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WEST WIGHT

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August 2021

ISLAND STORY

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HERITAGE
TRAIL



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Welcome from the EDITOR

Summer is now in full swing and the Island is back in action, showing off its best side — beaches, outdoors spaces, great places to dine and visitor attractions in action. It's good to be back.

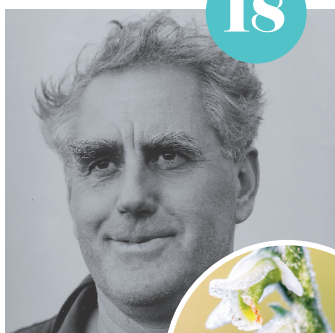
While many places are still approaching the social scene with caution, it's nice to have things to be able to pop in the diary. This month's Beacon is packed with places to go and things to do.

We're also bringing you another tasty recipe for salmon and salsa wraps, gardening tips, fascinating history — including John Hannam's feature on the 100th anniversary of Uffa Fox's 'foolhardy' journey — and an interview with singer, Russell Watson. Plus much more.

Enjoy your summer.

Amy Shephard

Editor amy.shephard@iwbeacon.com



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Beacon

MAGAZINE

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A day to remember with RUSSELL WATSON

When I headed to London's Wisebuddah Studio in 2010, I could barely wait to meet Russell Watson. I'd seen him reveal his remarkable story of how he escaped death following horrendous brain tumours and I'd read his emotional book.

By John Hannam

I was not keen to make the interview a sob story. Russell gave me such a warm welcome and we hit it off instantly. He was also pleased to see his interviewer. The thrill for me is always meeting my guests. Virtually the rest of the day he had spent chatting to various radio stations all over Britain via headphones and high quality telephone lines.

He looked so well and yet I knew he didn't expect to make it. He was recording an album at the time of his first illness but had not told anyone of his condition. His vision had almost gone. In his own mind he had created his last piece of music.

Thankfully, there was a happy ending. He recovered, after a great fight, and the album was released as *That's Life*.

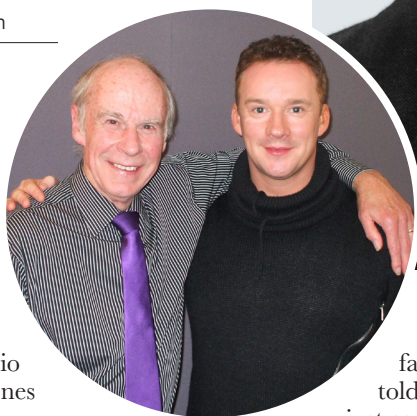
The very night before our interview he had been presented with the award for the Best Classical Artist for 2010.

At the time he was promoting his latest album, *La Voce*, recorded in Italy with members of the famed Ennio Morricone Orchestra. Right on cue Russell added a few bars of a Clint Eastwood theme.

How did his music career start? He was another who sat in a bedroom with a mate playing along to Beatles records.

I quickly sensed Russell was prone to teasing and this is always a good sign. I got into the spirit of it all and asked him how many exams he passed when he left school.

With a great laugh he said: "John I think the word you are looking for is none."



His father once told him: "It's just as well you can sing. You can't do

much else lad."

Before leaving school he would wash cars and had several paper rounds and was keen to make his own way in life. He began on a youth opportunity programme and received £27 a week. Then he worked in a bolt cutting factory.

"He was another who sat in a bedroom with a mate playing along to Beatles records"

Eventually he became a mimic in pubs before moving into the tough world of northern clubs. Usually it was just before the bingo. There were times when he thought he would never move beyond club land.

On one occasion he was billed as: "Russell Watson — Salford's Joe Longthorne. Everything from Pavarotti to Meatloaf."

One night at the Wigan Road Working Men's Club was to change his life. A guy called Sidney said to him: "Russell Watson you have a great voice you ought to sing some of that opera stuff. Pavarotti's 'Neston Doormat' would be

perfect for you." That old boy was spot on.

Suddenly his career took off and before long he was selling millions of albums. He sang at a Champions League Final, performed for the Pope in the Vatican and even won the male rear of the year title.

Russell has always been dubbed the People's Tenor. In reality, he introduced so many working class people to the world of opera. That was always his ambition from early in his singing career.

I once interviewed an opera singer who described Russell as just being a karaoke singer. In fact, she was not very famous at all. A little touch of envy, maybe.

Our so-called karaoke singer has sung with the Boston Pops Orchestra, the Royal Philharmonic and BBC Concert Orchestra. His voice has thrilled millions all around the world.

Currently Russell is touring Britain in his rescheduled 20th Anniversary tour which, lockdown permitting will carry on well into 2022. His latest album is called 20.

I was lucky enough to interview Russell on two other occasions and he is always a joy to be with. A real credit to his business.

Mind you, I rarely mention his beloved Manchester United. You can hear too much of a good thing! ☺

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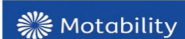
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THURSDAY 5TH
& THURSDAY
26TH AUGUST

From Palmerston TO PLUTO

During the mid-19th Century, Sandown's Granite Fort was built by Lord Palmerston's Government to protect the bay against a French invasion that never came.

Join The Wildheart Animal Sanctuary in Sandown for a very special evening of local history with Island historian, author and broadcaster Tim Wander who will be telling the real story behind the sanctuary's home, Sandown's Granite Fort.

The doors will open an hour before the talk begins so you can have a very quiet, personal walk around the sanctuary and enjoy a complimentary hot drink and slice of cake at a gentle pace.

Tim is a captivating speaker with a rich knowledge of Isle of Wight military history, and he will host a guided tour around the Granite Fort together with a fascinating talk about this very special site.

The story begins in the mid-19th Century, when Sandown's Granite Fort was built by Lord Palmerston's Government to protect the bay against a French invasion that never came. The many forts across the Island soon became known as Palmerston's Folly. But Tim will tell you that the forts had other vital purposes. The story will continue through to the Granite Fort's near destruction in the 1930s, and of course its vital role as a pumping station in one of the Second World War's most audacious engineering projects, the Pipe Line Under The Ocean – PLUTO.

In 1940, when Britain stood alone, our little town on the bay would play a vital role in the conflict.

Tim's talent for story-telling will bring history to life and shine a light on Sandown's story that many will be unaware of. Did you know Sandown even had its own Nazi spy, local landlady Mrs Dorothy O'Grady!

In 1940, when Britain stood alone, our little town on the bay would play a vital role in the conflict. When the invasion came, the bay would have become a brutal battlefield, and the defences that were deployed across the beach and bay are in themselves an incredible story. Winston Churchill's famous speech: "We will fight them on the beaches" would have been very close to home.

The Sanctuary will open its doors at 5pm, so you can see the rescued animals before a prompt 6pm start to the talk in the Wildheart Café, before a leisurely guided tour of the site.

The price is £14 with all proceeds supporting the Wildheart Trust with a complimentary tea, coffee or selected soft drink, plus a slice of delicious cake. [ⓑ]

Numbers are limited so book your place in advance, at wildheartanimalsanctuary.org/whats-on/2021/from-palmerston-to-pluto.



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Walking the Island

WEST WIGHT HERITAGE TRAIL

The new heritage trail guide covers important historical figures from West Wight with extra focus on Freshwater Bay which has been an important cultural hub, especially during the Victorian period.

In addition to well-known Island residents Tennyson, Cameron and Hooke, the guide lists numerous notable visitors from many varied fields who took great inspiration from the area.

The heritage trail has been put together by The Bay Boutique Bed and Breakfast in Freshwater Bay, using historical research compiled by local artist Becca Cameron from Freshwater Bay Residents' Association.

I've been intrigued by all the artists, writers, explorers, intellectuals and geniuses who have come here

Becca said: "I've spent years researching the history of the area. As an artist myself, I've been intrigued by all the artists, writers, explorers, intellectuals and geniuses who have come here."



Paul and Becca launching the new guide



Follow in the footsteps OF FAMOUS FIGURES

A new heritage trail has been produced for the West Wight thanks to funding from the Isle of Wight Council's Active Travel Innovation Grant.

Paul Mocroft, owner of The Bay Boutique Bed and Breakfast, said: "Freshwater Bay has a great energy during the summer months, but it's extraordinary to think what this must have been like during the Victorian era when it was full of celebrities! You can almost feel what it must have been like by exploring the trail yourself."

People who complete all

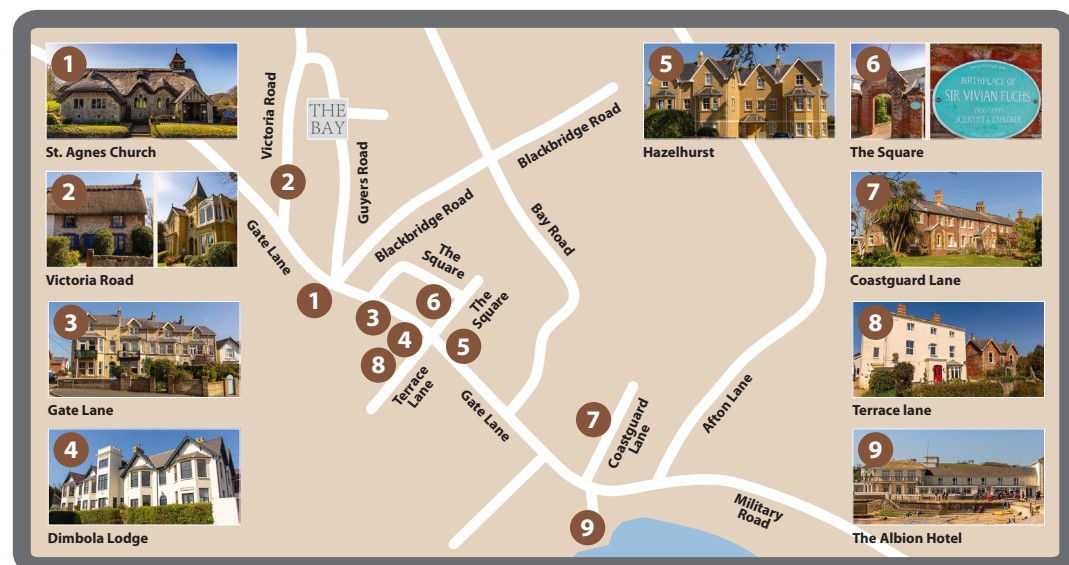
or part of the heritage trail can enter a prize draw to win items donated from Island businesses, by giving feedback on a short online form. Prizes include:

- A £25 voucher for The Red Lion Freshwater
- A cream tea for two at Jireh House, Yarmouth
- A weekend's electric bike hire for two from Wight Cycle Hire, Yarmouth
- A weekend's electric bike

hire for two from The Bay Boutique Bed and Breakfast

- A £25 voucher for Adrian's Bike Shop, Freshwater
- A limited edition print of a Freshwater Bay scene from Island artist Maria Ward

The guide is available online at stayfreshwaterbay.co.uk/heritagetrail where the prize draw can also be entered. Physical copies are available from West Wight Tourist Information Points. ③



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WALK THE WIGHT



WALK THE WIGHT WILL RETURN IN SEPTEMBER!

Mountbatten's iconic event had to be cancelled last year due to the Covid pandemic but the easing of restrictions have meant it can go ahead on September 12.

The full 26.5-mile walk takes in beautiful scenery from rolling hills, coastal views and historic towns and villages.

There is the option to walk half, either from Bembridge to Carisbrooke or Carisbrooke to Alum Bay, or there is the eight-mile Flat Walk along the cycle path from Sandown to Newport.



Walk the Wight with **Mountbatten**

However, if walking in your own time works better, Walk the Wight Your Way, which was introduced last year when the main walk was cancelled, remains an option.

Nigel Hartley, CEO at Mountbatten, said: "With restrictions lifting, it is looking good for this year's rescheduled event, in the open wide spaces of the Island. It's probably going to be quite an uplifting albeit emotional sight, to see all our fundraisers walking the Island once again.

"It's perfectly understandable, after the past year or so, if some people would rather Walk the Wight in their own way virtually again, instead of joining the public event, you are more than welcome to. You can register to join online or if you are walking the public event, you can also register on the day.

You can sign up now at www.mountbatten.org.uk/register-to-walk-the-wight

If you don't have an email address or access to the internet, you can register on (01983) 217300.



Orchestral Ibiza

Ibiza Classics as you've never heard them before! Orchestral Ibiza heads from the white isle to the Isle of Wight for Summer 2021.

A one day family festival catering for 5,000 like-minded party people, followed by an evening packed with nostalgia, as you enjoy a full live orchestral performance of the biggest Ibiza anthems of all time.

And if that's not enough, you can also treat yourself to a selection of street food vendors, a gin bar, dessert parlour, guest DJs and more through the day.
ibizalive.co.uk

**28TH
AUGUST
SMALLBROOK
STADIUM,
RYDE**

Keyworkers To Be Recognised in 'Thank You Fest'

An event celebrating the Isle of Wight and its keyworkers will be held at Smallbrook Stadium in August, by the organisers of Orchestral Ibiza.

Thank You Fest, which is supported by Isle of Wight Radio, will be held on Sunday, August 29 — the summer bank holiday weekend.

Tribute act Wannabe: The Spice Girls Show will headline at the event, recreating the era of girl power with a 60-minute live show of Spice Girl anthems. From chart stomping 'Spice Up Your Life' through to hip shaking 'Who Do You Think You Are?' Wannabe will take the audience on a Spice World journey with music from the group and their solo careers.

Thank You Fest will also feature a live stage show, kids area, bar, street food vendors and much more — making it the perfect bank holiday setting for the Island to get together and say a big thank you.

Organisers will restrict entries to just 3,000 tickets (approximately 60% of



capacity) to allow for social distancing.

All key workers and their families will receive a special rate ticket price. From NHS, fire and police through to teachers, carers, transport, taxi drivers and retail workers.

Early bird tickets will also be available to the first 500 customers for just £10. Sign up at thankyoufest.co.uk to purchase yours.

The organisers are looking for local bands, acts and DJs to play at the event, so if you are a talented professional and have a set that will work for a mixed audience, then get in touch.

For more information, head to thankyoufest.co.uk



SPEEDWAY IS BACK!!!

Smallbrook Stadium, Ryde, Isle of Wight, PO33 4BH

2021 Fixtures

July

Thursday 29th

August

Thursday 5th/12th/19th

Tuesday 24th

September

Thursday 2nd

**Adults 17 & over £12
Concessions £10**

**Kids 16 & under FREE
On track action from 6:15pm**

warriorsspeedway.com

Wightlink Warriors Return

Speedway is back at Smallbrook Stadium in Ryde.

Usually, in action on Thursday evenings, every week throughout the summer, the Wightlink Warriors race from 6.15pm against sides from Oxford and Cradley, as well as staging the Island Masters Grand Prix over three rounds and handicap racing to provide a varied programme throughout the season.

This family friendly community club is mindful that every age needs to be catered for on match nights — and therefore offers free admission to accompanied children 16 and under and provides activities to keep the youngsters involved. They can watch riders of their own age on track and join the grown-ups to enjoy high speed action on the country's largest raceway — all from the comfort of a clean and tidy grandstand.

With disabled access and a dedicated viewing area sited conveniently close to both the track and The Retreat Snack Bar, club officials make every effort to ensure that everybody attending the Smallbrook Stadium has an affordable and enjoyable experience they would be happy to recommend to others.

For more information on the Warriors, including upcoming fixtures, visit www.warriorsspeedway.com or email speedwayontheisland@yahoo.co.uk



The Entertainment GUIDE

Visit iwbeacon.com to see our full events guide



Ticket to Ryde

Situated along the seafront just a stone's throw from Ryde's golden sand beaches, this FREE community event provides a rich mix of bank holiday entertainment for both local people and Island visitors.

Feel-good live music will be provided by The Baggywrinkles Blues Band, The Mix, The Resisters, Simon Ledger plus an opportunity for upcoming new local talent to take to the stage.

There will be a real ale bar courtesy of Island Ales, hot food including Isle of Wight Proper Burger, market stalls selling vinyl records, hats, sunglasses and collectables. A range of children's activities will keep the little ones happy whilst

the adults relax and enjoy the music.

Taking place during the International Scooter Rally, the event embraces the '60s and the mods - providing Islanders with a taste of the scooter weekend.

Organised with the support of the team behind the hugely popular Jack Up The Summer festival, Ticket to Ryde is an established event now in its 7th year. In 2021 the event is being held in aid of Beaulieu Respite & Children's Home who are Jack Up's nominated charity of the year.

With a lovely atmosphere and laid back family-friendly vibe, it's the perfect way to enjoy a lazy bank holiday weekend!

28TH - 29TH
AUGUST
EASTERN
GARDENS,
RYDE

Happy Daze are Here Again

The Island's brand new festival, Happy Daze is coming to the County Show Ground, in Cowes this month.

Guests can enjoy a fantastic gaming arena with online games tournaments hosted by world-famous online gamer Nitro Luke DX (Minecraft, Fortnite and more), the Big Top Music Arena with headliners, supported by Island Musicians and DJs, an Isle of Wight food and craft market, childrens funfair, camping area, Dementia friendly and inclusive zones and loads more. Find out more at happydazefestival.org.



20TH - 22ND
AUGUST

Northwood House Tea Garden

The Northwood House Tea Garden in Cowes will be open all through Cowes Week and August weekends between 11am and 5pm

Visitors can enjoy a cream tea, sandwich or an ice-cream on the lawns of this iconic Island manor house with Covid-safe policies remaining in place for peace of mind. Guest traders will be exhibiting through Cowes Week.

More information at www.northwoodhouse.org or call 293642 for bookings.



Cowes Week Lawn Bar & August Festival of Gin

A favourite Cowes Week destination for locals and Island visitors alike, the Lawn Bar with its cool, relaxed vibe is always a great place for meeting friends for a social drink and soaking up the unique atmosphere. Open daily through the regatta from midday until late, enjoy live music every evening from 7.30pm, with artisan wood-fired pizza also on the menu and up to 100 gins available in the Lawn Bar August Festival of Gin! Free entry before 9pm.



Treasure Island: Cowes Week Outdoor Theatre

Bring the family along to Northwood Park on 3rd & 4th of August to see some fantastic outdoor theatre this Cowes Week. There are two daily performances at 11am and 3pm



where you can meet Long John Silver and enjoy this favourite piratical tale, suitable for all ages. Search Google for "Quantum Theatre, Cowes" for advance tickets or visit the Northwood House website.

Warrior Festival Fundraises for Wight Brainy Bunch

A host of Isle of Wight bands have rallied together to help raise funds for The Wight Brainy Bunch, a charity that provides support and financial assistance to families affected by brain tumours. The family friendly festival invites everyone to come and enjoy a fun-filled day with a huge array of food options, bars and live music from the likes of Hashtag, The Ohmz, Foo Fighterz and many more with tickets priced at £10 and under 12s going free.

All proceeds will be going to The Wight Brainy Bunch and donations can be sent via the fundraiser on their Facebook page Warrior Festival IOW. The Wight Brainy Bunch provides invaluable emotional and financial support to families devastated by brain tumours.

Set up by Mark Grimes and his wife Kathryn, following Mark's diagnosis of a brain tumour in February 2015.

www.warriorfestiow.uk



**AUGUST 7TH
AT SANDOWN
AIRPORT**

Jaguar Enthusiasts Club's Annual Car Show

As well as getting close to hundreds of truly splendid classic, beautiful vintage and modern cars of all makes, along with other modes of transport, visitors to the Jaguar Enthusiasts Club's annual car show can enjoy a full day of live music and entertainment.

There is a variety of side stalls to tempt and delight you, David Randini for the children's enjoyment.

You won't go hungry with superb catering from vintage tea, cakes and ice-cream to the airports ultimate pit barbecue.

You may even be lucky enough to win a Jaguar XK in the raffle!

Entry is just £5 per adult with accompanied children under 16 free. Park all day for free too.

The money raised from this year's show goes to the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance.

**AUGUST 15TH
AT SANDOWN
AIRPORT**



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DAILY THROUGHOUT AUGUST (subject to weather)

Departs Thetis Wharf, Cowes (next to the Chain Ferry) at **0930 hours** to Gunwharf Quays, Portsmouth. Returning at approximately **1700 hours** from Gunwharf Quays back to Thetis Wharf, Cowes. (Please listen out for announcements for exact time). **Adults £9 / OAPs £8 / Children £7.** Price does not include admission to attractions



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FACE MASKS are advised when inside the boat

Salmon & Salsa Verde Wraps

Elevate the humble wrap into a sensational taste-bud tingling experience. Adele Trathan recommends this very grown-up version of a fish wrap that's certain to impress any lunchtime guests.

INGREDIENTS

4 salmon fillets
4 whole wheat tortilla wraps
2 large ripe avocados (stoned and peeled)
1 tsp smoked paprika
1 tbsp olive oil
Pinch of salt and freshly ground black pepper

FOR THE SALSA VERDE

2 cloves garlic
1 bunch of fresh flat-leaf parsley
½ bunch of fresh basil
10-12 sprigs of fresh mint
1 tbsp capers
2 gherkins, roughly chopped
6 anchovy fillets
1 tbsp Dijon mustard
3 tbsp red wine vinegar
8 tbsp extra virgin olive oil

METHOD

1 Pre-heat the grill to a medium-high heat. Combine the oil and smoked paprika in a small bowl, adding salt and pepper to season. Coat the salmon evenly with the oil mixture.

2 Mash the avocado flesh with a fork, then season with salt and pepper, plus a dash of extra paprika if an added kick of spice is desired.

3 Place the salmon under the grill, skin side down, and grill for 12-15 minutes until the salmon is cooked and flakes easily with a fork. Transfer the salmon to a chopping board or plate and remove the skin.

4 Put all the ingredients for the Salsa Verde into a tall container. Using a hand blender, whizz up the mixture until the desired consistency is reached, which can range from super smooth to coarse and textured. Add a sprinkle of salt and pepper to taste.

5 Take the wraps and add a layer of mashed avocado to each one, then flake a salmon fillet on each wrap followed by a good drizzle of Salsa Verde. Roll up, serve immediately and accept the compliments from diners. Store any remaining Salsa Verde in the fridge for a few days and use with grilled chicken, fish and salads. **B**



SERVES

4

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Fish Finger Wraps

FOR KIDS



SERVES
4



Adele Trathan's fish finger wraps are an easy, weekend or summer holiday lunch for kids to make, using a few staple ingredients from the fridge and freezer, wrapped up for a nutritionally balanced and deliciously simple meal.

INGREDIENTS

8 fish fingers
4 tortilla wraps
1 Little Gem lettuce or similar
2 ripe tomatoes
½ cucumber
½ red onion or 4 spring onions
2 tbsp mayonnaise
2 tbsp tomato ketchup
1 lemon, quartered

METHOD

1 Pre-heat the grill to a medium to high heat. Grill the fish fingers, turning occasionally, for 12-15 minutes until crisp and golden.

2 In the meantime, mix the ketchup and mayonnaise together in a bowl. Slice the lettuce, then chop the onion, tomatoes and cucumber into small pieces.

3 Spread a generous amount of the mayonnaise/ketchup mixture on one side of each tortilla wrap. Layer with the lettuce, tomatoes, cucumber and onions then top with two fish fingers.

4 Serve with a wedge of lemon for the kids to squeeze. Wrap up, tuck in, then make some more! **B**

Alzheimer Cafés

Tel: 01983 220200

Email: info@alzheimercafeiow.org.uk

Website: www.info@alzheimercafeiow.org.uk



East Cowes Alzheimer Café

East Cowes Town Hall
York Ave, East Cowes PO32 6RU
First Tuesday of the month
2pm—4pm

Cowes Alzheimer Café

Football Club, Reynolds Close
off Park Road, Cowes PO31 7NT
Second Wednesday of the month
2pm—4pm

Totland Alzheimer Café

St Saviours Holy Family Centre
Weston Lane, Totland PO39 0HE
Third Wednesday of the month
2pm—4pm

Sandown Alzheimer Café

The Broadway Centre
1 Broadway, Sandown PO36 9GG
Fourth Wednesday of the month
2pm—4pm

Newport Alzheimer Café

IOW College, Medina Way
(Conference Rm, PINK Building)
Newport PO30 5TA
Last Thursday of the month
6pm—8pm

ACE7 Alzheimer Café

Carers IW, Riverside Centre
Newport PO30 2QR
2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month
10.30am—12.00 o'clock

Ryde Alzheimer Café

All Saints' Church Hall
Queen's Road, Ryde PO33 3AF
First Friday of the month
11.30am—2pm

Newcomers very welcome

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when Covid-19
restrictions apply

An Alzheimer Café is a meeting place giving informal education about dementia, guidance and signposting to other services. We welcome people with dementia, their families, carers, professionals and anyone with an interest in dementia.

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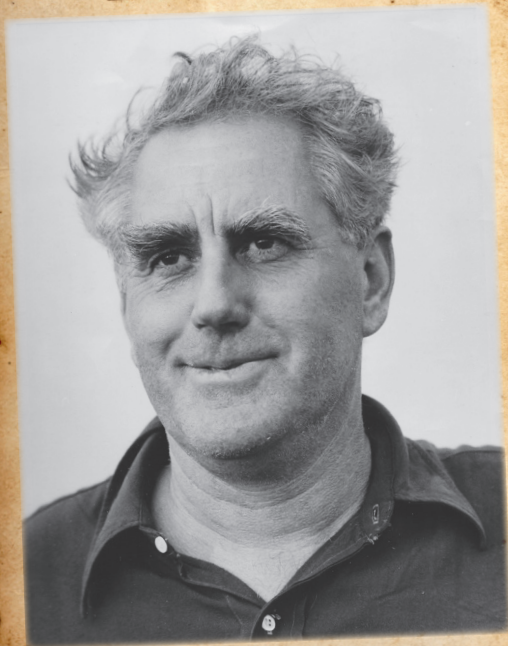
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100 Years Since UFFA FOX'S FOOLHARDY JOURNEY

By John Hannam

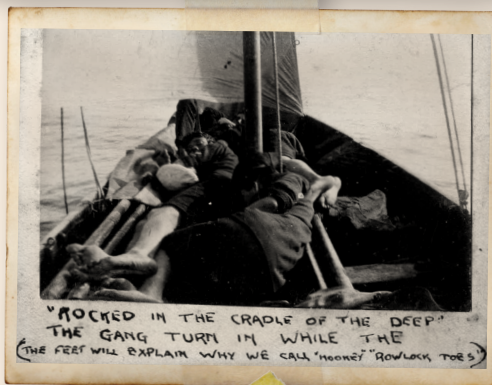
In 1978 the Duke of Edinburgh said: "In conventional terms Uffa was eccentric." That was never better demonstrated than 100 years ago, when he ended up being sacked as the scoutmaster of Cowes Sea Scouts.

On Saturday July 30, 1921, Uffa and a crew of nine sea scouts set sail for a few days camping trip to the western Solent. Well, that's what the parents thought. Our intrepid helmsman had other ideas but never told anyone. His real aim was to reach Paris in their 27 foot open whaler Valhalla. Incredibly, they got to within 70 kilometres of the city but had to return on Saturday August 6, because some of the young guys were due to be back to work on the Monday — or so they thought.

Amazingly, Uffa took a small camera on the trip and many of the 100 year old photographs still present a unique record of his very mindless trip. He added his own thoughts to the book of photographs. He had personally trained all his crew and had great confidence in them and that they would make it.

Uffa also completed a handwritten log which recorded every detail of the trip. Obviously, they had no paperwork or passports to indentify them in foreign waters. He could always spin a good yarn and he was able to bluff himself and his crew through any embarrassing situations.

The first day proved an eventful start. The tide turned against them off Newtown and at 2pm they landed in Colwell Bay. In the log



Uffa had recorded: "We lay out on the hill like rotten sheep."

They left Colwell at 7.30pm and local Totland lifeboat coxswain Bill Conway told them they would turn back in less than an hour due to a heavy swell off the Needles. Apparently, Uffa was heard to politely tell him to put his head in a bag and pull it tight.

On Monday August 1 at 7.20am Uffa, the only one not sleeping, woke them up to celebrate seeing mainland France. They landed at Le Havre at 12.30pm, 40 hours after leaving the Needles. They changed what money they had, played beach football and then had a good blow out on lemonade and cakes.

Uffa had this to say in his log: "We took them to a grog shop and gave them some cognac. That took their breath away and made them sit up and take notice."

At 8.30pm that night they tied up along the upper side of the La Roque breakwater and enjoyed a meal of spinach and corned beef. Then they turned in. Some slept in a mud hut, others under their sail draped out over a fence but Uffa stayed on board as he was afraid of the bore taking the whaler away.

The next morning they set sail for Rouen. Passing an apple orchard proved a real bonus. They reached a small market village called Duclair and even joined in



THE GANG BUY GRUB
IN THE MARKET PLACE
OF ROUEN
THE FLAGS AND TABLETS
MARK WHERE JOAN OF ARC
WAS BURNED.



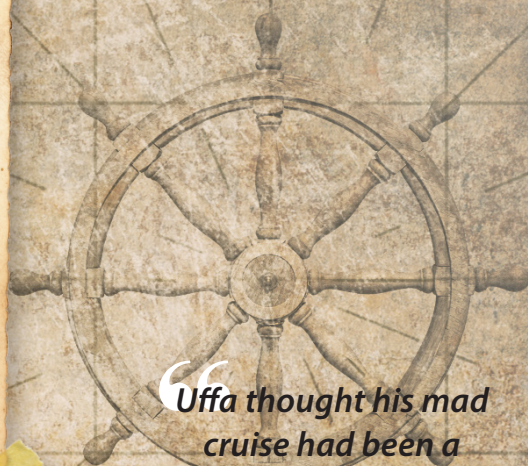
WHEN A BOAT WITH 5' 6" 14" BEAM
AND MICE EASY LINES KICKS UP
A WASH LIKE THIS SHE IS
DOING HER 8 1/2 KNOTS



WE WANDER TO THE SEA FRONT
AND HAVE A HAIRE



"ANXIOUS" SKIPPER STEERS
ALL NIGHT



Uffa thought his mad
cruise had been a
great success. Not
everyone agreed.
The worried parents,
in particular.

some village sports. The whole village turned out to see them off — in almost disbelief.

On Wednesday August 3 they landed in Rouen, where they met a lot of British people. The nights were clear at this period so they slept on board without having to use tents.

Then came a series of locks and sometimes they were lucky to receive tows from friendly barge shippers.

On one occasion they had some great fun. One of the crew had brought what he thought was jam. Then found out it was not easy to spread baby food on bread and butter.

Then came that fateful day of Saturday August 6 when they decided to turn back. They had reached just past Mantes. Luckily, they received a few good tows to help their return to Le Havre. These included The Swallow of Grimsby.

They arrived in Rouen on Monday August 8. They had been expected in Cowes the previous day. Somehow, Uffa managed to bemuse a customs officer who demanded papers and passports. He acted like a very dense Englishman and got away with it. Eventually they left the canal and headed for the Island.

Uffa and his crew actually landed in Ventnor on Wednesday August 10 at 9pm. An eager Ventnor coastguard even thought they had been shipwrecked. Three of the boys then walked to East Cowes as they were already three days late for work. The rest went to a local restaurant for a blow out.

They landed at Marvin's Yard, Cowes, on Thursday August 11 at 5pm. Uffa thought his mad cruise had been a great success. Not everyone agreed. The worried parents, in particular.

Uffa, who went on to be a world famous helmsman and boat designer, summed it all up.

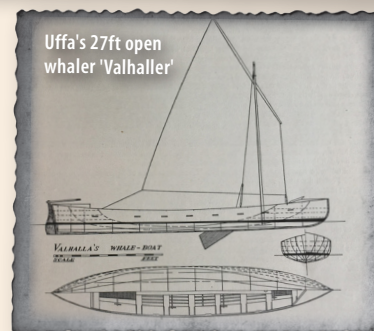
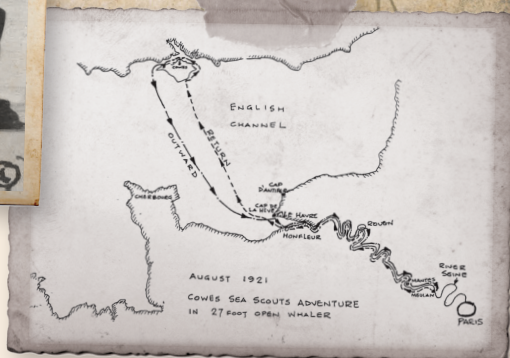
"I have been chewed up by Admiral Allenby, the commissioner of sea scouts for the Island and also by the Cowes committee, who had all resigned on account of this cruise. I was relieved of my post as scoutmaster.

"We have a rule that every boat must be examined and a certificate filled up to the effect she is seaworthy etc. Well the whaler was examined and according to her certificate is only seaworthy between Hurst and Bembridge. I was also surveyed and registered A1."

He was asked by a Cowes dentist, who should have known better, if he had intended to go to France and did he carry a compass?

"I refrained from telling him we were heading for Beaulieu but we missed our turning and ended up in the Seine. A compass was not needed — just follow the signposts!"

For the record, the fab ten were Uffa, F Smith, F Bow, H Beverton, C Hookey, H Harvey, R Dickerson, W Waight, S Crews and F Curtis. ③



WE SIT AFT SO THE
WHALER WILL NOT SHEER
ABOUT AS THE SWALLOW
GETS ALONG AT 8 KNOTS.



WE LAND BACK AT MARVIN'S
IN THE P.M. AND BROKE
AS USUAL

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NL CLINIC ISLE OF WIGHT

The NL Clinic Isle of Wight started offering travel related Covid testing services in April of this year. The purpose was clear— offer exceptional service at a very personal level to Islanders without having to leave the Island.

As the name suggests, the NL Clinic Isle of Wight operates from a service centre on the Island itself. From the centre of Newport, the drop-in centre is mid-way down Crocker Street, a few minutes from Hurst. With many parking places close by, the drop-in centre is easily accessible. Alternatively, the Cowes drop-in clinic based at Gurnard Pines Leisure Centre offers additional testing on the weekend.

WHY IS THERE A NEED FOR THE SERVICE?

Travelling abroad has become more complicated

since the pandemic. With both local and international governments fighting to ensure a return to relative normality whilst battling Covid-19, one solution is to test individuals as they cross borders through both mandatory and voluntary requirements.

The mandatory requirements that both the United Kingdom and destination countries place on international travellers are constantly changing. These requirements can be a stressful complication to your holiday planning, but the NL Clinic Isle of Wight aims to remove that stress.



The mandatory requirements that both the United Kingdom and destination countries place on international travellers are constantly changing

By only offering a pre-booked appointment, administered by NL Clinic staff, they are able to ensure the sample is collected properly and prepared for delivery to their government-approved laboratory on the mainland, where samples are processed, and results emailed to clients.

WHAT'S NEXT?

With many clients using NL Clinic Isle of Wight for their outgoing travel, the clinic has developed a system for offering a 'Return to UK – Virtual Overseas Test'.

Once the in-clinic fit-to-fly sample has been collected, a testing kit is handed to the outgoing client, along with access to a dedicated website for a specified time to perform a remote session test from which a 'Return to UK Certificate' can be emailed to the client.

The NL Clinic has attempted to alleviate some of the complications of fulfilling both mandatory and voluntary testing requirements for travel for those of us on the Island. With a friendly and co-operative approach, they have managed to service the needs of Islanders.

Visit: www.nlcliniow.co.uk or call 0330 025 2028.

HOW DOES THE NL CLINIC HELP?

The main aim of NL Clinic is to provide you with the documentation that you are required to have to facilitate your overseas travel or for your return to the UK. From the NL Clinic Isle of Wight website you are able to book your appointment to facilitate your certification for:

- Fit to Fly PCR or Rapid Antigen
- Test to release for international travellers scheme
- Day 2 testing for green listed countries
- Day 2 & 8 testing for amber listed or
- Day 2 testing for amber listed countries for those who are double vaccinated.





News from Cowes Medina

by Cllr Lora Peacey-Wilcox

WEEDS IN GUTTERS: You may have noticed the prevalence of these as you walk around. The reason they are worse than ever is because due to pressure the IWC was requested not to use glyphosate in the normal way spraying by the quad bikes. Instead four chaps are going around removing by hand.

ESCAPE ROOM (Aspire): Yes, first one on the Island and the first that is in an actual crypt! Please give this a go and support this amazing charity. Contact them direct: 01983 716020. www.aspireride.org.uk

FABULOUS PLANTS: At Men In Sheds and the Storeroom Cowes. Somerton Industrial Estate. So cheap. Please support this very worthwhile charity. Lovely cacti too.

SPEEDWATCH: I took part with others on Crossfield Ave. Quite a lot of people over and some well over speed limit. Another session booked for a couple of weeks time. All roads need to be certified safe that we can work from there. We can't just rock up and do it anywhere! Sometimes,

it's perception of speed. Next one is in Place Road, after numerous concerns.

ASTRAZENECA VACCINE: The Government has confirmed that no Covishield vaccines (manufactured in India) have been administered in the UK and that all AstraZeneca vaccines given in the UK appear on the NHS COVID Pass as Vaxzevria (manufactured in Europe). Lets hope this info from NHS is correct!

LOCKDOWN ENDS?: I know many of you are concerned about us coming out and removal of restrictions. For me, I will probably continue to wear a mask inside busy places like supermarkets; and I do hope they continue to have hand gel and disinfectant for trolleys. I always use these. Indeed those businesses that continue with good hygiene will definitely get my support. Please be mindful of people who are extremely nervous at loss of restrictions.

COVID: 'Personal responsibility and common sense'. Stay safe everyone.

📞 645765 📧 lora08@sky.com

Places to Visit on the Island this Summer

By Iona Stewart-Richardson

It's always been easy to beat the crowds on the Isle of Wight — you just have to know where to go.

The Isle of Wight Council has put together a list of hidden — and not so hidden — spots on the Island. These will be perfect for meeting friends and family with all the fresh air and space you need.

On the list are places that are easy to get to, with parking or bus stops nearby, and will hardly ever get crowded.

There's a place for everyone, you can take a wander through the magical woodlands at Bonchurch Landslip.

If wide-open space, spectacular views and a brand new willow maze are for you, head to Golden Hill Country Park — where you can see a stunning Willow Maze.

Councillor Julie Jones-Evans, the portfolio holder for tourism, said: "The Island is full of beautiful countryside and beaches, but some are busier than others."



"Everyone on the Island has their favourite places, and now's a great time to try some new ones."

"If friends and family come to see you this year, tell them not to follow the crowds, get out to somewhere spacious! We all need to look out for each other this summer. Finding somewhere off the beaten track to meet up is a great way to keep the Island safe."

You can expand the council's list of special places with lots of space — can you think of a place you might want to add on?

If any of your favourite spaces are missing, post a photo of them on social media using #FindYourSpace.

The #FindYourSpace locations

- Gurnard Beach
- Fort Victoria
- Golden Hill Country Park
- Pan Mill Meadows
- Bonchurch Landslip and the Devil's Chimney
- Brading Down
- Culver Down
- Pig Leg Lane

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Christmas Lamppost Competition

By Iona Stewart-Richardson

It is never too early for Christmas! That's the view of Newport and Carisbrooke Community Council.

It has launched a 'Light up a Lamppost' competition for young people who live in or are school/home educated in Newport and Carisbrooke.

You have to design your own lamppost decoration and if you win it will be made in real life.

There will be three age categories and a winner chosen from each:

- 4-11 years
- 12-15 years
- 16-19 years

The three winners will have their designs made by NDL Electrical Ltd and displayed throughout Newport.

Cllr Geoff Brodie,



Chair of the Community Council said: "This is a wonderful opportunity for local, young people to have their creation lit up in lights on our High Street. I look forward to seeing the entries and hope there will be lots of them."

The entry form can be found on the Newport and Carisbrooke Community Council website at www.newportwight.org.uk and will be sent to local schools.

Completed forms must be delivered to Newport & Carisbrooke Community Council, The Loft, 128 Pyle St, Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 1JW or a scanned copy sent to lucinda.molyneux@newportwight.org.uk. Entries must be submitted by 16th August.

Ocean Activist Attempts Record-Breaking Swim

Competitive swimmer and ocean activist, Oliver Rush is attempting a record-breaking swim around the Isle of Wight in under 26 hours, to help raise awareness for plastic pollution.

The man behind conservation venture, Project Planet, is also going to be raising funds for charities committed to cleaning up our seas and beaches, during the world record attempt in August.

An adjudicator from the

Guinness Book of Records will be in attendance at the swim, which will start and finish in Seaview.

Oliver said: "Plastic pollution is widespread, and I have an overwhelming urge to do as much as I can to clean it up and implement change. I'm fortunate enough to work closely with two organisations, Clean Jurassic Coast CIC and Oceans To Earth CIC. We carry out vital work along the Jurassic coastline and in local education. This year's swim will be aimed at raising awareness about the devastating impact we are having on the planet."

The 65 mile route around the Island is said to have only been completed four times in the past. Last year, Oly swam 100 miles in 10 days, over the entire Jurassic coast to raise money for the same cause.

If you would like to sponsor a piece of Oly's equipment, or make a donation, visit www.projectplanet.earth



Travel Stories by Isle of Wight Writer

A project by an Island writer to publish a collection of travel stories has come to fruition during recent lockdowns.

Julie Watson, who lives in Cowes, completed and launched her book, *Travel Mementos: Personal Stories about Faraway Places* in spring this year, in collaboration with Beachy Books Partnership Publishing.

"With travel strictly off limits in recent times, I decided to spend my time writing up memoirs of my encounters with people, places and cultures during a lifetime of travel for work and pleasure. At the same time as telling the stories, I wanted to create an immersive experience for readers who might also be suffering travel withdrawal symptoms," she said.

Travel Mementos covers stories ranging from an argument in an Italian ice-cream queue, a bumpy becak ride in Indonesia, African migrants washing up on a Spanish beach to venomous scorpions dancing in the Mexican sun.

It is available as print or e-book through Island outlets such as Medina Bookshop or ordered online from Amazon, The Book Depository and Waterstones etc.

"Feedback and reviews have been very positive, said Julie, "and some readers have asked if I am writing more travel mementos so I've started a second volume!"

The book costs £6.99.



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News from Cowes West and Gurnard

by Cllr Paul Fuller

COUNCILLORS SURGERIES: Will continue throughout August. Please check for details on www.paulfullercc.blogspot.com/ as times can change. On occasions when this happens, I amend my website within 24 hours of a surgery. Surgeries are open to all regardless of whether or not I am your ward councillor.

ISLAND PLAN CONSULTATION: In my new role as Cabinet member for Planning and Housing, I am leading consultation on the new Island Plan (this is the Planning Bible for the Isle of Wight). The consultation will continue until 30th September and can be found here: www.iow.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s3200/Appendix%202.pdf

E-SCOOTERS: I arranged a meeting with officers, Councillors and residents to discuss the safety and lawful use of e-scooters in Cowes High Street. A request was made to the Council to raise hirer's awareness of concerns, pending e-scooters being rolled out in 'the Bay'. The pilot continues until March 2022.

HEDGEROWS: I have received requests for hedges to be trimmed back following this summer's rain. In the nesting season trims

are allowed to ensure walkways are kept free of brambles etc. In the meantime more substantial work can take place when the bird nesting season ends on 31st July.

JET SKIS: The use of jet skis have been reported to the Marine Police who continue to monitor personal watercraft. Please note a by-law exists prohibiting use faster than 8 knots and also in depths of less than 2 metres. Incidents can be reported to: www.hampshire.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/

PARISH/ TOWN COUNCILS: Congratulations to Cllrs. Bustin (elected to Gurnard PC), Cllr. Carter and Sanders (elected to Cowes TC). Knowing Christine, Alison and Phil have spent much of their lives actively supporting their communities, I look forward to supporting our new Councillors. Please note, Northwood Parish Council are seeking new Councillors. If interested contact: Barbara Herbert at: clerk@northwoodparishcouncil.org before 27th August.

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



FYTbus is a scheduled volunteer-run bus service running every weekday morning serving the communities of Freshwater, Yarmouth & Totland.

We also provide subsidised direct transport to **St Mary's Hospital, Brookside Health Centre** and other medical appointments from our area.

On Saturdays we run a regular door-to-door shopping trip from West Wight to the major Island supermarkets.

For further details of all our services or to volunteer

01983 752917 (weekdays 09:45 to 12:30)

fytbustotland@gmail.com www.fytbus.org.uk

or find us on Facebook





News from Central Newport

by Cllr Julie Jones-Evans

Our market on Saturday is doing really well with added activities each week for everyone, we've had music, wellbeing, drawing, drumming and historical displays. This initiative is really doing a great job of putting the heart back into our Market Town heritage.

The High Street Heritage Action Zone is working away still and we will have the design guide ready for public consultation soon. I've had a sneak preview and the ideas to uplift some of our existing buildings into being more on character of the original and of the area are great. I think this project gives a good opportunity to bring out our built heritage and put some pride back into Newport.

Don't forget Victoria Recreation Ground is a lovely space to be this summer, plenty of room for playing and picnicking. The Pavilion now has ice cream for sale too!

Many residents have voiced concerns regarding the application in the former Pizza Express for it to become a French style bar. I have brought

the application to Newport and Carisbrooke Community Council Planning and Consultation Committee for discussion and to put in formal comments. Please get in touch with me or Licensing@iow.gov.uk if you want to add any further comments.

I managed to have a few days away recently and I went to Barry Island to visit Goodsheds which is a retail, office and cafe development using shipping containers. I was very impressed and thought it might make a good project for Newport Harbour. Have a look at their website. www.goodshedsbarry.co.uk.

Finally the Community Speed Watch is looking for volunteers for the first tranche of approved roads, Clatterford, Staplers, Gunville, Forest, Long Lane and Noke Common. If you could volunteer a couple of hours please get in touch with Holly Deacon. holly.deacon.17798@hampshire.pnn.police.uk. 07880056672

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

Southern Co-op Supports Food Voucher Scheme

Southern Co-op is showing its support for families on the Isle of Wight by topping up the Healthy Start vouchers scheme.

As part of its work to tackle food poverty, Southern Co-op has promised to add £1 to the value of every Healthy Start Voucher which is currently worth £4.25.

Healthy Start vouchers provide additional support for families on lower incomes with children under four or pregnant women in order to access healthy foods. The vouchers can be used for fresh, frozen or tinned fruit and vegetables, fresh, dried or tinned pulses, cow's milk and certain infant formula.

Holly Bramble, Southern Co-op's Community and Campaign Co-ordinator, said: "Poverty and food inequality are issues that we have been working with our communities to tackle through food donations, our Feed a Family Fund,



and other financial support. But whilst there are children still going hungry, then more needs to be done."

For families who claim two vouchers, this would mean they could get £10.50

per week, or £546 over the year including the top up of £104 a year. For families who get one voucher, this would add up to £273 over 12 months.

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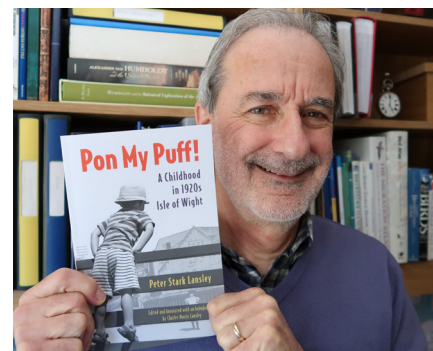
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Novel Published 50 Years After it Was Written

A book which was written in the early 1960s has been published many years later, by the author's son.

The autobiographical novel by the late Peter Lansley is a true story of a child's upbringing by his grandparents in 1920s Isle of Wight. It includes everything from musings on God, the afterlife and the cemetery at Mount Joy, Carisbrooke, to wonderful evocations of Christmas, as well as misadventures with his girlfriend Victoria in the grounds of Fernhill House and at Wootton Creek.

Through Peter's son, Charles Lansley's meticulous research related to his father's manuscript, we gain a greater understanding of what family and Wootton village life was like in the 1920s, when the steam train ran supreme, when there was no electricity or telephone, and when it was



safe for a five year old to walk into the village alone.

Pon My Puff: A Childhood in 1920s Isle of Wight is available to buy online at beachy-books.com for £12.99 (Paperback) and £14.99 (Hardback). You'll also find it on the Island at Island Traders Newport, Waterstones Newport, Babushka Books Shanklin, Glyn Morgan Newsagent Shanklin, Medina Books Cowes and Ryde Books.



New Website Reveals History of Newport

The history of Newport's town centre is being brought to life with a new interactive website, created by the partnership behind Newport High Street Action Zone.

New webpage newport360.co.uk allows visitors to view a collection of photos taken from across the Island's county town. A few historic images have also been paired with how Newport looks now, so visitors can see how the streets and shopfronts compare.

People can also upload their own images to the site.

The Newport 360 project forms part of the Heritage Action Zone Project, funded and delivered by a partnership of Newport and Carisbrooke Community Council, Historic England and Isle of Wight Council.

Many historic photographs exist of Newport town centre, but these are often held in individual collections. So, together with marketing agency Solent and members of heritage social media groups, the new web-based, user-generated heritage

photography exhibition has been developed, to keep the history of Newport alive.

Martin Gibson, Newport High Street Heritage Action Zone Project Manager said:

"There is significant interest in these historic photographs, evidenced by the level of engagement on social media groups such as the Isle of Wight Heritage Group and Newport-Bygone Days. As part of the High Street Heritage Action Zone programme we are aiming to bring as many of these images as possible together in an easy-to-access collection."

Tim Addison, Managing Director of

Solent said:

"As we have our agency based in Newport it has been great to work on a project that delves into the history of the town. We hope that by showing the bustling market town that Newport once was, it will help inspire people to invest time and love into our county town. To visit it and make it a destination town rather than a 'pop in, pop out' place."

Many historic photographs exist of Newport town centre, but these are often held in individual collections

Retired Royal Ballet Dancer Launches New App for Dancers

A free mobile phone app, which aims to help dancers keep physically and mentally fit has been launched by Isle of Wight resident, psychotherapist and retired Royal Ballet dancer, Terry Hyde.

The Help4Dancers app, which can be downloaded now from both the Apple and Google Play stores, provides dancers with access to a professional programme of exercise and meditation videos, strength and conditioning sessions, Pilates with professional coaches, injury prevention, health questionnaires and advice from dance-related psychotherapists and counsellors on many aspects of mental health.

It aims to help dancers build resilience from the stresses and strains of dance training

and performance.

Terry Hyde MA MBACP, founder of Counselling for Dancers, said:

"During the pandemic, dancers have been missing in-person training and performing and sadly, as a result, I have seen an increase in clients seeking my help. Because of my own experiences as a performer,

I can bring a genuine understanding of the unique demands that are placed on dancers, from body image and bullying to audition anxiety."

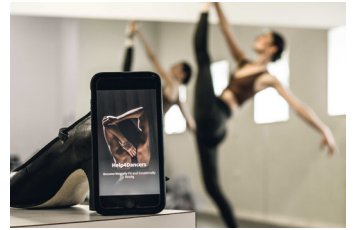


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Power Players

Who is involved in making a Power of Attorney?

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

Donor: The person making the power is known as the donor because they are the one 'giving' the power to make decisions either concerning their finances or health and welfare to someone else. The donor can decide when they want the power concerning their finances to take effect, i.e. straight away even when they are still able to make decisions for themselves or, only when they have lost capacity. The donor can also include instructions and preferences as to how they wish the power to operate in practice. The attorneys should assist the donor to make their own decisions as far as it is possible to do so. Just because the donor might make an unwise decision, it does not mean that they lack capacity. For example, someone might decide to spend £200 on a pair of sparkly shoes, this may seem unwise to some, but it does not mean that the donor lacks capacity and attorneys should support the donor as far as possible to make decisions for themselves.

Certificate Provider: Every power needs to be signed by someone who will

attest that the donor knows what they are signing i.e. they have mental capacity and appreciate the power they are giving to other people. They must also attest to the fact that the donor of the power is not being pressurised to enter into the power by anyone.

Who can act as Certificate Provider? Someone who has known you personally for two years or more, for example a trusted family friend, or someone with professional skills to act in that role, such as a doctor or a solicitor. Certain people cannot act as a certificate provider such as: a member of the donor's family, or a member of one of the attorney's family, owners or employees of the care home where the donor lives.

Attorneys: These should be people you trust implicitly as you are giving them tremendous authority to make decisions concerning the most important aspects of your life.

Who to choose to act as an attorney? Some people would decide to appoint their partner and children, but equally you could appoint friends or a professional such as a solicitor. It is essential to take into account whether your attorneys will work well together as well as the skills they have to act as your attorney. Key questions to ask yourself might be: do your attorneys make sensible decisions? Do they manage their own money well? Do you believe they will always make decisions in your best interests?

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

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

Glanvilles Damant can guide you through the process and have the professional skills to act as certificate provider. They can guide you through the signing process and ensure that there are no issues with registration with the Office of the Public Guardian.

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THE LAST WILD ORCHID OF THE YEAR

Towards the end of August, on the lawns of the Isle of Wight an inconspicuous species of wild orchid, the last British orchid of the season, appears for just a few weeks, heralding the end of the summer.



By Stephen Oakes-Monger

Autumn Ladies-Tresses (*Spiranthes spiralis*) is the last of Britain's 56 species of wild orchid to come into flower in the year. From around the second week of August their thin pale green stems start to appear on garden lawns, grass verges, public recreation grounds, in open grassland, churches and cemeteries and on chalk downland.

By the end of August, three to twenty delicate white, bell like orchid flowers, appear from the middle of the stem upwards in a spiral resembling a ringlet hence the name Ladies-Tresses. When viewed close up through a hand lens the flowers and stems are covered in fine downy hairs giving them a charm all of their own.

The plants tiny stature (3-15cms) and small flowers mean that they are easily overlooked. In the last five years my partner and I have found the orchid on over 350 front lawns on the Isle of Wight although virtually none of the residents realised that they had them. Because of this they frequently succumb to the lawn mower.

Last year the wet weather in the middle of August meant that lots of residents on the Island cut their lawns towards the end of the month, so many of the lawns where the orchids were abundant in previous years, were sadly lacking this lovely



species. However, plants still survive even after they have been cut, and they will come up again the following year.

The flowers have a delicate sweet honey-vanilla scent, though smelling them involves getting very low to the ground and carefully cupping the flower spike in the hand to appreciate its aroma.

Autumn Ladies-Tresses is found throughout the Island, where the right habitats occur and although relatively common, it is almost certainly overlooked. It is abundant on the chalk of southern

England, becoming less common the further north one goes.

As all orchid species in Britain are protected, it is against the law to pick them or dig them up without the permission of the owner of the land on which they are growing and they should be left for others to enjoy.

Individual plants are very long lived and may flower for many years and there may well be large numbers of

dormant non-flowering plants on lawns which are cut too regularly. Plants that have been cut off, often increase in size vegetatively year by year until they

The flowers have a delicate sweet honey-vanilla scent

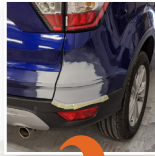
are able to flower. A cutting regime of last cut in the first week of August would allow the plants to flower and increase, while a further cut in late October would allow the orchids to set seed and colonies to expand further.

On the Island the species is particularly prevalent on lawns in parts of Bembridge, Binstead, Colwell, Cowes, Freshwater, Ryde, Sandown, Seaview, Totland and Wootton, but it could crop up almost anywhere especially on the chalk, so keep an eye out as you may well be lucky enough to have this delightful species on your lawn. ☺



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Is your garden looking tired and dusty? This month, Flo Whitaker recommends plants that revel in summer heat and will keep on looking good until autumn.

HOT *Heads*

If you're bewilderedly wandering around the garden centre, searching for plants that won't shrivel in the heat, seek out those with light-reflective grey or silvery foliage as this usually indicates drought tolerance. Likewise, plants with tiny leaves, succulent or hairy foliage, are often better equipped for hot conditions. Small leaves have reduced surface areas – so less moisture loss. Succulent leaves mimic water reservoirs, while hairy foliage insulates from temperature extremes and also traps precious dew and moisture (a clever adaptation from desert environments).

Convolvulus cneorum is the perfect rockery plant; a compact, shrubby perennial with drought-busting silvery foliage and white funnel-shaped flowers. *Convolvulus mauritanicus* has periwinkle blue trumpet flowers and small grey/green leaves that casually tumble over

walls or pot edges. It takes root wherever the stems touch the soil and, providing the soil is well-drained, is fully hardy.

Silver-leaved plants are ideal for seaside-themed or gravel gardens, as are many herbs, including rosemary, lavender, thyme and sage. *Verbascum*, *artemisia*, *senecio*, *eryngium* and shrubby *nepeta*, (Catmint) also enjoy full sun and free-draining soil. *Verbenas* are practically indestructible in heat. They are a large, diverse family; from low-growing bedding plants to stately *verbena bonariensis* that'll attain 2 metres.

If it's height you're after, annual forms of *ipomoea* will revel in sunshine and speedily reach 3 metres. Don't panic – although related to 'Bindweed', these non-hardy characters won't set seed and rampage over your garden!

The *Passiflora* family, (Passion Flower) are vigorous perennials with astonishing blooms. Some forms won't survive outdoors in the UK and are more suited to conservatory life. Curb their thuggish tendencies by regularly removing excess growth and carefully choose the planting site as you'll need 'room to prune'. *Campsis*, (Trumpet Vine) is another borderline-hardy climber, but will usually

cope outdoors in southern regions, especially if grown against a sunny wall. The more heat and light you can give *campsis*, the more it'll flower. Like *passiflora*, it needs to be kept firmly under control.

The fleshy leaves and roots of *agapanthus* are adept at holding onto moisture and their bold seed heads give them a long season of interest. Don't believe the myth about keeping *agapanthus* starved and cramped in small pots – yes, they'll survive grim conditions, but will positively thrive when given space and nutritious compost.

For summer patio pots, try sun-loving foliage plants such as variegated trailing *nepeta*,

dichondra 'Silver Falls' or furry-leaved *helichrysum petiolare* – and don't forget those old stalwarts; potted geraniums. Most varieties of bedding geraniums and pelargoniums are derived from indigenous South African forms. Heat and drought seldom trouble them, making them ideal candidates for hot conservatories. In fact, overwatering is what usually kills them off, so when an absent-minded friend forgets to do the watering while you're away, your pelargoniums will be perfectly content. ☺



Silver-leaved plants are ideal for seaside-themed or gravel gardens



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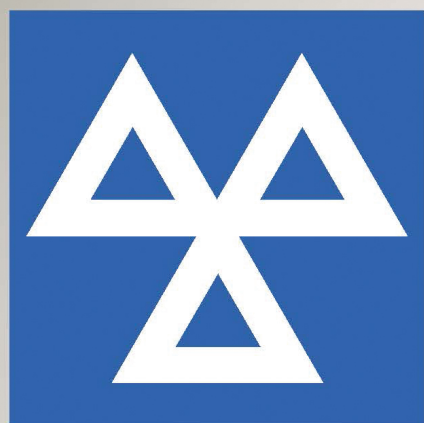
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