

EAST AND SOUTH WIGHT

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December 2021

**HISTORY**  
RED FUNNEL:  
FROM TITANIC  
TO DUNKIRK

**INTERVIEW**  
CATCHING  
UP WITH  
CRAIG DAVID

**RECIPE**  
TRADITIONAL  
CHRISTMAS  
CAKE KITS

**WALK**  
ST HELENS  
VILLAGE OF  
ANGELS



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# Welcome from the EDITOR

A year on from a very strange Christmas spent mostly in lockdown, I know I will be cherishing every memory I make with my family and friends this year.

What Christmas 2020 taught me, was that simply being in the company of loved ones is all we really need. Not the matching Christmas tableware or the perfect pigs in blankets. Not the beautifully decorated porch or the presents under the tree. Just being together is enough.

I know many keyworkers will be working over Christmas (members of my family included) so thank you, as ever, to those wonderful people.

I also understand lots of people will be on their own. Please look out for those neighbours and family members who live alone. Nobody should be lonely, ever. Not just at Christmas.

As we count down to the big day, I can't wait to watch my daughter in her first nativity. We weren't allowed to watch last year! And to enjoy a traditional family pantomime.

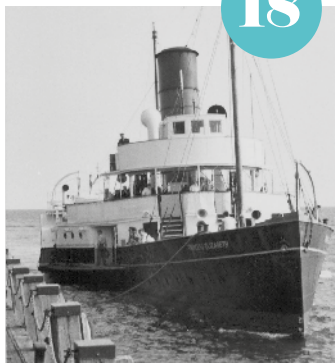
Whatever you do this year that you couldn't do in 2020, I hope it's everything you dreamed of this time last year.

Merry Christmas x

## Amy Shephard

Editor amy.shephard@iwbeacon.com

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# Beacon

MAGAZINE

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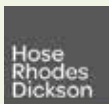
All residents can be supported by the Wellbeing Team who are there to help everyone feel settled, supported and safe; this unique Wellbeing service can respond to your needs 24hrs a day on an unplanned care basis, enabling you to live independently in your own home.

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For more information regarding older persons shared ownership please phone:  
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# Traditional CHRISTMAS CAKE KITS

AVAILABLE FROM HER WHEY

## INGREDIENTS

**Bag 1:** 250g soft dark brown sugar, 2 tsp mixed spice, 1 tsp ground cinnamon

**Bag 2:** 175g organic plain flour, ½ tsp bicarbonate of soda, pinch of organic salt

**Bag 3:** 100g ground almonds

**Bag 4:** 100g mixed nuts

**Bag 5:** 500g mixed fruit (includes raisins, currants, sultanas, mixed peel)

**Bag 6:** 200g glacé cherries (chop as desired), 1 orange to use as extra zest or fresh orange juice

To add

200ml orange juice, 150ml brandy, rum or tea plus extra for feeding, 4 eggs, 2 tsp vanilla extract, 200g unsalted butter

## METHOD

**1** Put the dried fruit, orange juice & brandy (or alternative) into a container, stir and leave overnight.

**2** Heat the oven to 300F/150C/140C fan/gas mark 2.

**3** Line a deep 20cm cake tin with a double layer of parchment paper, making sure it comes at least 3cm above the edge of the tin. Then wrap a double layer of newspaper or brown paper around the outside, tying it with string (this helps stop the fruit burning) Add a circle of foil on top of the mixture but poke holes in it to allow the steam to rise.

**4** Cream the butter, sugar & vanilla extract together in a large bowl. Add the eggs in one at a time and stir until well combined.



SERVES  
**12**



**5** Add the flour, baking powder, mixed spice, cinnamon, fruit & nuts and stir well until combined.

**6** Bake for 1.5 hours then turn the oven down to 280F/140C/130C fan/Gas mark 1, bake for a further 2.5/3 hours. Your cake is cooked when a skewer inserted into the centre comes out clean.

**7** Cool the cake in the cake tin, then remove, wrap in baking parchment & store in an airtight container, it will keep for 6 months.

**8** Feed your cake every week by skewering it in several places & sprinkling with 1tsp of your choice of alcohol, tea or orange juice and rewrap between feedings.

**9** Add marzipan, icing & decorations a week before you wish to serve it, to give it time to dry. Enjoy!



Cross Street, Ryde



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The Regional Adoption Agency for Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton Local Authorities



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61 High Street, Bembridge, PO35 5SF Tel: 01983 872616 [www.yeoldevillageinn.co.uk](http://www.yeoldevillageinn.co.uk)

## A Christmas gift from our Chefs

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#### FESTIVE SHARE PLATTER

Chef's creation of little bites of Christmas cheer served with cured meats & home-made pickles with added Chef's magic to include...  
Skillet of BBQ & honey chicken sticks & peppered lime chilli king prawns  
Smoked chorizo & diced potato bites with salt flaked blistered Padrón peppers

#### TOMATO & ORANGE SOUP

Tomato & orange soup garnished giant roasted garlic & honey croutons

#### MACKEREL PÂTÉ

Smoked mackerel pâté, grated horse radish, lime served traditionally with a clarified butter lid

#### MUSHROOM & STILTON RAREBIT

Mushroom & stilton rarebit, luxurious melted cheese topping thick over the chestnut mushrooms finished and crisped up with grated Parmesan drizzled with sweet chili sauce

*Finger Licking...!*



### Mains

#### TRADITIONAL WOODFORD'S IOW TURKEY

Woodford's Class A Kingdom British reared Turkey crusted with black pepper, pomegranate & treacle glaze stuffed with sausage-meat, cranberry & sage – s/w all the traditional trimmings

#### VENISON & BLACKBERRY

Pan-fried, locally sourced Venison loin classically served with pommes fondant in butter stock, served with a blackberry jus and honey glazed carrots

#### SMOKED COD & PORK BELLY STRIPS

Strips of line caught smoked cod twisted with finger fried pork belly on a disk of black pudding on a bed of colcannon for the best Christmas taste sensation.

#### PUMKIN SEED ROAST

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– Sample Menu based on confirmation of produce from our suppliers



**Mondays:**  
Free Fun Quiz and a pizza for £10.

**Wednesdays:**  
Crib night

**Darts night**  
Thursdays

# Catching up with CRAIG DAVID

Craig David is back after a well-earned break with a new single. Isle of Wight Radio presenter, David Frances, caught up with him over Zoom — about the last few years.

**DAVID:** How did you cope throughout the lockdowns?

**CRAIG:** You know, lockdown was affecting all of us in a myriad of different ways. But I was just grateful that my friends and my family were okay. And wherever I could try to help people in the community just like neighbours to make sure they're okay. But after that, it became sort of a creative process, I was like, well, okay, let me write songs. Let me write songs. Let me write songs. And the next thing you know, I had so many songs by the time we could go back out and actually meet people again. I was like, wow, we're in a really interesting position.

**DAVID:** It seemed to be a very cathartic time for the record industry, loads of people spent their lockdown writing new albums.

**CRAIG:** I think it gave everyone the opportunity to do things that they wouldn't normally do, because they never had the time to do it. And that's not to say that all the issues and problems that were going on, I mean, putting food on the table and paying the rent, and those things were still happening, but it was like, okay, I can't do anything. We're going to pull the Monopoly board out tonight, and we're going to have a game, or we're going to watch a movie that I've never watched because I've never got time.

**DAVID:** Where in the world are you living now?

**CRAIG:** I'm in the UK. I tried to make my studio setup feel like if we're in the Maldives or Miami or somewhere. That's the greatness of a printer. And some nice glossy paper and a little bit of imagination that you can definitely give it a vibe. Do you know what, it actually goes hand in hand with how it was when I was living in Southampton. And I was at City College and I'd use the printer cartridges and the paper there when everyone thought when I was in the library, they're like, great, you're in the library all the time. We're studying how to get this cover of a mixtape right and print it out correctly.

**DAVID:** Let's talk about the new record then. Your email must be full of people sending you requests and demos and ideas and stuff. So how did this track with MNEK happen?

**CRAIG:** Me and MNEK share the same circle of friends and songwriters. So we've always had this link, but we've never actually said, okay, should we do a record together? And he sung the vocal that we hear now on 'Who You Are'. And when I heard that, I was like, whoa, something special just happened right here. And he couldn't really see because he's in the eye of the storm. I said I need you to be on this record.

I was so thankful that he accepted and said that he'd stay on the record, because it wouldn't have come out, put it that way, because there wasn't a vocalist I could feel that would have portrayed it like he does.

**DAVID:** So for next year, your 2022 diary is going to get full of stuff because you're going to be in massive demand again, so it will be Ibiza, festivals and touring again.

**CRAIG:** I'm going to be in Bournemouth really soon, that's going to be like a homecoming for me because I spent so much time obviously living on the South Coast. So to come and perform for the fans... it really feels like this tour...it's solid, it's locked in. I think in 2021, everything that was being booked in felt a bit wishy washy, like no one really knew exactly how it stood. Whereas now it feels like okay, we're going to have a proper Christmas this year. We're going to go out. We're going to festivals, we're going to come to the arena tour. We're going to have that, so I'm happy that everyone can have some solid plans.

*Craig's new song 'Who You Are' is available now. 🎧*

“Me and MNEK share the same circle of friends and songwriters”

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THROUGHOUT DECEMBER  
(Weather depending)**

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

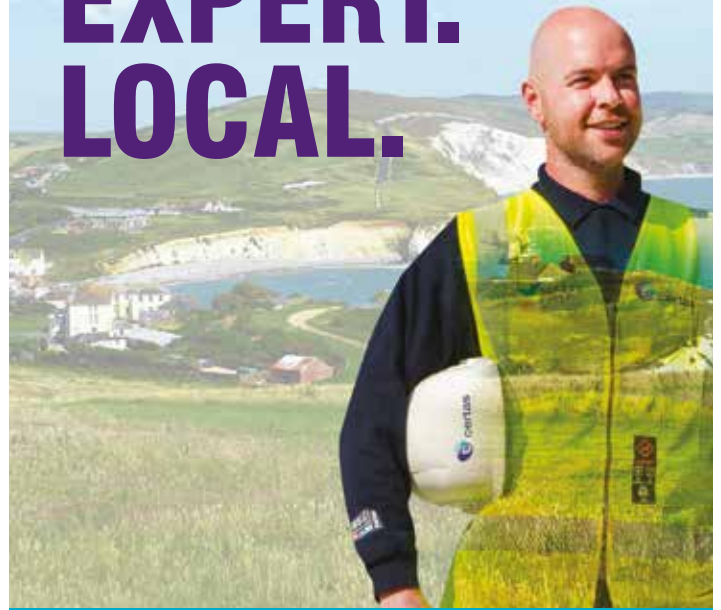


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Will the beast win her heart?  
Will two bumbling fools get covered in gunge?  
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7pm: 22nd, 23rd, 27th, 30th

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7pm: 2nd

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Group party rate available

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**A BRAND NEW ERA OF PANTOMIME**

Running from 23rd December to 3rd January

# Cinderella

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of CINDERELLA! Featuring stunning scenery, colourful costumes, toe-tapping tunes, laughter by the bucketful and EYE-POPPING special effects!

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**Trinity Theatre Cowes**

Present 2021

# DICK WHITTINGTON

A Ben Crocker Pantomime



Friday 3rd Dec 7.30pm  
Saturday 4th Dec 2.30pm  
Sunday 5th Dec 2.30pm  
Friday 10th Dec 7.30pm  
Saturday 11th Dec 2.30pm  
Sunday 12th Dec 2.30pm

Adults £9 - Under 16 £6 - Family (2A+2C) £24

Pantomime returns to Trinity Theatre, Cowes, this month in the form of Dick Whittington. The story of a young man who comes to London to seek his fortune. Will he succeed in beating evil King Rat? Will he win the love of his life Alice Fitzwarren? New members and some mature stalwarts of CAODS present this traditional family pantomime.

BOX OFFICE 01983 295229 / [www.caods.org.uk](http://www.caods.org.uk)

## SANTA DASH FOR MOUNTBATTEN

Santa Dash – Mountbatten's annual festive family fun run – will return this month at a new venue. The 5km run will be held at Ventnor Botanic Garden on Sunday, December 12 and, as ever, all runners will receive a Santa suit to wear on the day.

The route will weave around the beautiful grounds, finishing in a special Christmas village featuring live music, gift stalls, a meet and greet with Frozen characters and the chance to see Santa.

The run starts at 11am, with registration open from 10am. All ages and abilities are welcome.

Tickets are available from [www.mountbatten.org.uk](http://www.mountbatten.org.uk) costing £20 for an adult and £10 per child (under 16), with a family ticket available for £45 (up to two adults and three children).

Everyone who crosses the finish line will receive a special Santa Dash medal.



## Make Sandown Boulevard your destination for all things Christmas this December

### SECRET ISLAND!

4<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER  
Secret Island is like a mini festival where music lovers from all walks of life unite to dance their cares away. Be transported to a magical island of fun and fantasy. Wear your sequins, feathers, neon, glitter...anything that gets you in the mood for a festival and let's dance!

The Grill IOW will be popping up from 4pm with some amazing food. As well as Sandown Boulevard's regular street food vendors.

Our Girl G will be spinning the tunes from 8pm.

There will be a free glitter station



too by BoB & Bunny and lots of surprises on the night.

Wear your festival outfit, enjoy some tasty street food and dance the night away!

Book a table to avoid disappointment.

11<sup>TH</sup> & 18<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER UNTIL 6PM

### CHRISTMAS MARKET

Raising money for a fantastic charity - Wessex Cancer Trust. There will be lots of mulled wine, dirty hot chocolates, mince pies and lots of Christmas music.



### Let It Snow At The Boulevard presents... CHRISTMAS SEND OFF PARTY



Sandown Boulevard is throwing a HUGE Christmas party to send you off for Christmas. Not to be missed! Food vendors will be open from 12pm serving some delicious festive dishes.



24<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER

FREE ENTRY

DJ Jakey Chan will be spinning the tunes from 6pm. There's plenty of dancing space indoors, lots of cocktails and beer.

# The Entertainment GUIDE

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



## What's on at ASPIRE RYDE

Saturday 4th December  
Traditional Christmas Fayre.  
10-4pm. Entry free.

Sunday 12th December  
Remember Me.  
Remember a loved one this Christmas. Light a candle and write your words on the remembrance tree at Aspire. 6pm. Email [karen@aspireryde.org.uk](mailto:karen@aspireryde.org.uk) or visit [www.givi.ng/tt0m](http://www.givi.ng/tt0m).

Aspire, Dover Street Ryde Tel: 01983 716020

## HOUSE LOUNGE POP-UP COCKTAIL, WINE & GIN BAR AT NORTHWOOD HOUSE

Going out in the run up to Christmas has just got a lot more fun! The House Lounge Pop-Up Bar re-opens its doors on Fridays and Saturdays through December at Northwood House in Cowes for those seeking an uber-cool socialising venue to celebrate with friends. With a huge menu of drinks and bar food, you'll love the hip lounge vibe, with guest DJs later each night bringing a cool Balearic soundtrack.

More info at [northwoodhouse.org/event/houselounge/](http://northwoodhouse.org/event/houselounge/)

**THE HOUSE LOUNGE**  
POP-UP COCKTAIL WINE & GIN BAR  
Fridays: 5pm-12am  
Saturdays: 2pm-12am



## The Beach Bar At The Shanklin Beach Hotel. Shanklin Esplanade

### Christmas Market

Sunday 5th December  
12.00-4.00pm

Music From Paolo  
1.00-3.00pm

Over 30 Local Crafters

## JOIN BAR 74 FOR ITS CHRISTMAS MARKET

Enjoy the season of cheer at Bar 74. Tuck in to tasty holiday favourites and shop for gifts, or even for yourself!

- Live music • Different stalls each day
- Hot holiday drinks £4 with a free mince pie
- Or mince pie £1
- All ages are welcome

**BAR 74**



### Get Festive with Bar 74!

**1st** An Evening with Sheila and Tina (from Sugar and Spice and Belisima) 7pm  
**2nd** Christmas Market 6.30pm-9pm  
**3rd** LGBTQ+ Jingle Mingle 7pm  
A Very Quivers Christmas 7.30pm  
**4th** Holiday Affairs Make up Workshop with Lisa 4pm-6pm  
House of Angelique Christmas Cracker 7.30pm  
**5th** Christmas Market 3pm-7pm  
Carols with Carra Goodrem 5pm  
**8th** Wine Club 7pm

**9th** Christmas Market 6.30pm-3pm  
**11th** Tom Vaughn 8pm  
**12th** Christmas Market 3pm-7pm  
Carols with Emz Wight 5pm  
**15th** A Very Quivers Christmas 7.30pm  
**16th** Christmas Market 6.30pm-9pm  
**19th** Christmas Market 3pm-7pm  
Carols with Hannah The Vintage Songbird  
**22nd** Christmas Charity Cabert 8pm  
**23rd** Christmas Market 6.30pm-9pm  
**29th** An Evening with Fanny Quivers 7pm  
**31st** New Year, Who Dis?! 8pm

If you have any questions, please contact us at [info@bar74.co.uk](mailto:info@bar74.co.uk)

## ED BYRNE: IF I'M HONEST

One of the UK's finest observational comics finally continues his nationwide, biggest tour to date as he gets back on the road this autumn. Join him as he takes a long hard look at himself and tries to decide if he has ANY traits that are worth passing on to his children.

A TV household name, Ed has been seen on pretty much every TV programme in the UK including Mock The Week, Top Gear, Have I Got News For You, The Graham Norton Show, Live At The Apollo (Host), The One Show, The World's Most Dangerous Roads, Dara & Ed's Big Adventure, Dara and Ed's Road to Mandalay and



**2ND JANUARY 2022 SHANKLIN THEATRE**

most recently QI and The Pilgrimage.

For up-to-date tour listings, visit [www.edbyrne.com/live-dates](http://www.edbyrne.com/live-dates)

Saturday 11th December 10am to 4pm  
**Ryde Masonic Lodge**

John St, Ryde, PO33 2PZ



Lots of Christmas ideas and Fun for all ages!

Unique gifts - Art - Jewellery - Macramé - Cards - Cake  
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facebook.com/RydeCraftFair



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Whilst at the Abbey you can always pop into the farm shop and get some of your Christmas shopping done at the same time. The farm shop is crammed full of local produce as well as Quarr Abbey's own products such as jams and chutneys, sweets, or ale, all of which can make perfect gifts. There are pre-made hampers available chock full of various goodies, as well as smaller gift ideas such as mini Mermaids gin from the Isle of Wight Distillery or packs of Roly's fudge which can make great stocking fillers.

If you can't make it to the Abbey but don't want to miss out on shopping with us, we now have an online shop where all Quarr Abbey products are available as well as a Christmas page dedicated to all things Christmassy. Christmas candles, advent calendars and Christmas cards are all available along the Abbey's jams and chutneys, award winning ale and the new jigsaw puzzles. There is something to suit everyone's tastes.

Whether you stop off for a festive lunch at the teashop, pop into the farm shop for some Christmas shopping or do both at once. Quarr Abbey is definitely worth a visit this festive season.

To make a lunch booking call the teashop on 01983 898543. Open 7 days a week, 10am - 4pm Monday to Saturday and 11.15am - 4pm Sundays. Visit [www.quarrabbey.org](http://www.quarrabbey.org) to shop online.



# VILLAGE OF Angels

St Helens community project, Village of Angels, has been running in the village for nine years, raising funds for local causes.



Island artists, crafts people and villagers come together to create beautiful angels, lit up in Christmas lights, to display in the village. While Islanders come from all corners of the Island to take a stroll around the village and enjoy the creations. So for this month's Walking the Island, we're taking a walk around the beautiful Village of Angels.

Angels are made in various mediums, including sculpture, 2D, photography and textiles – and can appear in public or private spaces around St Helens.

The project launch at 5pm on December 4th will include a Christmas Fayre at the Pavilion and outside The Vine Inn. There will be a Winter Wonderland Secret Garden, the light switch on at 6pm, a raffle (at 8pm) and a children's angel competition, which will be displayed outside the Pavilion. ②

When: 4th December 2021-5th January 2022

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# CHRISTMAS TOY APPEAL 2021

A third of children on the Isle of Wight are still classed as living in poverty and most of them are not expecting a visit from Santa this year.

**S**o Isle of Wight Radio is launching its Toy Appeal 2021. Spreading festive cheer to thousands of Island children, this year's official Isle of Wight Radio Christmas Toy Appeal is on until Sunday 12th December.

Since its inception, around 28,000 gifts have been donated to less-fortunate children, by kind-hearted Islanders.

All Isle of Wight Radio ask is when out shopping, listeners buy one extra toy and drop it off at one of the many drop off points, including selected Tesco, Morrisons and Asda.

Isle of Wight Radio then makes sure that each and every toy is delivered in time for Christmas, to the many local

charities and hospitals they support.

Isle of Wight Radio has been involved from the very start and has witnessed first hand the incredible difference it has made to thousands of

young lives on the Island.

Young carers, children in hospital, families challenged by poverty and youngsters in care are among those who have benefited from the appeal.

You can also donate money if you prefer. It all makes a BIG difference, no matter how much. Isle of Wight Radio will use all donated cash to buy toys from local shops for the appeal.

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Rather than doing the big Christmas shop at a supermarket, try the local farm shops, butchers, fishmongers and greengrocers scattered throughout the Island. You'll almost certainly be purchasing food produced in fields nearby.

If a traditional turkey dinner doesn't tickle your fancy, we are lucky on the Isle of Wight to have an abundant food culture, with many alternatives to a roast available.

Try shopping for gifts at an independent retailer; the Isle of Wight has a substantial number of small gift shops and boutiques, where you'll find unique gifts not available in the high street.

Of course, there's still the run-up to the big day itself, so many eateries will be offering deals for festive meals and socially distanced parties beforehand. And when you've had enough of cooking, grab some of the Island's great locally made grub to take away and enjoy at home. 🍷

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THE EIGHT BELLS



RMS Titanic with a Red Funnel tugboat

# *From Titanic to Dunkirk:* RED FUNNEL CELEBRATES 160 YEARS

From supporting the Dunkirk evacuations to playing a significant role in the story of Titanic. Today Red Funnel's ships can be seen ferrying passengers to and from the Isle of Wight. But few know about the firm's involvement in two of the most iconic moments in history.

By Oliver Dyer

**O**f the 930 vessels used to evacuate soldiers from the beaches of Dunkirk in 1940, 850 were little ships. At the time, Red Funnel owned six of those.

Perhaps the most famous of its vessels to take part in Operation Dynamo was paddle steamer Princess Elizabeth.

"She alone saved 1,673 souls from the beaches of Dunkirk," said Graham Barnetson, Chief Financial Officer at Red Funnel. "She is quite amazingly still in existence as a floating restaurant in Dunkirk harbour and can still be visited. She even had a role in Christopher Nolan's blockbuster film."

Not every vessel owned by Red Funnel made it home safely. On May 29, 1940, HMS Gracie Fields, which was requisitioned the previous year, was hit by bombers as she was leaving La Panne beach.

"There were about 750 soldiers



PS Princess Elizabeth

aboard", Graham said. "The previous day she had rescued 281 soldiers and returned them to Margate. But she finally sank about five hours after on the morning of May 30. Most of those onboard her were saved and returned to the UK."

The operation lasted for ten days.

Shortly after the end of World War Two, the firm bought another two of the ships which took part in the evacuation.

In total, the eight vessels linked to Red Funnel helped save almost 6,000 lives.

On what was the 80th anniversary of Dunkirk last year, the operator was presented with the little ships house flag and plaque to commemorate the role it played.

Red Funnel's mark on history dates back even further than Dunkirk. On April 3, 1912, five of the firm's tug boats guided the 269 metre-long RMS Titanic into berth in Southampton.

They were there again seven days later to tow her out of the docks as she set sail on her maiden voyage. Only five days later her tragic fate was sealed — but, as Graham explains, if it wasn't for the quick-

thinking of a Red Funnel captain, disaster could have struck much earlier.

"As she moved out of the docks she was so large the displacement of the water actually snapped the moorings of another liner in Southampton Harbour — an American line called New York.

"That liner began to drift towards Titanic. A collision between those two vessels was narrowly avoided as the captain on one of Red Funnel's tugs — named Vulcan — realised the danger ahead and managed to sufficiently slow the drift of the liner to stop a collision.

"One often wonders what may have happened had that not had happened." Of the 908 crew members on board Titanic, 724 of them were from Southampton. 549 of those did not make it back to the city.

This year marks 109 years since the sinking of the iconic ship. 2021 is also a landmark year for Red Funnel.

Having launched in 1861 as 'Southampton Isle of Wight and South of

England Royal Mail Steam Packet Company Limited', the ferry firm is celebrating its 160th birthday.

Its ships have been providing a link to and from the mainland for over a century and a half — making Red Funnel the Island's longest standing ferry operator.

One of its highlights includes welcoming revellers to the Island for the first ever Isle of Wight Festival in 1968, and for the next two events in the following years. "We've got some wonderful photos of festival-goers coming across on the vessels in 1968 — and we've continued to bring them across since then, Graham said.

"I'm sure that we'll be around for a considerable period to come — and whilst I won't be here, the 320th anniversary

party will be quite incredible!" A number of events are being planned to mark Red Funnel's landmark birthday. More details are expected in the coming months. 📍

*On April 3, 1912, five of the firm's tug boats guided the 269 metre-long RMS Titanic into berth in Southampton.*



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## News from Ryde

by Cllr Charles Chapman

I hope this Christmas will retain some normality and joy; meeting up with family and friends who have been missed. Although I do stress the need to practise the steps to 'keep safe' and enable us all to enjoy a prosperous New Year.

I would like to thank all those people, who helped 2021 'Poppy Day' appeal become so successful. Different parts of our Island have advertised the Poppy Day appeal in different ways: from West Wight decorating the street furniture with large single poppies to the many different ways, even our small villages, chose to publicise Poppy Day. Included are the thanks to various organisations, like the Quay Arts who organised for over twenty schools on the Island to make flowers and poppies from recycled materials and then held a wonderful exhibition during November. The poppy display was open free to all to view. Thank you to everybody who took the time and trouble to support The British Royal Legion this year. Every year the 'demands' on the Poppy Day Appeal grow and our Service Personnel and their families continue to need your/our help. The Poppy Appeal was launched in Ryde.

Currently in our own town, as the new Pier access road and Gateway project is going ahead, opportunities are being missed to breathe 21st century technology into the project, in terms of carbon reduction, community meeting points, developments for future tourism: such as carnivals, rallies, children's events

and those activities for our older residents and visitors to name but a few.

Many cyclists both singularly and in groups currently stop at the existing toilets and cafe for a meeting point and comfort break as there is both space for their cycles and for them to meet up with people, with shared interests in safety and whilst keeping track of their bikes.

Island Roads have been busy repairing and resurfacing various roads around Ryde. Litter continues to be a problem with rubbish being left in our green spaces and where children are playing. The mild autumn has encouraged people to visit our open spaces around Ryde and on the beach. Please take your rubbish home. It's not only better for the environment but it's easier on the eye and the pocket!

I expect, like me, you will be busy getting ready for Christmas and the New Year. The Island is well known for its generosity towards the homeless and children in need. Any support that you can give to our food banks would be appreciated. Aspire in Ryde are well aware of the additional pressure put on people during the holidays. Like the British Legion we rely on the support and help of local people.

Wishing you all a very merry Christmas and prosperous New Year.

☎ 07970009608  
✉ charles.chapman@iow.gov.uk

# Rotary Club Donates Rotovator To Network Ryde's Allotment

Network Ryde, Ryde Town Council's Youth Service have been kindly donated a new Tiller (Rotovator) by the Rotary Club for their Quarry Road allotment. During the pandemic, they became proud allotment holders and have worked hard over the past year with groups of young people to completely transform their plot. The site was very unloved before the youth service took it over, and was formerly a Victorian bottle dump, which made digging the soil very hard going. The Rotary Club first approached Network Ryde as Rotarian, Paul Ferguson, had an old rotovator which he hoped Harwoods Garage would be able to renovate to donate to Network Ryde.

Ryde Rotarian, Paul Ferguson said: "I wanted to donate my old tiller to the group at Network Ryde, to help with the digging, I took it to Harwoods Garage to have it serviced. It needed a safety handle fitted and after months of searching no handle could be found! Jo Harwood kindly decided it would be quicker to buy a new one. Thank you Harwoods."

Finding equipment during a pandemic, is harder than you think, as the production and supply chains were affected. But after many months of searching, the Rotary Club were finally able to purchase a tiller which was suitable for Network Ryde and their young people to use. The tiller has already been put to good use, and the young people are very excited to be trusted with a new piece of kit.

Becky Swan (Youth Work



(L-R) David Langdon (Rotary Club President), Phil Plant & Jo Johnson (Youth Workers), Kylan Lotay (Network Ryde), Jo Harwood (Harwoods Garage and Rotarian).

Manager) said: "We are so grateful to the Rotary Club for donating this vital piece of equipment. We are looking forward to re-designing our plot over the winter, ready for a new season of growing, and the tiller will make the ground a lot more workable."

Network Ryde currently work with two groups of boys from Ryde Academy at their allotment, as well as a general allotment session on a Saturday morning (10am-12pm). If you're a young person (School Years 8-13) and have an interest in gardening and enjoy being outside, please message to find out more. The allotment's progress is well documented via Network Ryde's social media platforms; and all the work is young person lead, encouraging opportunities for creativity and imagination.

Contact: rebecca.swan@networkryde.org



(L-R) David Langdon, Paul Ferguson (Rotary Club, Ryde Hub link) & Jo Harwood.

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# Go Taxi App Launches Electric Vehicles Service

By Jamie White

Go Taxi, the ride hailing app on the Isle of Wight, has launched a new category on its app through which customers can now book an electric vehicle for their journeys over the festive period.

The company said that the decision to invest and launch four electric vehicles is its first step towards its commitment to, zero-emission travel anywhere on the Island.

Co-Founder and Managing Director of Go Taxi, Kev Barton, said: "We are very proud to be able to go forward greener and launch our EV Taxi service across the Island today.

"Electric vehicles are the future – and will mean a smoother, more pleasant ride for our passengers, as well as helping the Island's eco

credentials. Our goal when we created our taxi booking app was to deliver a zero carbon, reliable and friendly service for all of our customers."

The Go Taxi app allows users to see the nearest registered taxi and hail them from their smartphone. Other features of the app include the facility to make bookings in advance, fare estimates, tracking of your trip and sharing your trip with friends and family.

Go Taxi is already partnering with over 15 well-known local taxi operators and looking to increase the number of drivers it has across the Island in the coming weeks to provide a much-needed Islandwide service over the festive period.

New users can get 20% off their first trip, simply using promo code XMAS20 when booking between November 12 and January 4.

The Go Taxi app is available for iOS and Android users here.

Bookings can also be made via the website [www.gotaxi-iow.co.uk](http://www.gotaxi-iow.co.uk) or by calling 01983 864000

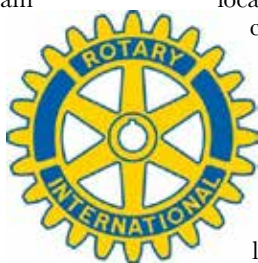


# Rotary Club of Ryde Collects for Local Charities

The Rotary Club of Ryde will be raising money again this Christmas, as part of its charitable commitment, for local charities and good causes by way of a local Christmas collection. The collections will be held at:

Ryde Co-Op, Saturday 11th & Sunday 12th December  
Ryde Co-Op Saturday 18th & Sunday 19th December

The community groups the Rotary is supporting are Ryde Benevolent Trust, Aspire Ryde, Ryde Foyer, IW Foodbank, Salvation Army, Jigsaw



Children's Contact Centre and local school breakfast clubs.

Ryde Rotary Club wishes to encourage local shoppers to support their own communities and to make Christmas a little happier for those who have experienced real hardship in the last twelve months.

They hope to raise between £2,500 and £3,000.

Bring your loose change or use your cashless debit cards to donate.

For more details, contact **Rotary Club of Ryde Facebook page.**



## News from Shanklin South & Central

by Cllr Chris Quirk & Cllr Michael Beston

**THE RETURN OF ISLAND LINE:** The Isle of Wight's train service; Island Line returned to service on the 1st November. KILF – the 'Keep Island Line in the Franchise' campaign – was formed six years ago when the route was under threat of being taken out of the wider regional franchise. Having campaigned since then to successfully save the route, we were of course both delighted to finally board the service on the new trains at 5:35am out of Ryde St John's Station to Ryde Pier Head. We then continued on the line for the first full journey through to Shanklin. The journey was not only much smoother, but the carriages are smart, modern and welcoming – along with the staff (as they have always been!). Island Line plays a crucial role for those living, working and visiting the East Wight corridor, including reaching the popular tourist destination of Shanklin. We both look forward to seeing many people arrive in our town over the months and years ahead.



**SHANKLIN PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE UPDATE:** The new sprung flooring system has been delivered and the installation is now complete. As you can see, the girls try out the new dance floor at the centre and give it the thumbs up – seal of approval.

Our thanks go to 'Men in Sheds' for bricking up and repairing the unsightly holes in the walls, thanks also to our willing volunteers for repainting the interior walls of the centre, this has really freshened the place up. Shanklin Green Town Group has also planted a lovely selection of evergreen shrubs and a Japanese cedar 'Sekkan-sugi' tree in the front garden. A new internal wall mirror system has been placed on order for our dancers; the mirror provides immediate visual feedback. It allows them to evaluate the height and shape of their movement, to correct their placement, and to assess the line of their bodies.

Enquiries for the future use of the centre for practice of dance and ballet can be made by contacting: 01983 716550 or by sending a message through the website: [www.shanklinperformingartscentre.co.uk](http://www.shanklinperformingartscentre.co.uk)

**GRITTING THE ISLAND ROADS UPDATE** The Island Roads annual vehicle checks and safety briefings have already

taken place as the company starts its preparations for its winter service. The 'Autumn Parade' as it is known, takes place every year at its Stag Lane depot, which is home to six frontline gritters, back up and specialist vehicles as well as the Island's road salt supply which provides an opportunity to test the fleet and brief drivers on the latest health and safety updates, and ensure they are familiar with the Island's gritting routes.

Each year the Island accrues 1,600 tonnes of graded rock salt, enough to cope with exceptionally severe winter weather. Gritting lorries are mobilised whenever freezing or close to zero temperatures are forecast, using special localised weather reports, readings from weather stations at Brading Down and on the Middle Road, as well as observational information. Island Roads have put together a factsheet about their winter service with more information which can be found at: [www.islandroads.com/factsheets/](http://www.islandroads.com/factsheets/)

### COMMUNITY ACTIVITY AND EVENTS - RBL SHANKLIN REMEMBRANCE SERVICE:

Many residents joined us for the Royal British Legion Remembrance Service on Sunday the 14th November at the War Memorial Garden in Shanklin Old Village. The service was led and conducted by Rev Tony Richards. Public addresses were conducted by Bert Cuthbertson and Cllr David Cable. Our thanks go to the Shanklin RBL members – Steve Rogers, John Rushby, Mark Watson and Tom Bodman. Shanklin Town Brass Band, under the direction of Karen Lewis and conductor Malcolm Lewis played the music on the morning that included 'Jerusalem' and the 'National Anthem'. 'The Last Post' and 'The Reveille' was played by Mitch Jones. Thanks to Terry Carpenter for keeping the immaculate memorial garden and thanks also to the Rock Shop and Shanklin Theatre for supplying the electrical supply and PA system. Special thanks go to Shanklin Deputy Town Mayor; Cllr Sue Godden for all her help and direction along the way.

Our season's greetings to you all. Chris and Michael.



☎ 07802 705831  
✉ [chris.quirk@iow.gov.uk](mailto:chris.quirk@iow.gov.uk)  
☎ 07885 644426  
✉ [michael.beston@iow.gov.uk](mailto:michael.beston@iow.gov.uk)



## News from Ryde North West

by Cllr Phil Jordan

I was delighted and encouraged by the recent event in the Arcade in Union Street bringing together over 200 interested and committed residents to become Friends of Ryde Town Hall.

I met with delightful people, mingled and exchanged views with everyone who were absolutely dedicated and committed to seeing the Town Hall returned back to community use.

Glad to see our MP also turn up and I look forward to seeing how this can bring forward a positive solution for the building and for the town of Ryde.

On a similar note, it was great to see the Department, which is the old Packs store on Cross Street, get opened and with some substantial grant funding in place and a current bid awarded by the Arts Council of England a very bright future indeed lies ahead. Delivering a range of Arts and Cultural initiatives it is another example of how Ryde is leading the Island in so many ways.

Another example of investment in Ryde is the new Interchange scheme which is seeing £10m of grant funded money upgrade the public area, the station and the pier with work due to start at the beginning of 2022 and be finished by March 2023. And that is

just the start with further grant funding opportunities arising all the time we might just find other ways to improve our resident and tourist offer along the Ryde seafront. That includes of course Ryde Harbour which is coming to Ryde Town Council ownership in March 2022 and for which there are plans to upgrade and improve the harbour offer across a range of detailed business plans.

On a slightly less enthusiastic note, I am working hard with other councillors and IWC staff to try and find a solution for the blight of unwanted rubbish on our streets especially in places such as George Street where the problem is reaching unacceptable levels and becoming a health hazard as well as the negative image it portrays for residents and visitors alike. I have faced this problem for many years now and there is no easy or quick solution but we are looking into a number of ideas that might eventually remove the problem of waste on our streets which just cannot continue.

Seasons greetings and best wishes for a positive new year.

[phil.jordan@iow.gov.uk](mailto:phil.jordan@iow.gov.uk)



## Sir Paul McCartney Reveals Ticket to Ride Was Inspired by Isle of Wight

By Oliver Dyer

Sir Paul McCartney has revealed the role Ryde on the Isle of Wight played in inspiring The Beatles classic Ticket To Ride.



behalf of Islander Jack Chase, from Ryde.

Jack asked: "Growing up in Ryde on the Isle of Wight, can you talk a little bit about the influence that had on Ticket to Ride when you hitchhiked here with

John and any memories of the trip?"

It's long been rumoured that a visit to the town gave Sir Paul and John Lennon the idea for the 1965 hit, but it has never been officially confirmed — until now.

Speaking at an event in London, Sir Paul recalled how he and John hitchhiked to the Island to see his cousin.

"My cousin Betty and her husband Mike Robbins were very influential on me. I would say to John on this occasion, lets hitch hike somewhere", said Sir Paul.

"He would play along so we ended up going down to the Isle of Wight, Ryde where they had a pub.

"They were always running pubs so they moved around Reading and various other places. So we wrote Ticket to Ride there with the play on words. Ryde was spelt R-Y-D-E and we spelt it ride."

Sir Paul was appearing at the Southbank Centre to discuss his new book 'The Lyrics: 1956 to the Present'.

He was answering a question put forward by presenter Samira Ahmed on

John and any memories of the trip?"

Sir Paul reminisced about the trip to the Island — and his love for Betty and Mike.

He recalled how on one occasion the pair put The Beatles legends, who were both teenagers at the time, to bed.

Sir Paul said: "They were down in Ryde... the kind of lovely little memories. The things that stick out are the silly little things.

"This was me and John and they only have one guest room with one bed in it so me and John have to top and tail in this bed. We're lying there ready to go to bed and Bet and Mike would come in — they're grown ups.

"And even though we were in our late teens, they would tuck us in!"

Ticket to Ride was released as a single in April 1965.

It went on to become the Beatles' seventh consecutive number 1 hit in the United Kingdom, and their third consecutive number 1 hit in the United States.



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# Plans for New Quarry to Boost Island Building Trade

By Jamie White

An application for a new quarry to supply essential construction materials to the local building trade to help safeguard scores of Island jobs, is being prepared for submission to Isle of Wight Council planners.

The application by Wight Building Materials (formerly Bardon Vectis) is to extract sand and gravel, in managed phases, from 12 hectares of agricultural land at Palmers Farm near Wootton.

Over a ten year period the site will be extracted and progressively restored. The company said a new site is vital to the future of Island sand and gravel supplies and without it, imports of sand and gravel will be required to maintain supply. The company added that is essential to the future of Wight Building Materials and its near 40-strong workforce. It is anticipated that the business' existing permitted reserves of sand and gravel on the Island will have been extracted by 2023.

Wight Building Materials said: "The Palmers Farm site represents an important source of sand and gravel that will maintain a secure supply of construction materials to the Island's economy for the next 10 years. The site will be typically worked by just two vehicles during daylight hours only and not at weekends, nor bank holidays. There will be no processing of materials on site — this will be done at the company's established facility at St George's Down.

"There will be a maximum of 25 loads taken from the site daily via an improved access off Brocks Copse Road. A comprehensive traffic management plan to ensure traffic impacts are minimised will accompany the application with a commitment that no quarry vehicles will use Palmers Road."

Wight Building Materials plan, depending on successful determination, to start



quarrying activities in 2023 following the implementation of measures to reduce visual impact, minimise noise and to provide alternative habitat for wildlife.

In advance of the application, Wight Building Materials has held briefing meetings with Wootton residents and also will continue to liaise with neighbouring council ward members and other elected councillors.

Wight Building Materials General Manager, Steve Burton, said: "This new quarry is critical to the continued production of construction materials at St George's Down. Aggregates are the life blood of the business and sourcing sustainable, Island-won material reduces the need both for aggregates to be imported from the mainland and dredged from the sea.

"There are limited reserves of sand and gravel on the Island and this is one of the largest deposits still available for extraction. We are committed to do so responsibly, working with the local community."

Steve said that comprehensive species surveys have already been undertaken and the application will include an agreed programme to compensate for any habitat lost during quarrying with enhanced neighbouring habitats.

He added: "We have worked — and will continue to work throughout the project — to ensure we meet our environmental responsibilities. We will leave behind a more biodiverse area as demonstrated with our ongoing relationship with the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust at St George's Down."



## News from Lake South

by Cllr Paul Brading

**PLANNING APPEAL:** Another appeal to the Planning Inspector has been made by WS Group, challenging the 2nd refusal of their application to build a large bungalow on the side on the Bridlepath SS24, adjacent to Broadlea School. The decision is expected in December, or early January, any last minute comments can still be made to the Planning Inspectorate.

**SHANKLIN CEMETERY:** Thankfully the vandalism at the cemetery, with gravestones being pulled over, seems to have stopped, but the police still have it on their rounds for regular patrols. Cemetery Road itself has many potholes but is finally going to be repaired by the IW Council, who are currently going through a procurement process.

I have also been dealing with properties adjacent to the cemetery whose fences are being damaged by overhanging trees. I am grateful to the Management Team of all IW Cemeteries who have been more than helpful to me in trying to sort out my residents' issues.

**FAIRWAY ROAD JUNCTION:** For the last four years I have been raising concerns about the junction at the end of the Fairway, which in my opinion is one of the most dangerous junctions on the Island. As previously reported I had a meeting last month with Island Roads and the IW Council to look at what could realistically be done, within budget constraints to help the situation.

Traffic lights are not deemed to be a requirement, and it is not legally allowable to have a Yellow Box to be painted before a zebra crossing. As Tesco is private land, the council has no powers to require all traffic leaving their car park to turn left only.

What we have agreed is that improved signage of approaching zebra crossing is needed as you approach from Lake High Street; old plans recommended by Island Roads for some simple changes are to be revisited; and its important that all "near misses" or minor accidents for cars and pedestrians are reported to the police to create a true picture of the dangers there.

I am grateful to Tesco which has plans afoot to encourage their customers to exit by turning left out of their carpark.

**PARISH COUNCIL UPDATES:** There's been several occurrences of objects such as bottles and rocks thrown from the Cliff Path onto the revetment. We took this very seriously and immediately contacted the police, and the IW Council. Swift actions have resulted in regular inspections of the Cliff Path and thankfully there have been no more instances, and no one has been seriously hurt. I am grateful to other Parish Councillors who have assisted in this matter. If anything does happen further please report it to me, or the police.

We have submitted our bid for £5,000 funding from the Government's post Covid initiative Fund and are still awaiting a response. We have agreed several ideas that we would like to fund from this aimed at brightening up several parts of Lake.

Setting up some forms of youth projects in Lake is an aim of the Parish Council, and alongside Sandown TC, we have worked with Community Action IOW to secure £10,000 funding for projects that were due to start in late November.

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# Shanklin Town Council

Town Clerk RFO: Ms S. Janeway LL.B (Hons) CiLCA MSLCC, 65 Landguard Road Shanklin Isle of Wight PO37 7JX

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



## Town Mayor's address

*Councillor Chris Quirk, Shanklin Town Mayor*

I recently had the pleasure of attending the opening of the "Prospero" and "Black Arrow" exhibition at the Wight Aviation Museum at Sandown Airport. There is a full-sized replica of the Black Arrow rocket that was built on the Island largely by Island engineers, and tested at the site close to the New Battery at The Needles, before being shipped to Australia for launching. Prospero was the satellite that Black Arrow launched into space, and the satellite is still orbiting fifty years later. The museum has a fascinating selection of original documents and artefacts relating to this, and many other elements of aviation history on the Island; the museum is well worth a visit.

The Wight Aviation Museum is supported by a "Men in Sheds" group, and another group is based at Winchester House, the YMCA facility; last month I had the pleasure of opening their new Group Room, built to supplement the workshop they have operated there for some time. This voluntary group has carried out extensive

renovation work at Winchester House, and has recently refurbished two of the park benches owned by the Town Council, for which we are very grateful. Men in Sheds provide community spaces for men to connect, converse and create, and are a great community asset as well as being a support and friendship group. New members are always welcome.

On Remembrance Sunday I attended the Remembrance Ceremony at St Thomas' Square in Newport, and laid a wreath on behalf of Shanklin, before joining the Remembrance Sunday Service at the Minster. My colleague Mike Beston laid a wreath on behalf of the Isle of Wight Council at the Shanklin War Memorial, and my deputy Sue Godden laid the wreath on behalf of the Town Council. Our thanks to the British Legion for organising the event, supported by Mike and Sue on behalf of the council.

On a negative note, there have been a number of reports of objects being thrown from the Cliff Path, landing on the revetment and buildings below. These acts of mindless vandalism have already resulted in both injury and damage to

property, if you know those responsible please stop them or report them to the police.

### TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

A massive thank you to Richard Priest and all those at Shanklin Voluntary Youth & Community Centre (SVYCC) for a lovely evening celebrating the centre's 25th anniversary.

The Priest, Biddlecombe & Gilbey families and numerous other volunteers have contributed so much to the centre over the years.

The centre is held in high esteem and is a great benefit to the town and its young residents. Huge congratulations to all those involved.

May I take this opportunity to wish all residents a very Merry Christmas and a peaceful 2022.

**Best Regards Chris,  
Shanklin Town Mayor (2021)**



Deputy Town Mayor Sue Godden presenting a certificate to Volunteers of SVYCC



# Nettlestone & Seaview Parish Council

Brian Jennings – Clerk. 2 Harrow Cottages, Nettlestone Hill, Seaview. PO34 5DU

☎ 07464 894216 ✉ clerk@nettlestoneandseaview-pc.gov.uk 🌐 www.nettlestoneandseaview-pc.gov.uk

### FESTIVE LIGHTS

Once again, Cllr Hardie has been working hard and coordinating with representatives of the Community Partnership to arrange Christmas lighting this year. After the positive feedback from the community – including the school who sang carols around it last year – a cut tree will be illuminated on Nettlestone Green – The popular lights at St.Peter's church will be back but keep an eye out for some new four-legged friends of the Church (created by local artist Helen Newbery) who will be in situ. A newly purchased fairybell tree will be back on the smaller green opposite St.Helen's Church. At Sophie Watson's Garden, in addition to the 8m tall LED tree, there will be some lights in the tree which stands next to the 'memorial' saplings planted on the garden earlier this year.

With many of the Community Partnership's events back this year (including Father Christmas at Vic's Stores on the 21st December and community carols at St.Peter's Church on the 23rd December), there should be plenty of festive cheer to go round!

### BARNSELY TRAIL BOARD REINSTATED IN NETTLESTONE

The Barnsley Trail is a circular walk of just over 5km, that takes in the wonderful countryside and beaches of the Parish of Nettlestone and Seaview. It was devised by Alan Hersey a former Isle of Wight and Parish Councillor and keen naturalist. For many years after the trail was first created a large wooden interpretation board stood at the top of Nettlestone Hill with a map of the walk. Sadly, over time, the board weathered and eventually all that remained was part of the wooden stand.

Now, a group of local volunteers working with illustrator Alan Rowe and with financial support from Nettlestone and Seaview Parish Council have created a new board. It includes a colourful map, valuable historical information about the area surrounding the walk and has new features including a QR code so the whole trail can be downloaded onto a smartphone. Printed onto aluminium the new board will withstand the elements for many years to come and is positioned in exactly the same place as the original board.

### NEW DEFIBRILLATOR AT SEAGROVE BAY

Thanks to the efforts of local resident Lara Sussman (who is keen to point out that it was a joint community effort with funding coming from both private individuals and the Seaview Regatta) there is now a defibrillator situated on the toilet block – managed by the parish council – at Seagrove Bay. Lara approached the council with the proposal of having a defibrillator situated at the popular spot and the council happily resolved to have the device on the block and keep it maintained on an ongoing basis. Thanks also to Clean Wight Cleaning who have agreed to perform the daily visual inspections to ensure that the device is ready for use. The defibrillator has been registered with 'The Circuit' and as a result the ambulance service will be able to direct people to it in an emergency. If you find yourself in an emergency situation at Seagrove Bay where the defibrillator could help, dial 999 or 112 and follow the instructions provided.

### PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

● Check our website: [www.nettlestoneandseaview-pc.gov.uk/meetings/](http://www.nettlestoneandseaview-pc.gov.uk/meetings/)  
All are welcome to attend!





# Ryde Town Council

Town Hall Chambers, 10 Lind Street, Ryde, PO33 2NQ Tel: 01983 811105  
Email: [clerk@rydetowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@rydetowncouncil.gov.uk) [www.rydetowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.rydetowncouncil.gov.uk)



## Late Night Shopping

Thursday 2 December sees the return late night shopping to Ryde along with the wonderful Merry and Bright Lantern Parade and illuminated trail



and, for the first time ever, a magical Christmas tree light switch on!

There will be fabulous street entertainment and live music making it a fantastic evening to explore the shops, buy those gifts, treat yourself, and support local this season.

Head to Ryde between 5-8pm on Thursday 2 December.

Come and enjoy a Caribbean Christmas with Derek Sandy, fantastic light performances, and magic with Huxley. There will be appearances from The Grinch, Elsa and many more round the town along with free facepainting and much, much more!

- 17:00 onwards: Late-night shopping.
- 17:30 – 18:30: Merry & Bright Lantern Parade starting at Aspire Dover Street, Star Street, High Street and finishing at the bottom of Union Street.
- 19:00: Christmas Tree lights switch-on in Minghella Square with the Grinch.

## Small Business Saturday



Saturday 4th December

Take advantage of free parking at Isle of Wight Council long-stay car parks in Ryde from mid-day on Saturday 4 December for Small Business Saturday. Browse the town treat yourself or buy your Christmas gifts while supporting local businesses. There will be extra entertainment and bands on at St Thomas' and Minghella Square.

If you're heading to a gathering or event, please remember to do it safely to protect each other from COVID.

Wear a mask where appropriate, such as in crowded and indoor areas. Wash your hands regularly with soap or use hand sanitiser.

Take a rapid response LFT test before and after any event to check you're not spreading COVID-19 amongst your community without knowing.

If you feel unwell, start to develop symptoms or test positive on a LFT test, self-isolate and book a PCR test. You should not attend any events if you are self-isolating.

## The Respect Ryde Project Litter Pick



Thank you to all the volunteers that helped with November's litter pick. It was wonderful to see a great turnout to clean up our community. Not only does the waste on the streets look messy, but the majority of it can also hurt wildlife and pollute the planet. Great job to all those involved in the clear up and a big thank you to Amey for supporting the Respect Ryde project and disposing of the waste.



Upcoming Council Meetings			
Date	Meeting	Time	Venue
7 December 2021	Facilities and Assets	2pm	Please see the agenda on our website three working days before the meeting for venue details
21 December 2021	Planning Committee	7pm	Please see the agenda on our website three working days before the meeting for venue details

## Grants

The Town Council will be running a marketing and community grant round early next year. The closing date for applications 31 January 2022 and it is anticipated that a meeting will be held in February to consider applications.

Please see [rydetowncouncil.gov.uk](http://rydetowncouncil.gov.uk) for further details, to view the Grant Policy and to download the application form.

If you have any questions please contact [grants@rydetowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:grants@rydetowncouncil.gov.uk)

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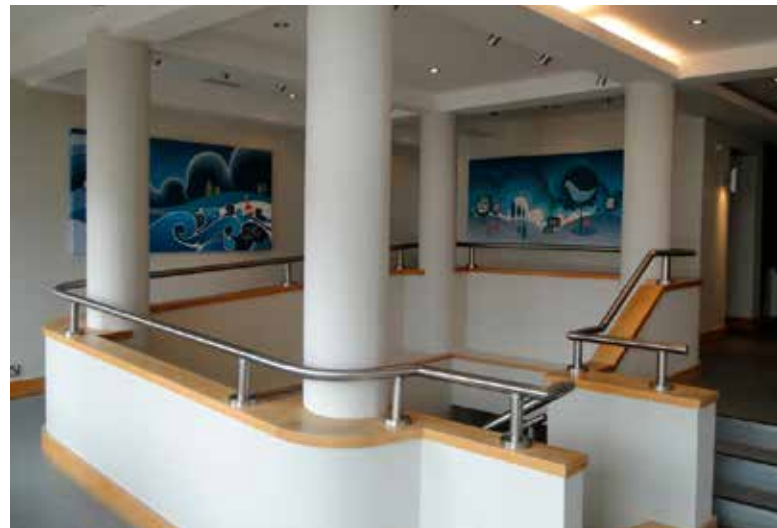
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Call Chris Manhire on **07866 730979**

Visit our website [www.millcourtbusinesscentre.com](http://www.millcourtbusinesscentre.com)



# GOING UP

## Deltron Lifts Reaches New Heights on the Isle of Wight

Deltron Lifts Coastal and Deltron Lifts Ltd has a great wealth of knowledge in the lift industry. The company prides itself on its level of skill, which benefits the customer with first time fixes or diagnosing faults on lifts fast – keeping costs down.

Shortly after the company first formed, Deltron Lifts was asked to attend a call out to a care home on the Island. The team found the lift in a bad way. They said you could see it hadn't been serviced properly in years. It was a similar story at other sites on the Island.

Deltron Lifts has also heard of many incidents of customers being charged for unnecessary work.

A lot of lift engineers have to travel a long way to get to the Island and often charge travel from door to door.

Managing director, Michael Jones lives just over the water in Fareham. He said he wouldn't have felt right charging the customer for a ferry fare, especially in the summer months. So the company has now branched out, and is looking to employ an engineer on the Island.

The company is looking to recruit an apprentice lift engineer. This is a golden opportunity for someone with a driving licence and a bit of ambition to really go up in the world. The lift industry is recession proof and a very job safe industry to be in. Deltron Lifts offers full training with no limits.

"As our company started to build momentum on the Island it made sense to open an office on the Island and where better



than the centre (Newport) with great links across the Island," says Michael.

"Over the next couple of years we plan to employ many more staff and aim to have a team of four engineers with four mates (apprentices) and hopefully an NVQ 4 Lift Technician that has worked their way up through the ranks, this will bring the cost down massively and increase the response times for call out and trapped passengers.

"Our customers are already happy with our fast response times and low costs. And not to mention reliable lifts that tick all the boxes with your insurance companies."

"Me and my business partners are very passionate

*Our customers are already happy with our fast response times and low costs*

about helping our community wherever we can, so we plan to get involved with a number of Isle of Wight charities and community groups."

Managing director, Michael Jones has been in the lift industry for most of his adult life. He started as a lift apprentice back in 1996 on installation, before that he'd joined the army as a junior leader in the RCT Regiment. It fast became apparent he had a gift at working with his hands, and a couple of years later he



moved on to servicing lifts and call outs.

"This was totally different from installation, and it really tested me in the art of fault finding. I have always had high standards and this goes back to my army days, I want the best for my customers because they are paying for a service and they deserve the best. But unfortunately, I'm in an industry that has suffered over the years with lack of talent due to training not being offered to the up-and-coming apprentices. So the first thing I set out to do when I started Deltron Lifts Coastal was to rewrite the standards book."

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# The Care Cap: Is it as good as it sounds?

**S**adly, there is no clear reference in the government's plan 'for health and social care' as to what the care cap covers. It was subsequently confirmed that the accommodation-related costs of care — those associated with daily living, such as; food, energy bills and the physical building — would not count towards the cap.

When the Government was considering a care cap five years ago, they had indicated that the cost of the accommodation-related costs would be in the region of £12,000 per annum (£230 per week). Given that the care cap at that time was going to be £72,000 and now it has increased to £86,000, it is likely that this accommodation cost will also be higher.

Using the figure of £12,000 a year, if the cost of your care is £650 a week, you will be expected to pay £230 per week towards 'board and lodging' and the amount accruing to reach the cap would

You may have seen that from October 2023, there will be a lifetime cap of £86,000 for the cost of a person's care. The premise is that every individual requiring care will pay a maximum of £86,000 for their care in their lifetime – sounds good doesn't it?

be £420 per week.

In other words, to get to the cap of £86,000 you will have to pay for care for 205 weeks ( $£420 \times 205 = £86,100.00$ ) but the actual amount that you would have spent would be £133,250.00 (including board and lodging).

The Government is also looking at changing the upper thresholds for care; currently, if you have assets of over £23,250 (including property unless there is a property disregard) then you will be liable to fund all of your care. When you dip between £14,250 and £23,250 then you pay a contribution from your capital and below £14,250 then you do not use your capital to pay for your care. The new rules would see people with over

£100,000 paying for care in full until they either reach the cap of their assets drop below £100,000. There would be a charge on capital for those with assets between £20,000 and £100,000. People with less than £20,000 would have to contribute from their income towards their care costs but not from their savings.

Whilst this would be better than the current system of being left with just £14,250, it does mean that some people will still spend a huge amount of their money to pay for care.

Planning for the future is therefore very important and there may be options available to you in your Wills which can protect your assets for your future generations. ☺



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LEGAL SERVICES

Melissa Reeds can help to protect your assets for future generations and provide assistance with care related queries. Please contact [melissa.reeds@gdlegalservices.co.uk](mailto:melissa.reeds@gdlegalservices.co.uk) or 01983 527878 for a free initial consultation.





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# Deck the Halls

The tradition of celebrating midwinter by decorating houses and gardens with greenery dates back thousands of years. Hanna Prince delves into the fascinating history of festive decorations.

**W**hether it's a sprig of mistletoe hanging from the ceiling, a tree in the corner or a wreath on the front door, most of us mark Christmas by decorating our houses with greenery. This age-old tradition predates Christmas times by at least 500 years – descriptions of Saturnalia, the Roman midwinter festival, suggest that people were hanging up wreaths and other evergreen sprigs to celebrate the winter solstice from the 5th century AD, perhaps even earlier.



Gregory the Great recommended that the Pagan customs be annexed at Christmas by focusing the hanging of greenery on churches.

## HOLLY AND IVY

Deck the Halls with Boughs of Holly may not have been published until 1862, but festive songs mentioning holly and ivy were being sung in England from the 15th

*The first mention of Christmas trees comes from 16th century Rhineland*

## MISTLETOE

Next time you snatch a festive kiss under the mistletoe, bear in mind that you're participating in a ritual that dates back to 1st century Celtic Druids. Because the plant blossomed in the frozen winter, Druids came to associate it with fertility. Mistletoe's reputation as a symbol of love continued into the Middle Ages – in 13th century Norse mythology, the goddess Frigg vows to plant a kiss on all those that passed beneath it. Our modern tradition of kissing beneath the mistletoe at Christmas probably began in the 18th century, when men were permitted to snatch a kiss from any woman found standing beneath it.

## WREATHS

Wreaths have been a symbol of celebration since the days of ancient Rome, when they were worn by women as a symbol of pride and awarded to victorious athletes. In 4th century Turkey, a Christian bishop complained about his congregation 'crowning their doors' with greenery at Christmas – an act he considered to be clearly Pagan. But it wasn't long until wreath-hanging was incorporated into the festive tradition. In the 6th century, Pope



century. King Henry VIII wrote his own carol, Green Groweth the Holly, and in 1558 the poet Thomas Tusser wrote a song opening: 'Get ivy and hull [holly] woman, deck up thine house.'

These carols may have been Christian in intent, but the symbolism they invoke is much older. Centuries before the birth of Jesus, Pagans were using holly (the 'male' plant) and ivy (the 'female') to ward off evil spirits and celebrate new growth during the winter solstice celebrations.

## CHRISTMAS TREES

No greenery is more closely associated with Christmas than the Christmas tree – but, compared to many festive traditions, this one is actually relatively recent. The first mention of Christmas trees comes from 16th century Rhineland, and it wasn't until the early 19th century that they really began to catch on in Britain. Queen Victoria and her husband Prince Albert were big fans of the tradition. By the end of the 19th century the trend had spread across Britain, and Christmas cards depicting trees as part of the festive scene were common. Today one of the most famous Christmas trees in Britain is the one in Trafalgar Square, which is gifted annually by the people of Norway as a symbol of peace and goodwill following the Second World War. ☺



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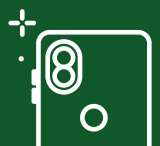
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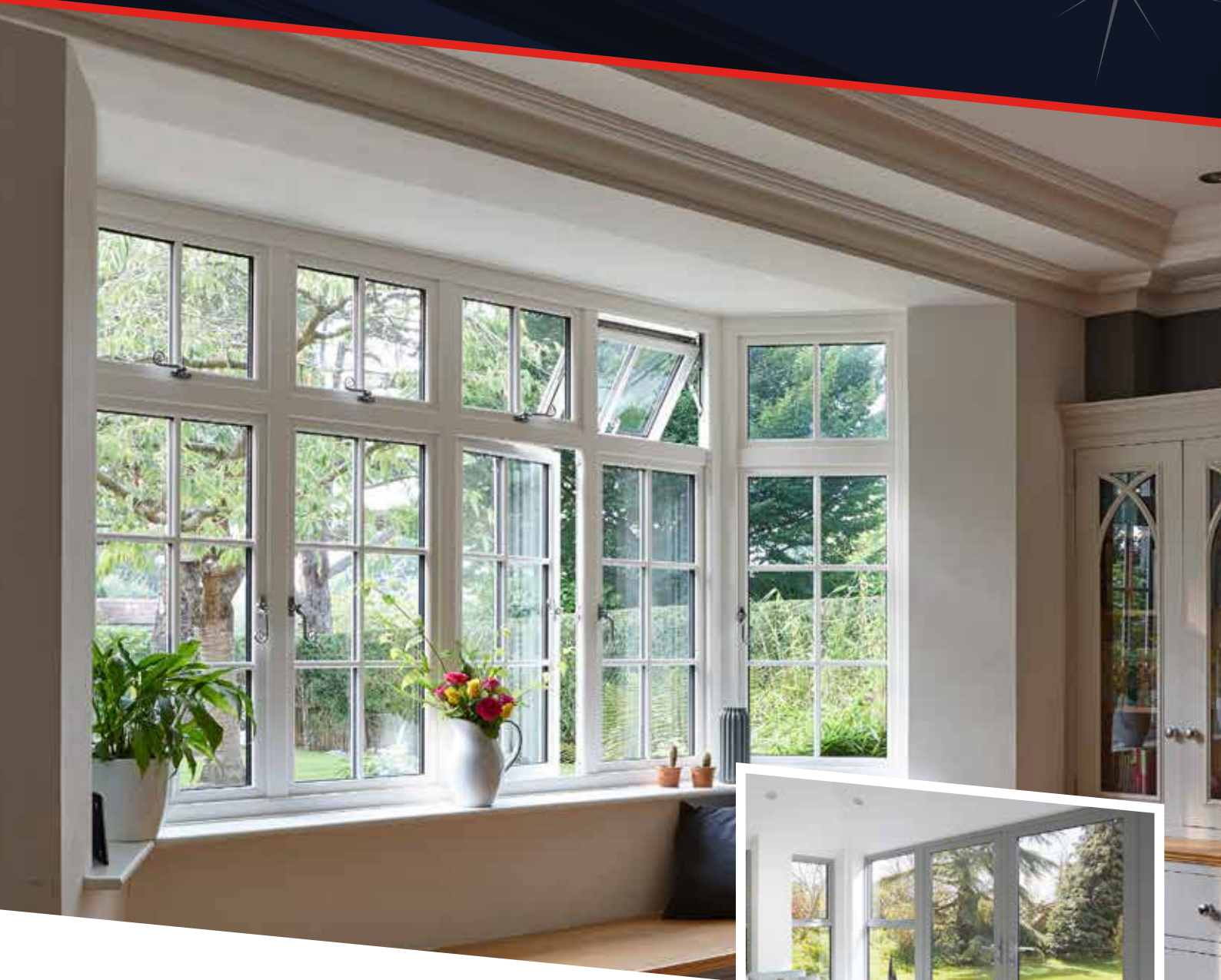
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