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SOUTH WIGHT

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Beacon

November 2022

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with  Mountbatten

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Welcome from the EDITOR

As we move towards winter, many people are finding ways to warm up without spending out a lot on energy bills — so this month's Beacon is packed with money-saving ideas, thanks to Martin Lewis, The Footprint Trust and local businesses.

There's plenty going on around the Island this month, particularly for Bonfire Night. If you weren't lucky enough to bag tickets to the sold-out Fairlee Fireworks event — courtesy of Isle of Wight Festival and Isle of Wight Radio, raising funds for Mountbatten — there were still some tickets available for those 'brave soles' willing to take part in the Fire Walk. More details on page 9.

We've also put together a recipe for S'mores, to enjoy around your bonfire. And on this month's walk, we stroll around the beautifully autumnal Firestone Copse with a discounted cuppa courtesy of Drew's Brews!

For all this and more, read on.

Amy Shephard

Editor amy.shephard@iwbeacon.com

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Photo © Julian Winslow

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Beacon

MAGAZINE

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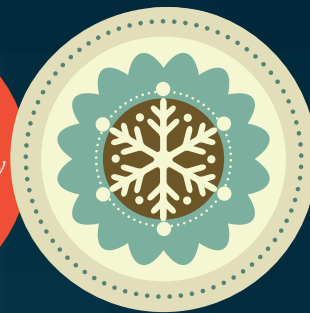
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until 24th December*

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Hulverstone



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The Caulkheads
Sandown

For Menus and Booking please visit characterinns.co.uk/xmas

BONFIRE *S'mores*



Indulge in S'mores around the bonfire this November. Made traditionally in America with Graham Crackers, the British tend to use any thin biscuit they can get their hands on — Rich Tea or Nice biscuits make a great alternative.

INGREDIENTS


8 thin biscuits
4 squares of thin milk chocolate
8 marshmallows

METHOD

1 Sandwich two marshmallows and one square of chocolate between two biscuits and wrap tightly in tin foil.

2 Carefully warm the parcel over the bonfire, using tongs, or a cooking rack, for one to two minutes.

3 Carefully unfold and enjoy, being careful it's not too hot to burn your mouth.

4 If you're not having a bonfire this year, simply pop the parcels in the oven instead. 



SERVES

4

Like to improve your business energy efficiency or develop green products and services?



Low Carbon Across the South and East (LoCASE) are offering grants for sustainability projects and improving energy efficiency to small and medium-sized businesses, social enterprises, and charities on the Isle of Wight. Grants can be up to £10,000 (or £20,000 in exceptional circumstances) to cover 40 per cent of project costs.

To find out more, apply for a grant or arrange initial contact with our regeneration team, visit iow.gov.uk/locase



Environmental projects for your business brought to you by the Isle of Wight Council



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ISLE of
WIGHT
COUNCIL



Portsmouth
CITY COUNCIL



SOUTHAMPTON
CITY COUNCIL



It's flat, it's gentle, there's plenty of parking, and there's loads of hidden gems to explore

Nothing says autumn better than stomping through crunchy leaves on a walk around your local forest.

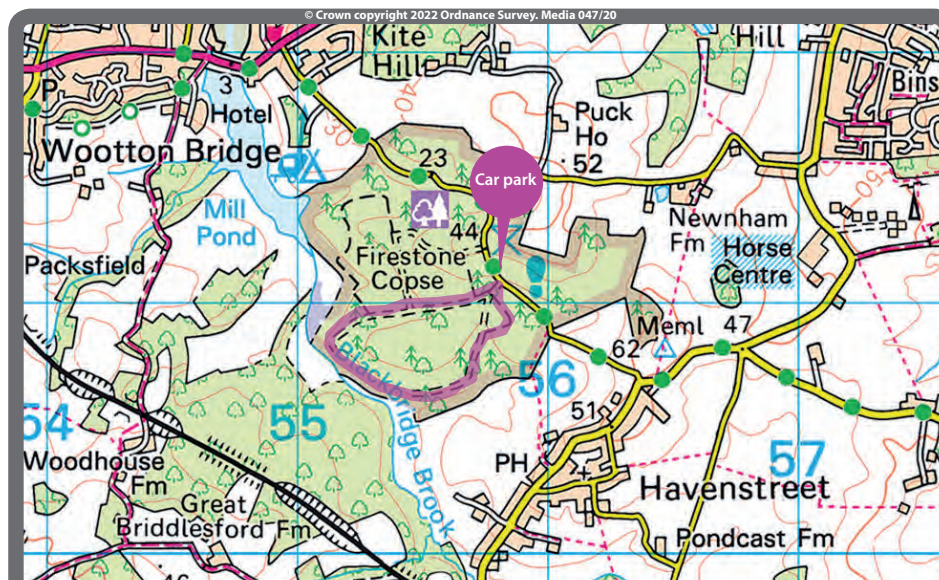
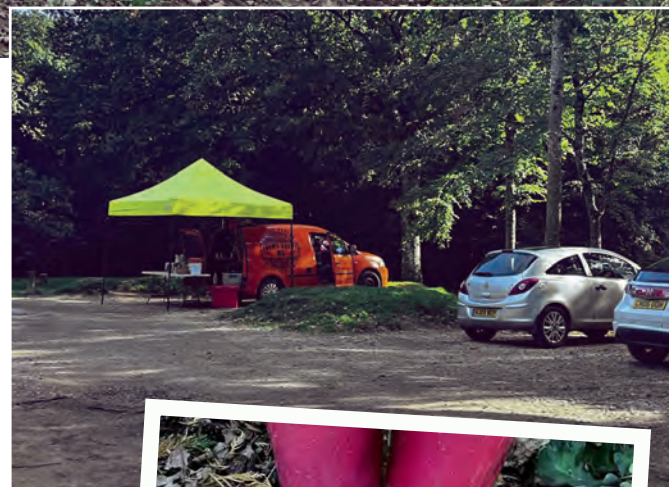
Firestone Copse is one of our favourite Isle of Wight walks. It's flat, it's gentle, there's plenty of parking, and there's loads of hidden gems to explore — from dens built from fallen trees, to delicious local coffee, courtesy of Drew's Brews (usually

Wednesdays to Sundays).

Firestone Copse is incredibly dog friendly, and there's even picnic spots if you feel like dining al fresco. Don't forget to take your rubbish home with you.

Park in the car park (post code PO33 4HH) before taking the left-hand path when the track forks.

Stick to the main path which will take you on a circular route back to where you started. 📍



Distance: 2.6km Duration: 45 minutes



For 50p off a hot drink from Drew's Brews at Firestone Copse, simply take this voucher along before November 30th 2022.





Made to Measure Productions are delighted to be returning to the Medina Theatre this Christmas with a hilarious, brand-new production of JACK AND THE BEANSTALK! The show will boast stunning scenery, colourful costumes, toe-tapping tunes, INCREDIBLE illusions and laughter by the bucketful – you really won't want to miss this traditional, yet innovative, HILARIOUS family pantomime!

BOX OFFICE 01983 823884 / medinatheatre.co.uk



17TH DECEMBER
TO 1ST JANUARY

Cinderella, the most charming of rags to riches tales is back at Shanklin Theatre. Brought to you by Spotlight IOW, the same company that produced last year's Beauty and the Beast. Spotlight creates professional pantomimes to entertain the whole family and prides itself on producing fast paced, hilarious

shows full of current songs, audience participation, special effects, and surprises. With a brand-new script every year, their traditional pantomimes are always fresh and bang up to date. So, book now for the most magical of all the pantomimes and ensure that your holiday spirit lasts a little bit longer.

BOX OFFICE 01983 868000 / shanklintheatre.com



28TH-30TH
NOVEMBER
6.30PM
SHANKLIN
THEATRE



Photo: Left: Wednesday's Belle (Marie Smith). Right: Wednesday's Beast (Wendy Todd).

Come along and support First Act, a theatre group for adults with additional needs, as they present their Christmas show... Beauty & the Beast.

There are three casts and three performances to choose from at Shanklin Theatre, 6.30pm on the 28/29/30th November.

Treat yourselves to an evening at the theatre and get ready for the festive season. You won't be disappointed!

BOX OFFICE 01983 868000 / www.shanklintheatre.com



...NOT 'LAST CHRISTMAS' – THIS CHRISTMAS!

Have a Wham! bam Christmas Party with the World's Greatest George Michael tribute, the supremely talented Rob Lamberti.

Experience an exceptional evening with one of the greatest singer-songwriters of our time, courtesy of the voice that captures his music timelessly followed by a 1980s 'Greatest Hits' disco.

Fresh from his jaw-dropping appearance at Jack Up Summer Party, Rob Lamberti is THE hottest name on everyone's lips!

Featuring all of the classic chart-toppers from Wham! through to the iconic pop star's upbeat solo tracks, not forgetting of course 'Last Christmas' and the 1984 smash hit 'Do They Know It's Christmas' by Band Aid, his rousing performance is

guaranteed to hypnotise your senses.

The venue boasts a large ballroom with a traditional wooden dance floor and stage with custom retro video, disco and effects.

Add to the mix a huge bar; Jack Up Christmas offers a ready-made party, ideal for getting you in the mood for the festive season or for work, school or family reunions.

Early booking is highly recommended. Tickets only £13.50. Doors open 8pm. Discount accommodation options also available.

jackupevents.co.uk

26TH NOVEMBER
8PM-1AM
LOWER HYDE,
SHANKLIN

ASPIRE CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Join Aspire on Saturday 10th December for a Christmas Fayre, based in Dover St, Ryde.

There will be mulled wine, mince pies, lots of Island craft stalls, cakes and hot soup, teas and coffee, lots of children's activities, large raffle including a visit from Santa!

There will also be live music throughout the day. Entry is free. All money raised goes to support the work of Aspire.



STEP INTO CHRISTMAS

Celebrating 100 years of
NEWPORT CARNIVAL
Christmas Parade

Scarrots Lane, Newport.

Step into Christmas with Newport Carnival next month. Enjoy live music, Disney characters, choirs, stalls, popcorn, candy floss and hot chestnuts. Plus, all the lovely local traders of Scarrots Lane, including Scarrots Lane Bakery.

New Rembrandt Gallery and Silver Screen Autographs will be turned into Narnia with Santa arriving at 12.30pm 'til 3.30pm. All before the Newport Carnival parade at 5pm. www.newportcarnival.com

SATURDAY,
DECEMBER 3RD
10AM-6PM

The Entertainment GUIDE

Visit iwbeacon.com to see our full events guide



1ST- 5TH
NOVEMBER

NEXT AT APOLLO THEATRE

Theatre Reviva! bring us Journey's End - a potent and unflinching vision of life in the trenches in World War I.

Two one-act comedies by David Tristram: Brenton vs Brenton and Last Panto in Little Grimley.

Tel: 01983 210010. apollo-theatre.org.uk

Find Apollo on Facebook, Instagram & Twitter - @apollotheatreiw

FUN AND LAUGHTER AT NORTHWOOD HOUSE

Get ready for a night of laughs and giggles when the Comedy Social returns to Northwood House ballroom on Saturday 11th November. The 'Anarchy in the Autumn' edition brings three talented ladies from the UK comedy circuit to the Island for the first time. These up-and-coming comedians will certainly bring some winter cheer to the evening...and let's face it, we all need some of that at the moment! Tickets are only £17.50 from northwoodhouse.org/events.



On the 26th & 27th November, the Northwood House Christmas Fair makes a welcome return after a three-year Covid-enforced break. This popular free-to-enter fair will feature up to 40 of the best Island based gift and produce retailers, perfect for Christmas shopping inspiration with a local touch. Father Christmas will also be in residence for the children to visit (don't forget to bring a letter!) as well as Santa Paws, who'll be here for a festive picture with your dog! Seasonal refreshments available.

LOVE TO SING?

Sounds Lively believes everyone can sing! The group meets in Newport at the Scout Hall, Woodbine Close, off St John's Road, Newport, from 2pm til 4pm on Wednesdays.

Sounds Lively is ideal for those who enjoy singing but don't want the formality of a choir. There are no auditions and there's no need to read music.

Sessions are fun and are led by Sandy Keilty, an experienced Natural Voice Practitioner. Plenty of FREE parking and a short walk from the bus station. £5 per session, pay as you go.



FIREWALK WITH MOUNTBATTEN

SATURDAY,
5TH NOVEMBER,
FROM 4PM

Would you walk over hot coals to raise funds for Mountbatten? Join the Firewalk Team at the Fairlee Fireworks event!

Entry includes on-the-night training, a medal and certificate.

This ticket also includes entry to Fairlee Fireworks and parking.

North Fairlee Farm, Newport.

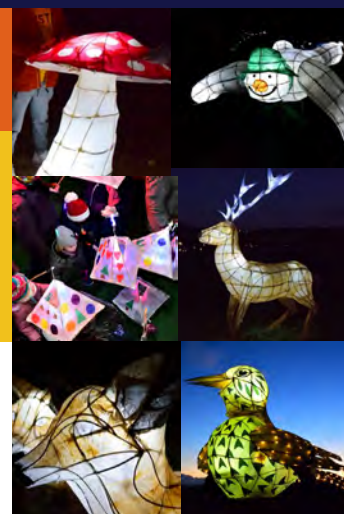
To book, visit www.mountbatten.org.uk/fireworks.



new carnival

Lantern Sculptures Island Coastal Buildings

Come and develop existing lantern making skills, adding details and decorations to architectural structures and create an 'Island Coastal Buildings Model Village' for Merry and Bright, in Ryde, on Friday 16th December.



Tuesdays: 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th
November and 6th, 12th December
5.30 pm - 8pm

The Coaching House
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6 Week course 19+

£25 Course Fee
Places are limited
Booking essential



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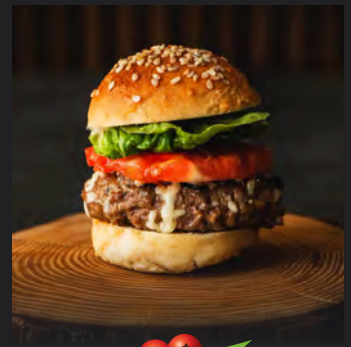
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PERSON WILL BE
REQUIRED

ALEX AND LAURA WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME YOU TO HERON

We base our menus on locally sourced seasonal produce to create high quality Fine Dining meals. Our aim is to be one of the must visit places to eat at on the Island so we take great pride in our menu which will change regularly to reflect the seasons and local producers offerings. Come and join us at Heron to enjoy some great quality food. You will not be disappointed.

HERON LOUNGE

Situated at 2b Union Street on the corner of Castle Street seconds from the restaurant. A Cocktail / Wine Bar joint venture with Matt and Denise.

A beautiful place tastefully decorated inside a grade II listed Victorian building, at night the warm lights around the bar and oak centrepiece bring the room to light.

It has a lovely atmosphere and is very welcoming to anyone wanting to walk in, although bookings are recommended.

Somewhere you can now take your family and friends for either a couple of beverages before going onto your meal at Heron, or an evening of socialising in a classy, relaxing and modern environment.

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Friday 3pm-11pm, Saturday 3pm-11pm, Sunday & Monday Closed



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1ST - 24TH DECEMBER
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Two course set menu £ 27.50

25TH DECEMBER
CHRISTMAS LUNCH
Four Course set menu £75
Music Entertainment

31ST DECEMBER
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Special Menu to welcome the New Year
A la carte menu also available
A glass of Prosecco is offered at Midnight to celebrate the New Year

30 St Thomas' St / 81 Union St, Ryde
Tel: 01983 811966
www.ristorantemichelangelo.co.uk

LET'S BUY LOCAL THIS Christmas

The Isle of Wight is blessed with lots of local businesses selling seasonal items and produce — so 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 to have an abundant food culture, with many alternatives to a roast available.

At It's About Thyme in Regent Street, Shanklin, you'll find a great selection of meats, fish and deli produce, fruit, vegetables, fish, as well as a coffee shop to rest after a day of shopping.

Try shopping for gifts at an independent retailer; Cowes Town Central Shopping Arcade brings a fantastic mix of eclectic gift, collectable and everyday items in their 14 themed shops. Whether seeking gin or rum from The Gin Joint, shopping for a Star Wars or Harry Potter fan, maybe a Warhammer gamer or simply looking for basics such as socks or home pampering from AquaZen, there is something for everyone.

An exclusive 'I'm a local IOW VIP card' is available to Island Residents with special offers, discounts and loyalty points. The membership card cost £5 with a £10 shopping voucher.

Perhaps the person you're shopping for loves the latest trends and branded gear. Instep Shoes, in Ryde High Street, has an extensive collection of quality shoes — including many well-known brands such as DB Shoes, Hotter, Rieker and many more.

Visit The Kandy Box in Cross Street, Ryde, to browse their impressive selection of more than 300 sweets, including nostalgic old-fashioned favourites and milkshakes in 150 flavours. You can even build a sweetie Christmas box — perfect for those with a sweet tooth.

Don't forget the furry members of your family this Christmas. Pet food and accessories from Diamond Pet Supplies are now available in their Ryde store, as well as online! With strong dog toys from top brands including Tonka and KONG. Ball launchers and throwers from Chuckit! and Nerf Dog. You can also purchase warm, cosy beds from Ancol for those cold winter nights.

For all your Christmas craft needs and New Year's fancy dress, head to The Mad Haberdasher in Union Street, Ryde. They sell everything from fabrics and craft accessories to collectables.

Of course, there's still the run-up to the big day itself, so many eateries will be offering deals for festive meals and parties beforehand.




From 1st December until Christmas Eve, Michelangelo's Italian Restaurant in Ryde will be offering a delicious pre-Christmas party menu, or on Christmas Day, diners can enjoy a four-course menu and musical entertainment.

The White Hart Inn, at Havenstreet is also bringing festive cheer to customers, old and new, over the Christmas period.

This traditional, family-run village pub offers a warm



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Email: itsaboutthymeshanklin@gmail.com


 

welcome with excellent food and drink in relaxed surroundings. Conveniently located just a stone's throw from the Isle of Wight Steam Railway.


Head to Heron in Castle Street, Ryde, for a fine dining experience this Christmas, cooked using locally-sourced ingredients.

Christmas at Heron costs £75 per person, or with wine pairing, it's £95 each.

Why not give the gift of fine dining to treat someone with great food, great wine and a great experience. Heron gifts cards make the perfect present this Christmas.

Once Christmas is all wrapped up, you could head to a local panto to enjoy some family fun. Flick over to our Entertainment Guide on page 8 to find out what's going on in your area. 

INSTEP SHOES



Instep Shoes, a quality shoe shop situated in Ryde. Many well known brands in stock including DB Shoes, Hotter, Ricker and many more. Visit us to browse our extensive wares.

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104 High St, Cowes, PO31 7AT
Telephone: 01983 200 932
www.cowestowncentral.co.uk

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To see our Autumn/Winter museum events and
the cafe and shop opening times please visit ...

www.bradingromanvilla.org.uk

Stir Up Sunday

Stir-up Sunday is a Victorian tradition where the family would gather together to stir the Christmas pudding mixture five weeks before Christmas, or the last Sunday before advent begins. This recipe, by Mary Goodsell, is a family favourite which evokes fond nostalgic memories.

INGREDIENTS

Butter, to grease
100g (3½oz) raisins
50g (2oz) dried cranberries
125g (4½oz) sultanas
125g (4½oz) prunes, chopped
25g (1oz) chopped mixed peel
50ml (2fl oz) fresh orange juice,
plus finely grated zest 1 orange
100ml (3½fl oz) Cointreau or brandy
50g (2oz) plain flour
50g (2oz) breadcrumbs
1 large eating apple, peeled,
cored and finely chopped
2 tps ground cinnamon
1 tbsp mixed spice
110g (4oz) dark brown soft sugar
1 large egg, beaten
25g (1oz) vegetarian suet

METHOD

1 Place all of the dried fruit into a ceramic or glass bowl with the Cointreau or brandy, orange zest and juice. Cover and leave to soak overnight.

2 Add all of the remaining ingredients, apart from the butter to the bowl and stir well. This is when the family can all join in and each have a stir.

3 Use the butter to grease a 1.2 litre/2 pint pudding basin and line with a 61cm (24in) piece of muslin. Spoon the mix into the lined basin, pack it down firmly as you go, and level the top. Pull the sides of the muslin around the pudding and secure tightly with string.

4 Tie string around the basin just under the rim and knot to secure. Then make a handle by bringing the ends of the string over the top of the bowl and tying them to the string on the other side.

5 To cook, put an upturned saucer into a deep pan and then place the basin on top of the saucer. Pour in enough water to reach just over halfway up the sides of the basin,

then cover and bring to a simmer. Cook for 6 hours. Make sure the pan never boils dry by topping it up with boiling water as necessary.

6 Remove the pudding from the pan and leave it to cool. Lift it out of the basin, keeping it in its muslin cloth, then wrap in clingfilm and a double layer of kitchen foil. Store in a cool dark place. The pudding will keep for up to one year if wrapped tightly.

7 To reheat: return the pudding, still in its muslin, to the pudding basin. Follow the cooking instructions from step 5, but only for two hours, or until hot right through.



SERVES
8



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Martin Lewis looks at the current energy crisis, and the fact no real solution appears close.

Our energy sector is in a mess, and there is little doubt about that. For too long we have experienced this continual up and down shift of prices and supply and tariffs and everything else that, as consumers, drives us bonkers.

The reality of what we have and what's going on right now has been brewing for a long time. A perfect storm of situations, from Brexit to covid to the conflict in Russia, effectively means we are being throttled in our desire to heat and light our homes, ensure water comes through our taps and more.

You may say we have been unlucky to find these factors all colliding in together at one time, yet it is the job of the government – and any sort of decent opposition – to put fail safes in place so that when something catastrophic like this happens, the end result isn't the sort of bewildering increase in bills that really may move a greater quantity of people into poverty than we have ever seen before.

It's a disastrous combination and we are praying for short- and medium-term solutions that will see not just the most vulnerable through the winter, but everyone

else besides, because this is a national problem coming at a time of huge inflation and cost of living emergency.

Let's just go to a basic summary of what we have here – in the UK we're talking about having privatised energy firms, but we effectively now have restricted competition and regulated prices in the form of a price cap. You have to ask yourself, what is the benefit of privatisation if you work in that marketplace?

You know, there's an argument for having nationalised energy firms and we run it that way; there's an argument for having market competition firms where we run it and we have differentials, and they compete to offer the best deal.

And yet, what we now have is somewhere between the two. We have gloriously, in the middle of a cost of living crisis, managed to provide the worst of both sides!

All of the policies being put in place are trying to restrict future government liability, and I don't think we've done it the right way. I think we're doing it at the cost of consumers.

Warm up THIS WINTER

As we move towards winter, many people are finding ways to warm up without spending out a lot on energy bills. Here's our money-saving ideas, thanks to Martin Lewis, The Footprint Trust and local businesses.



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Win a bundle of HOT PRIZES to keep you warm this winter, courtesy of W Hurst & Son. To enter, simply answer this question... *In which year was W Hurst & Son established?*

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Send your answers to **Beacon Magazine, 8-10 Dodnor Park, Newport, PO30 5XE**. Or email them to win@iwbeacon.com.



Contact details



THE FACTS OF A WOOD BURNING STOVE

Efficiency: A newer wood-burning fire or stove achieves an average efficiency of around 70 to 80%. Due to the lower temperature of an open fire, combustion is less complete. In a wood-burning fire or stove, a higher temperature is achieved, and combustion is cleaner and more efficient.

You DON'T need a chimney: If you live in a house without a chimney, you may be wondering whether it is possible to have a wood burning or pellet stove. Fortunately for many, the answer is a resounding yes! Luckily for those living in modern homes, you do not need a chimney to install a wood burning or pellet stove... You could have a Twin Wall Flue system installed.

I live in a smoke free zone: Many contemporary wood burners are so clean

burning, that they can be installed in a smoke free zone. Some towns and cities have what is called a Smoke Controlled Zone. Smoke controlled areas were introduced as part of the Clean Air Act. This means in certain parts of the country, you're not allowed to burn some fuels that can cause smoke.

Better for the environment: Compared with using fossil fuels for heat (natural gas, propane, coal, etc.) wood is much more eco-friendly. It's considered "carbon-neutral," which means when it burns, it doesn't add additional carbon dioxide to the environment. This is because in its natural state as a tree, wood absorbs carbon dioxide that's in the atmosphere. During combustion, a balance is maintained.

Warm Your Living Space

With each new model released by Isle of Wight based business Charnwood Stoves, the burning process has been developed to make it cleaner, greener and more accessible.

Charnwood is set to launch two new stoves. One is the revolutionary Skye E700, Charnwood's most

intelligent wood-burning stove to date. It is controlled by a microprocessor and is set to upend the way wood is burnt. Once the stove is loaded with wood, the room temperature is set using the Charnwood app, which monitors the fire automatically, adjusting air flow to give the most

efficient burn. The other product is The Haven, a new, compact, wood-fired range cooker with a large view of the fire. Designed for cabins, bothies, off-grid and smaller homes, it combines the charm of a traditional range with the very latest efficiencies and clean-burn technology.

Buy exceptional British-made-wood and multi-fuel stoves from Charnwood Stoves.
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Log burning stoves are increasingly popular with homeowners due to the comfort they provide and the characterful focal point they can bring to a home.

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Don't get cold feet!

Carpets are a great way to add additional insulation to your home — and will keep your feet from getting cold throughout winter.

Islandwide Carpets, in Star Street, Ryde, is a great choice for beautiful flooring, which is available in a variety of styles, colours and at competitive prices.

The family-owned business has been providing and fitting flooring for Isle of Wight clients for almost 50 years. In store, you'll be able to browse products from some of the best flooring manufacturers in the UK and Europe.

The skilled team behind Islandwide Carpets say it's important to opt for good quality underlay, which will also help insulate your home, stopping heat from escaping through the floor.

As the market trends away from greys and

traditional beige carpets, home-owners are instead choosing colours which will help to make rooms look and feel warmer — such as rich jewel tones.

Carpets are available in both manmade fibres and wool.

Islandwide Carpets pride itself on its ability to source amazing quality at competitive prices — and passes these savings on to you. With hundreds of products, they have the ideal floor covering to suit any taste and budget. The dedicated team will consult with you to find out what type of carpeting or flooring is right for your needs and then expertly install it for a hassle-free process.

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Light the way

Switching to LED bulbs can reduce lighting costs considerably. Switching from the old incandescent lamps can save an average three bedroom house upwards of £400 a year.

Even switching from the former energy saving standard fluorescents to LED can save £200+.

Edison's Electrical, based in Newport, is a family business providing top quality branded electrical products at great prices — including LED bulbs.

Free delivery to the Isle of Wight on all orders over £10 online. Head to



edisonselectrical.co.uk for their guide to LEDs to help choose the right ones for you.

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FUEL YOUR FIRE

Chessell Woodyard is the Isle of Wight's largest Timbermill using locally sourced wood. Their premium hardwood logs come "ready to burn" as approved by Woodsure



which means they are seasoned to 20% moisture content or under to meet the new law for sale and burning of dry wood that started on 1st May 2022.

Mainly a mix of Ash, Oak, Beech, Birch and Sycamore, the logs are felled locally from sustainably managed woodlands and then seasoned for a minimum of 12 months before being processed into the woodyard's drying crates for an additional six months.

Cut 8"-9", all crates are mixed with rounds, single and double splits, other sizes are available on special request. Also available in nets.

Logs are also available cut 4"-7" — simply request when ordering.

Nothing starts the fire better than kindle! Chessell Woodyard also has softwood kindle available netted for ease.

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SAVE £££S AND FIGHT THE ENERGY CRISIS

The doubling of energy bills has led to both concerns and confusion.

To make it clear there is no maximum energy bill that you can receive. The price cap refers to the unit price of energy, much like the unit price for petrol.

So what can we all do to cut our energy bills and stay warm and well?

TOP TIPS

Zone your home: Only fully heat the room you are in between 18 to 21 degrees. Turn the heating off when you are not in. Save around £200 to £400 per year.

Bright idea: Replace all traditional light bulbs with LEDs.

Load it up: Make sure you have a full load before putting on your washing machine. But don't overfill it or clothes will not clean properly. Save £30 per year in water and energy charges.

Dry naturally: Where possible, dry clothes on a line or airer instead of using a tumble dryer. Save around £100 per year.

Turn stuff off: You could reduce your fuel bill by around £100 a year by turning stuff off when not in use or on

standby.

Wrap-up warm: Insulate your home, this can be free for households on low income. Saving around £500 per year in energy.

Shorter showers: Reducing your shower time to four minutes — the length of a pop song — could save a family of four £280 a year.

Stop the wind: Sealing up gaps in doors and windows to keep the heat in. Draughts can make you feel colder — so you turn up the heat higher than necessary. Save about £50-£100 a year.

Fix dripping taps: A hot tap left dripping could cost around £70 per year in water and fuel costs.

Boil what you need: Only boil enough water for what you need but always cover

the element. Keep any unused hot water in a thermos flask, this will save heating it back up again later. This could save you about £25 per year.

Wrap up warm and turn it down:

If you turn the thermostat down by just 1°C, you will save up to 10% off your heating bill. Around £100 per year.

Keep it covered: Keep saucepan lids on and turn down the heat. Use the right size pan for the food and hob ring. Save £5-£15 per year. Better still use a microwave oven.

Air-fryers are money savers:

Using up to five times less energy than a conventional oven, using one of these could save you £100 per year.

How much will I save?

That depends on how good you are at saving energy already. But you could easily knock as much as £200 off your annual household energy bill and reduce your carbon dioxide emissions by about a tonne.

Contact the Footprint Trust's Warmahome project for details of grants and other help available info@footprint-trust.co.uk.

Tel 822282. footprint-trust.co.uk.



ENERGY CRISIS!

TOP TIPS FROM THE FOOTPRINT TRUST

Zone your home

Only heat the room you are in.

Turn stuff off

Don't leave appliances on standby.

Reduce your bills

Save up to £200 per year on your utility costs. Talk to the Warm Island team at The Footprint Trust on 01983 822282 or email info@footprint-trust.co.uk

Ask about the Watersure tariff

For those with a disability or high water usage. Phone 0800 027 0800.

Insulate now!

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info@footprint-trust.co.uk

- Islehelp for information and advice on benefits, money, housing, employment and more.

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www.islefindit.org.uk

- Isle of Wight Council Covid-19 support 01983 823600

- Struggling on your pension? Pension Credit helpline 0800 991 234



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It all started in 1972, when Alfred Wells and two of his sons, Alistair and John, started a small engineering business in Niton.

Since then, AJ Wells & Sons, the company behind the manufacture of Charnwood Stoves, has grown from its original small factory of around 1,500 sq. ft to its current site of over 50,000sq. ft.

Under the name AJ Wells & Sons, it has also become a major player in transport signage. In 1990, a vitreous enamel plant was installed, allowing the stoves to be enamelled in-house, giving birth to AJ Wells Vitreous Enamellers. This began a relationship with Transport For London, with AJ Wells becoming the principal supplier of signage for the London Underground.

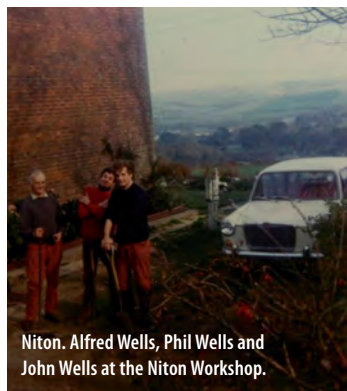
The workforce has risen from the original team of three to well over 150 — many staff having worked with the company for more than 25 years.

Founder, John Wells said: “As I look at the company now, one of the longest established British stove manufacturers selling fires to all corners of the globe I can't help thinking that this certainly wasn't part of our vision when we started back in February 1972. The main aim then was to make enough money to enable us to eat and pay the mortgage. In one sense it hasn't changed only now, with around 180 employees, it is more mouths to feed and more mortgages to pay.



Stoking the Flames **OF EVOLUTION**

A J Wells & Sons — the oldest British manufacturer of wood burning stoves, run by second and third generations of the same family — is celebrating its 50th anniversary.



Niton. Alfred Wells, Phil Wells and John Wells at the Niton Workshop.



“There have been many milestones along the road; the 70's oil crisis and Dutch Elm disease launched us on the path to selling fires and, because nobody made a decent small stove, making wood burning and multifuel stoves. This meant our chosen profession of metal fabricators and agricultural machinery repairers was gone forever as we embraced the brave new world. The late 80s saw the investment in an enamelling plant, initially to enamel our stoves, and the start of our thriving signage division. It also nearly bust us as (another) recession hit the country. It was possibly only the fact that banks couldn't sell houses in a depressed market that we stayed afloat!

“But stay afloat we did and our company grew with more products — both stoves and signs — more markets, more staff and of course more Wells! What has been the basis of our success and longevity? We have great people. Our staff and the family have done amazing things over the years to produce great products and give great service — for them we are truly grateful.”



AJ Wells and Sons was awarded the Queen's Award for Enterprise International Trade



One of AJ Wells' recent projects for Sony Playstation and Transport For London



Just some of the Wells family working in the business today. Photo © Julian Winslow



NEWS FROM

SANDOWN SOUTH

by Cllr Ian Ward

WHAT'S THE FUTURE FOR SANDOWN'S DINOSAUR ISLE: I recently attended a stakeholders meeting to explore the future of the Dinosaur Isle Museum. The museum loses money and has done so for years. The future of the museum is extremely important because if the right decisions are made it could be the catalyst for the regeneration of Sandown, the economy of the Bay area and the promotion of tourism for the whole Island internationally.

The discussion covered several options, and it was decided to further explore two options and a further meeting will be held in a month or so to see what conclusions were reached.

SANDOWN & DISTRICT HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION: Sandown & District Historical Association is inviting Island residents to come and join the Association. It has meetings where various historical issues are presented and discussed. You might be surprised who you might remember from the past! Meetings are held monthly on a Wednesday at 7.30pm. The next meeting is on 30 November at the Broadway Centre.

THE KEBAB SHOP - THE BATTLE FOR PLANNING PERMISSION WAS NOT EASY: The County Press has a story recently about the regeneration of the old kebab shop in Sandown High Street and how the Planning Committee was

unanimous in approving the Planning Application. What it didn't say was that I, as the Ward Councillor, had to argue the case for permission to be granted. Planning Officers were against giving permission and several local residents lodged objections because of the 'Conservation Zone.'

However, I did convince the Committee this was vital to the regeneration of the High Street and thankfully all the committee members supported me! So, hopefully it will be completed around Christmas time with five flats and two retail units. Although the High Street scaffolding gives the impression that the work had just started, in fact the rear of the building has been worked on for months.

THE OCEAN HOTEL: After the court case in October when nobody from Phoenix Commercial Property Development Ltd (PCPD) attended the Court in Newport PCPD have appealed the Enforcement Order and had the appeal scheduled to be heard in Durham. Apparently, they claim we are so biased that they will not get a fair hearing on the Island! At the time of writing, it is scheduled for 4 November and our Council representatives will attend and the judge will set a date for a full hearing.

☎ 403193/07772559093
✉ ian.ward@iow.gov.uk



VENTNOR SEAWEED COSTS RISE TO MORE THAN £100K PER YEAR

BY LOUISE HILL, LDR REPORTER

The staggering amount it costs the Isle of Wight Council to remove seaweed from Ventnor Harbour has risen once again.

The authority has put the 18 per cent increase down to the rise in costs witnessed across all council contracts but it has pushed the bill over £100,000.

Since the harbour was built in 1994, it has suffered from the constant presence of seaweed that comes in from the English Channel.

However, to maintain harbour depth and get rid of smells, the Isle of Wight Council, which owns the harbour, has to remove the build-up of seaweed.

To do this, the authority has contracted the work to Ventnor business Cheetah Marine, for the past few years.

In the 2019/20 financial year, the contract cost the Isle of Wight Council £75,120, which rose by £12,000 for 2020/21 and

2021/22 to £87,420 a year.

Now, with prices rising for everyone, the cost of the contract, which started in April and will run until the end of March 2023, has increased again to £103,155 a year – a rise of £28,000 in three years.

The council's harbour committee did look at the possible alternative uses of seaweed in Ventnor Harbour, and other areas leased or owned by the authority, but there was no budget at the time to take any of the actions forward.

As part of the contract costs in the current 2022/23 financial year, the council has given a £40,000 'contribution' to Cheetah Marine.

A council spokesperson said it would go towards vessel refurbishment.

As part of the future of Ventnor Harbour, the Isle of Wight Council is proposing to bring in a management company that will carry the cost of the seaweed removal in later years.



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ISLAND'S FARMERS MARKET TO CLOSE AFTER 23 YEARS

BY DOMINIC KUREEN

It's the end of an era as the Island Farmers Markets closes after 23 years.

The enterprise was set up to see if local growers could produce fare which Islanders wanted to buy.

As part of its outgoing legacy, the group recently donated more than three-thousand-pounds to the Rural Careers Fund to assist future farmers.

The weekly Newport and Ryde Markets were very busy,

enabling the growth of brands now well known on the Island.

Several of the Farmers Markets members have now opened successful farm shops, which



SHANKLIN RETURN NOT RULED OUT FOR SEASIDE TRAIN

BY LOUISE HILL, LDR REPORTER

The return of a Dotto train in Shanklin has not been ruled out – although caution has been voiced by a top councillor.

The iconic vehicle has been absent from the town for more than ten years now but with renewed interest in one for Ryde, Shanklin has been looking at whether it would be a good idea to get one back on its roads.

The matter was raised at last week's Shanklin Town Council meeting.

Shanklin mayor, Cllr Chris Quirk, said: "The one in Shanklin made a decent profit, the one in Sandown broke even and the one in Ryde which was a Dotto train, made a thumping great loss every year which is why they got rid of it.

"What was disappointing was that the Isle of Wight Council insisted on selling all three as a job lot."

Cllr Quirk said it was something the town council could consider but he was not sure a public authority was the right body to be running a

Dotto train.

He said: "It is a good private enterprise we can encourage and help, rather than committing ratepayers' money.

"I don't think this is a good time to put up precepts to buy a Dotto train but we can think of it."

Dotto trains were scrapped on the Island in 2010 by the Isle of Wight Council as the ageing vehicles meant increased maintenance costs.

At the time, the authority did look at replacing the trains with either new or refurbished ones but was looking at a price tag of more than £100,000 per train.

It was deemed unviable and the Island's bus operator, Southern Vectis introduced a new summer route covering as much of the Dotto train routes as possible.

Despite interest in bringing back the trains, including bids from local companies, the council sold the three vehicles to a businessman in Llandudno.

The council said it had accepted the best offer.



continue to sell a range of local produce.

Mary Case, Farmers Market Chairman, said: "The Farmers Markets have achieved what they set out to and the farm shops are the natural progression from the markets.

"The Island Farmers Markets committee considered the RIWAS Rural Careers Fund to be the most appropriate recipient for our residual funds, helping Island youngsters to progress their careers in the rural sector."

Royal Isle of Wight Agricultural Society chairman, Danny Horne, added: "We are grateful to the Island Farmers Markets for its support.

"It will allow us to support more

young people as they progress their careers in the rural sector."

The RIWAS Rural Careers Fund offers financial support to people aged under 25.

The scheme is intended to add value to the Isle of Wight's farming and land-based industries by offering financial support to help young people gain relevant qualifications or skills.

Scholarships of up to £3,000 each are awarded annually. Applications are open until July 2023.

Bursary applications are considered throughout the year with awards typically of £200 each. **Further information and an application form can be found on the RIWAS website.**



NEWS FROM

LAKE SOUTH

by Cllr Paul Brading

COPE MEAD: Works are now happening at the Mead at the end of the growing and nesting season. The main initial efforts will be the hedge cutting which will happen this autumn. It may initially look severe because there is an urgent need to catch up the lost ground. Throughout, good ecological best practise will be adopted.

There will also be a lot of autumn mechanical grass cutting. Going forward the idea is still for conservation grazing to take place which hopefully will remove the need for mechanical cutting. There will also be the clearing of the boundary and reduce, but not completely remove, the bramble and scrub growth.

SANDOWN AND LAKE YOUTH FOOTBALL CLUB: The club continues to grow for the benefit of our local young people, run by so many great volunteers, and I am very pleased they have now acquired a further pitch at the bottom of the old Sandham Middle School site, on a long lease from the IW Council. In September I held a meeting with the club, and Hampshire Football Association, and there are several funding streams they qualify for, and applications are underway. There is an exciting future for the club. Their longer term aim now is to include girls and disabled teams

FAIRWAY JUNCTION AND FAIRWAY: This junction continues to be a huge concern, alongside speeding along The Fairway, and it really is time for action. I have again chased the Cabinet Member who is still

waiting for police data on reported incidents at the junction, but in my view it should not be all about data when safety is concerned. That said I urge everyone to report to police any accidents or near misses, as that will really help make the case even stronger.

POLICE: There have been lots of issues of concern this summer on three main areas, drugs; toilet vandalism; and items being thrown over the cliff onto the Revetment across the whole Bay area. In September I facilitated the inaugural meeting of the three Bay councils which was very useful. We sent a request to the Police & Crime Commissioner that we want an urgent meeting to discuss these matters, and I hope this will happen in November.

LAKE TOILETS: This year the Council arranged for Revetment toilets to have major refurbishments. In October we had installed a new set of toilets in Lake Cliff Gardens to replace the existing building that was no longer fit for purpose. The Council is now consulting on upgrading the toilets at New Road, which will also see a large reduction in our water and electric bills, as well as hopefully less vandalism and repair costs.

REMEMBRANCE: Lake will be holding its Remembrance Service on Sunday the 13th November at 2.30pm, at the War Memorial. This years' service will be very personal to residents of Lake.

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NEWS FROM

SHANKLIN SOUTH AND CENTRAL

by Cllr Chris Quirk & Cllr Michael Beston



SHANKLIN RAILWAY STATION:

Shanklin Station, part of the South Western Railway (SWR) and Island Line network has deservedly won 'Station of the Year - (Small)' at the prestigious National Rail Awards last month. Part of the criteria that judges had to consider were factors including safety, infrastructure, and customer-friendly presentation. The station was originally built in 1864 for the Isle of Wight Railway and extended in 1881. It has a heritage category listed building grade II status and it triumphed over highly commended Buxton station in Derbyshire, Hatch End station in North West London, and other submissions to win the award in its category. SWR's Island Line between Ryde Pierhead and Shanklin reopened in November 2021 following a £26 million transformation of the line's trains, stations, and infrastructure, which included the launch of the new Class 484 train fleet. Part of the external charm of the station, is its array of attractive large flower boxes meticulously maintained by the Green Towns Shanklin Volunteers group. Following a successful bid in 2019 to SWR by the Shanklin Theatre Community Trust, a large digital display screen has been affixed to the front of the station displaying train, bus timetables and other local information. This information is linked to a second display screen at the newly developing Performing Arts Centre (former old library) in Victoria Avenue - Shanklin.

SHANKLIN PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE UPDATE: Following a spate of anti-social behaviour and un-authorised vehicle parking in and around the Arts Centre, as Trustees of the Shanklin Theatre, we decided to improve the security and remote monitoring of the building and area to deter such activities. The Centre has now been equipped with high

resolution CCTV cameras installed at strategic locations to ensure the property is monitored 24 hours a day, seven days a week. This will also help to protect our volunteers and user groups. Our thanks go to the team at Lifeline Alarm Systems for carrying out the installation work. We are also extremely delighted to announce, that after following a successful funding application to the Co-op, the Arts Centre has been chosen to be part of the next round of the Co-op Local Community Fund. The funding round started on Sunday 23rd October 2022 and will run for 12 months until 21st October 2023. During this time, Co-op Members will be able to select the Performing Arts Centre as their cause and help us raise funds for internal equipment such as, clothes lockers, audio and lighting equipment and an electric piano to aid our dance, performance and user groups. We will keep you apprised of the progress of the funding in due course.



SHANKLIN REMEMBRANCE

SERVICE 2022: The Remembrance Service will take place on Sunday 13th November - 10.50am at the Shanklin War Memorial Garden in the Old Village. Assemble from 10.40am. Remembrance Sunday is held in the UK as a day to commemorate the contribution of British and Commonwealth military and civilian servicemen and women in the two World Wars and later conflicts. The Royal British Legion Chaplain - Rev Tony Richards will be conducting the service. The surrounding area of the War Memorial will be closed to traffic before the service commences to ensure the safety of the general public and organisers.

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WINNERS ANNOUNCED FOR ISLE OF WIGHT BOOK AWARDS

BY AMY SHEPHARD

The winners of the inaugural Isle of Wight Book Awards were revealed at a charity lunch in Cowes last month.

The lunch – which raised more than £1,300 for Mountbatten – was held at the Island Sailing Club.

Winners were announced by three critically-acclaimed authors in three

categories: Fiction, judged by Hunter Davies, Children's Books, judged by Alan Titchmarsh and Non-Fiction, judged by Joanna Trollope.

Winner of Fiction: Marion Carmichael for Green Grass Stockings.

Winner of Children's Books: Meg L. Hewison for My Friends by the Beach.

Winner of Non-Fiction: Kenneth Hicks for An Island Legacy.

The authors of all the books shortlisted were given a certificate, while the winners each received £100.

At the end of the lunch the overall winner of the Isle of Wight Book of the Year 2022 was announced. Kenneth Hicks received £500 courtesy of David and Patsy Franks of Cowes, for An Island Legacy. Kenneth kindly donated all of his winnings to Mountbatten.



The object of the Isle of Wight Book Awards was to encourage people who know and love the Island to get down their own memories, experiences, family stories, local histories or write about their interests and research.

The content of the books must have in some way related to the Isle of Wight.

A raffle included prizes such as a bottle of champagne, a meal for two at Heron in Ryde, meal for two at The Dell, ride for two at Wight Karting plus the shortlisted books.

The awards – which were supported by Hovertravel, Isle of Wight Festival, Hose Rhodes Dickson, Medina Bookshop and Monkton Arts – were non-profit making.

Organisers confirmed the event will be returning in 2023.

NEW SHANKLIN TOILETS TO BE LOCATED NEAR CLIFF LIFT

BY LOUISE HILL, LDR REPORTER

New public toilets on Shanklin seafront will now be placed in a different location.

Plans had been put in place by Shanklin Town Council (STC) to place pay-as-you-go toilets by Chine Bluff.

They would have replaced the current provision.

However, according to Shanklin mayor, Cllr Chris Quirk, the proposed location of the toilets at the Chine was a few inches too close to the main sewage pipe for Southern Water's liking.

Despite giving the water company alternatives, Cllr Quirk said it was refusing to budge, so they could not put the toilets where it wanted to.

The town council has already purchased the toilets from Danfo and they are ready to be sent over to the Island.

As an alternative, STC has now agreed to place the facilities – which will have two toilets and two exterior cold water showers – by the bottom of the Shanklin Cliff Lift.

The existing toilets at the SPA site have been closed for a number of years, with Cllr Quirk saying the town council had wanted to install public toilets there as well.

A structural survey is being completed of the existing Chine Bluff toilets so the council can agree on what to do with them.

Cllr Quirk said there had been suggestions refurbishment work would

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£23 MILLION ST MARY'S HOSPITAL UPGRADE GETS GREEN LIGHT

BY OLIVER DYER

The Isle of Wight's St Mary's Hospital is to get a £23 million upgrade, which will see a new Emergency Care Floor created, a new mental health hub and wards reconfigured.

The investment, which forms part of a £48 million programme, has been described as "once in a generation" by the Isle of Wight NHS Trust.

Building work starts this month. Part of plans will see a new High Dependency Unit established in the hope of improving the flow of patients.

A new £6.7 million mental health and community hub will also be built in Newport. The trust has said this will bring health and care services much closer to people's homes.

It's hoped the upgrade works will help to reduce waiting times and bed occupancy, and to transform community mental health provision on the Island.



Funding has been drawn up as part of the Trust's Investing in Our Future (IOF) programme and has been approved by the Department of Health and Social Care and NHS England.

Included in the IOF programme is a £12.5m investment in digital infrastructure and technology, currently awaiting regulatory approval.

IOF launched following a UK Government announcement of £48m million to improve NHS services through investment in infrastructure.

The Island's NHS is also set to welcome further investment after Government announced one of the 10 new Community Diagnostic Centres (CDC) will be built on the St Mary's site.

The centre will mean greater access to diagnostic tests for Islanders, reducing waiting times and improving outcomes.

A new £6.7 million mental health and community hub will also be built in Newport.

be in the hundreds of thousands of pounds, but was also told that was 'totally ridiculous'.

He said the town council wanted an expert opinion to find out what needs doing.

Questions were asked as to whether the council could use Section 106 money coming from the SPA site redevelopment to refurbish the Chine Bluff toilets.

Developers pay S106 money to the Isle of Wight Council, which is then used for community projects in the area.

Cllr Quirk said the town council would have to decide what they wanted to do reasonably quickly if that was the case, as the planning application for the SPA site was likely to come forward soon and S106 money can only be used for plans already in the pipeline.



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Town Mayor's address

Councillor Chris Quirk, Shanklin Town Mayor

Following Shanklin's Gold Award for Bathing Water

Quality and our award for 'Best Toilets' the Island Line/South Western Railway's Shanklin station has succeeded in winning an award at the prestigious National Rail Awards, winning in the small stations category. Our thanks to Shanklin Green Towns, whose input maintaining the gardens, planters and hanging baskets helped to create the welcoming appearance of the station.

For some time now Shanklin Town Council has been upgrading its toilet facilities, already having carried out major renovations at Falcon Cross, Tower Gardens and on the Esplanade at the bottom of Hope Hill. The next planned phases were to add a new stand-alone toilet block, including disabled facilities and outside showers, almost opposite the existing toilets at Chine Bluff on land kindly offered by Mrs Ann Springman, and a unit adjacent to the Cliff Lift, hopefully to be funded by Section 106 funding linked to the development of the Spa site.

Unfortunately Southern Water objected to the Chine Bluff location as the building was a few inches too close to an underground sewer. Since we had already paid a deposit on the unit, and it was already constructed we agreed with the IW Council to install the unit adjacent to the base of the cliff lift, and to request Section 106 funding for improvements to the existing facilities at Chine Bluff. The Town Council has commissioned a full structural survey of the current Art Deco Toilet Block at Chine Bluff.

When the problem of the positioning of the toilet block became known the engineers from the supplier looked at the nearest available site on the Esplanade, causing some anxiety to local residents; this was carried out prior to consultation with Town Councillors who supported the view that the Esplanade Site was unsuitable. To reassure local residents, I can confirm that no toilets are planned to be installed directly on the Esplanade.

The work on the Big Mead Pond is now completed, the water flow though the pond re-established, with the Island now boasting duck

nesting huts and replanted without the mass of brambles that had overwhelmed it. The pond is now a metre or more deep in many parts, and the ducks and moorhens have returned to the pond, and the Carp will be returned in the near future. We plan to add a blue die next season to stop algal growth, this is totally harmless to wildlife and plants.

At the last Town Council Meeting the desirability of restoring a Dotto Train in Shanklin. In reality 'Dotto Train' is a brand name used to describe all land trains just as the brand name 'Jacuzzi' is used to describe a wide range of spa baths. The land train that operated previously in Shanklin was based on a Land Rover chassis with adapted bodywork and was profitable; the real Dotto Train operated in Ryde made a loss, in part at least because of the much higher maintenance costs involved with a specialist vehicle. Bids were made at the time from the Shanklin Hoteliers Association and a local businessman, but although a reasonable bid was lodged the Council Officer involved insisted on selling the three Island land trains as a single lot. Whilst Town Councillors would support a commercial enterprise to run a land train, increasing our precept to purchase on does not seem to be justified in the current financial climate.

ISLE OF WIGHT, THANK YOU FOR SAVING WATER

Hosepipe restrictions are still in place to help protect our local rivers.

Please remember:



No hosepipes or sprinklers



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What is direct cremation?

Quite simply, it is an alternative to a traditional funeral. The cremation takes place unattended, giving you the freedom to celebrate your loved one at a time, place and venue of your choice.

How much does a direct cremation cost?

We have 2 options to choose from:-

1. Our 'Island Way' is £1,695.00 - this is for the direct cremation at the Isle of Wight Crematorium
2. Our 'Wessex Way' is £1,495.00 this is for a direct cremation at a mainland crematorium

We offer this option for families who would like to take advantage of savings that mainland crematoriums offer.

Can I get help with the costs?

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

What is the difference between Isle of Wight Cremation and a mainland provider?

We are based here on the Island, we can take your loved one into our care promptly and without the distressing delay of travelling over on the ferries.

We can meet you face to face at our Island offices. Or make all arrangements over the telephone.

Whereas mainland providers often courier the ashes back, we provide a more personal service by hand delivering them to you at your home, or you can come in and collect them at either of our offices. We are locals and understand our local community.

Do you offer prepaid direct cremation funeral plans?

Yes, we do and we use Golden Charter, the UK's market leader for providing prepaid funeral plans to Independent Funeral Directors. Your funds are safe and placed into the Golden Charter Trust. Recently we were awarded by Golden Charter as the best funeral planner for 2020 in the Southern England Region.



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NHS Continuing Care

When should a person be assessed?

NHS Continuing Healthcare (CHC) is an NHS-funded package of ongoing care. To qualify for NHS CHC funding, an individual must have ongoing significant physical and/or mental health needs, and, having taken account of those needs, it can be said that the main aspects or majority part of the care you need is focused on addressing and/or preventing health needs.

It is not enough to have a social need (things like practical activities, personal care and making sure a person is safe), a person must also have a health need to qualify.

Initially an individual is assessed by a health care professional using a government CHC checklist. This then confirms whether a person is eligible for a full continuing care assessment.

The full assessment is then completed by a multidisciplinary team (MDT) made up of a minimum of two professionals

from different healthcare professions. The MDT should usually include both health and social care professionals who are already involved in your care. You, as the person being assessed, should know and be involved in that assessment.

WHEN SHOULD A CHC CHECKLIST BE COMPLETED?

In a hospital setting a CHC checklist should automatically be completed when an individual is ready for discharge from hospital prior to a local authority funding assessment or, as was happening during COVID, shortly after discharge.

If a person is moving into residential care from a home setting then you can request that a checklist is completed prior to that move. GPs, nurses and social workers should be able to complete this checklist at any time.

You can also request further CHC checklists if your health deteriorates after having an initial assessment.

You should be told when it is being completed and you should always be involved in the assessment.

WHY HAVEN'T I HEARD ABOUT THIS BEFORE?

Research by the Continuing Healthcare Alliance (a group of 13 organisations who believe NHS continuing healthcare needs to improve) shows that 60% of people they surveyed did not know about this funding until very late in their dealings with social and health care services.

Checklists don't always appear to be completed and, if they are, people are not informed of the outcome meaning they don't have the ability to appeal the decisions made within them.

We also recommend that you seek legal advice before your loved one is discharged from hospital or on going into residential care so that you can make sure that procedures are followed and all avenues for funding are explored. ③

PROPERTY OF THE MONTH

GREEN MEADOWS, COLWELL ROAD

Shared Ownership Apartments



Green Meadows is a new development in Freshwater for those aged 55 and over. Benefitting from surrounding countryside and less than half a mile from the sea, these apartments are perfect for those wanting to live independently with the peace of mind that support is there for you as and when required via a 24-hour wellbeing team who are there to support residents on an unplanned basis via use of pull cords located within the apartment, meaning independent living can be maintained. Apartments can be purchased between a 25-75% share.

MAIN BUILDING FACILITIES

A welcoming community atmosphere is at the heart of the Green Meadows Development and is the focus of many of the facilities providing supported, settled and safe living for all residents.

The ground floor of the building is where many of the facilities are located including an activities room, communal

lounge, dining room and tea & coffee making facilities. There is also a communal washing & drying room, mobility scooter store with charging points, activities & lunch club, hairdressers and a shop run by residents. Also, a minibus takes residents to different locations each week. Available apartments are situated on the first, second and third floor with lift access to all floors as well as stairs.

Assisted bathrooms are available if needed. These are situated throughout the building. There are also guest suites if visitors wish to stay overnight and prefer to have their own suite rather than staying in an apartment, these can be reserved at a small cost.

The building and all apartments are wheelchair accessible and the wellbeing team are registered with the Care Quality Commission and the service is delivered to meet all regulatory requirements with all staff trained to a high standard and hold the necessary background checks.

RECEPTION

Located as you enter the

building is a small seating area with communal hot drink facilities, communal disabled WCs, scheme shop, hairdressers and mobility scooter storage. The reception desk supports residents and visitors when required.

TWO-BEDROOM APARTMENTS ENTRANCE HALL

Upon entering the apartments there is a spacious entrance hall with storage and access to the bathroom, both bedrooms and to the kitchen/lounge.

KITCHEN/LOUNGE

25'4" x 11'1" (7.7m x 3.4m) Benefitting from spaces to fit a fridge/freezer and a washing machine or dishwasher (the communal clothes washing facilities are available to all residents) there is also an eye-level oven, ceramic hob and a stainless-steel sink located in the kitchen.

SHOWER ROOM

9'6" x 7'3" (2.9m x 2.2m) This wet room is a 'Jack and Jill' style room, meaning access is gained from the hallway as well as main bedroom.

A pull cord is situated next to the WC, there is a touch light mirrored cabinet over basin and a heated towel rail.


MAIN BEDROOM

17'9" x 9'6" (5.4m x 2.9m) A spacious double room with shower room access and plenty of room for drawers and/or a wardrobe.

BEDROOM 2

12'9" x 7'10" (3.9m x 2.4m) Perfect size for a small double or single bed leaving plenty of space for clothes storage or a hobby room if preferred.

OUTSIDE

A large car park for residents and visitors with disabled bays is located at the front of the building. Communal areas with outdoor seating facilities accessible through double doors from the communal dining area or through gated side access. 

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*Please note measurements are approximate & should not be relied upon. Different measurements apply for apartments 60 & 77.

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Berry nice indeed

Warming those winter garden vistas with some bursts of festive colour.

We all know the colours and the coldness of winter when it comes to gardening. Many of us regard it as a season reserved only for planning the dawning of spring when luscious life can return to our outside spaces.

And yet, winter can be about much more than greens, browns and greys where gardens are concerned.

Certainly, with the use of berry-producing trees and plants, your outside space can quickly adopt all the sprigs and sprays of summer. Those showcasing winter berries are easy to grow, hardy and resilient. More than that, they attract birds to your garden at a time when seeing wildlife can sometimes feel like an unexpected treat.

With that in mind then, here are some plants that will help keep things lively:

COTONEASTER

Don't be deceived by the name, this shrub is very much a winter dweller, and boasts red or yellow berries that will keep birds in your garden even when the frost descends.

The Cotoneaster does have a reputation for spreading fast, not so much because it's a back garden bully that can't be trusted; more by way of birds scattering the seed all around.

If you can deal with little pockets of colour popping up – and why shouldn't you? – then this is a beautiful plant for weary winter wonderlands.

SORBUS

In white, pink, yellow, red, blue and quite the most

stunning copper tones, the berries from this deciduous tree will bring breathless colour to even the darkest corner.

With over 100 species of tree and shrub making up the family, you won't be short of choice or subtlety, with each growing to around six metres tall, and lasting for between 10-20 years.

HOLLY

A Christmas favourite, holly combines a burning red berry with that intensely detailed, beautifully curated leaf, using a combination of greens that offset its radiant bedfellow with a flourish of frosty finesse.

Perhaps the most resplendent winter berry that we know, though for all its festive connotations, it's sure to stick around for many months of magic.

CALLICARPA

This shrub has purple jewel-like berries that look as if they've come straight from a safe deposit box in Hatton

Garden. An intensely rich shade, the plant goes into overdrive in autumn and winter, progressing from small pink flowers in midsummer to an exaggerated and extroverted array of striking, violet, bead-like berries as the months flick by.

Thus, the *Callicarpa* is guaranteed to offer colour to even the gloomiest garden.

VIBURNUM TINUS

In its prime between the months of December to April, just when you think the golden pink buds of this characterful

plant can't offer anything more, the ends burst open offering a spray of white flowers.

One of the first risers for

spring's sumptuous season of colour, the *Viburnum Tinus* will soar in prominences just as the temperatures begin to do likewise, lifting your outside space into sparkling spring finesse.

And if the beauty of the winter rebels wasn't a pleasure enough to see, the range of birds they will attract to your garden will only serve to delight you further. ☺

*Thus, the **Callicarpa** is guaranteed to offer colour to even the gloomiest garden*



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Sunday 18 December - Ventnor Botanic Garden - From 3pm
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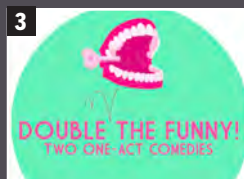
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