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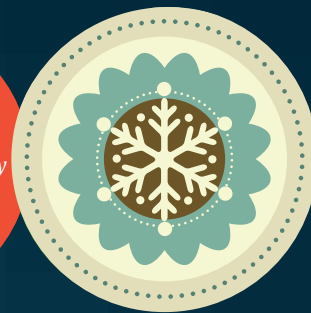

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For Menus and Booking please visit characterinns.co.uk/xmas



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

IW Beacon Media Centre, 8-10 Dodnor Park, Newport, PO30 5XE

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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. 🍪



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

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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.

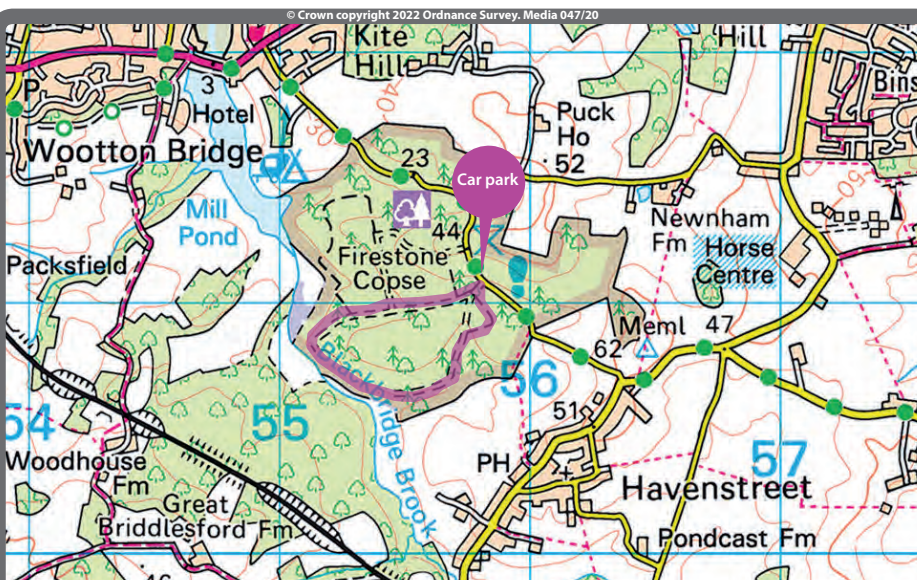
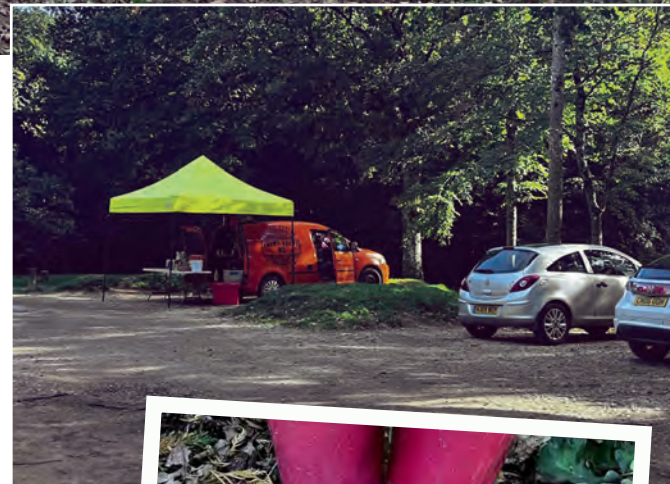
Firestone Copse is one of our favourite Isle of Wight walks. It's flat, it's gentle, there's plenty of parking, and there's loads of hidden gems to explore — from dens built from fallen trees, to delicious local coffee, courtesy of Drew's Brews (usually

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. ⑤



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



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



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 Revival! 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.

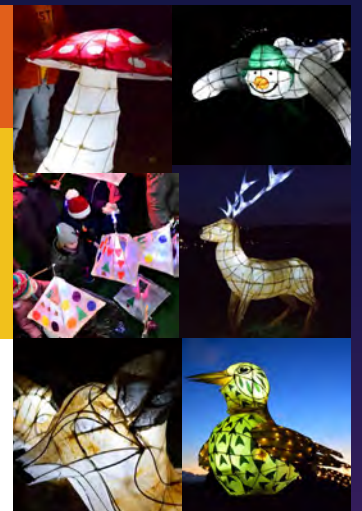
To book, visit www.mountbatten.org.uk/fireworks.



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

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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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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. 🎭

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ISLANDWIDE
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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.
Tel: 01983 537780
charnwood.com



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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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Altogether, this creates a thermally efficient living

space, keeping the warm air out in the summer and preventing the heat from escaping in the winter thus saving the amount of heat energy required to keep the room at an ambient temperature.

A leading authorised and approved Guardian Warm Roofs supplier, White Windows has thousands of happy customers.

Tel: 01983 523552
whitewindows.co.uk



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.

Get in touch for a friendly service, professional fitting and free planning.
4 Star St, Ryde PO33 2HX
islandwidecarpets.co.uk

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.

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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 ailer 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.



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charnwood 

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.

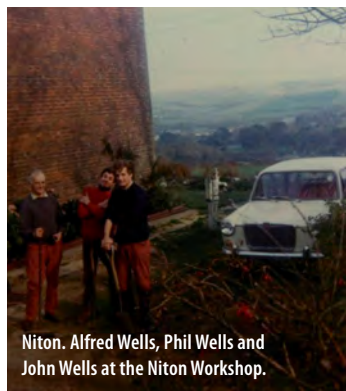
The workforce has risen from the original team of three to well over 150 — many staff having worked with the company for more than 25 years.

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

COWES MEDINA

by Cllr Lora Peacey-Wilcox

TREES, HEDGES: Try and keep your trees, hedges and bushes under control. I still see people pulling out into the road due to not being able to see up the road.

MEDINA YARD: Diverse Marine has purchased the freehold of the site from Harrison's Trust. I have asked for a meeting with Ben (the new owner) to find out their future plans for the site.

PELHAM/THEITIS: As many of you will know this has some alleyways to enable greater and emergency access.

Once again, people are dumping rubbish and leaving buildings in a dangerous state. I have reported to enforcement and others to get the area cleaned up; and notices issued to owners who are not looking after their properties as they should.

STEPHENSONS: Still no date on resurfacing!

HOUSING: There continues to be a shortage of 'social housing'; It's far easier to say 'build more council houses' than it is to achieve. (Let's not forget when we go for planning many get turned down due to local objections)

We are constantly trying to work with the three big providers, Sovereign, Southern and Vectis to provide more of these. They also have to 'balance the books' and rising cost of materials and shortage of all trades exasperates the situation. We are in desperate need of

one bed properties; but few people see a return on these and so they are just not out there.

JACK: Do you love seeing our homage to shipbuilding in Cowes on the main Newport Road? I absolutely do, as I worked very hard to save the large Oak. Anyhow, hindsight in a great thing; and I wish that I had put some form of protective oil or spray on him. I fear he needs a bit of support. Your thoughts welcome please?

DATE FOR DIARY: Christmas Bazaar, FREE ENTRY: Cowes Yacht Haven Sat. 3rd Dec, 10.30-4.30pm In aid of Mountbatten. Choirs, Father Christmas, drinks, many stalls, crafts and trade tables, SEE YOU THERE!

BILLS: I am tracking my bills with an app. It's useful to know costs as I go. Don't forget thick curtains and vertical blinds to keep heat in once sun goes down. Gas still cheaper than electric. If you're using a real fire, get your chimney swept.

Have torches to hand and a battery pack for your mobile. Please stay safe.

FINALLY: Apologies, to all those who email and call me, it does take some time for me to get back to you. Not helped when quite a bit goes into my junk box! Don't be afraid to get in touch more than once if I haven't got back to you within a week or two!

☎ 645765 📧 lora08@sky.com



POPULAR CANCER SUPPORT GROUPS RETURN TO NEWPORT

Two popular classes have returned to Wessex Cancer Trust's Isle of Wight Cancer Support Centre following the summer break.

Its group exercise, KARM (Keep Calm Relax More), has a relaxed Tai Chi-based theme and is suitable for anyone as it can be done sitting or standing. It restarted on Thursday 8th September between 2pm and 3pm.

Secondly, its Sing For Life singing group returned on Monday 12th September between 2.30pm and 4pm. The group gives anyone

affected by cancer the opportunity to come together, relax and have fun, with no pressure to perform.

You can find the Support Centre at 21 Lugley Street, Newport, PO30 5HD. The team supports anyone affected by cancer. To find out more, pop in for a warm welcome, call Laura Garland on 01983 524186, email isleofwight@wessexcancer.org.uk, or visit www.wessexcancer.org.uk/sing-for-life/ for information about the Sing for Life choir.



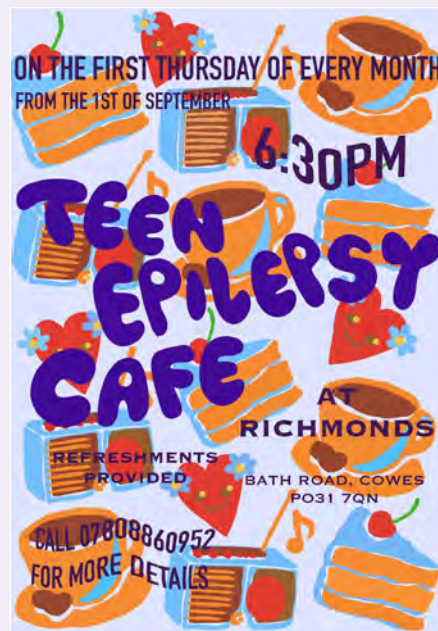
TEEN EPILEPSY CAFÉ OPENS

An epilepsy cafe aimed at teenagers has opened in Cowes.

The group is run from Richmonds on Bath Road at 6.30pm, on the first Thursday of every month.

It aims to provide a safe and supportive space for teenagers with epilepsy to meet others, chat, listen to music and share experiences.

Organisers say until now there has been no social space available to teenagers on the island who live with epilepsy – and want to make sure that as many young people as possible know that it is available.



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COMPETITION WINNERS 'FLIGHT AROUND THE ISLAND'

The IOW Branch of the Royal Aeronautical Society (RAeS), were pleased to attend this year's Noël Turner Science Festival back in the summer at the Cowes Enterprise College as part of the Island wide STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) activity, organised by the Winchester Science Centre.

The Science Festival was supported by over 30 local STEM companies and organisations who attended the two day event with exciting, live science 'hands-on' activities designed to inspire the 2,000 plus Year 5 primary school children (age 9-10) with their teachers, from 25 schools from across the Island.

The RAeS IOW Branch Committee Noël Turner Science Festival (NTSF) Team stand hosted a flight simulator and an 'Iron Man' jetpack brought along by Maverick Aviation, as well as two working jet engines models built for the pupils to inspect.

Pupils were asked to guess the number of turbine blades contained in the two working jet engine models, with the prize for two lucky winners of a 'Flight Around the Island' in a 4 seat light aeroplane belonging to Neil Thomas, Branch Committee Member.

Over 600 pupils entered the competition and 15 guessed the correct number of turbine blades so all the winning entry forms were put into tombola drum and two winners were drawn out.

The flights took place on Sunday 4th September from Sandown Airport – who generously helped by agreeing to waiver their airport landing fees for the competition flights. The two winning youngsters were accompanied by their mums – although they were given the option of choosing their favourite teachers.

It was a sunny afternoon for the flights. The first flight, won by Apollonia Goldspink-Harris, from St. Marys' Catholic Primary School in Ryde. Apollonia and mum Alexis were delighted with their flight around the Island especially as 'they flew over their home and saw The Needles from the air'.

The second flight, won by Caleb Zinnes, from Ryde School with Upper Chine, who was accompanied by his Mum Genevieve. Caleb was excited to have 'taken the controls for a short time and seen his house from the air'. Whilst at the Noël Turner Science Festival, Noël Turner's daughter, Francesca Wilkins visited the RAeS stand. She mentioned that her daughter, Georgia was attending



Georgia and (Mum) Francesca Wilkins, just about to take off from Sandown Airport for their RAeS Complimentary 'Noël's Girls' flight around the Island

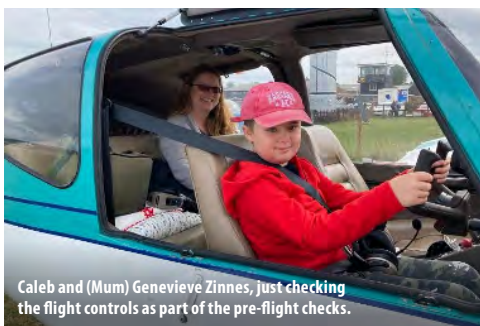
the event and that she would also be keen to enter the competition. Georgia showed a delightful photo of Noël with his daughter Francesca on her wedding day. Unfortunately Georgia didn't win.

So, with such a strong family connection to the NTSF, the RAeS IOW Committee thought it would be a great idea for 'Noël's Girls' to have a complimentary flight around the Island in Neil Thomas' aeroplane, as an acknowledgement to Noël and his a generous legacy that supports the excellent Science Festival.

They both very much enjoyed their flight and were able to fly over their home and view The

Needles and the coasts of the Island. Georgia said that "She found it an incredible experience and was particularly happy that her fabulous pilot Neil gave her a try with some of the controls. She was bowled-over when she realised, she was in fact flying a plane by herself!".

Francesca made a special mention of her father Noël, who worked at Plessey/BAE Systems as a RADAR Engineer until his death in 2015, and felt that 'she and Georgia were honoured and blessed for the opportunity to fly over and around our beautiful Island in support of the Science Festival and felt that her father was taking his daughter and granddaughter out for the day – one last time'.



Caleb and (Mum) Genevieve Zinnes, just checking the flight controls as part of the pre-flight checks.



NEWS FROM

CENTRAL NEWPORT

by Cllr Julie Jones-Evans

As the nights draw in many of us are looking for ways to keep warm whilst using less energy and

make our food budgets go further due to the increasing cost of living. On the Island we have a great resource, the website Islefindit which is a rich source of information to help our community. For example you will find Footprint Trust who are the local experts in making your home more energy efficient and great tips for keeping warm. Straightforward advice such as "heat the person, not the room" makes a lot of sense. I for one will be digging out the hot water bottles and blankets.

Church on the Roundabout, The Living Room, Newport Congregational Church and Salvation Army are opening up as Warm Hubs where anyone is welcome to come in for a warm drink and a chat. Monday 11am - 2pm The Living Room, Tuesday 11am - 1pm & 7- 9pm, Wednesday Newport Congregational 12 - 2pm, Thursday Church on the Roundabout 11am - 2pm, Friday The Living Room 10am - 2pm.

☎ 521068/ 07886437688

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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.

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





£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.

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

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.

successful farm shops, which 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

COWES WEST AND GURNARD

by Cllr Paul Fuller

FIREWORKS: If you are having a firework event, please drop a note to neighbours! Every year I receive so much correspondence about petrified pets!

ANTI-SOCIAL PARKING: When collecting and dropping off children please respect the need for local residents to access roads and driveways. Ironically, this comes at a time when a complainant couldn't get to school to collect their child!

ISLAND PLANNING STRATEGY: The Island's Planning Bible for the next 15 years was voted down by IW Councillors at Full Council. In light of this, this offers an opportunity to speak to Councillors to address up to date data concerns.

STREET CLUTTER: A few years ago, Island Roads sought to remove unnecessary signage and other street clutter. Years on, there remains signage still in place that is no longer in use. If you know of any signs, please let me know.

BERYL E-SCOOTERS: With the E-Scooter trial formerly set to end in November, Beryl has

announced that bays will cease to exist in at: Egypt Hill, Reynolds Close, the Portland Inn and Church Road.

Beryl has requested to extend the E-Scooter trial to March 2024 to include the E-Bike roll-out. This scheme is supported as part of the Solent Future Transport Zones initiative.

ROADSIDE LITTER BINS: I received a complaint concerning garden waste being deposited in roadside bins. If you, or somebody you know have issues getting rid of waste let me know or call 823777.

ENERGY PRICE INCREASES: Visit: www.moneysavingexpert.com/ and www.uswitch.com/ Tel: 0800 688 8557. Alternatively, talk to the Footprint Trust on 01983 822282 or email: info@footprint-trust.co.uk.

The local Footprint Trust charity are recruiting volunteers to help it cope with unprecedented levels of enquiries, as Islanders struggle with energy price hikes.

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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.



— | LEGAL & FINANCIAL | —

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

ISLE OF WIGHT, THANK YOU FOR SAVING WATER

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

Please remember:



No hosepipes
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Only use water
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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. 📍

Tel: 01983 538080

Email: newhomes@hrdiw.co.uk
www.hose-rhodes-dickson.co.uk

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

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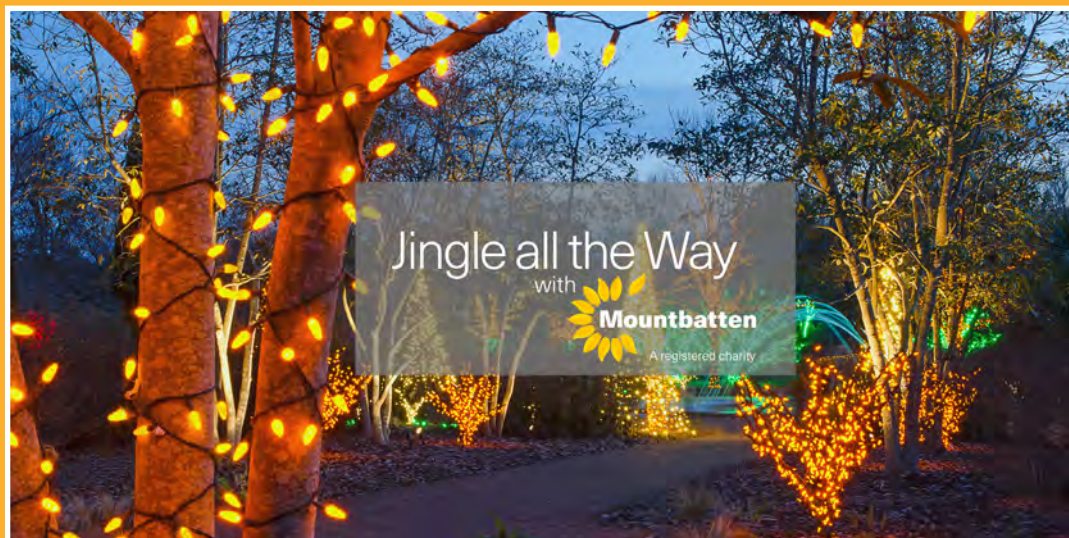
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PRE-BOOKED APPOINTMENTS ONLY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT

WIN! Can you spot the differences?



Jingle all the Way is an uplifting and entertaining evening for the whole family, featuring two different festive trails. Mountbatten's Jingle Jog offers an entertaining festive 1K circular route for runners, while the Sleighbell Stroll provides an accessible live entertainment walk on an alternative route.



Sunday 18 December - Ventnor Botanic Garden - From 3pm
mountbatten.org.uk/jingle



THIS MONTH'S PRIZES...

TERMS & CONDITIONS APPLY



Meal for two and a bottle of house wine

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the-woodvale.co.uk



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www.wightfibre.com



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Courtesy of Apollo Theatre, Newport, PO30 1JT
apollo-theatre.org.uk

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1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐

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When sending your entry to us you **MUST** ensure that you use the correct postage. Terms and conditions available on request.

Prizes must be claimed within 30 days of the draw date. Previous winners can be found on our Facebook and Twitter pages.

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