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December 2022

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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





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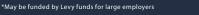
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# **Festive Cocktails**

Get into the festive spirit with a cocktail or two, using locally made ingredients. Tipsy Wight<sup>®</sup> 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



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FINANCE

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D

# CHOCOLATE TRUFFLES

These chocolate truffles are incredibly straight forward to make, and are an impressive dinner party addition, or purse friendly festive gift. Mary Goodsell believes this recipe is ideal for providing a perfect homemade **Christmas gift** 



Place the chopped chocolate into a heatproof bowl and set aside.

**Pour** the cream into <u>a small</u> saucepan and add the butter. Heat gently until it almost comes to the boil. Remove from the heat and pour over the chocolate.

3 Whisk them both together until melted, creating a smooth ganache.

Leave to cool completely. Then cover with cling film or a clean tea towel and chill for 2 hours or until the ganache has set.

<u>ice cream scoop, melon baller or</u> teaspoon to scoop out balls of the ganache. Carefully roll with your hands to make a smooth truffle ball (you may want to rinse your hands under cold water and dry thoroughly before making these as they will melt quickly from the heat of your hands). Place onto a baking tray lined with greaseproof paper or into individual mini paper cases and repeat with the remaining ganache.

Let your creativity run wild with the decorations. Chopped hazelnuts or pistachios, desiccated coconut, cocoa or beetroot powder all make showstopping truffle decorations.

#### INGREDIENTS

150g (5oz) milk, dark or white chocolate, roughly chopped 60ml (2fl oz) double cream 15g (<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>oz) unsalted butter, softened Decorations of your choice

#### METHOD

These chocolate truffles will last up to 2 weeks in the

refrigerator and for around 4-6 months in the freezer



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



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



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





#### 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.



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 at 2.30pm.

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



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



### 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** 



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## Morry 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

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08001 448848 www.islefindit.org.uk

- Isle of Wight Council Covid-19 support 01983 823600
- Struggling on your pension?
- Pension Credit helpline 0800 991 234

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# COWES AMATEUR OPERATIC AND DRAMATIC SOCIETY 125 YEARS OF ENTERIAINMENT

UNITY THEATRI

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 nonavailability 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.

CAODS 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  $f_{1}$ 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  $\pounds 27,500$ 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 communitybased 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















Fri 9<sup>th</sup> Dec 7.30pm Sat 10<sup>th</sup> Dec 2.30pm Sun 11<sup>th</sup> Dec 2.30pm

2022

XII

Adults £9 Under 16 £6

Family (2A+2C) £24

BOOKINGS: www.caods.org.uk 01983 295229

WHIPPINGHAM

alkina



afternoon — finishing with a warm drink, or pub 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 vachtsman, Uffa Fox. You'll find his gravestone near the north wall of the churchyard.

This gentle riverside walk is perfect for a Sunday

lunch at the newly renovated Folly Inn.

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.

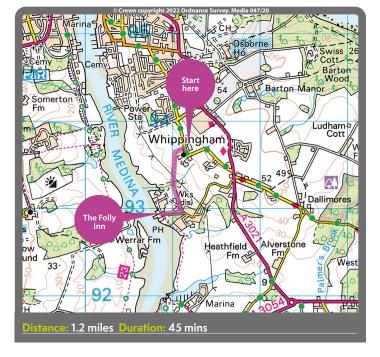
The Folly Inn reopened last month following a 'six figure' refurbishment. The pub's interior has been transformed with new fixtures and fittings, such as an indoor/outdoor fireplace, as well as bi-fold doors along two elevations, offering diners picturesque views over the water.

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.







# 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 wellknown 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

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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 Guide on page 8 to find out what's going on in your area.







25-27 Hope Road, Shanklin, Isle of Wight, PO37 6ED Tel: 01983 863 243 www.gracellie.com

#### Island Residents (VŤP) Card







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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 P033 2SZ Tel: 01983 562382 www.dwjarvis.co.uk





#### ZERO WASTE STARTER KIT

As part of the quiet refill revolution across the country, Her Whey brings you guilt-free shopping with some local products and most importantly, no waste! They offer sustainable, affordable products that don't 'cost the earth'. From pantry staples to your bathroom bits and household cleaning products. Shop vegan, organic and gluten free options. Reducing your single use plastic is easy in store. Bring your container and let Her Whey do the rest.

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, PO38 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.

Koko's

Prize: Steiff Cosy Year Bear

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



12 Days

#### 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, P033 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, Petanque 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, PO33 1JG Tel: 01983 614954 Find The Simeon Arms on Facebook



16 BEACON MAGAZINE | December 2022

# Christmas

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



#### CRAFT WORKSHOP 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 PO33 1JG Tel: 01983 614954



#### MEAL FOR 4 WITH PROSECCO AT THE FOLLY INN

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, PO32 6NB Tel: 01983 297171 www.greeneking-pubs.co.uk/pubs/ isle-of-wight/folly



#### 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



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Hayes Aesthetics on Brading High Street provides chemical peels and microneedling, to help with a range of concerns from acne, scaring, sunspots, fine lines and wrinkles and much more! Anti-ageing and Dermal Fillers are also available with a Registered Nurse — NMC and ACE registered. Give yourself some of that self-love this new year. **Prize:** £45 gift voucher

46-48 Brading High Street, Brading, P036 0DQ Tel: 07943 872007 Find Hayes Aesthetics on Facebook



#### MERMAID GIN GIFT SET

Hand-crafted on the Isle of Wight since 2014 using ten ethically sourced botanicals, Mermaid Gin delivers a smooth yet complex blend of fresh organic lemon zest and peppery grains of paradise, with a hint of sea air from wild-foraged, fragrant rock samphire. A refreshing and invigorating serve, for the freespirited.

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, P030 5XE by 16th December.** 



# NEWS FROM

by Cllr Julie Jones-Evans

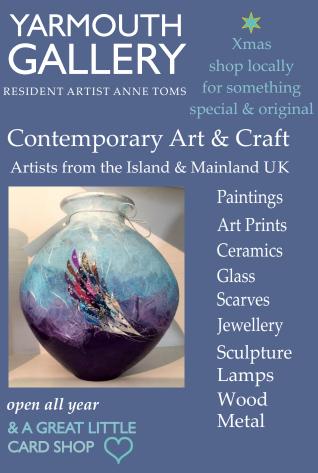
Despite the general malaise affecting our country we have some things to celebrate locally. The big news I have been involved with is the new film studio on the River Medina and due to commercial sensitivity I haven't been able to discuss it until now. The IW Council's land at Kingston Marine Park will be going forward to planning for a film studio. Since I have been the Cabinet Member for Regeneration, I have had three different organisations speaking to me about the need for a studio to enable us to capitalise on the opportunities that the Island has as a premier location. The benefits to the Island economy are huge. All the trades will be required to support and create the studio and the company want to train local people to be able to work. It also brings benefits to accommodation providers, food suppliers and others such as costume makers, which we already have high

quality providers on on the Island.

Further down the river at the harbour, the Newport Harbour Users group had a very informative presentation from the IW Council's Regeneration team, laying out the immediate, medium and long term aspirations for the area. This includes using one of the car parks for temporary housing (modular units), new cultural centre and a temporary outdoor event space - The Steel Yard - creating a venue by the use of steel shipping containers. These uses are really helpful in testing the principle of developing the harbour as a place for leisure and living.

leveloping the harbour as a place for leisure and living. I'd like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy Christmas and given the economic situation our country faces, remind you of this helpful cost of living information website beta.iow. gov.uk/keep-the-island-safe/ cost-of-living/

오 521068/ 07886437688 💿 julie.jones-evans@iow.gov.uk



OPEN DAILY UNTIL23rd & RE-OPEN 27th DEC



## 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

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.

<sup>'</sup> "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 site.

As part of a multimillion 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 changes.

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

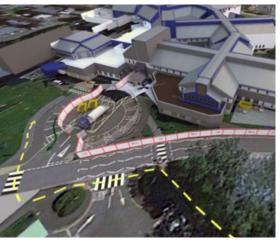
The designated taxi spaces and a number of disabled car parking spaces will also be relocated here as well.

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 time."

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.

## GOLDCREST CLOSE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS RETURN

#### **BY JAMIE WHITE**

A stunning Christmas lights display at a Newport home – which has raised thousands of pounds for charity – is back for 2022.

The incredible display – which takes months to put together – includes reindeer, snowmen, Christmas trees, Christmas puddings, shooting stars and snowflakes.

Last year, more than £3,000 was raised for charity. Matt Whitham, who works tirelessly to put on the display, said: "We are back with our biggest display yet! Our lights will be shining bright every night from the December 1-31, between 4.30pm and 8.30pm.

"We look forward to welcoming all our visitors old and new.

"Our charities this year are The Wessex Cancer trust and IOW Samaritans. They are both very worthy causes that do amazing work on and off the Island."



#### NEWS FROM THE ISLAND'S MP Bob Seely

Hello! Thanks for reading my column. Regardless of happenings in Westminster, I 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 Island. The first is investment in

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 in future.

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. The council have also successfully bid for millions more to improve Ryde Esplanade interchange 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.

Wy 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 good.

bob.seely.mp@ parliament.uk





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PRE-BOOKED APPOINTMENTS ONLY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT



# NEWS FROM

by Cllr Lora Peacey-Wilcox

#### WISHING YOU LAUGHTER, GOOD HEALTH FOR THE FESTIVE PERIOD AND PROSPERITY FOR 2023: I can

never thank you all enough for your unstinting support of me as your local representative. I have for over 51 years put the people of Cowes Medina top in all I think and do. Ask my poor family who appear to come way down on the pecking order. I hope to have at least a few days to spend with family. I hope you are all supported and not alone during this time. CHRISTMAS BAZAAR: In aid of the

CHRIŠTMAS BAZAAR: In aid of the hospice. Saturday 3rd December. Cowes Yacht Haven 10.30-4.30 lots of crafts and local gifts. See you there! PAVEMENT PARKING: I have been

contacted over this issue; particularly an issue in parts of Bellevue Road; but also other roads. Residents choosing to have large cars which then overhang their front gardens taking up half the pavement. I have stated on here before, the last legal advice I had around this issue, was that enough room MUST be kept to allow a double buggy (side by side) to fit through. I have asked the police to patrol the area.

police to patrol the area. **WARM SPACES:** Connecting, support, companionship. Every Monday 10-12: Baptist Church, Victoria Road. A warm welcome for all. **FIRST WEDNESDAY** of each month10-12 Beckford Centre, Beckford Rd. café.

#### SECOND WEDNESDAY OF EACH

MONTH 2-4pm Alzheimer Cafe. Football club off Park Road. 01983 220200. EVERY THURSDAY 10-12 Apex Church (St. Faiths!) is open and a warm welcome to you all. COWES LIBRARY: Open for help and support, and a lovely warm spot. Superb welcoming staff. FIRST FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH 10.30-12.30: Northwood Cemetery free tea, coffee and biscuits! 2nd December.

Tombola! **ROAD ISSUES:** I was contacted by a number of residents following BT putting up road blocks on Cowes to Newport Road. It caused utter chaos and it was not planned works. Following my complaints, I can confirm BT was fined for causing this issue. Result!

MEDINA YARD: I have managed to meet with one of the shareholders of the site. I have grave concerns about the future of this incredibly critical marine and employment site. I was reassured that in the immediate future NO HOUSING will be built on site. They intend to open up the offices on Bridge Road as soon as possible to use as small rental business units. They also are very keen to build more suitable units for boat building. I hope to have good contact with the new owners.

🕙 645765 🖾 lora08@sky.com



## FRESHWATER MOVE FOR YARMOUTH SCHOOL MOVES CLOSER

**BY LOUISE HILL - LDR REPORTER** 

It looks like school will be out forever in Yarmouth, come January. Pupils at Yarmouth Primary School are looking to make the move to Freshwater, on the site of the former All Saints Primary School.

The countdown is on until the new school building in Freshwater is ready, and it looks like pupils will be in their new school for the new year.

Building work on the £4.5 million fit-for-purpose school, on School Green Road, is nearly finished according to the council's education lead, ClIr Debbie Andre.

Speaking at cabinet last week, Cllr Andre said the work is six to eight weeks ahead of schedule, and it is planned to hand the building over on December 9.

Over the Christmas holidays, the school will be moved, so Yarmouth pupils will head to Freshwater for the start of the new January term.

She said: "Our Island children deserve a fantastic environment to be taught in and that is what we are giving them with this new school."

New hard and soft play areas have been included; a library, technology suites and a special educational needs resource base as well as part of the new building using ragstone from the old building.

The plans for the new school – which will accommodate 210 pupils – were viewed as controversial because it meant the closure of All Saints' Primary School with some pupils moving to Yarmouth.



The school closure was done to combat the number of surplus school places in the West Wight area.

According to the council, the former All Saints' site, which had been a school for more than 150 years, was poorly arranged and suffered from subsidence, structural cracking, dry rot and water ingress.

It was argued the school was not suitable for modern-day primary education.

Once the new building was complete, Yarmouth Primary would then move into the site.

Permission was given for the building works two years ago with demolition work starting in the summer of last year.

The school and pupils moved out of All Saints and completed its final term in summer 2020.

The Little Stars Pre-School next door remained in place.

In recent weeks, Yarmouth Town Council has announced its bid to save the former school building by applying to make it an asset of community value.

# FURTHER SIX MONTHS OF FREE PARKING IN NEWPORT

Free parking is to continue in certain short-stay car parks in Newport after the Isle of Wight Council extended the trial.

It means shoppers visiting Lugley Street, Sea Street and Chapel Street car parks can stay for up to one hour for free, for another six months.

The scheme was first launched in May, as part of a council and Newport and Carisbrooke Community Council partnership designed to tempt more shoppers into the town centre.

The council says it will help support local retailers, many of

whom, even before the latest cost-of-living and energy crisis, are still struggling with the massive impact left by the pandemic. Lynn Kennie, from Lynn's

Lynn Kennie, from Lynn's Crafts in Scarrots Lane, said: "The free hour has helped the businesses as people walking along Scarrots Lane are no longer inclined to rush back to the car park and are taking their time to visit the local shops.

"It is brilliant news that the trial will be extended for a further six months."

Latest figures show that between May 24 and



## 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

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.

November 14, the trial witnessed 59,106 more parking transactions across the three car parks than the same period in 2021.

The initiative is part of the Shaping Newport partnership programme that brings together business and councils to develop a new future for the county town.

Drivers who want to take advantage of the extended trial will need to obtain and display a free parking ticket from the machines.

Councillor Phil Jordan, Cabinet member for highways and infrastructure, said: "I know the trial has been hugely popular and welcomed by local businesses; so, it gives me great pleasure to extend it for a further six months.

"Working with our partners, we

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.

Tickets will be available from www.quayarts.org.



are fully committed to working on a range of innovative projects which will support our towns to thrive and prosper in a post-pandemic society.

"These schemes demonstrate the commitment to work with the town and parish councils across the Island in bringing the best outcomes for their communities in a joint approach and by working together in partnership."



#### NEWS FROM COWES WEST AND GURNARD

#### by Cllr Paul Fuller

COST OF LIVING SUPPORT: A few months ago, I requested that the IW Council pools national and local information available to support residents through the Cost of Living crisis. This information has been gathered and can be found at: www. beta.iow.gov.uk/keep-the-island-safe/ cost-of-living/

LOCAL SHOPS: I've been asked to support local shopping and encouraging people to shop local and try to avoid the internet for this year's festive shopping. Please note once lost, businesses can be lost forever! SOMERTON FARM, NEWPORT ROAD, NORTHWOOD. (REF: 22/01720/ OUT): A major planning application has been submitted to develop adjoining Somerton Farm in Northwood. The proposal is for 163 dwellings with employment use. For details please visit: publicaccess.iow.gov.uk/ PARKING: Parental parking in the Crossfield Estate and Baring Road continues to be an issue. Parking Enforcement will take place outside schools during the winter period. **GURNARD PARISH COUNCIL** 

PRECEPT: Prior to setting its precept,

Gurnard Parish Council are seeking feedback on local priorities. For details please see the survey in Gurnard News. CONTACTING ME!: If you leave a message, please let me know your telephone number! Throughout December and Christmas, I am holding surgeries (visit: paulfullercc.blogspot. com) and free to take calls/ texts. emails. BEACH SAFETY: I attended the protest over bathing water quality at Gurnard Beach. The Parish Council's Beach Working Party are seeking to address concerns and priorities in the pending Gurnard Beach Action Plan. Following its second meeting, members meet again in December. Let me know if you can contribute support! CALBOURNE, PORCHFIELD AND **THORNESS:** Following the resignation of neighbouring Cllr Steve Hastings, I have met several lovely residents who contacted me. Following the byelection I'm looking forward to working with Steve's replacement.

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INTRODUCTION



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Jackie Whiller Consultant Nurse and Community Team Lead

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mountbatten.org.uk/home



## There is still time to donate - ends 9th December



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THE ISLAND'S FAVOURITE ...

# **ISENDIGATION BESTINBUSINESS AVARDS 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.





Nominate your favourite Island business at iwradio.co.uk

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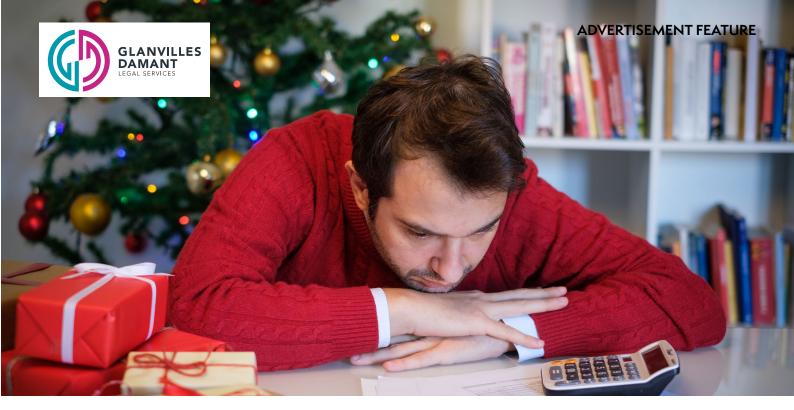
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#### 🕂 LEGAL & FINANCIAL 🛏

# 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  $\pounds 250$  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  $\pounds 250$ . 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.<sup>(3)</sup>



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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Having a creative Christmas at home is about more than just a tree and a few bits of tinsel. When surrounded by the aromas of food, or the warmth of family and friends, there is something incredibly satisfying when it comes to looking out onto a festive garden. Here are a few suggestions to make your outside space joyful and merry this Christmas.

#### LIGHT IT UP

Lights are the number one addition to any Christmas scene, and with darkness descending ever earlier, their effect is longer-lasting.

As ever, subtlety is key placed in jars, through vines or 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 twodimensional effect to spaces.

Alternatively, use of

candles can produce natural light that feels warm and traditional, especially when they are grouped together.

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

appearance, as well as adding to walkways and paths. Remember to do this subtly, however – while the temptation is to 'go large' with outside lighting, less is usually more.

#### **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.

#### WINDOW TO WONDERLAND

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 ③



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