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December 2021

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INTERVIEW
CATCHING
UP WITH
CRAIG DAVID

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CHRISTMAS
CAKE KITS

WALK
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VILLAGE OF
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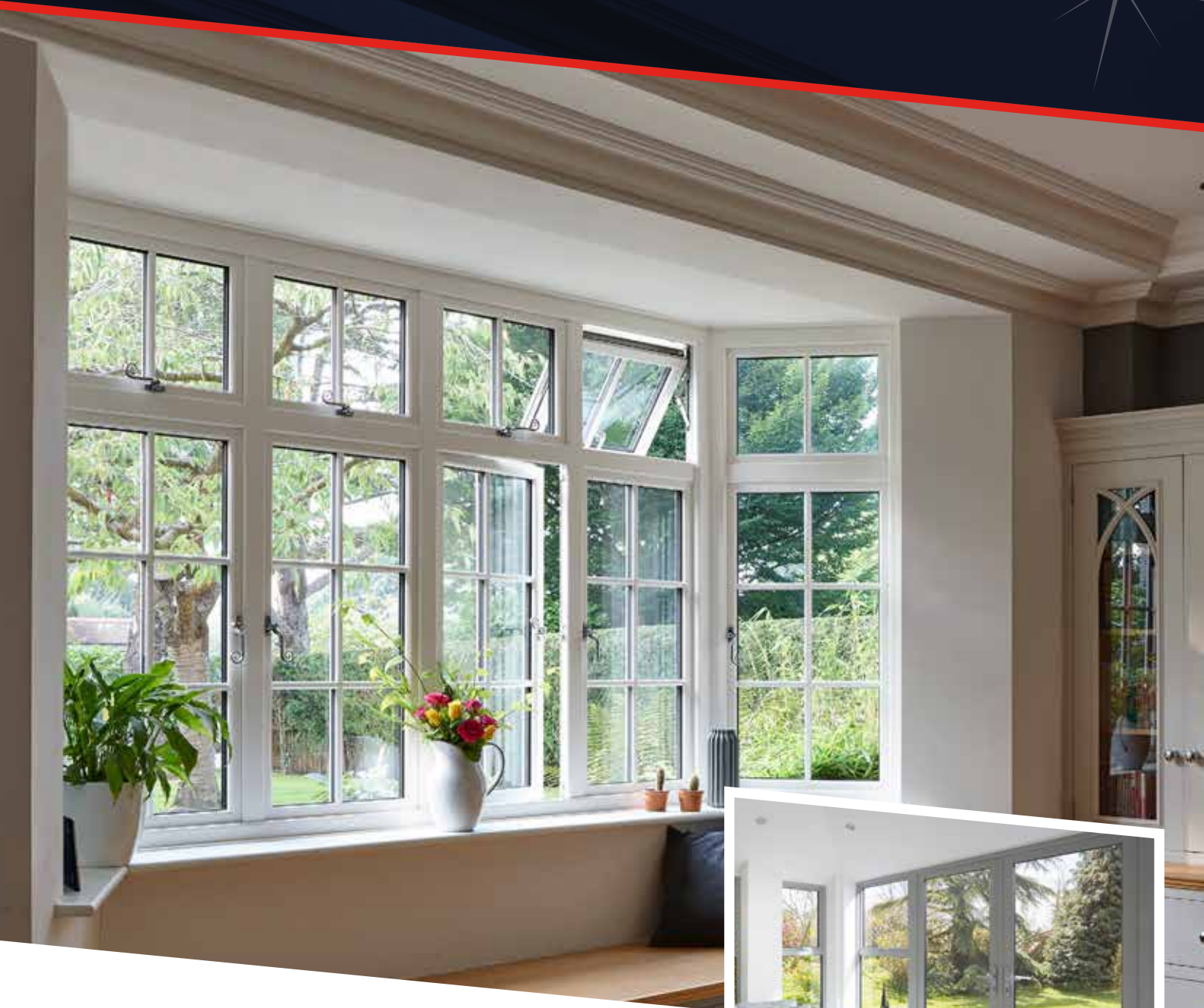


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Welcome from the EDITOR

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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Traditional CHRISTMAS CAKE KITS

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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!



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MINCE PIES

Sixteen year-old Imogen Palmer has putting her seasonal spin on a traditional recipe. For the less adventurous and for those not tempted to make their own mincemeat... grab a 600g jar of ready made instead. Let's bake!

INGREDIENTS

Mincemeat

2 Bramley apples, finely diced
115g (4oz) raisins
85g (3oz) dried cranberries
100ml (3½fl oz) apple juice
2 tsp ground ginger
2 tsp ground cinnamon
1 tsp ground nutmeg
zest of 1 orange finely grated
1cm fresh ginger finely grated
2 tbs brandy (optional)

Casings

6 sheets of filo pastry
115g (4oz) melted butter

icing sugar for dusting

METHOD

- 1 Place all mincemeat ingredients into a pan and cook gently on a medium heat for 10 minutes.
- 2 Remove from the heat and allow the mincemeat to infuse and cool.
- 3 Pre-heat the oven to 180C (350F, Gas 4)
- 4 Grease a 12-portion muffin tin generously with melted butter.
- 5 Lay the filo pastry sheets on a flat surface. With a sharp knife or scissors cut each sheet into 6 equally sized squares. Keep the off-cuts for decorating later.
- 6 Pile the squares on top of each other and cover with a damp cloth to stop them from drying out.

7 Take three squares from the pile and brush both sides with melted butter, then lay them in the muffin tin, offset from each other at an angle, creating a star effect.

8 Repeat this process 12 times to make 12 cases.

9 Divide the mincemeat mixture equally and fill the 12 cases.

10 Finely shred and randomly sprinkle the off-cuts of pastry over each pie, then brush with a little melted butter.

11 Place in the oven and cook for 12-14 minutes before removing and allowing the mince pies to cool a little. Dust with icing sugar and serve.

12 Dust with icing sugar and serve while warm.

Top Tip: Serve with your favourite topping; vanilla ice cream, clotted cream, crème fraîche or custard



MAKES
12

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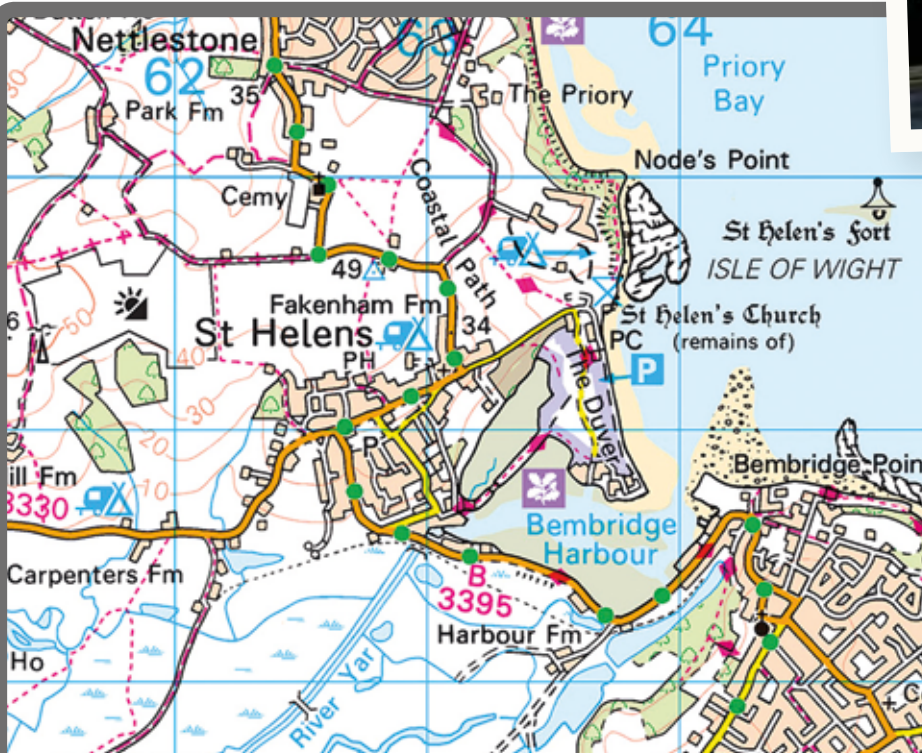
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 Apprenticeships



VILLAGE OF Angels

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



When: 4th December 2021-5th January 2022

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. ⑤



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In the lead up to Christmas, it's important to support local shops and independent businesses wherever possible.

There's something about shopping at a local market or farm shop that feels more authentic than your average supermarket or high street chain. On the Isle of Wight, we are lucky to be blessed with a variety of local businesses selling seasonal items and produce.

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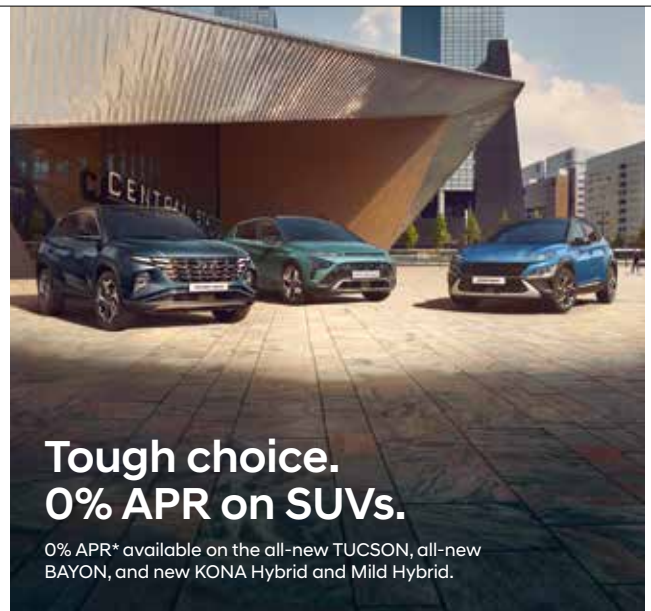
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So Isle of Wight Radio is launching its Toy Appeal 2021. Spreading festive cheer to thousands of Island children, this year's official Isle of Wight Radio Christmas Toy Appeal is on until Sunday 12th December.

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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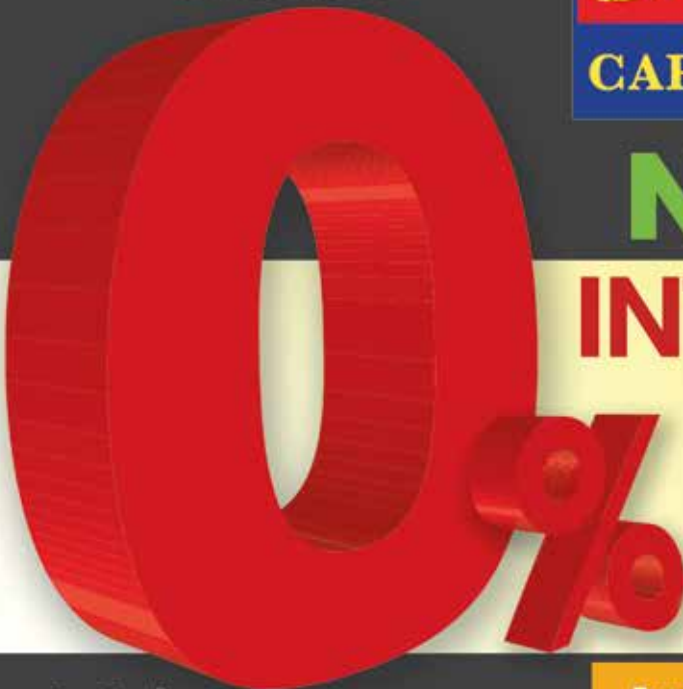
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Catching up with CRAIG DAVID

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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Under 16: £15
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BOX OFFICE 01983 868000 / www.shanklintheatre.com

A BRAND NEW ERA OF PANTOMIME

Running from 23rd December to 3rd January

Cinderella

The Most Magical Pantomime Of Them All

1leisure

It's a brand-new era of pantomime this year at the Medina Theatre as Made to Measure Productions invite you to believe that 'Anything is Possible' in their exciting production

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

BOX OFFICE 01983 823884 / www.medinatheatre.co.uk

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

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 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!

4TH 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

SECRET ISLAND
FREE ENTRY

DISCO, HOUSE & MASHUPS
DJ SET FROM OUR BOBLO

FOOD STALLS
TROPICAL DRINKS
FREE GLASSER STATION

@ SANDOWN BOULEVARD
O MARINA, T' CURLYER PARADE



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.

11TH & 18TH 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

24TH DECEMBER



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.



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 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 or visit 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/

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

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



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

Of 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.

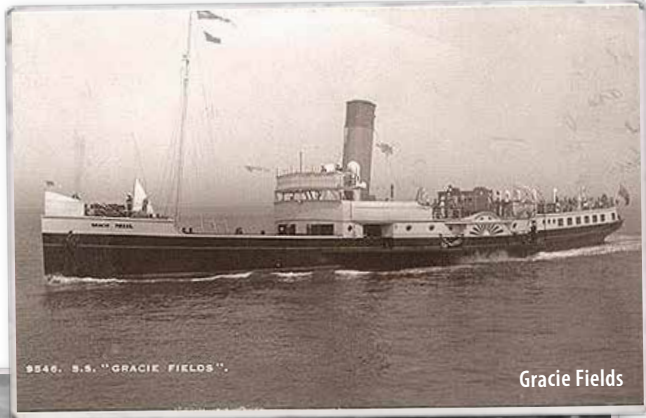
Its ships have been providing a link to and from the mainland for over a century and a half — making Red Funnel the Island's longest standing ferry operator.

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.



THE *original* ISLE OF WIGHT FERRIES







News from Cowes Medina

by Cllr Lora Peacey-Wilcox

REMEMBRANCE PARADES: What an honour to attend a number of events this year. The Carisbrooke Castle Field of Remembrance, such a beautiful setting, calm and quite poignant. Lovely to see so many schools coming along too. The Medina Marching Bands Festival of Remembrance in aid of the British Legion on Friday 12th. What a superb event. Incredible, diverse music, the bagpipes were amazing the singer, the band, just first class. The Minster service on Sunday was extremely moving – to see so many of us Islanders coming together after so long. Many there who were mourning the family and friends we have lost not just during war time, but during this pandemic. My heart was with each and every one of you.

DEBT/FUEL COSTS: As we know, all costs are rising. PLEASE do not bury your head. Reach out to our amazing team at Citizens Advice on the Island. They can help you so much! Call: 0800 144 8848 or 01983 823898 or online: islehelp.me or citizensadviceiw.

ABANDONED CARS: Over the years I have been contacted by many of you over this issue. I always try to chase on your behalf – we eventually have them removed. We have little (and in some cases no) parking on our streets. To have these vehicles just causes animosity in the areas. Please be mindful and do all you can to think of others.

HIGHWAY/ROAD ISSUES: On the same issue, I know many of you have frustrations over areas regarding our roads. Currently due to some severe illness the highways department are really limited. Please bear with us, while we try and do all we can.

TOLERANCE: I find most people to be good,

kind, patient, tolerant. The pandemic has made people think and act differently now. Many more people are choosing to have a different work life balance; meaning businesses are really struggling to keep up. Please try to bear this in mind with daily frustrations. Everyone has a 'real life' behind the job they do too!

GRANT APPLICATIONS: I often get sent details of grants available to groups and organisations. Please let me know if you would like me to forward them onto your group.

UNWANTED GIFTS: Don't throw them away! A large number of charities would be pleased to receive them. Watch this space for further details.

CHRISTMAS AND FOOD WASTE: Watching David Attenborough the other day it's said we need to produce affordable food without expanding the use of land and forests any further. This is very possible. The Biggest Problem is WASTE. 40% of food that is currently produced is thrown away. 40%. Not in my house. Whatever is left over from cooking at Christmas is frozen down as 'bubble and squeak' even spare gravy - for some time later in the year! I also don't buy as much as we were brought up to. Shops are open so much now over the holidays. Look after our fragile and beautiful Island and our planet and save money too!

On that note, may I truly wish you all, peace of heart and mind, and much laughter over Christmas and a very healthy and prosperous 2022.

☎ 645765 ✉ lora08@sky.com

Approval of Freshwater Housing Development 'A Blow to the Island'



Bob Seely said: "It is a blow to all the residents who opposed the development and a blow to all the Island as another of our green fields is lost."

By Oliver Dyer

The Island's MP Bob Seely has said the decision to approve a controversial housing development in Freshwater is a 'blow to the Island.'

The Isle of Wight Council approved

the 44-unit development at Birch Close, in Colwell, with seven votes to five, despite a number of 'passionate objectors' pleading with the committee to reject the application.

Among concerns over the development, is the already 'overwhelmed' sewer system.

"I will continue my work, both on the Island and in Westminster, to fight against greenfield developments like this."

"I continue to work with other MPs to press the government to help make brownfield development a more attractive option than greenfield."

Objector, Huw Jenkins described the scheme as 'a crime against the environment', while campaign group Sustainable Freshwater has spoken out about the council's 'lack of foresight' in their decision making.

New Elevated Restaurant to Replace The Little Gloster

The former 'The Little Gloster' restaurant in Gurnard could be knocked down to make way for a new elevated restaurant or café.

A planning application has been submitted by the owners of the building on Marsh Road, Dart and Rich to build a smaller restaurant seating between 30 and 40 people indoors.

The current holiday accommodation could also be raised if plans are given the go ahead, to protect the site from flooding.

The Little Gloster, which was owned by Ben and Holly Cooke, closed over a year ago, after ten successful years in business.

The opportunity to comment on plans closed on November 26.



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Work to Start on New Multi-Million Pound West Wight Primary School

Work on a new £5 million primary school in the West Wight is set to begin later this month.

The new school will provide modern educational facilities on the site of the former All Saints' CE Primary School, off School Green Road, Freshwater, which closed last year.

The multi-million pound development will provide a new home for Yarmouth CE (VA) Primary School and Little Stars Preschool, with capacity for around 210 pupils.

The project is being jointly funded by the Isle of Wight Council and the Department for Education (DfE) through its Priority School Building Programme.

The Department for Education (DfE) funding agreement includes the value of the land on which the current Yarmouth CE (VA) Primary School is located.

The new building has been designed by Hampshire County Council property services and the work will be carried out by contractor, Morgan Sindall Construction.

The estimated completion date is early 2023 with pupils and staff moving to their new premises later that year.

Carla Bradshaw, chair of governors at Yarmouth CE (VA) Primary School, said: "We are really pleased that the project is moving forward and we will be excited to see work begin in the coming weeks.

"Our pupils and staff deserve to learn and work in the best education facilities possible. The new school will make that a reality."

The 13,035 sq ft development, which received unanimous approval from planners last November, is single-storey and features seven classrooms, design and technology suites, a larger indoor hall and enhanced sports provision.

Morgan Sindall Construction has delivered a number of similar projects and is currently working at The Bay CE School on the Island.

Cliff Kinch, area director, said the scheme would provide opportunities for local contractors and suppliers during the construction.

He added: "We're very proud to be working with the Isle of Wight Council on delivering new educational facilities in the West Wight that are fit for the 21st century.

"The new school will have a vital role to play in the provision of first-class educational facilities for a new generation of pupils in the area."



The diocesan director of education for the Church of England's Portsmouth diocese, Jeff Williams, said: "We're pleased that a brand new school building is being created.

"Working in partnership with the council, this project demonstrates the Church of England's commitment to helping the children in this part of the West Wight, of all faiths and none, have the best possible start in life.

"Yarmouth CE (VA) Primary School and the Federation have a strong record of giving pupils an excellent standard of education, rooted in their Christian values which we will support with continued commitment."

Councillor Debbie Andre, Cabinet member for children's services, education and skills, said the council had a duty to make sure all children had access to good quality education in buildings that were well designed for their needs.

She said: "We are committed to transforming education on the Island and I am pleased that we can continue this transformation with building this new school for the local community which will, I'm sure, be much appreciated by all those who will use it.

"It will benefit and support our children to receive a high-quality education in a fantastic environment, giving them the best possible opportunities to grow, learn and succeed."



News from Central Newport

by Cllr Julie Jones-Evans

Each week the Saturday Market in St Thomas's Square grows, supporting new businesses and crafters. With funding from Historic England from the High Street Heritage Action Zone project they have been able to bring in performers and activities to further enliven the Square. This is fulfilling one of the recommendations from the 2018 Shaping Newport Place Plan.

"Spectacle, entertainment and activity...improve the vibrancy and diversity of Newport's daily life in the quality and quantity of performance, spectacle, presence and engagement that exists in its public spaces."

64 High Street has had a lick of paint inside and getting ready for the Shaping takeover of pop up shops in December, the first use of the former Edinburgh Woollen Mill shop, now owned by Newport and Carisbrooke Community Council. We will be engaging architects soon to plan the layout for the building, we need it to be a flexible space so it's vital it's done right. We want to incorporate a history centre, space for more pop up shops, the ability to hold public meetings and events. Our team will also be based here so the council is more accessible to Newport residents.

We are about to put the submission in to The Palace for the City Status application and we are asking to be called "City of Newport and Carisbrooke" this incorporates the whole parish area and also means our post won't go to the City of Newport in Wales! Fingers crossed HM Queen Elizabeth II is impressed and we are part of her new cities for her Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

☎ 521068/ 07886437688

✉ julie.jones-evans@iow.gov.uk



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01983 241214 or see thecourtyardcliniw.co.uk





News from Cowes West and Gurnard

by Cllr Paul Fuller

After a chaotic few months, I am prioritising work to support local residents. Although surgeries reduce over Christmas, I remain accessible. In the meantime thank you to residents for their ongoing support. Updates on Christmas matters will be posted on my website, once available.

COWES MEDICAL CENTRE: Cowes Medical Centre are contacting patients who are entitled to both Covid and Flu Vaccines. Drop-ins are by appointment only. Please visit: www.cowesmedicalcentre.co.uk/

INFORMATION ON PHARMACIES WHO MAY UNDERTAKE FLU VACCINATIONS CAN BE FOUND

HERE: www.iow.nhs.uk/contact-us/useful-numbers-and-addresses/isle-of-wight-pharmacies.htm. To note updates on Covid Boosters can be found here: <https://www.nhs.uk/covid-boosters>. Details will be available in the hard copy form of my December report from Cowes Library.

ENERGY BILLS: With increased energy bills the Footprint Trust are supporting residents with their energy costs, which can save householders £100s. Call 01983 822282 or email: info@footprint-trust.com for details.

THE JORDAN GRILLE, SHORE

ROAD: Following the support of the EA the Isle of Wight Council removed the grille before winter storms set in. This I remain hopeful will reduce the risk of flooding to properties in lower Shore Road.

COWES ENTERPRISE COLLEGE: As always it was brilliant to attend the College to listen to students about their designs and ideas as part of their GCSE Design Technology Course. I also took advantage to listen to students' thoughts on planning!

PLANNING APPLICATIONS: I have called in the application for six dwellings in Cockleton Lane (Ref: 21/01747/FUL) and 14 dwellings in Place Road (Ref: 20/02229/OUT). At Place Road, I am concerned over the lack of affordable housing drains, gullies and toilets.

I continue to receive feedback from Southern Water requesting residents not to dispose of fats, wetwipes, rags, sanitary equipment, etc. in toilets and outdoor drains and gullies.

Wishing all residents a warm, happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year.

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



Plans Revealed To Relocate Both Newport And Carisbrooke Doctors Surgeries

Newport Health Centre could be moving out of town, as plans are unveiled to close both surgeries in Newport and Carisbrooke and open a new building elsewhere.

The decision follows the announcement that the Dower House Surgery, on Pyle Street, was due to be sold. While Newport and Carisbrooke Community Council have been told the Carisbrooke facility is now considered unfit for purpose.

A site is Godric Road, near Asda is said to be the favoured site for the new building.

Tens of thousands of Islanders will be affected by the move, with councillors citing concerns of some patients potentially having to travel on two buses to get

to a new building out of town.

Hampshire, Southampton and Isle of Wight Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) Managing Director, Alison Smith, confirmed the CCG was in early discussions with the health centre:

“It is looking at its future estate requirements with the possibility of relocating its practices into one building to provide patients with improved access and services.”

The Isle of Wight Council has confirmed that it is working with a number of agencies to help Newport Health Centre find a solution to the problems it faces with both buildings.

The council also says it is ‘aware of the impact’ any move will have on Newport and Carisbrooke residents and patients.

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Volunteers Are The Lifeblood Of FYTBus

FYTBus is a charity which started running its scheduled minibuses around West Wight on 6th December 2011.

Some 200,000 passenger journeys later, FYTBus is an established part of the transport network in West Wight and is celebrating its 10th anniversary.

Services have since expanded to include a charity shop in Totland, a dial-a-ride service to St

Mary's and other medical destinations and an IWC school contract taking children from Freshwater to school in Yarmouth.

People think of it as the ‘happy bus’ – not just getting from A to B but a sort of mobile social club as well. Friends meet up and new friendships are formed as it joins up less well served parts of our communities with local shops, sports and social club venues. Local businesses too benefit from

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 or by calling 01983 864000



a strong local bus service bringing more footfall and bookings.

Volunteers are its life-blood and without them, FYTBus would not be able

to provide its services. So, if you think you could help, just go to the website www.fytbus.org.uk phone on 752917, or pop into the office on Totland Broadway.



Council Offers Free Parking to Support Small Businesses

Isle of Wight Council is offering free off-street parking in all its long-stay car parks to celebrate Small Business Saturday (Dec 4), which aims to support local businesses.

All long stay car parks run by the council will be free of charge between 12pm and 6pm on Saturday 4 December. See a list of participating car parks on our website.

In addition, car parks in Ventnor (enforced by the Isle of Wight Council on behalf of Ventnor Town Council) will be free between 8am and 6pm.

Pier Square car park in Yarmouth (enforced by the Isle of Wight Council on behalf of Yarmouth Harbour Commission) will also be free between 12pm and 6pm.

Cabinet lead for Highways PFI, Transport and Infrastructure, Councillor Phil Jordan, said: "This year, it is more important than ever for us to support our local businesses after the impact of COVID-19.

"I'm pleased to be able to help residents to make the most of the free parking and consider buying local this year to support their communities."

Small Business Saturday (SBS) is a grassroots, non-commercial campaign encouraging people to shop local and support small businesses in their communities.

SBS takes place on the first Saturday in December but its hoped people will continue to support small businesses all year round.



Christmas Menu Now Available

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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 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?

Sadly, 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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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.

Whether 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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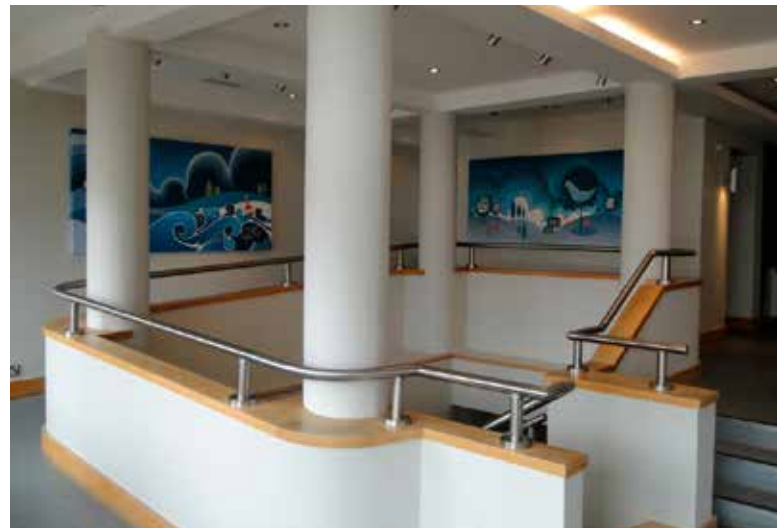
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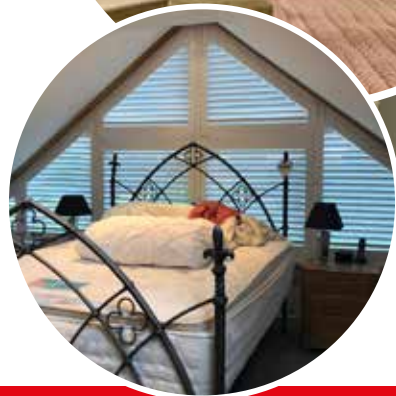
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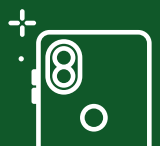
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