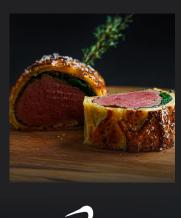


MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR



or call **01983 240240** 

















## **CHRISTMAS AT HERON**

1<sup>ST</sup> - 23<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER £75 A PERSON OR WITH WINE PAIRING £95 PER PERSON CALL US ON 01983 567192 OR SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR FULL MENU DETAILS

> A DEPOSIT OF £25 PER 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 regulary to reflect the seasons and local producers offerings.

Come and join us at Heron to enjoy some great quality food. You will not be dissapointed.

## **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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HERON, 2 CASTLE STREET, RYDE, ISLE OF WIGHT, PO33 2EP T: 01983 567192 E: heroniow@outlook.com www.heroniow.co.uk



As we look back over 2022, it's crazy to think what a rollercoaster of a year it's been. We finally saw the back of Covid restrictions, we lost our beloved Queen after 70 years of reign, changed Prime Minister a few times and the Lionesses brought football home!

We also saw the shocking invasion of Ukraine and faced unprecedented rises in energy bills.

As we join together with loved ones over the festive period, we can be thankful, at least, for a Christmas without the risk of Covid restrictions looming over us.

Pantos are back in full swing and the pubs are looking forward to welcoming Christmas revellers through their doors.

However you're spending Christmas, we hope it's full of love and joy.

# Amy Shephard Editor amy.shephard@iwbeacon.com





Recipe: Festive Cocktails

Walking the Island: Walking Whippingham

8-9 The Entertainment Guide

History: 125 Years of Entertainment

14-15 Let's Buy Local this Christmas

16-17 12 Days of Christmas Prizes!

18-23 News from Your Area

29 Gardening: The Festive Garden

37 Spot the Difference Competition





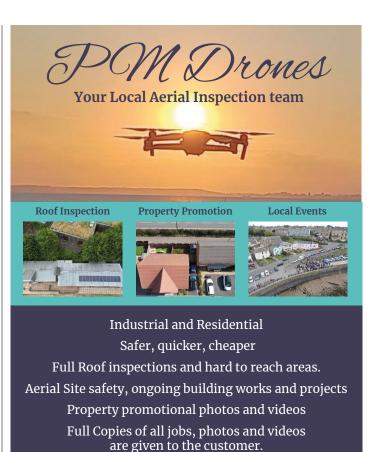
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# Restive Cocktails

Get into the festive spirit with a cocktail or two, using locally made ingredients. Tipsy Wight® produce gorgeous flavoured vodkas and vodka liqueurs from 100% natural ingredients they grow or forage for on their family farm based here on the Isle of Wight.

# **APPLES & PEARS**

Made using: Spiced Pear Vodka Liqueur



#### **INGREDIENTS**

25ML Tipsy Wight® Spiced Pear Vodka Liqueur

25ml apple juice

Champagne

#### METHOD

Add Tipsy Wight® Spiced Pear Vodka Liqueur and apple juice into a champagne flute

Top with chilled champagne

# WILD PLUM & GINGER BELLINI

Made using: Tipsy Wight® Wild Plum Vodka

THIS IS A WONDERFUL TWIST ON THE FAMOUS PEACH BELLINI INVENTED IN THE 1930S AND SERVED AT THE WORLD FAMOUS HARRY'S BAR IN VENICE.

## **INGREDIENTS**

25ml Tipsy Wight® Wild Plum Vodka

Prosecco

25ml Ginger syrup: 2.5cm freshly grated ginger, six peppercorns, 1 tbs muscovado sugar, 125ml water

## METHOD

Place ginger, peppercorns, sugar and water in a small pan and simmer for 15 minutes, stirring occasionally. Pass mixture through a fine sieve to remove ginger pulp and peppercorns. Allow to cool.

Combine and pour 25ml of Ginger Syrup and 25ml Wild Plum Vodka into a shaker with ice. Shake vigorously and pour into a martini glass.

Top with chilled Prosecco.

Serve immediately. Perfect







# Will you help our patients stay at home this Christmas?

Jackie Whiller

Consultant Nurse and Community Team Lead

# For many of our patients, this will be their last Christmas.

To be in their own home at such a special time is everything that many people who are dying wish for.

Our Care at Home team of Mountbatten nurses and carers need your help to continue working 24/7 across the Island over the festive season, supporting people to remain at home so they can enjoy the same traditions they have always cherished.

**Your donation today will give someone** a very special gift, the chance to spend their last Christmas at home with the people that they love.



mountbatten.org.uk/home

**Scan to donate now** 







ou'll start from St Mildred's Church, Whippingham which is known for its royal connections.

This beautiful church was restored in 1804 by John Nash. The previous building dated back to the Domesday Book — and is recorded as being a place of worship for Queen Victoria, who lived nearby at Osborne House until her death in 1901.

In 1885, Princess Beatrice

married Prince Henry of Battenberg at St Mildred's. They're both now buried at the church. As is Isle of Wight yachtsman, Uffa Fox. You'll find his gravestone near the north wall of the churchyard.

Just beyond the churchyard wall, you'll discover a footpath leading down to the River Medina.

Walk for half a mile across a field and through a patch of woodland towards the edge of the river. The views of the harbour along the walk are beautiful, especially at this time of year when the trees have lost their leaves.

Wear appropriate footwear as it can get boggy.

The path will join Folly Lane, and will lead you down to the Folly Inn — an open plan, rustic pub perched on the banks of the River Medina. The Folly attracts a large number of both yachtsman and motor-boat people, and is popular among Islanders all year round.

The Folly Inn reopened last month following a 'six figure' refurbishment. The pub's interior has been transformed with new fixtures

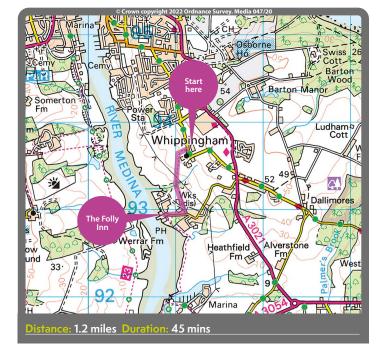
and fittings, such as an indoor/outdoor fireplace, as well as bi-fold doors along two elevations, offering diners picturesque views over the water.

New furniture has also been installed to create a comfy and cosy environment for guests.

Outside, the main garden area has been reconfigured to add additional covers, including a new pergola and feature fireplace.

Furthermore, a new outdoor kitchen and bar in the garden area will open in spring.

Finish your walk here, or return the way you came if you parked up by the church.







Join The Wight Strollers on the most magical carpet ride of all as they head back to Pantoland for Aladdin at Medina Theatre. All proceeds go to Island charities, and The Wight Strollers have frozen their ticket prices at £14 for adults and £10 for under-14s (price includes booking fee) so everyone can enjoy some panto magic!

Tickets available from 3rd January at www.medinatheatre.co.uk



# **CHRISTMAS CHEER AT APOLLO** THEATRE

One-act comedies by David Tristram: Brenton vs Brenton & Last Panto in Little Grimley. 2nd-10th December, Tickets £10, Students/unemployed £5

Rudy's Christmas Cracker Festive fun for all the family 22nd-24th December Tickets £5. Find us @apollotheatreiw - Facebook, Instagram & Twitter To book: www.apollotheatre.org.uk or call 01983 210010 and leave a message.



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



The Isle of Wight Donkey Sanctuary will hold its annual Nativity Play/Carol Concert on Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th December.

Come and join in singing with the donkeys and attending a nativity play with a difference. Carols with the choir will begin at 1.45pm with the play commencing

Booking required, see www.iowdonkeysanctuary.org for further details. All money raised will go towards the new Equine Clinic appeal.



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



Join Jingle all the Way for 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. Both take place at Ventnor Botanic Garden.

www.mountbatten.org.uk/jingle

# Entertainment GUIDE

Visit iwbeacon.com to see our full events guide





# ITALIAN CHRISTMAS MARKET

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A variety of quality products directly from Italy to celebrate Christmas according to the Italian tradition.

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30 St Thomas' St / 81 Union St, Ryde Tel: 01983 811966

www.ristorantemichelangelo.co.uk



3<sup>RD</sup>-4<sup>TH</sup>DECEMBER 10AM-4PM

# DELUX DISCO CHRISTMAS PARTY NIGHTS

The House Lounge, the Island's coolest Christmas party venue, is back at Northwood House (Cowes) on various dates this December. The House Lounge is a pop-up cocktail, gin & wine bar with legendary resident DJ Omar in charge of spinning the Delux Disco tunes. It's the perfect place for a Christmas celebration for groups of friends and work mates. Tickets are selling fast, so don't miss out! Go to northwoodhouse.org/events.



# NORTHWOOD HOUSE WEDDING FAIR WEEKEND

Northwood House in Cowes is an incredible place to get married. On Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th January the House is hosting its annual wedding fair where couples can see the venue, chat with a member of the wedding team, find out costs and get some inspiration! There will be displays from a range of top local wedding suppliers to see too. Book free tickets and a time slot online at www.northwoodhouse.org/events



# Mothy and Bright

A seasonal celebration bringing people together. New Carnival and Ryde Town Council work in collaboration to put on this popular event in its third year. Come along and enjoy fun and festivities, everyone welcome, A FREE EVENT!





# ADULT LEARNING WITH ISLE OF WIGHT COLLEGE

On Tuesday the 6th of December between 4pm & 6.30pm, the Isle of Wight College and CECAMM will be holding their last open event for 2022. This open evening will have a focus on adult training, education and upskilling. For school leavers, the college would recommend coming to the next big open day on Saturday 28th January between 10am and 2pm.

Visit iwcollege.ac.uk for more event information









There are few amateur dramatic societies in the country which can boast such a long history of local activity but, just over 125 years ago, CAODS was founded in 1897, the year of the Diamond Jubilee of the reign of Queen Victoria.

AODS was set up as "a society born of the desire to bring people together to a common good. To promote fellowship, to encourage talents in young and old, and to raise money for worthy causes." The society today retains the spirit kindled in the Victorian era and retains its place in the Cowes community.

Victoria's love of Osborne House and of the Isle of Wight, is well documented and CAODS benefitted from the patronage of the Royal Family – largely through Victoria's daughter Princess Beatrice, who visited CAODS many times and was a key influencer of the success in its early years.

The first performance of CAODS was THE MANDARIN on April 27th, 1898. Described as a one act Chinese Comic Opera, the show was produced in aid of St. Mary's Church Restoration fund and staged at the Victoria Hall Cowes.

Gilbert and Sullivan operettas were the main repertoire in its early years as CAODS presented annual shows such as the Gondoliers, The Pirates of Penzance, and the Mikado.

The 1920s saw a change of

name from CAOS to CAODS to reflect the more dramatic nature of the plays the society was now producing. The Geisha opened the decade followed by When Nights Were Bold, Patience and The Quaker Girl and venues were extended to include Osborne House.

1930 saw the introduction of farces to the society's repertoire with shows such as Lord Richard in the Pantry, The Rebel Maid Third Time Lucky, written by Arnold Ridley [later to become better known as Private Godfrey in the TV hit Dad's Army] and Marry the Girl.

The outbreak of the WW2 brought an end to the activities of CAODS as minds were focused on other things.

Cowes' seafront was commandeered by the Navy and Trinity Hall was used for a variety of military purposes. An anti-aircraft gun was sited on top of Osborne Court, the flats next door to Trinity Hall, and the town housed the HQ of that arm of the Free French army that undertook SAS-type missions. In 1942 there was a particularly heavy bomb attack on the town with the aim of destroying the Saunders Roe engineering works and the High Street of Cowes was littered with 42 unexploded bombs. Victoria Hall, a long time venue for CAODS performances was destroyed.

In this context the story of

the Trinity Ghost took root. Many in the society tell of noises heard in the auditorium when in fact it is unoccupied. Trinity Hall was used for troop concerts during the war, many of them given by Vectis Wrens. These concerts would take the form of piano solos, recitations, soprano solos, comedy sketches and company choruses. One Wren had a beautiful soprano voice, and it was during one of her numbers that the siren went to warn of an impending air-raid on the town. The Wren stopped midway through her number and left down the fire escape to head for the shelters. She never made it to safety and was a victim of the air attack. Her song remained unfinished, and it is said that it is she whose spirit walks the auditorium waiting to finish her number.

The 1950s opened with The Quaker Girl, The Street Singer and Fools Rush In—the later a play written by Kenneth Horne who would go on to gain fame in the 50s and 60s on BBC radio with his series Round the Horne. Trial by Jury and HMS Pinafore, Agatha Christie's Murder at the Vicarage and Witness for the Prosecution were performed at a variety of venues around Cowes as was



#### **HISTORY**



Me and My Girl performed in East Cowes Town Hall for the society's Diamond Jubilee in 1957. The 60s saw CAODS perform Richard Gordon's Doctor in the House and Doctor at Sea along with The Gypsy Baron operetta and the more challenging and controversial piece The Long, The Short and The Tall – play set in Singapore in 1942 and the moral dilemma about what to do with a captured Japanese soldier.

Bernard Shaw's Pygmalion was successfully performed at Trinity Hall in 1968 and then again in spring of the following year at Caen University in France.

In the 70s the non-availability of a venue caused the autumn play to be cancelled twice and so when

the opportunity to secure a lease on Trinity Hall arose in August 1978 the Society swung into action and a lease was signed in February 1979.

CAÓDS members set to work converting the shell of Trinity Hall into a theatre. At the same time 250 tip-up seats from Shanklin Theatre were purchased for £1

each and these were quickly cleaned, arms patched, and backs varnished and are still in use today. The original gold curtains were purchased from a cinema in London that was closing. The magnificent red curtains now present at the theatre were a gift from Louis Vuitton when the firm hired the theatre to host a disco one Cowes week in 2000s Trinity Hall was purchased by CAODS in 1983 for £27,500 with the help of a mortgage from National Westminster Bank.

With a secure and permanent home in Trinity Theatre, CAODS has gone from strength to strength.

In 1989 the first performing rights for the smash hit TV show 'ALLO' ALLO by an amateur theatre was secured. The society had full houses for every performance.

During the 90s Finnian's Rainbow and Beyond Reasonable Doubt were stand out shows and the Pantomimes became larger and more complex as CAODS Youth Theatre grew and flourished.

The Noughties brought wider and more difficult shows and success has been achieved up to the present post-Covid days where a string of awards winning shows have recently been produced.

CAODS uses Trinity

Theatre for many community-based events including regular coffee mornings, quiz nights, skittle evenings and of course plays, musicals and pantos.

Trinity
Theatre,
The Grove,
Cowes.
PO31 7QR
www.caods.org.uk
Tel: 01983 295229















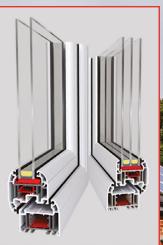
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# SATURDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER ITALIAN CHRISTMAS MARKET

from 10am until 4pm

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1st - 24th DECEMBER

### PRE-CHRISTMAS PARTY MENU

Three course set menu £ 32.50 Two course set menu £ 27.50

# 25TH DECEMBER CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Four Course set menu £75
Music Entertainment

# 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER NEW YEAR'S EVE

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

he 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.

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



# Christmas

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 











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# Island Residents (VŤP)









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#### OPENING TIMES

Tuesday -Saturday 10am-5pm Sunday 10am-4pm Closed Monday



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#### **CHRISTMAS HAMPER FOR 2-3 PEOPLE**

This year DW Jarvis is offering a range of luxury produce Christmas hampers, from family favourite treats, to the whopping 3-6 people turkey hamper – and as always... completely gluten free! Visit the online shop to order: dwjarvis.co.uk/shop

Prize: Christmas Hamper for 2-3 people (Chicken or Turkey) (see website for details) worth £49.99

108 High St, Ryde PO33 2SZ Tel: 01983 562382 www.dwjarvis.co.uk





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Prize: Zero Waste Starter Kit

15 Cross Street, Ryde, PO33 2AD Tel: 01983 896867 www.herwhey.co.uk





#### **FAMILY MEMBERSHIP TO** VENTNOR BOTANIC GARDEN

Ventnor Botanic Garden lies in the remarkable microclimate at the heart of the famous 'Undercliff.' This unique garden is protected from the cold northerly winds by chalk downs. The Garden is unrivalled for its collections of subtropical plants grown unprotected out of doors.

While you're there, visit the Puya Boutique Shop for Christmas gift purchases.

The Plantation Room Café is a great place to meet with friends and to eat, drink and relax and is open daily from 10am until 4 pm during the autumn/winter

Prize: Family Annual Membership for Ventnor Botanic Garden

Undercliff Drive, Ventnor, P038 1U Tel: 01983 855397 www.botanic.co.uk





#### STEIFF COSY YEAR BEAR

Koko's Bear Shop is a small shop stuffed to the seams with hundreds of grizzly huggable bears! Proving popular at the moment is the great selection of Paddingtons and the lovely Steiff Limited edition bears. Following on from Elton John and Queen, The Steiff Rocks series is soon to feature The Rolling Stones. With next year the 100th anniversary of Disney, the series of classic Winne the Pooh friends has proven very popular, with Piglet now in store to complete the set.

Prize: Steiff Cosy Year Bear

16 Union Street, Ryde, PO33 2DU Tel: 01983 616815 www.kokosbearshop.com





#### VINTAGE GRAMOPHONE CHRISTMAS ADVENT CALENDAR

As some of you may be aware, 2022 has already been a massive year for The Christmas Imaginarium as in July, they opened their brand new shop.

They had simply outgrown the original one, and when the opportunity arose with the perfect premises, just two doors along the same road, they knew it was time to move and start a new chapter in their story. It was important for to replicate the magical, cosy feeling of the original Imaginarium, and the team designed and hand-built everything in the new shop themselves. They really want to enable their customers to leave the world outside behind and be transported into a magical Christmas wonderland the moment they step through the door.

Prize: Vintage Gramophone Christmas Advent Calendar

4 Cross Street, Ryde, PO33 2AA Tel: 01983 651069 www.christmasimaginarium.com





#### £25 SIMEON ARMS **VOUCHER & GODDARDS BEERS**

The Simeon Arms is a traditional local pub in Ryde, with a large beer garden and live music every weekend.

Guests can enjoy BT Sport, darts, pool, Petangue and other bar games, as well as monthly quizzes with prizes to be won. This great prize includes a voucher to spend at The Simeon Arms, plus local beers to enjoy at home, courtesy of Goddards Brewery.

Prize: A £25 voucher for The Simeon Arms & 8 bottles of beers from Goddards Brewery.

21 Simeon Street, Ryde, P033 1JG Tel: 01983 614954 Find The Simeon Arms on Facebook



# Christmas



Fancy the chance to win all of these fantastic prizes in time for Christmas?



VOUCHER

Make your own Christmas Wreath with Craft Workshops on the Isle of Wight at The Simeon Arms, Ryde, £25

Sunday, 4th December:

12pm-2.30pm

Wednesday, 7th December:

11am-1.30pm and 6.30pm-9pm

Wednesday, 14th December:

11am-1.30pm

**Prize:** Voucher for two to redeem at any craft workshop in 2023

Facebook: Gabby Ryde

To book go to www.iowcraftworkshops.com or email: hello@iowcraftworkshops.com

21 Simeon St, Ryde P033 1JG Tel: 01983 614954





# AFTERNOON TEA & COCKTAILS AT WYLD BAR

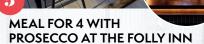
Wyld Bar's Afternoon Tea is no traditional Afternoon Tea. Set at their sparkling new venue in the heart of Newport with a cheeky playful edge including their signature selfie ball pit, flower wall and sassy neon quotes, you will enjoy a range of finger sandwiches, fresh fruit and plan scones from Richmonds Bakery served with freshly whipped clotted cream and strawberry preserve, alongside a selection of delicate cupcakes topped with delicious treats.

If that's not enough you'll be able to choose from the huge range of mouth-watering cocktails, enjoying one per person.

**Prize:** Afternoon Tea for Two including a Cocktail each

Wyld, 37 Pyle Street, Newport, P030 1XB Tel: 01983 241232 www.wyldbars.co.uk





The Folly Inn reopened last month following a 'six figure' refurbishment. The pub's interior has been transformed with new fixtures and fittings, such as an indoor/outdoor fireplace, as well as bi-fold doors along two elevations, offering diners picturesque views over the water.

Outside, the main garden area has been reconfigured to add additional covers, including a new pergola and feature fireplace. Furthermore, a new outdoor kitchen and bar in the garden area will open in spring.

**Prize:** Meal for four with Prosecco at The Folly Inn To be redeemed by 31st January 2023

Folly Lane, East Cowes, P032 6NB Tel: 01983 297171 www.greeneking-pubs.co.uk/pubs/ isle-of-wight/folly



# THIS & THAT

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Prize: Mermaid Pink Gin Gift Set & Mermaid Gin Miniature Gift Set Pondwell Hill, Ryde, P033 1PX Tel: 01983 613653 www.isleofwightdistillery.com



All you have to do is answer this question...In December 1840, Prince Albert imported a
\_\_\_\_\_\_\_from his native Coburg, in Germany, sparking a tradition which now runs in
households up and down the country. **Need a clue?** From 1st-12th December, we're going to be unveiling one
letter from the answer each day online and on our social media channels. Head to **iwbeacon**.com or Facebook
@BeaconMagazine. You can answer by emailing win@iwbeacon.com, or sending your answer to:
Beacon Magazine, 8-10 Dodnor Park, Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 5XE by 16th December.



**NEWS FROM** 

## RYDE NORTH WEST

by Cllr Phil Jordan

It really is a great pleasure to convey good news that happens in Ryde and none more so than the recent grant funding awards for both Appley Tower and St Thomas's Church.

and St Thomas's Church.

The acquisition of St Thomas's Church a couple of years ago was made to accommodate the award-winning Ryde youth services which were becoming constrained by their high street rented premise space but also realising the lease rent was simply lost money to the Council, the youth service, and the community. From the outset, a business case to buy the church demonstrated that even with the upgrade costs and conversion requirements, the plan to relocate the youth service was cost neutral to the Council. Leap forward two years and the project is underway with a finish date planned for 2023 but through great work from the youth team the Town Council have been awarded £600,000 of grant funding to assist the building scheme and to invest in developing and improving the youth service itself. With Appley Tower grant funding, Ryde is seeing over £1m of funding coming into the town on these two schemes alone.

Appley Tower grant funding, Ryde is seeing over £1m of funding coming into the town on these two schemes alone.

This is great news for the community and for the youth service and demonstrates that with determination and aspirations to intervene in community buildings,

a clear corporate plan and long-term vision that these buildings can be saved, improved and brought back into beneficial community use. A fantastic achievement and confirmation that the Town Council must continue leading in the Ryde community and investing in people and places as a core principle.

In the same vein, work to restore Vectis Hall is slowly gathering pace. A working group has been set up to take the 3-5-year project forward, drawing up design plans for potential council offices and a community hall space as well as public access toilets. A grant application is being made which has a closing date in the first week of January 2023 and a grant award decision date in March. If successful, this would allow full plans and detailed designs to be completed which would need to be used for a larger project grant funding application in due course. In the meantime, a plan to erect some informative hoarding to improve the vista of the site and building is underway which, we hope, will add a better street view to the site whilst the important preparatory work is being carried out. After 25 years of dereliction, it's time to make the change.

change.
With best wishes for the seasons and a positive new year.

phil.jordan@iow.gov.uk



# NAME CHANGE MARKS NEW ERA FOR CONSTABULARY

BY JAMIE WHITE

Hampshire Constabulary will now be called Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary to reflect the Isle of Wight as a county area.

Police and Crime Commissioner, Donna Jones, has announced that her request to legally change the name of the Constabulary to include the Isle of Wight has been successful.

The official name change was marked last month at an unveiling event at Newport Police Station, where the new logo, including with the new King's cypher, was revealed.

Police and Crime Commissioner, Donna Jones, said: "The Isle of Wight is England's largest island and sits in one of the busiest shipping lanes in the world. It has its own history; its own identity; it is unique.

"There is so much about the IOW which makes it one of a kind: its coastline; its countryside; its English villages; its communities.

"When I ran for election as your Police and Crime Commissioner I promised to do all I could to ensure the police force included your county in its name, and I'm pleased to have been able to deliver on that promise.

"This is the most significant change to your constabulary since 1947.

"Back in 1839, the IOW was policed by Hampshire County Constabulary, which also included Bournemouth, and comprised of just 106 police officers.

"Thirty years later, in 1869, Newport Borough Police Service was formed and in 1889, Newport Borough Police became part of the Isle of Wight County Police Force.

"In 1943, the Isle of Wight County Police Force merged with the Hampshire and Winchester forces as part of the war effort.

"The merger was made permanent in 1947 following 'The Police Act of 1946' and so the force was renamed: Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary.

"However, in 1967, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary merged with the police forces in Portsmouth and Southampton and the constabulary started a new chapter, becoming 'Hampshire Constabulary.'

"Today is a moment in history, 55 years later, in 2022, I'm delighted to have delivered on my promise to the people of the Isle of Wight and to announce that once again the Isle of Wight is included in the force's legal name following an amendment to the legislation.

"I pledged to make this happen for the people of the Isle of Wight and for our police service to reflect the county it serves and protects.

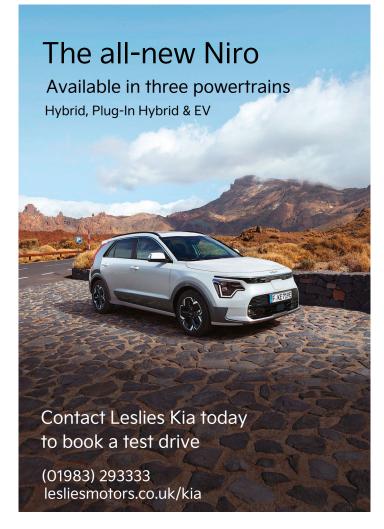
"From this day forward, Hampshire Constabulary will be known as 'Hampshire and the Isle of Wight Constabulary' and so a new chapter begins."

Acting Chief Constable, Ben Snuggs, said:

"Our force name change to Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary is both symbolically and practically important for our communities and for us as a force.

"Neighbourhood or community policing is right at the heart of our policing model and this name change serves to emphasise the role that your local force has in policing all of our communities across our force area.

"Through the direct and proactive work of our PCC, it is a real privilege for us and our workforce to return our force name to include the Isle of Wight."



# CHANGES AFOOT AT ST MARY'S HOSPITAL

BY OLIVER DYER

'Once in a generation' works at St Mary's Hospital began last month, meaning a number of changes at the

As part of a multi-million pound investment programme, the hospital will see improvements to the emergency care floor. This includes a new waiting area, a resuscitation (resus) area and treatment rooms for children and young people.

As works got underway on 21st November, the main entrance saw hoarding put in place. Although patients, visitors, and staff will continue to be able to access the main entrance, footpaths have been redirected, and the zebra crossing moved to accommodate the

The drop off point, currently located outside the main entrance, has also moved to the front of the main hospital car park.

The designated taxi spaces and a number of disabled car parking spaces will also be relocated here as well.

The motorcycle parking space will move to an area opposite the podiatry department, a short distance from the main entrance.

Samara Lamb, Head of Nursing for Unplanned Care said: "The changes will mean we have one front door for all urgent and emergency services, ensuring we can provide the right care, in the right place, at the right

Changes will also see a separate entrance for ambulances carrying children and young people to improve patient experience and ensure privacy.

On the improved ICU, Vicky Crickmore, Consultant Nurse for Critical Care said: "For



patients these changes will mean being able to provide quieter, more private spaces with natural light which will help their recovery and rehabilitation and provide a welcoming space for family members supporting them."

Other changes across the site include a two-way traffic system along the road leading up to the Education Centre. The road will be narrowed to accommodate the new Intensive Care Unit (ICU) extension.

As a result, it may take longer to drive to and park near services at the back of the hospital including audiology, stoma, renal, patient transport and collection from the discharge lounge, mortuary services and for Preoperative Assessment Unit (PAAU) checks.

The Isle of Wight NHS Trust is urging people to allow extra time

. for their journey.

Other works, set for a later date, will see a new mental health and community hub located in Newport High Street.

All of the projects are set to be completed by Spring 2024.



**NEWS FROM** THE ISLAND'S MP

**Bob Seely** 

Hello! Thanks for reading my column. Regardless of happenings in Westminster, will always focus on delivering for constituents. That is why I am using my first Beacon article to write about two new projects, both of which are part of my pledge to get a better deal for the

The first is investment in St Mary's hospital and the second is the repair of Ryde railway pier.

St Mary's £23m facility upgrade - and the new £10m community diagnostic centre will help improve public healthcare on the Island. I'd like to thank everyone who worked on the bid and the NHS staff who will work there

Turning to Ryde railway pier, our first step was to save Island Line. Working with the Council, we secured a £26m commitment to upgrade the track, stations and buy new rolling stock. After that, I persuaded Network Rail to repair the railway pier. Work starts in the next few weeks and should be completed by spring. Apologies for minor disruptions in the meantime. council have successfully bid for millions more to improve interchange Esplanade and Ryde Pier. Thank you to council officers and councillors - from all parties for making that happen.

These are a few examples of the £120m of extra funding for projects that will give Islanders better opportunities and better public services.

My role is to make sure ministers understand how important these multimillion-pound projects are to Islanders. I am delighted they have listened and will continue to push for more investment.

This is all part of getting the better deal I promised. We are getting this deal because I continue to work with the council and others - as team Isle of Wight - for the common

bob.seely.mp@ parliament.uk

# HAIRDRESSERS IN SHANKLIN **COULD BE TURNED INTO FLATS**

BY LOUISE HILL, LDR REPORTER

A hairdressers in a prominent Shanklin location could be turned into flats after 20 years of business.

Booty Hair and Beauty Salon, on Cross Street, will be closing imminently as its owner retires, planning documents submitted to the Isle of Wight Council

The salon's new owner, Jonathan Platt, is seeking permission to turn the space on the ground floor of Corinthian Court into four flats.

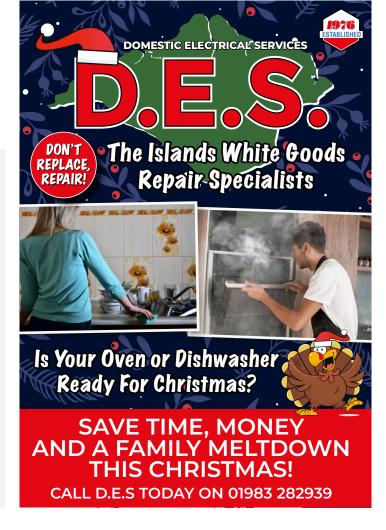
They would be split into three onebedroom and one two-bed apartments, potentially adding to the existing flats already above the hairdressers.

In justifying the change of the retail space into résidential, Andrew White Planning Consultancy said it is the most efficient way of re-purposing the unit and efforts to sell the business had fallen through.

Currently, the layout of the salon is extensive and has a fragmented internal layout which is not ideal for alternative commercial uses, the agents said, especially with the number of other vacant commercial buildings in the town centre.

Minor alterations are proposed to the exterior of the building, changing the front doors and blocking up a set of

You can view the application, 22/01920/FUL, on the council's planning portal. Comments can be made until December 2.





# **News from Ryde**

by Cllr Charles Chapman

Here we are in December 2022 and what a year. In January we learnt about the unprecedented increase in energy prices across the board, the 'mind blowing' price rise of petrol and diesel products and the huge profits being made by certain organisations. In February, I reported on the closure of day care centres and the lack of funding for lunch and day care clubs. A situation which is now desperate for people in our community. In March I raised the need for investment in our coastal towns - and road closures everywhere, especially in Ryde. At Easter I raised the lack of services for young people, heard from readers about the hike in food prices; lack of council support for people needing allotment space, and the scare that they will be wanted for building sites. Also, high on the list of your concerns was the ongoing damage caused by poor rain-water drainage, particularly on or near our local allotments and the poor state of our pavement areas. Hopefully, this is now going to be tackled. The month of May produced the complicated voucher scheme for £25 for some! As usual I raised the cost of the ferries and the help they could easily give Islanders with little or no cost to themselves. It was obvious the rise in fuel costs would have a 'knock on' effect on all aspects of the cost of living and provide an excuse for Government to do nothing but blame the fuel industry. Now, the current increase in the Bank Interest Rate will add to the cost of living, through higher mortgages, loans and Government borrowing. The source of which was not rigorously tackled by our Government then or now. The next month brought some relief by an influx of tourists, which helped the job market and provided much needed cash flow for our small businesses. The Jubilee celebrations in June gave us a chance for fun with for extra public

we mourned her passing, with over 4 billion people, worldwide, watching her funeral. With July many smaller businesses were adversely affected and no apparent activity. I received the 'Freedom of Ryde' by Ryde Council. Something that I treasure. I was still busy reporting about the desperate need for affordable houses for local people and the unprecedented rise in the cost of living and particularly with, the so called, public utilities, something that if our Government had acted upon earlier, especially about the huge amounts of monies paid to the may have arrested the current horrendous price increases being door privatisation of our health service, which, I very recently found out, has escalated.

I can only wish you all a happy Christmas and prosperous New Year and to assure the people of Ryde that I will continue to fight our corner, for as long as I am able. Let us all work together for a brighter future. Yours Charles Chapman.

🕒 07867626733 🖾 charles.chapman@iow.gov.uk

# holidays plus the opportunity to reflect of the work of our late Queen. Ryde celebrated in style. Several months on by road closures and diversions, the main complaint being road closure shareholders of public utility providers, suffered by us all today. Moving on into the Autumn: with hose pipe bans; my raising concerns about the lack of recreational facilities for old and young people. Autumn also brought the discharge of sewage by Southern Water off our shores, ensuring swimming for some, impossible. Yet, despite fines, still making a profit for its shareholders. As nothing had been done, we saw the crippling increases in household fuel prices and haulage costs with its knock-on effects on the cost of living. The joke of a £150 rebate, was too little, too late. Once again I raised the back





# D-DAY VETERAN HONOURED ON **REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY**

BY DOMINIC KUREEN

Roy Hayward, a D-Day veteran living on the Island, has been honoured on Remembrance Sunday with an award from his parish.

A resident of Seaview, the 96-year-old was officially given the Freedom of the Parish of Nettlestone and Seaview – the highest honour a parish council can bestow.

A reserve tank crew, Roy landed in France on the evening of D-Day with the Sherwood Rangers - days later, both of his legs had to be amputated.

Cllr Harriet Hadfield made the presentation at the Veterans' Hub in Ryde – of which Roy is a regular visitor. Also in attendance was Deputy Lieutenant Nick England who made a speech. The special commemorative

scroll reads: 'We the Council, grant you Roy Hayward the highest honour we can bestow in recognition of the extreme bravery you have shown with your wartime service.

"The courage you have displayed with overcoming the injuries received during that service and the extraordinary generosity of your decades of voluntary service to the community in the years since. We loudly applaud your valuable and sterling service"

Roy said: "I was very surprised, I had no foreknowledge of it at all. It means a lot to me, I've been in Seaview for 50 years, it is a lovely place, I have loved living here.

"I will last as long as I can in Seaview!'





# CAN YOU SPARE A FEW HOURS?



Friends of the Animals is desperate for help in its Ryde charity shop. The charity has been saving lives for more than 30 years – but can only do it with the help of its wonderful volunteers.

Open Monday to Saturday, a regular day or even half day will make a huge difference. Please call 01983 68 55 55 or pop in if you can help. The charity is happy to cover expenses.

Ryde Shop 181 High Street, PO33 1HN

# **HEADLINERS ANNOUNCED FOR ISLE OF WIGHT STORY FESTIVAL**

Horrible Histories star Simon Farnaby and former CBeebies presenter Cerrie Burnell have been announced as the headliners for this year's Isle of Wight Story Festival.

The annual three-day young people's book event will be held at Quay Arts in Newport from Thursday 16 to Saturday 18 February and tickets will go on sale soon.

Simon Farnaby has written and starred in some of the UK's most loved TV shows and films including Ghosts, Yonderland, The Mighty Boosh, This Time with Alan Partridge and Horrible Histories - where he portrayed Death in the recurring "Stupid Deaths" sketch.

The BAFTA nominated Paddington 2 writer recently appeared with everyone's favourite marmalade-loving bear and The Queen in an opening skit for the Platinum Jubilee concert.

On Saturday February 18 he will speak about his book, The Wizard in my Shed.

After presenting CBeebies for eight years, Cerrie Burnell turned to writing children's books and at the upcoming festival, she will answer questions on Wilder Than Midnight.

This isn't the first time Cerrie has been on the Isle of Wight Story Festival bill, albeit this time will be in person after her 2021 virtual appearance.

You may know Cerrie, who will also appear on the Saturday of the Story Festival, for her books Harper and the Scarlet Umbrella and Harper and the Night Forest.

The pair join the previously announced Kieran Larwood, Laura Ellen Anderson, Nicholas Allan, Julia Tuffs and Jamie Littler.

Meanwhile, if you are a fan of Dungeons and Dragons,



the improvisational role-playing fantasy game will be there for you to take part in on Thursday at the Story Festival, the first day of the event, aimed at children over 12.

After a day of live music, poetry and spoken word, the Apollo Youth Theatre's "hard-hitting" production of His Name is Zak will close the evening

The Horse Box Theatre's "The Lighthouse Keeper" will also be performed.

Local musicians Amy Jolliffe and JC Grimshaw are the current names set to entertain you in the Quay Arts cafe, with more live music to be announced.

An influx of authors have filled out the Isle of Wight Story Festival lineup and over the three days, Debbie Webb, Felicity Fair Thompson, Gareth Peter, Holly Medland, Jules Marriner, Neal Layton, Peta Rainford and Sue Bailey will all appear.

The Isle of Wight Story Festival will take place at Quay Arts in Newport between Thursday 16 and Saturday 18 February.

Tickets will be available from www.quayarts.org.

# **BOLLYWOOD MOVIE TRAILER** RELEASED

BY JAMIE WHITE

A trailer for a hotly-anticipated Bollywood movie, which was partly filmed on the Isle of Wight, has been released.

All eyes were on Ventnor as filming for An Action Hero took place in the town. The trailer for the film - which stars Ayushmann Khurrana - has already had more than 19 million views on YouTube.

A number of Islanders were drafted in to feature as extras while filming took place in January and February this year.

An Action Hero will be released on December 2.



# News from Ryde Monktonmead

by Cllr Karen Lucioni

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone, it's been a hard year for us all however I want to extend my support to those who need it, when we were at the height of the Covid pandemic we saw a wonderful community camaraderie and I believe we still have it. Please reach out if you need support or signposting to receive help towards the cost of living. There is a very helpful website that gives advice on:

- Benefits and government support
- Money worries Support with energy bills
- Food
- · Health and wellbeing
- Warm spaces
- Events

www.beta.iow.gov.uk/keep-theisland-safe/cost-of-living If I'm needed by anyone I can be found at 07506930109, Facebook @cllrkarenlucioni or www.karen lucioni.com **EVENTS IN RYDE THIS CHRISTMAS:** 1st DECEMBER: It's RYDE LATE NIGHT SHOPPING and Light Switch on with Quivers 4.30pm-8pm
3rd DECEMBER: SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY • The Wight Brainy Bunch

Christmas Market, Ryde Fire Station.

10am-4pm

· Ryde Methodist Church Christmas Market 10am-1pm

 St. Johns Church, Christmas Market 10.30am- 12.30pm

3rd & 4th DECEMBER: Michelangelo Restaurant IOW Italian Christmas Market 10am-4pm

10th DECEMBER: • Aspire Ryde Christmas Fayre 10am-4pm Dover St.

· Christmas Ćraft & Gift Fair 10am-

4pm, Ryde Masonic Centre (John St)
• Isle of Wight Round Table Santa
Visit around the streets of Ryde.

11th DECEMBER: Ryde Arts Green Garlands. Free Activity at Ryde Library. 10.30am-4pm

14th DECEMBER: Ryde Castle Hotel,

Isle of Wight Christmas Fair 6-9pm 16th DECEMBER: The New Carnival Company Merry & Bright event is back. Includes lantern parade and light trail, food market and more. 17th DECEMBER: Umbrella Hub/ Artistic Healing Christmas Fayre. 1pm-4pm at The Depozitory, Nelson St.

26th DECEMBER: BOXING DAY SWIM 12pm Ryde Beach Lifeguard Station/Big Kahuna

07506 930109 karen.iow@icloud.com



Open Tuesday - Friday 9am - 5pm. Saturday 9am - 1pm 24 High Street, Sandown, Isle of Wight, PO36 8DE



# Nettlestone & Seaview Parish Council

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

🕓 07464 894216 🖾 clerk@nettlestoneandseaview-pc.gov.uk 🞧 www.nettlestoneandseaview-pc.gov.uk

# NETTLESTONE AND SEAVIEW'S FIRST HONORARY 'FREEMAN OF THE PARISH'

On Remembrance Sunday, the Parish Council was extremely pleased to be able to award its first ever 'Honorary Freeman of the Parish' status to local resident Roy Hayward. The award is the highest honour the Parish Council can bestow and is a recognition of extensive voluntary service to the community or acts of extraordinary bravery.

A reserve tank crew, Roy landed in France on the evening of D-Day with the Sherwood Rangers — days later, both of his legs had to be amputated. Roy then worked in banking for 30 years before retiring to the Isle of Wight and undertaking decades of voluntary service for various causes.

Cllr Harriet Hadfield made the presentation at the Veterans' Hub in Ryde — of which Roy is a regular visitor. Also in attendance was Deputy Lieutenant Nick England who made a speech.



Roy Hayward with Councillor Harriet Hadfield

#### **FESTIVE LIGHTS**

Once again, Cllr Hardie has been working hard and coordinating with representatives of the Community Partnership to arrange Christmas lighting this year. In addition to the cut tree on Nettlestone Green, the Council will be providing another lit tree for the seating area at the bottom of Seaview High Street. The tree in St

Peter's Church garden will be illuminated again and a newly purchased fairybell tree will be back on the smaller green opposite St.Helen's Church. At Sophie Watson's Garden, the memorial tree will again be lit — in addition to the 8m tall LED tree that will be in situ. The Parish Council wishes all residents a joyous and peaceful Christmas and a very

happy New Year!

#### **PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS**

 Check our website to keep abreast of the latest meeting details: wwwnettlestoneandseaview-pc.gov.uk/ meetings

All are welcome to attend!





# Shanklin Town Council

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

🕓 01983 865101 🖾 shanklintowncouncil@hotmail.com 🕜 www.shanklintowncouncil.co.uk



# Report of Shanklin Town Mayor **Councillor Chris Quirk**

**BIG MEAD POND:** Work on the water sources for the

Big Mead Pond is completed and with the recent inclement weather water is circulating through the pond and flowing on into the stream and on to Shanklin Chine. The very heavy rainfall meant the out-flows from the pond requited attention. Ducks and Moorhens have returned to the pond, and the vegetation planted as part of the restoration has become well established. During November the



volunteer team that have been helping with the restoration of the historic pond started to return carp previously relocated to an alternative nearby pond to Big Mead Pond.

PERFORMING ARTS: As we are all aware there is a wealth of talent on the Island in terms of performing arts, and during November I had the

privilege to attend several performances put on by local theatre groups. I attended the last show of the Summer season of "Beyond the West End" put on by local professional theatre company Spotlight Isle of Wight; I had watched the show earlier in the season but it was worth a revisit, the quality of the singing and dancing, and the energy expended compares well to shows in London's West End. If you missed Beyond the West End the crew will be back with the pantomime "Cinderella" from 17th December. Spotlight also run a stage school who presented two shows at Shanklin Theatre in November.

The Island Savoyards presented "Guys and Dolls" at Shanklin Theatre, the show was magnificent with excellent performances all round, although special mention must be made of Holly Gardiner and Harley Mackness, and of the female dancers. Some of the younger cast members of "Guys and Dolls" were also performing in the

musical "Bugsy Malone" presented by Curtain Call Creative, a youth performing arts group based at Ryde School but with members from across the Island. The show was performed to a very high standard and thoroughly enjoyable to watch.

Things coming up in Shanklin Theatre that should not be missed include First Act performing "Beauty and the Beast", Ventnor Theatre Group performing "Rock Nativity" and Theatretrain presenting "World in Colour". There will be a relaxed performance of Cinderella on Thursday 29th December at 2pm.

**REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY:** The Ceremony of Remembrance at Shanklin War Memorial on Sunday 13th November was well attended and conducted with due reverence and solemnity. Cllr Michael Beston laid the wreath from the Isle of Wight Council, and the Deputy Mayor Cllr Robert May laid the wreath for Shanklin Town Council on behalf of the Town. Cllr Chris Quirk, The Mayor of Shanklin, laid a wreath on behalf of the town at the Island Remembrance Ceremony at St. Thomas' Square and the Minster.



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growth strategy?

THE ISLAND'S FAVOURITE...

# isleofwightradio BEST IN BUSINESS AWARDS 2022

Isle of Wight Radio Best in Business Awards is back for 2023 — celebrating all that is great about local businesses on the Island.

ominations are now open and Islanders are being urged to nominate themselves or their favourite local businesses.

Nominations will close on the 6th January.

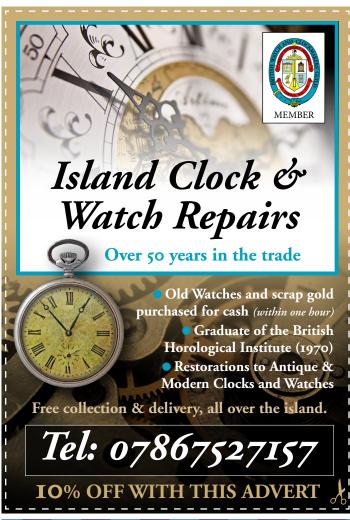
Four categories will be decided by the people of the Island with a public vote, from 16th January.

Winners will be announced at our Best in Business Awards Party, which will be taking place on Friday, February 24th 2023 at Gurnard Pines.











# Anne Ginger

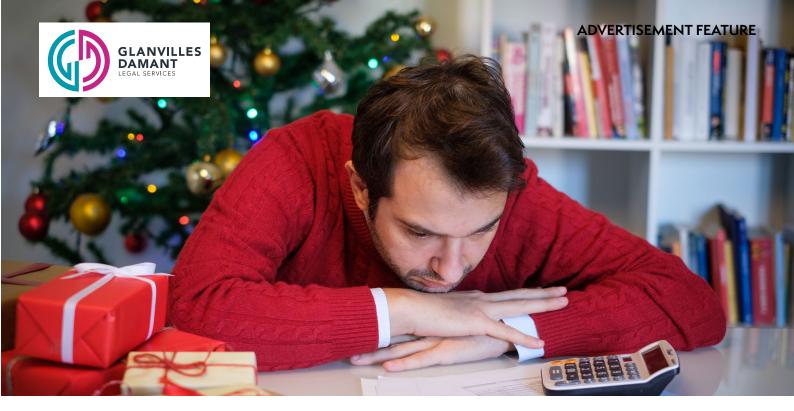


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 $\dashv$  LEGAL & FINANCIAL  $\vdash$ 

# Tis' the Season for Gift Giving and Tax Planning

Written by Jessica Whale, Trainee Solicitor

f you are struggling for ideas on what to gift your loved ones this Christmas you might want to start thinking of tax efficient ways to give your money. Making gifts can be a useful tax planning tool to reduce the value of your estate and in return your inheritance tax liability. Below we set out some of the main ways to go about this.

# GIFTS TO SPOUSE AND CIVIL PARTNERS

Currently, you do not need to worry about gifts made to your spouse or civil partner as there will be no inheritance tax to pay regardless of how much you gift, so long as you are legally married and both domiciled in the UK.

#### ANNUAL ALLOWANCE

Every tax year each individual is able to gift up to £3,000 tax free by way of your annual allowance. On top of this, if you did not make any gifts in the last tax year, you can bring forward this allowance giving you up to £6,000 but this can only be carried over by one year.

If you have not already done so, Christmas may be the perfect opportunity for you to use up all or some of your allowance. It does not have to be made as a singular gift because it is the cumulative total of gifts in that tax year which are considered.

### **ALLOWANCE**

In any one tax year, you can make as many small gifts of £250 to as many different people as you wish and these will be immediately exempt from inheritance tax. However, the total of all gifts to one and the same person in the same tax year must not exceed £250. This means that a gift of the annual exemption and the small gift exemption to the same person will result in the annual exemption being available and the small gift exemption being lost in respect of that gift.

# REGULAR PAYMENTS OUT OF

If you have an estate that might be taxable to inheritance tax and you are lucky enough have income left over after paying for the electricity bills and other expenses then you might want to think abot making regular tax-free gifts to loved ones. It is important to ensure that these regular gifts are being made as part of 'normal expenditure' and that you are left with sufficient income to maintain your standard of living without having to dip

into capital to pay for anything. If your gifts do not meet this criteria then they will not qualify for the exemption and may result in tax being payable. For this reason, it is a good idea to set up a regular pattern of gifting and also keep records of all income and expenditure to avoid any unwanted questions later on. Regular payments made over a number of years, subject to meeting the necessary criteria, can result in considerable inheritance tax savings.

#### THE 7 YEAR RULE

Obviously, you do not have to restrict yourself to only gifting within these exemptions and allowances but if you do make a gift over and above the allowances then depending on the size of your estate and the size of the gift there may be unwanted inheritance tax consequences if you do not survive for 7 years after making the gift.

In fact, if you have a large estate and think it is very likely that you will survive 7 years then it might be worth considering giving away larger sums of money in your lifetime to mitigate the tax payable on your death. However, it is only advisable to do so after taking appropriate legal advice. ©



The rules surrounding Inheritance Tax are complicated. Each set of circumstances is unique and requires careful planning and consideration. For this reason, it is a good idea to obtain advice from a specialist private client lawyer. Please contact Kate Howard on kate.howard@gdlegalservices.co.uk or 01983 527878 to arrange a meeting.



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For more information please contact the New Homes Department:

0808 1699788 | 01983 538080 newhomes@hrdiw.co.uk



As ever, subtlety is key – placed in jars, through vines of in woven baskets, lights inside will illuminate through the tiny gaps to spray decorative shapes and lines across your outside space. Other clever changes to existing lighting can also be made. Change these to a lower wattage to enable Christmas lights to stand out more, and even experiment with green and red bulbs to create a new ambiance to your outside space.

Light projectors are a great way of creating additional lighting and brilliant effects, as well. There are a wide variety of creative designs that echo the festive season, and these can be beamed onto walls or into dark garden recesses in order to bring a unique two-dimensional effect to spaces.

Alternatively, use of

It's also possible to buy in or even make Christmas orbs, and these can look absolutely enchanting when dotted around the garden or placed on the front steps of your house. They are particularly stunning when laid on freshly fallen snow (if we're lucky enough to see some!).

If you do have shrubbery, trees, bushes or hedges, try dressing them up sparingly with lights and shapes. Pulled across in a consistent line guides the eye and looks great, although given the current situation with energy prices, it's a good idea to make sure lights are set on a timer. Not only will you get maximum value out of the hours your garden is lit up, it will also ensure neighbours aren't perplexed at your 3am lightshow!

Finally, if you have a wreath on your front door, use lights to increase its

#### **STAR QUALITY**

Using Christmas shapes hung around the garden will really move the indoors outdoors. Consider Moravian stars in Christmas trees, plus bows, reindeer silhouettes, candy sticks, snowflakes and gingerbread men.

And of course, a selection of bright red Christmas baubles will make any tree, bush or shrub feel festive.

Just be sure that nothing you are hanging outside can endanger wildlife or curious critters.

Finally, an easy cheat when looking to create a winter wonderland garden is to use Christmas elements in a window box. Done smartly, when looking out into your garden, your vision will catch these planted additions and shape the festive view.

In the same way, using fake snow around the edge of windows works as a brilliant border effect to the world outside <sup>3</sup>





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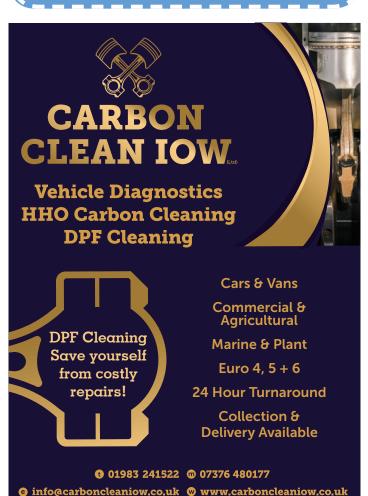
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