



IWALC

Serving Town, Parish and
Community Councils

County Officer's Report for June 2024

At the last NALC County Officer's meeting there was mention about letters that have been received by Town and Parish Councils as account holders of Lloyds bank. Jonathan Owens believes that this was a mistake by Lloyds as financial regulations have not changed, and that as long as your Town / Parish account has an income of less than £500k a year that you are financially protected.



The Red Squirrel Forum took place last week with representatives present from 4/5 Town and Parish Councils. This meeting was spoken of at the IWALC / IWC Cabinet meeting and it was suggested that several people from each parish volunteer to help with this monitoring. Full details will be sent to councils once received.

The Anti-Poverty workshop will take place in the w/c 8th July, more details to follow. In the meantime, the surveys are still open

Residents survey: <https://forms.office.com/e/u40K7Ywhva>

Organisational survey: <https://forms.office.com/e/iuzJJy9zUf>

I can also confirm that we will be holding a Topic meeting in August with Darren Steed who works in Emergency Planning at the Isle of Wight Council regarding flooding and fire prevention.

Training for basic councillor skills will take place on 27th June, there are still spaces left for this so please email me to book your place. The AGM will be taking place on Thurs 27th July.

Julie Hutchison

Focus on Youth



The Isle of Wight Youth Council has elected the leads of their priority committees along with a Democratic Services Officer. These committee leads will be responsible for coordinating the work of their committee as they attempt to make change in respect to their allocated priority area, and were decided based on the 2024 Make Your Mark consultation results, as well as the Youth Alliance Conference held this year, as a more democratic approach to deciding our priorities. All of this has culminated in the change from a cabinet to a committee system being well underway, mimicking the change the Isle of Wight Council are taking later this year.

The Council's Democratic Services Officer is responsible for the facilitation of polling as well as other elements covered under our commitment to increasing youth democratic participation.

The Island's Member of Youth Parliament has been making progress in his #VanishTheVapour campaign, the goal of which is to tackle the issue of youth addiction to vaping. He met with members of the Public Health Board and the High Sheriff of the Island.

Communication with committee leads or with our Member of Youth Parliament can be done by emailing the Chairman at

lianne.p.iwyc@gmail.com or the Secretary of the Council at

ethan.w.iwyc@gmail.com

Biosphere Festival

Huge number of community events to celebrate the very first Biosphere Festival
June 29th and 30th
iwbiosphere.org/biospherefestival

The island community has come together to put on a wonderful variety of events across the Island celebrating our UNESCO Biosphere Reserve as part of the Biosphere Festival on June 29th and 30th. Most are free or very low cost, and there are a mix of activities for adults and children, so there should be something for everyone! Read on to find out what is happening and how you can help (we really need help spreading the word this first year!).




There will be two days of activities for adults and children on Biosphere subjects at the Quay Arts Centre in Newport, as well as a weekend of family fun and learning at the Wildheart Animal Sanctuary's Festival of Conservation and Science (FOCAS) Festival. But it doesn't stop there, all around the island there will be events exploring local nature and our human connections with it. Most events are free and family friendly. For a full programme and map of everything happening see our website www.iwbiosphere.org/biospherefestival

At our Biosphere Hub in the Quay Arts Centre, we will have talks, walks, workshops, and performances, all free. These include: folk music about the island, crafty bunting upcycling with IW Open Studios, a talk on the Prehistoric Wight, Creaturama cardboard constructions, a workshop on applying Doughnut Economics to create a shared vision for the island, a Newport nature walk, expert guidance on wildlife friendly gardening for small gardens, inspiring information about energy equality and mini intaglio printmaking.

Around the rest of the island, confirmed events include: crafty activities for children at six local libraries, a rewilding open day, a Creative Biosphere market and activities, a great oak walk, a wellbeing walk, a mindful forest walk and an arty walk, a community clay art workshop, moth identification, fashion upcycling, a permaculture food forest open day, a literary launch, a forest school, a digital heritage trail, beach bliss, mardi gras costume making, an evening of songs about trees, a sustainable fashion concept store, and creative consultations for young people across two Newport venues. There will also be a bike ride for kids, a day of nature activities at Branstone, a street party, churchyard tour, allotment days, a swift walk, a community picnic, storytelling, a talk about solar energy, and more.

We also have island-exclusive screenings of Wilding, a moving film based on the bestselling book by Isabella Tree about the transformation of the Knepp Estate from failing farm to thriving ecosystem. Booking is required for this and some other events, please check individual listings on the website for details.



A group of children and an adult are gathered in a wooded area, engaged in a forest activity. One child in the foreground is wearing a colorful floral patterned dress and a yellow scarf. Another child is wearing a dark blue jacket with a red pattern. An adult with long blonde hair is kneeling on the right, pointing at a piece of wood on the ground. The ground is covered with dry leaves and green grass. The background shows more trees and foliage.

Festival ferry discounts are available from both Red Funnel and Wightlink to allow your friends and family to come over and join the celebrations too.

The Isle of Wight Biosphere Festival is in its first year, and we really need your help to spread the word and make sure it is a success. We would be very grateful if you could share festival information to any parish council bulletins, newsletters, meetings or other communications you have coming up. We have Instagram and Facebook accounts (both @iwbiosphere) where you can share posts. We also have posters to put up. If you are able to take any to put up in your area, or can help volunteer in any other way, please contact hello@iwbiosphere.org.



WE ARE TAKING PART IN THE
ISLE OF WIGHT BIOSPHERE FESTIVAL
www.iwbiosphere.org



We are going to be

Art, Craft & Information Stalls

Bring a dish to share

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Join us for a Street Party
 Sunday 30th June 2024
 12 noon till 4pm

Coinciding with the Isle of Wight Biosphere Festival
 Café will be open to buy drinks

MA
 MONKTONARTS

**11 EAST STREET
 RYDE PO33 1JP**

Get a cosier home with the Warmer Homes Programme

Warmer Homes is a scheme for Island homes that can help lower energy bills keep homes warmer in the winter and cooler in the summer.

Those eligible could receive fully funded energy saving improvements for

their homes, such as insulation, air source heat pumps and solar PV panels. The Isle of Wight Council is part of a group of 23 local authorities,

and funding is available on the Island.

Eligibility criteria includes:

- You use electric, oil or LPG to heat your home, not mains gas.
- Your Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating is D, E, F, or G (Warmer Homes can help you find out if you're not sure).
- You have a household income of £36,000 or under, or you or you receive a means-tested benefit.
- If you are eligible, you could receive fully funded energy saving improvements for your home like insulation, air source heat pumps and solar PV panels.

For more information and to check eligibility, please visit Warmer Homes energy-efficiency home improvements | Warmer Homes or call freephone 0800 038 5737.

Information can also be found on the Isle of Wight Councils webpage The

Warmer Homes programme (iow.gov.uk)



NALC Star Council Awards

The opportunity to vote for the NALC Star Council Awards is now OPEN. The same categories are in place as last year;

Council of the Year
Councillor of the Year
Young Councillor of the Year
County Association of the Year
Clerk of the Year
– with the new category
Climate Response of the Year

Nomination forms must be completed by 6th September , click [HERE](#) for more information and to get nominating!

Youth Engagement Summit

18 July 2024 – 10.00 – 16.00
£65 + VAT

Does your local (parish and town) council provide platforms where young people can voice their perspectives and contribute to decision-making processes? NALC, the Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC), and One Voice Wales (OVW) are joining forces to host the Youth Engagement Summit. The virtual event for local councils, councillors, clerks and council staff across England and Wales to explore innovative ways to engage and inspire young people. Join the summit to discover how to create meaningful apprenticeship opportunities that equip young individuals with valuable skills and experience, cultivate the next generation of political leaders – learn ways to empower young people in your community to take their rightful place in the political arena, delve into the intricacies of how young people can influence policy decisions in the Senedd. This training promises to be a transformative experience that will equip you with the tools and knowledge to unlock the full potential of youth influence in policy-making, celebrate the remarkable achievements of young councillors, be inspired by their dedication and leadership and explore how local councils can support and promote the prestigious Duke of Edinburgh Award, fostering personal development and community service among youth.

Buy Tickets (ticket orders are via the [SLCC website](#), which will require an existing or new SLCC account)





As the summer starts to pick up speed, everyone looks towards the beach and appropriately, Hovertravel hosted the Ryde Accessible Beach Project partnership event.

After hearing about the impact this new level of accessibility will bring from the project's ambassadors, there was a trip on the hovercraft around to the beach to see the boardwalk in action. To kick-start the next push to reaching the fund-raising target of £25000

The Government's Inclusive Transport Leaders Scheme awarded Hovertravel with Leader status. The Leader level is the top level of accreditation in the scheme, with Hovertravel having been recognised at this level when the scheme launched in 2020 and now achieving this top status again.

On the 1st May First Bus took over the contract to operate Hovertravel's H1 (Hoverbus) service, which connects the hovercraft for crossings to and from the Isle of Wight taking passengers from its Southsea Terminal to stops across Portsmouth including the city centre and both rail stations. Alongside a new bus with a new livery, customers are benefitting from reduced ticket prices.

HoverGreen, Hovertravel's environmental initiative, achieved recognition across the Solent region, securing gold in both the Visit Portsmouth and Visit Isle of Wight's Green Tourism Awards.

Hovertravel has added additional late flights outside its normal timetable to support The Big Beach Weekend and Isle of Wight Pride event. This means as well as attracting customers from the mainland, we can offer the flights in the opposite direction at a reduced rate for islanders who wish to extend their day in Southsea, Portsmouth and beyond. We receive the occasional request to run later flights so this a great opportunity to see how much customer demand exists on the Island.

Hovertravel is launching a limited time offer for Island residents on its extra late night returns on 11th, 12th, 13th and 20th July. Customers returning from Southsea after 1930 on these dates will be able to buy an adult return for £15 and a child return for £10 if they book online before 23rd June.

LOCAL NEWS

Ryde Town Council Annual Town Meeting – This event took place on the 30th May and was a great success.

Ryde Timebank - On Thursday evening at the Ryde Town Meeting, Ryde Timebank was officially launched. The time bank aims to strengthen community ties, and joins a national network supported by Timebanking UK. Ryde Timebank brings a fresh approach to connecting people through the exchange of time and skills to the people of Ryde and joins a growing timebanking community on the island



Ryde Town Signs - The two illuminated Ryde town signs at the main entry points to Ryde were reported to be in a severe state of decay. Councillor Malcolm Ross has played a key role in submitting a Public Realm application for funding to repair and weatherproof the signs. Ryde Town Council, through their Community Planning Committee, approved a budget of £3,250 to fully rejuvenate the signs. Biltmore Printers vinyl wrapped the signs, and many of the timber supports were replaced or resecured.



Jobs available



SHALFLEET PARISH COUNCIL

VACANCY FOR PARISH CLERK AND FINANCIAL OFFICER

**60 hours per month, including attendance at evening meetings.
Salary scale dependent on experience and qualifications.
National Terms and Conditions apply.**

Shalfleet Parish Council are seeking a very experienced and motivated individual to fill the vacated post of Parish Clerk and Financial Officer at Shalfleet Parish Council.

This is an exciting opportunity and would suit a Community minded person who has the relevant experience to undertake this post.

They will also be the Clerk to the Council's Community Led Housing Project. The Parish Council covers a number of villages within the Parish Boundary which makes it an interesting and varied post.

The ideal Candidate will be very knowledgeable and experienced, have good verbal and written communication skills, be computer literate and also have the ability and experience to work on their own initiative.

Strong Financial Management and organisational skills are required. Experience at being able to cope in an emergency and have a positive outlook.

The successful candidate must have a CILCA qualification with a minimum of 5 years' experience as a Clerk and also hold the Certificate in the General Power of Competence. A Job Description and Application Form can be obtained by emailing the Locum Clerk at valtayloriw@gmail.com or phoning 01983 852576