More than 800 Isle of Wight businesses have signed up to the Island Careers Partnership (ICP) to support young Islanders gain the necessary skills to enter into employment.

Established in April 2019 by Richard White, the ICP is designed to build links between education and business to create better skills, build career aspirations from an early age and help guide young people into the world of work.

Now over 800 businesses, willing to help inspire and share their experiences of the workplace and highlight skills shortages on the Island.

Working alongside career leaders and advisors based in education on the Island, the partnership has been able to develop links to virtual work experience, virtual interviews as well as opportunities to visit both Island employers and some of the top 100 companies in the UK.

Senad Adams, Employment Engagement Coordinator from the ICP said: "We would like to thank and congratulate everyone who has contributed and supported this new platform linking businesses and education and especially Sovereign Housing and the Isle of Wight Council for their financial and business support.

"We have already started to achieve so much by working collaboratively even in such a challenging period and, as students

start to return to school and college, we hope to increase the opportunities available to them to attend more careers events and access the advice and support they need.

"We're also keen to see even more businesses join us, whether large or small, start-ups or multi-national corporations. There is no cost to getting involved and no predetermined requirements, even one-two hours of employer input can make a big difference to the future career and life choices of our young people."

Wayne Matthews, Divisional Director of Yokogawa Marex, one of the most recent businesses to join the Partnership said: "As an Island company, operating in an innovative, high-tech arena in multiple countries across the globe, we are keen to help young people on the Island to see the exciting career choices and opportunities right here on their doorstep. We believe the links between business and education are vital to help build skills and aspirations and we're delighted to be a part of the partnership and to support its aims and objectives."

The group has recently applied for charitable status which will allow it to offer long term support to education and employers.

The next virtual online conference meeting will be held on Tuesday 20th April.

New employers wishing to participate are asked to contact info@islandcareerspartnership.co.uk



Island Careers Partnership



Yarmouth Foot Passenger Service Sets Sail

By Oliver Dyer

A foot passenger boat service between Yarmouth and Lymington will start up again from April.

Following its popularity last year, Anderson Boat Cruises will once again be running the 'Coral Star'.

The service will run over Easter and the following bank holiday weekends.

Skipper and owner of Anderson Boat Cruises, Tim

Anderson, said: "We worked really hard last year to provide a safe and reliable public service and we feel there is still the need for that this year."

Coral Star has undergone a minor refit and paint job this year.

All Covid rules will be implemented including wearing masks onboard and sanitising between every trip.

Coral Star will start its service again from April 2nd. Booking is required.



News from Cowes West

by Cllr Paul Fuller

Councillors Surgeries: With the thaw setting on Government lockdowns, I am recommending outdoor surgeries from April. These are being updated in accordance to guidance and can be found at: paulfullerc.blogspot.com

E-Scoters: Thank you for feedback concerning use of e-scooters on pavements and being left inappropriately. If you witness anything that causes concern please let myself and Beryl, (responsible for the scheme) know: support@beryl.cc

Elections: Thursday 6th May: Elections are pending for IW Council, local town/parish Councillors and the Police Commissioner. Please register at: www.gov.uk/register-to-vote

Planning: Baring Road: Proposals to develop six units on the Gurnard side of Baring Road was called-in for determination by the IW Planning Committee. This follows concerns over coalescence between Cowes and Gurnard, and goes against the wishes of Gurnard's Neighbourhood Plan to protect the Jordan Valley.

Mornington Car Park: At present the IW Council has no plans to sell Mornington Road Car Park. Concerns came to light following an article appearing in the press, regarding use and the viability of this car park, within the IW Council's Parking strategy.

Gurnard Green: Please can I appeal that when bins are close to being full, residents take their rubbish home or place rubbish in an emptier bin nearby. This is to prevent foxes scattering food waste!

Vaccination Transport Support : If you, or somebody you know is struggling and need transport to get to appointments, call the Optio helpline on 01983 522226, (9.30am-3pm Monday-Friday) where free return transportation will be provided, subject to availability of volunteer drivers.

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

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County Show 2021 Cancelled

By Oliver Dyer

This year's Isle of Wight Royal County Show has been cancelled.

Organiser say the decision has been taken with safety in mind, in light of the pandemic.

Graham Biss, County Show Chairman said: "The need to make this decision is very much regretted because we know many people were looking forward to the show. This was not an easy decision and one we would have preferred not to have to take but our overriding priority is safety of everyone associated with the show. The planning cycle for the show means it was important to make a timely decision."

Building on the success of last year's Open Air Markets, and subject to the ongoing Covid-19 rules and regulations, the Agricultural Society is planning to hold a number of Open Air Markets this summer to support local businesses and provide Islanders with the opportunity



for outdoor shopping.

As and when the way forward becomes clearer it is also hoped that it will be possible to arrange a "Country Fair" event at the County Showground in late August.

The Society is keen to try to support the traders and partners who normally attend the County Show.

David Groves, RIWAS Chairman said: "Whilst we are disappointed it has been necessary to cancel this year's County Show we are fortunate to have a 27-acre site so if anyone is looking for a venue to hold an outdoor event we would be pleased to hear from them."

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LEGAL & FINANCIAL

Preparing for the inevitable?



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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PROVIDING A STRONG VOICE FOR RESIDENTS ISLANDWIDE

The Island is divided into 39 wards (18 of which are in Central and West Wight), each of which elects an Isle of Wight Councillor.

There is a Conservative candidate seeking election in every ward, giving all Islanders the opportunity to have a councillor who works constructively as part of a wider team to make a difference.

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;
- **continued leadership & clear direction from the Conservatives, working together for the future prosperity of the Isle of Wight.**

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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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 two 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.

Can I get help with the cremation costs?

Yes if you are in receipt of benefits you may be entitled to a payment of up to £1,000 from the Department of Work & Pensions, so we advise contacting them to enquire.

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.

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FERNTASTIC

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.

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 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.

Although botany was considered a respectable activity for a Victorian lady, visiting a steamy tropical glasshouse, one of the new wonders of the age, was not for the faint-hearted. Newly-discovered exotic plants flaunted their sexuality, shamelessly displaying their reproductive parts for all to see. In contrast, native British plants were regarded as thoroughly wholesome in character. Ferns were the noblest of all because they displayed no



stone, embroidered onto fabrics, painted on porcelain, depicted in stained glass and on tombstones; motifs of birds, flowers, insects and seashells were everywhere. ‘Fernmania’ was all the rage. In popular ‘Language of Flowers’ compendiums, enigmatic ferns represented magic and mystery. In 1855, Charles

Kingsley wearily noted, “Your daughters, perhaps, have been seized with the prevailing Pteridomania and are wrangling over unpronounceable names... which seem different in each new fern-book they buy.”

Kingsley was right. Ferns have horrid, mind-boggling names that only a devoted Fernatic could love, but don’t be put off, as 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*

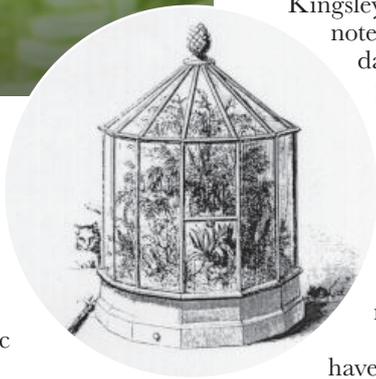
(Hart’s Tongue Fern) has glossy evergreen leaves and reaches approximately 50 cms. Many varieties of the *Dryopteris* family (Buckler Fern) are hardy and also have the added bonus of tolerating dry shade – water them regularly for the first year and they’ll make long-lived clumps that will thrive on 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 compliment 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. Hart’s Tongue Fern is jokingly known in my garden as ‘Fernus Downpipeus’ after the discovery of several young plantlets growing happily in a leaky roof gutter!

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. ☺

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



reproductive organs – even the most prudish couldn’t take offence at a fern. We now know that ferns reproduce by the dispersal of microscopic spores – something not properly understood until the late 19th century.

Images of nature decorated the Victorian world. Carved into wood and



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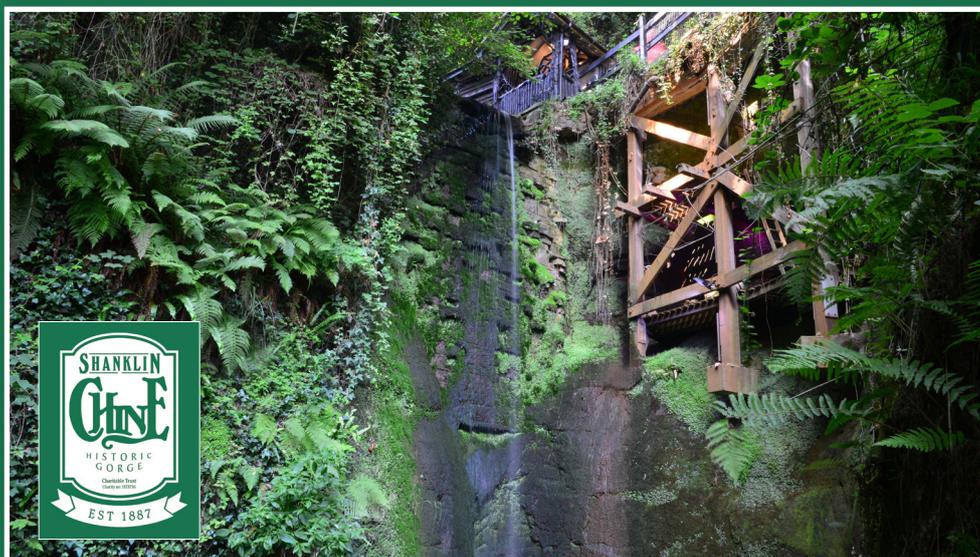
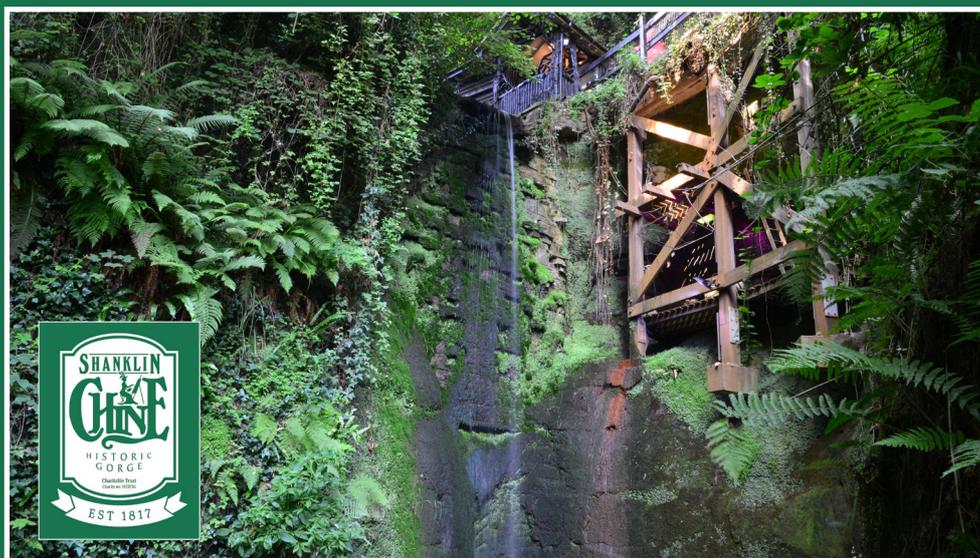
WIN! Can you spot the differences?



Shanklin Chine and The Fisherman's Cottage Inn are delighted to announce that from Monday 12th April they will be reopening the Island's only pub on the beach and the Isle of Wight's oldest tourist attraction. Offering a takeaway service and the opportunity to now purchase interesting items from the Antiques Centre, The Chine, now a registered charity, opens daily from 10am until 10pm. The illuminations will be switched on at dusk.

Fisherman's Cottage Inn will open the outside seating area (in accordance with Government guidelines) from 12th April. There will be a limited menu on offer and the pub will operate a table service only. The pub will open fully from 17th May.

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When sending your entry to us you MUST ensure that you use the correct postage. Terms and conditions available on request.
Prizes must be claimed within 30 days of the draw date. Previous winners can be found on our Facebook and Twitter pages.
Winners will be contacted by phone.

Did you know...

You can take a photo on your phone and email your entry to win@iwbeacon.com.





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