



**IWALC**  
**Serving Town, Parish**  
**and Community Councils**  
**September 2024 Newsletter**





## Julie Hutchison County Officer update.

As we start to head towards the winter months, resilience planning has been made easier after a talk by Darren Steed from the Isle of Wight Council, Cllr Chris Adams from Bembridge, Emergency Services personnel from Fire and Ambulance and Hampshire Emergency Planning staff. The meeting was extremely well attended, and requests have already been made for a resilience conference to discuss the matter further. The PDF of the presentations were emailed to Executives and Clerks of member councils.

The deadline has now passed for Tree and hedgerow packs from The Woodland Trust, speakers joined the NALC County Officers call to talk about canopy cover in the UK and the need to plant more trees and hedgerows to support wildlife. Applications can be made at any time of the year, trees and packs are normally sent out in March and November, find more about their free tree packs on their website [here](#).

I was invited to join the Tree Wardens meeting in County Hall last Friday, where plans are underway to invite members of the Public to become volunteer tree wardens, helping wildlife, increasing habitats and monitoring what we have. There will be more news coming soon about how volunteers will be trained, giving an opportunity for people to learn and meet new people whilst staying active. It is hoped that communities across the Island will be able to help with this work.

The White Ribbon campaign supports the ending of violence against women and girls. Currently, 15% of councils signed up nationally. If your council has considered supporting the campaign, please go to their website on how to do this <https://www.whiteribbon.org.uk/organisations>

WCAG 2AA website standards to support inclusive web use

On Tuesday, August 6th, Graham Biss, the High Sheriff, attended our monthly Youth Council meeting. He introduced his role and shared his main goals for his term: improving the Island's voluntary sector, promoting youth provisions, uniting existing groups, and ensuring the Island is prepared to receive funding for youth opportunities. He also aims to change the media's portrayal of young people as 'anti-social' and encourage more youth participation, which declined due to COVID-19.

Biss engaged the members by asking how he could help create an environment where young people would volunteer more and how to make voluntary groups more appealing to them. We concluded that schools should

promote volunteering alongside peers, that groups should be more inclusive of young people, and that opportunities should be promoted through social media and school talks. We were pleased with his initiatives, especially since opportunities for youth are scarce.

Committee leads have started meeting with their teams. The Education and Learning group decided on three priorities: more drama opportunities, anti-bullying, and action against youth vaping. Lastly, we reintroduced 'Youth Council On The Road' (YCOTR), a mock meeting held at schools to introduce the Youth Council to more young people and hear their views on community issues. We hope that educators will be open to having us!"



will be coming into effect in October. NALC are in the process of updating their website which will encompass these new regulations. Replying to a query, NALC will be providing guidance to councils to ensure compliance shortly.

Elect Her joined the NALC Women's Network meeting earlier this month, giving information on the range of support and bursaries they can provide to women. Elect Her are funded by the Fawcett Society and offer a space to guide and support women through all levels of political careers and are free to join.

NALC run [National Networks](#) of specific interests that normally meet every 3 months, accompanied by a corresponding WhatsApp channel. These are especially good to ask questions / advice and share stories of what is happening in communities in England. The National Networks include; Climate Emergency Network, Coastal Communities, LGBTQIA+, Micro councils, Super councils, Women councillors and Young

councillors. It is in everyone's benefit to support diversity in our councils, and often people are more likely to consider becoming a councillor if they have been directly asked if they have considered it. With the IW Council elections coming up next year, I would be very interested in your suggestions in how IWALC can encourage more people to become councillors. Please email me at [countyofficer@iwalc.org](mailto:countyofficer@iwalc.org) with suggestions. NALC are organising a free 'Become a councillor' webinar on Weds Nov 13<sup>th</sup>, the link to get free tickets is [here](#)

There is concern in communities regarding the loss of the Winter Fuel Allowance. Citizens advice are helping residents (see below).

Lastly, I have been invited to meet with the Youth Council in October. The Youth Council meetings take place in County Hall and is for young people age 11-21, giving the opportunity for young people to represent their peers and act on their behalf.



# EQUIP HER

CAMPAIGN SUPPORT FOR WOMEN PREPARING FOR SELECTION AND ELECTION

Our programme is designed to support you with the tools and knowledge you need to feel confident to run for office, whether that is:

1. Training
2. Coaching
3. Campaigning
4. Safety online and off
5. Grants

ELECT HER

## COUNCILLORS' COFFEE TIME

MONDAY 30TH SEPTEMBER  
BOTH 13:00-14:00 & 19:00-20:00

We want to be your cheerleader during your time in elected office. Join our supportive community to gain advice, confidence, and the opportunity to unwind with a hot drink with women who get it. Together, we can face any challenge.

An illustration of two hands holding a white mug filled with coffee. The hands are wearing brown, knitted sleeves.

## SUPPORT HER

Coaching for women in elected office

The coaching is a brilliant programme and nothing short of transformative. I've stopped asking 'Why me?' or 'am I good enough?' and instead I feel more confident. I've stopped feeling overwhelmed by the enormity of it all.

- 6 month coaching programme
- 70 coaches paired with 70 Councillors and MPs over the past 14 months
- Next cohort intake June 2025

ELECT HER





There is **less than a month** to go until this year's **Isle of Wight Literary Festival**...and tickets are selling well.

Big names such as Gyles Brandreth, Clare Balding, Celia Imrie, Susie Dent and Louise Minchin are proving so popular with audiences that they have been moved to larger venues at the Cowes-based event. The good news is that means there are still tickets to be had for these and other authors.

The Isle of Wight Literary Festival is based at Northwood House and runs from October 3-6. There is also a festival-opening Jazz Event at Northwood House on Wednesday, October 2.

You can find out more about this year's eclectic festival line-up and book your tickets at <https://www.isleofwightliteraryfestival.com/speakers-2024>

#### **Another super Victorious Festival**

With extra flights on every night of the bank holiday weekend, Hovertravel operated past midnight for each day of the Victorious Festival, bringing islanders home after an evening of live music. Free retro sweets made a great impression too.

#### **Hovertravel in the final!**

Hovertravel is one of eight finalists in UKInbound's national Excellence Awards (Transport Provider of the Year) but we need other members of UKInbound to vote for us. We are up against some stiff competition with other finalists including Uber Boat by Thames Clippers, DFDS and P&O (although we are the only cross-Solent ferry in the final) so we will be using our stakeholder contacts and LinkedIn to drum up votes.

Still adding **late flights for Portsmouth FC supporters** Hovertravel now has six special charters for Pompey supporters who wish to watch a late home game at Fratton Park for six matches from October through to March next year. The charter includes a coach transfer back to the Southsea hoverport and a seat on the 2215 departure.



A selection of scams for you today from Trading Standards –

- Reports of friends or colleagues emails being hacked and requests for money – any mention of finances in an online request should be treated with suspicion – regardless of the sender. Always check with the person who has contacted you to ensure it is a genuine request or advice – the chances are very high that it will be a scam and their accounts have been hacked.
- Postal delivery texts to say there was a problem with your order – DO NOT click on links in these or any other messages, these are phishing scams designed to harvest your information
- Reminder that not all 01983 numbers are to be trusted – latest purports to be from visa saying £300 has been taken by Amazon and telling you to press 1 to sort a refund – This is a SCAM
- Callers purporting to be from Age UK asking for donations – when the number was checked online at who called me there are lots of negative reports – DO NOT respond to requests for money over the phone
- Email claiming to be from DVLA – this will advise you that your details are incorrect and you need to click a link to amend – DO NOT click on links in emails

Friends Against Scams website.

For those of you who haven't done it the online training takes about 20 Minutes however I am able to provide a more comprehensive version if you feel you or your staff would benefit.

Please note there is an accessible version for anyone with a learning disability and a BSL signed version as well

I hope you find this information useful and if you have any further questions around any of it please don't hesitate to contact me

[www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk](http://www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk).

Kind regards

Sally Ash, IW Council







## The 25th IW Walking Festival anniversary celebrations continue!

25-years after it first launched, the multi-award-winning Isle of Wight Walking Festival remains one of the UK's most loved and largest walking festivals. Bringing the summer season to a close, this year the Autumn Walking Festival takes place from Saturday 05 to Sunday 13 October and features an array of new and exciting walks as well as some old favourites.

The IW Walking Festival is a celebration of walking and nature, attracting hundreds of visitors to the Island each year. Most walks are free or with a donation to charity and there's many opportunities to get involved by either hosting a walk, walking for your chosen charity, supporting with a special offer or by sponsoring the event.

Walking highlights for the Autumn season include the 18-miler 'North to South trek', the 17-mile 'Joey's Walk', hosted in celebration of the 200th anniversary of the founding of the RNLI, or the 14-mile Colwell Loop in the West Wight. New walks for Autumn include insightful walks around The Garlic Farm, the short Bembridge Fort History Walk and Fred's Fascinating Facts at the Godshill Model Village.

If you are interested in hosting a walk, providing an offer or would like more information, please contact via [walking@visitwight.org](mailto:walking@visitwight.org)



RIBA   
IOW Branch

# AUTUMN 2024 LECTURE SERIES

at **QUAY ARTS**

Sea Street, Newport  
Isle of Wight, PO38 5BD

at

Conference Room  
networking: 6.30pm  
talk: 7.00pm

Welcome to our Autumn Lecture Series; talks are free and open to all professionals and interested parties. The theme is the places and spaces that form the settings for our buildings. For details contact the Branch on 07811 325344 or [jasmine.hayden@mitchellellevans.co.uk](mailto:jasmine.hayden@mitchellellevans.co.uk)

RIBA Competition :The Garden City Re-imagined  
Artists Impression © Stride Treglown



**Wed 25th September**

### Stride Treglown -The Garden Village Re-imagined

As the concept of the Garden Village approaches 120 yrs. old, and hundreds of thousands of new homes are required across the Country to address housing shortages, Cadbury and Howard's notion of a place which blends the best of town and country is more relevant than ever today. Ian Tipton, Director with Stride Treglown Architects, traces the movement, from Bournville to Letchworth. Could a modern version benefit a UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Wight?

**Wed 23rd October**

### LDA Design - Portsmouth Sea Defences

A hot topic for the Island. Working with Royal HaskoningDHV and Atkins, Landscape Architects and Urban Designers, LDA Design are leading the design of the Public Realm of the £136m Flood defence Scheme for Portsmouth's Southsea sea front. Kirsty Barker, Associate responsible for the project talks about their role in this once in a lifetime opportunity to completely overhaul an aging promenade and upgrade the use, identity and quality of adjacent public spaces.



Southsea Fort frontage, Photo © Marcin Jedrysiak

**Wed 20th November**

### HIWWT - Rewilding the Isle of Wight

We live in one of the most de-natured countries in the world. The Lockdown reminded us of the importance of being close to Nature. Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust show us how nature led conservation can deliver landscape scale restoration. Jamie Marsh, HIWWT Director of Nature Recovery, Wilder Wight, Solent and Seas, presents their new approach to combatting the biodiversity and climate crisis whilst simultaneously delivering Nature Based Solutions.



Small Copper at Little Durnore, IOW  
Photo © Aggie Thompson





## Ryde lifeguards go electric

An Isle of Wight charity, which runs Ryde's community pool and promotes safety along the coast, has now taken delivery of an electric-powered beach buggy, following a grant from Wightlink.

The ferry company awarded £7,500 to Waterside Community Trust from its Green Innovation Fund towards the cost of the electric all-terrain vehicle (e-ATV). It was delivered to Wightlink's Lymington port and driven on and off the ferry to Yarmouth by Trust General

Manager Todd Miller. "Our new buggy will transform our operations," says Todd. "Our lifeguards will use it to tow our beach wheelchairs, an inshore rescue boat and other equipment, perform patrols and much more in both Ryde and Sandown, while helping us to reduce our carbon emissions and look after the amazing Island we live on."

Wightlink's Green Innovation Fund has also awarded £2,500 to sustainable transport provider Keert towards buying a new e-cargo bike to make deliveries in the West Wight.

Did you know that **FREE** government grants are available to help cover the cost of upgrading your home?



**FREE**  
Wall & loft  
insulation



**FREE**  
Heating



**FREE**  
Solar panels



## Future Isle of Wight

We're a community interest company helping Island residents improve their homes to make them warmer, more efficient, and cheaper to run.

All **FREE** of charge! (subject to eligibility)

**Go to [futureiow.co.uk/grants](https://futureiow.co.uk/grants)**

Call: 01983 632460

Email: [contact@futureiow.co.uk](mailto:contact@futureiow.co.uk)

129 Pyle Street, Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 1JW





The Mental Health Alliance was formed to work in partnership to focus on the continuum of mental health and wellbeing; prevention, early intervention and access to crisis care to help build and sustain resilient communities, families and individuals of all ages.

We have over 60 local organisations represented on the group including public, statutory, charitable and community organisations all working to promote positive wellbeing on the Island. The role of the Alliance includes delivering on the mental wellbeing and suicide prevention plans, feeding into the Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Partnership by working together to:

Reduce stigma, share local and national best practice, provide networking and information sharing opportunities to facilitate a joined-up system, raise the profile of prevention, early intervention, self help and support available to improve individual emotional and mental resilience, facilitate equality and access to services when required to ultimately reduce numbers of those in crisis and reduce incidence of death by suicide. The

Alliance meets biannually (usually November and May) with an e-bulletin shared weekly. If your town or parish council would like to be involved in the Mental Health Alliance, please email [publichealth@iow.gov.uk](mailto:publichealth@iow.gov.uk) with 'MHA membership' in the subject line.

10th September is World Suicide Prevention Day, providing an opportunity for people to raise awareness of suicide and suicide prevention. Everyone has physical health, and everyone has mental health, they both change every day, for the better or the worse. Having suicidal thoughts doesn't mean that someone has a mental illness, suicidal thoughts and feelings can be complex, frightening, confusing and lonely.

Part of reducing the stigma around mental health is talking about it without the fear of judgment or discrimination. By talking more openly about suicide, we can give people the chance to express how they feel and get the support they need. It could even save a life.

What you can do:

Watch out for changes in behaviour that could mean someone's having suicidal thoughts

Speak up to let someone know that there is support available

Play your part by reaching out to anyone you're concerned about

Ditch the stigma – suicidal thoughts are far more common than most people know – so let's talk about it!

For support see: Samaritans and East Hants Mind. In an emergency dial 999 or if you need to urgently speak to someone dial 111. If someone is feeling in despair or suicidal there is support available:

- text SHOUT to 85258 for free, anonymous, 24/7 confidential support
- Samaritans can be contacted for telephone support and face-to-face counselling. See: [Samaritans website](#) or call 116 123 (free from any phone) or 0330 094 5717 (local call charges apply)
- Papyrus provides help for young people up to the age of 30 years. For more information visit the [Papyrus website](#) or call 0800 068 4141 (available 9am to midnight every day)

Anyone can be impacted by suicide, Amparo provide support for anyone affected by suicide, see: <https://amparo.org.uk/>

If you have a free 20 mins, complete this FREE online Zero Suicide Awareness training. You could help save a life [https://](https://www.zerosuicidealliance.com/suicide-awareness-training)

[www.zerosuicidealliance.com/suicide-awareness-training](https://www.zerosuicidealliance.com/suicide-awareness-training)

## FIVE WAYS TO WELLBEING





## Unclaimed Pension Credit

Did you know that.....

### Pension Credit is worth on average £3300 per year for pensioners

Nationally the DWP estimates that £1.7 billion of Pension Credit went unclaimed by up to 1 million pensioner households in the financial year 2021/22.

**Locally** – it is estimated that **£4,253,426.00** has gone unclaimed by Islanders alone – that equates to around 154 pension age households receiving housing benefits that are not currently claiming pension credit.

Citizens Advice Isle of Wight urge those that have reached pensionable age contact us for a quick eligibility check to ensure that you are getting all the financial help that you are entitled to.

We're also calling on everyone with retired family, friends and loved ones to check in with them and see if they are aware of the help they can receive.

### Contact us today & check if you are eligible

Call us today on our callback service **01983 309 309** and leave your contact details – stating the reason for your call is in relation to a Pension Credit check and an adviser will call you back.

## Local News

Arreton Parish Council

Contractors have been on site at Gore Cemetery to remove a severely damaged holm oak tree. New planting will be considered over the next few months.

The Parish Council is working in conjunction with Community Action IW to conduct a Housing Needs Survey for the Parish. Leaflets were delivered to every household during August and pickup/drop off points set up in various locations for the survey itself. The deadline for completion is 16th September. Results will be reported in the autumn.

The Parish Council has also been investigating the Arreton and Rookley Education Foundation. This Trust was first set up back in 1863 but has been dormant for around 10 years. It is hoped that the Trust can be put back on a proper footing to enable funds to be distributed.

The work to repopulate **Shalfleet Parish Council** continues with 2 more newly elected Councillors for Shalfleet West.

We welcome Jane Timbrell, well known in Wellow for her work as chair of Wellow Institute Tel 07703765056 email: [janetimbrell56@icloud.com](mailto:janetimbrell56@icloud.com) And Jacky Laurie of Cranmore Tel 07366383688 email: [j.laurie@me.com](mailto:j.laurie@me.com)

At our last meeting Shalfleet Parish Council awarded a grant of £250.00 to the 'Stay and Play' group for children under 5 and their parents and carers. The group meets at Shalfleet Village Hall regularly on Friday between 9.30 and 1.00. They would be delighted to welcome more to the group.

Jonathan, Thomas (briefly) and I attended the leavers assembly at Shalfleet Primary School to give all Year 6 leavers a copy of the book launched to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the D Day, by Jill Cowley and Heather Cooper ( past Clerk to Shalfleet PC) .

The office at Newbridge Community Centre is now permanently closed, resulting in a substantial saving in not having an office. Those savings can be used for the Community's benefit.

Our new Clerk is Tina Bailey who can be contacted by email at [clerk@shalfleetiow.org.uk](mailto:clerk@shalfleetiow.org.uk).

I would like to thank Val Taylor, Locum Clerk, for all the hard work she has done rejuvenating the Council, Val was appointed by the previous Chair.

Steve Cowley,

Chair Shalfleet Parish Council



**Ryde Town Council** celebrates the Official Opening of Beach Accessibility Provisions!

We are thrilled to announce the official opening of our beach accessibility facilities! This milestone event marks a significant step forward in ensuring that everyone, regardless of mobility challenges, can enjoy the beautiful five-mile stretch of Ryde beach.

A Community-Driven Project with a Handcrafted Boardwalk, Accessible Equipment, and a changing unit. With an excellent launch day.

### **Uniform swap shop**

We have teamed up with Aspire Ryde and Messy Mums Baby Bank for a uniform swap shop to be held at the Former Natwest Building in St Thomas' Square in Ryde.

### **New Artwork at Vectis Hall**

New artwork at Vectis Hall. The artwork features many Ryde landmarks past and present and historical figures from the island and Ringo Starr

### **Events**

Over the months of July & August, we have

had a great number of events in Ryde, The Big Beach Weekender, Pride, Deadpool, Wight Wave Beach Fest, Party on the Green, Children's Carnival Day, Scooter Weekend, Ticket to Ryde, Ryde Carnival, the Illuminated Carnival and The Isle of Wight Classic Motor Show. These have all been great events which we feel has been great for Ryde to attract tourist and for the community to attend. We had a lot of tourists over for the Carnivals and they all have given great feedback especially for the Viewing platform which was available to book for people with disabilities.

We have also hosted 3 days of successful free Events for children down at Eastern Gardens.





## Ventnor

The children took part in the Extraordinary Earth Project by StudentsRebuild, where they created artwork inspired by: our world; nature & animals. For every piece of art submitted, the Bezo's Family Foundation donated \$5, to organisations tackling climate change & protecting, our earth.

The children loved sharing their knowledge of endangered animals & the planet, as well as ideas, on how to protect it & what they can do, to contribute at home. They donated \$230!

The children experimented & created art with; chalk & oil pastels, paint splatter trees in the style of Jackson Pollock & also made clay hedgehogs. They made flower-scapes, on clay tiles, by imprinting various pasta shapes & using modelling tools. Those who took part received a certificate & should feel very proud, of their conscientious, conservation efforts.



Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September also saw community engagement with the Ventnor Orchard Project. Volunteers came forward to help with the Orchard moving forward. Cakes, cheese scones and refreshments were offered, the volunteers took the time to make friends and look at the site. Planting is expected to start in November 2024



Ventnor Town Council extend their thanks to the Hampshire and IW Wildlife Trust in organising an Orchard day, to visit orchards on the Island and learn about set up and maintenance. This will help establish a well planned orchard from the outset.



## **OLYMPIC EFFORT IMPROVES ACCESSIBILITY IN SANDOWN**

Paralympic Gold Medallist Andy Cassell, and Olympian Richard Jefferies helped launch Sandown Town Council's new beach accessibility project, including new Changing Places facility, accessible beach mat, as well as working with other partners on a programme of activity utilising the amenity and inclusive equipment.

Changing Places, is a national scheme, with the facility including hoist, changing bench, grab rails, screen and adjustable sink; and is located near to the publicly accessible toilets at Eastern Gardens, with the 50 meter beach mat nearby; and working with the Wave Project and our Lifeguards service, including accessible children and adult wheelchairs.



Sandown Town Mayor, Alex Lightfoot, said "Working with the IW Council, we have been able to secure national grant funding to support this £100,000+ accessibility project, and would like to thank Andy and Richard, with our partner agencies, for launching this initiative, benefitting residents and tourists alike.' Ramon Van de Velde, Chief Executive Officer of The Wave Project said "At The Wave Project, we're dedicated to making surfing and Surf Therapy as accessible as possible for everyone. The new Changing Place facility in Sandown is a game-changer for our Adaptive Surfing programmes and the wider community. This initiative, along with the beach matting, will massively support our efforts to get more people on the beach and in the water, regardless of their abilities."

The presentation also included the award of a Gold Standard Hygiene Award to Sandown Town Council, in partnership with Danfo, for the maintenance of their public amenities in Sandown; new adaptive equipment as part of a Wave's surf therapy programme, and the extension of accessible initiatives from Sandown Lifeguards.



Andy Cassell and Richard Jefferies added 'The initiative will enable disabled and non-disabled individuals, and their families, to access all the fun and enjoyment the sea offers, with lifeguards providing safe and sensitive support, with Sandown setting a Gold Standard.' Alex concluded "This a major moment in a journey of continuous improvement, with plans for Yaverland Toilets, Sandham Grounds and Information Panels in the pipeline, many of which are also supported with grant funding. A huge thank you to everyone involved in such a brilliant project."

