

oneIsland

Your magazine from the
Isle of Wight Council
Issue eleven
December 2007
www.iwight.com

Keeping our food chain safe Claire's vital role



Also inside: The Tone Zone route to fitness
Council and NHS Christmas details



Welcome



Welcome to the December edition of the council's magazine.

Many of you will have read in recent weeks of the three options for reforming the schools' structure on the Island. In this issue we outline those options for you and provide the overall timetable for the consultations and decision-making.

We are determined that the right decision will be made for the future of our schoolchildren, and that in reaching this decision we will have consulted fully and effectively.

This edition also includes important information on opening times for council services over the festive season, and for our partners at the Isle of Wight NHS Primary Care Trust.

With the festive season in mind, we have provided helpful guidance on issues such as food hygiene over Christmas and shopping in the New Year sales. Looking ahead to 2008, there is also a special feature on keeping healthy with the help of the leisure and other services the council and its partners can offer.

On behalf of councillors and staff, I would like to offer our very best wishes to you all for Christmas and the New Year, and for the year ahead.

Councillor David Pugh
Leader, Isle of Wight Council

One Island is published each month, except for September and January – these editions are combined with those of the previous month. If you have community news to share with other readers or would like to advertise in *One Island*, we would like to hear from you.

We also welcome your letters – you can contact us by post, email or telephone.

Post One Island, Communications, County Hall, Newport
PO30 1UD

Email Onel Island@iow.gov.uk

Telephone 823105



makingcontact

USEFUL CONTACTS

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Newport PO30 1UD

Fax 823333

Email customer.services@iow.gov.uk

Website www.iow.gov.uk

TELEPHONE SERVICES

Call centre 821000

Mon to Fri: 8am to 6pm

Saturday: 9am to 1pm

For telephone assistance we recommend you contact the call centre directly where we aim to answer as many enquiries as possible at this first point of contact.

Popular numbers

Automated telephone payments	559310
Council tax	823901
Education	823455
Environmental health	823000
Housing benefits	823950
Libraries	203880
Licensing	823159
Planning	823552
Refuse collection	823777
Roads and highways	823777
Tourism	813818
Trading standards	823396
Leisure services	823828

Adult and children's services

Adult services	823340
Children's services	525790
Local centres:	
Cowes	291144
Newport	823340
Ryde	566011
Sandown	408448
Headquarters	520600
Housing	823040

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

In an emergency dial 999

Fire and rescue control centre (24hrs)	525121
Out of hours:	
Highways	525121
Waste disposal	0800 3283851
Wightcare	821105



FACE TO FACE SERVICES

Newport Help Centre

Tel 821000

County Hall, Newport PO30 1UD

Mon to Fri: 8am to 6pm

Sat: 9am to 1pm

Ryde Help Centre

Tel 812678

188 High Street, Ryde PO33 2PN

Mon to Fri: 8.45am to 5pm

Sat: 9.30am to 12.30pm

Brading Help Centre

Tel 405873

West Street, Brading PO36 0DR

IW Council desk – Tues: 9am to 1pm

Shanklin Help Centre

Falcon Cross Hall, Falcon Road, Shanklin

Mon only: 10am to 4.30pm

West Wight Information Centre

Tel 756140

Freshwater Library, School Green Road,
Freshwater PO40 9AP

Mon: 9am to 5.15pm,

Tues and Wed: 9.30am to 5.15pm, Thur:
(closed), Fri: 9.30am to 4.45pm. Closed for
lunch (1pm to 2pm each day)

Wootton Bridge Centre

Tel 884361

Joanne's Walk, Brannon Way,
Wootton Bridge PO33 4NU

IW Council desk – Mon, Tues,
Thurs, Fri: 9.15am to 1pm

Cowes Help Centre

Beckford Court, Beckford Road, Cowes

Fri (mornings): 9am to 12 noon

council meetings

Unless otherwise stated, all meetings are in public at County Hall. Call 823200 24-hours before a meeting to ensure it is going ahead and to check if any items are likely to be held in private session.

Council (council chamber)

23 January (6pm)

20 February (6pm)

Cabinet (committee room one)

8 January (6pm)

19 February (6pm)

Planning Committee

(council chamber)

29 January (4pm)

26 February (4pm)

Licensing Committee

(committee room one)

14 January (4pm)

11 February (4pm)

10 March (4pm)

Audit Committee

(committee room one)

12 February (6pm)

11 March (6pm)

Scrutiny Committee

(committee room one)

17 January (6pm)

28 February (6pm)

Standards Committee

(committee room one)

21 January (6pm)

General Purposes Committee

(committee room one)

7 January (4pm)

Policy Commission for Business and Infrastructure

(committee room one)

2 January (6pm)

13 February (6pm)

Policy Commission for Care, Health and Housing

(committee room one)

16 January (6pm)

5 March (6pm)

Policy Commission for Children and School Results

(committee room one)

9 January (6pm)

27 February (6pm)

Policy Commission for Safer Communities

(committee room one)

3 January (6pm)

14 February (6pm)

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Cover picture: Claire Draper, the council's agricultural enforcement officer



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Islandimage



Santa Express, by Paul Lucas

We wish all our readers a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year

One Island is available on request as an audiotape, in large print, in Braille and in other languages.
For further details, please contact One Island on 823105. The magazine is also available online at www.iwight.com

Andy's stark drink-drive message



The council is promoting what is almost certainly its hardest hitting Christmas drink-drive campaign to date.

It is hoped the campaign will be particularly effective because of the bravery of Wroxall man Andy O'Neill (*pictured*) who has agreed to take part.

Father-of-two Andy, 27, was paralysed following an accident at Beaper Shute between Ryde and Brading, on Christmas Day 2004.

He is now keen to share his experiences with others to illustrate the consequences of driving or motorcycling while under the influence of drink.

That is why he agreed to support the campaign and be photographed for posters bearing the message 'It's Your Future – Don't Drink and Drive.'

Stuart Love, director of environment and neighbourhoods, said: "A key aim of this campaign is to show that drink driving affects real people.

"Andy agreeing to help us with this campaign will hopefully put a human aspect to this very important message."

The council's anti-drink drive campaign also involved two displays in Newport where revellers were given advice and glow-sticks bearing safety slogans as a fun reminder of the serious issue.

The One Island programme



The council's One Island programme was launched in February this year in response to the findings of last summer's residents' survey.

The programme consists of 24 projects for 2007/2008, based around the themes of respect, pride and value.

Many of the projects are now underway and we will be bringing you regular updates on their progress.

The projects focus on the themes of Respect, Pride and Value.

More information on some of these projects is provided at www.iwight.com Articles in this edition of the magazine which relate to the programme are labelled with the One Island symbol, shown above.

Undercliff Drive scheme - alternatives to be considered

New options for the Undercliff Drive highways project are being considered by the council.

The council's cabinet has decided not to proceed with the previous scheme in the St Lawrence/Niton area after receiving advice from the government that the project would be highly unlikely to qualify for the necessary grant.

This would have left the council having to find many millions of pounds for a solution that would have an uncertain lifespan.

The cabinet decided to look in detail at an alternative and upgraded route via Whitwell and also at what should be done with the Undercliff itself. Options include maintaining single lane working, developing it as a green way or closing the road at particular points.

The work of the council's investigatory and disciplinary committee – set up to probe how contracts for work on the Undercliff have been procured since 2001 – has also finished.

A full report on the issue was received by the committee and a number of recommendations on what steps need to be taken to prevent a repeat have been accepted.

Checking out those sales bargains

In the period after Christmas many retailers will be holding their major sales, although some stage different sales all year round.

A code of practice about price displays – backed by the law and which shops must follow – exists to help consumers and retailers.

Richard Stone, the council's trading standards manager, said: "The code of practice exists to protect consumers, but it is still easy to be misled by confusing marketing. People may not realise that when they buy goods in a sale, they have all the same rights as when they buy non-sale goods. Things bought in a sale should still be correctly described and of satisfactory quality."

Trading standards advice is to shop around and not be fooled by claims of large reductions in price. Make your own assessment on whether it really is a bargain.

If you have problems with your purchase or you feel you have been misled, reliable consumer advice is available over the telephone from Consumer Direct on 08454 04 05 06.

• Retailers who need advice about legal aspects of advertising and price display can contact the trading standards service on 823370.

Christmas panto

Over Christmas, Peter Pan will be flying into Medina Theatre for this year's traditional family pantomime presented by TaylorMade Productions.

The show has plenty of laughter, songs, dance, and lots of audience participation, and all donations from programmes will go to the Kerry Green Trust and Age Concern IW.

At Shanklin Theatre, for

Christmas and New Year, Stage by Stage will be presenting Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs – and in February, at Medina Theatre, Wight Strollers will present the classic tale of Snow White to brighten up the start of spring.

Details are available from the box office at Medina Theatre on 527020 and Shanklin Theatre on 868000.

The shows go on...

While the council is investing £400,000 in essential works at Shanklin and Ryde Theatres over the next two years, and considers proposals for the future, the show goes on at the two venues.

Both theatres are available for hire and are attracting interest from independent producers for staging events.

Ryde Theatre has different musical events in the four

nights leading up to Christmas, and Shanklin Theatre has its traditional family pantomime (mentioned above).

Both venues are available for hire and suitable for a variety of productions, especially musical performances, exhibitions and events. To find out more, contact Ryde Theatre on 568099 and Shanklin Theatre on 862739.



Work set to start on new eco-loos



Four new 'eco-loos' are to be constructed at Brading, Yaverland, Ventnor and Wootton.

The new public conveniences have features including power generation by wind, hydro-electricity and photo-voltaic cells. All of the toilets will also include art work.

Another feature of the project is the involvement of the local community in the design of the imaginative new buildings.

Work to erect a new toilet block at The Cut, Cowes, and a major refurbishment of the toilets in Appley Park, Ryde should also be completed by the end of the year.

Scheme boosts hygiene levels

In just seven months, the council's Scores in the Doors scheme has helped raise the standards of hygiene in Island restaurants and food premises.



Around 600 inspections have taken place since the scheme's launch, revealing a 45 per cent rise in the number of 'five star' premises and a 60 per cent fall in the number of premises with no stars, one or two stars.

Under the scheme, premises inspected by environmental health officers are given a rating of no stars to five stars. This rating is then displayed on a certificate that businesses are encouraged to display.

The idea is that through the best performing businesses displaying their certificate, there is encouragement for other businesses to raise their own standards and increase their star rating.

The other benefit is that prospective diners can see the ratings of businesses before they book a table. All the ratings are also available online on the website www.iwight.com/scoresonthedoors – which has attracted 100,000 hits since its launch.

Warren Haynes, environmental health manager, said: "These results demonstrate the incentive the scheme has been to Island businesses to raise their already generally high standards, and has provided a means of public recognition for those business who effectively manage food hygiene."

The Scores on the Doors scheme rating is based on assessments in three key areas:

- Confidence in management of the business including the track record of the company, its willingness to act on previous advice and enforcement, and the attitude of the present management towards hygiene and food safety.
- The current level of compliance of food hygiene practices and procedures, including food handling practices and temperature control.
- The current level of compliance relating to the structure of the premises, including cleanliness, layout, condition of structure, lighting, ventilation, washing facilities etc.

Further information can be obtained by visiting the council's web site or by contacting the environmental health team, tel: 823000, email: eh@iow.gov.uk



Top tips for your Christmas poultry

Properly cooked poultry and poultry products, including eggs, are safe to eat – but remember, the spectre of food poisoning, particularly concerning the Christmas bird, is often lurking during the festive season.

To help ensure our poultry is prepared and cooked safely, the council's environmental health team has provided some useful tips.

Thawing

- Frozen poultry must be completely thawed before cooking (details of thawing times depending on weight can be found at www.iwight.com/living).
- Place the bird in its bag on a plate in a cool place, such as a larder (preferably below 12°C). Never thaw in a warm place, this will allow bacteria to multiply.
- Test to see there are no ice crystals left in the cavity and that the legs and thighs are soft and move easily.
- Cook straight away, or refrigerate in the bottom part of the fridge, where it will not drip contaminated blood over any other food.

Cooking

- Remove the giblets, wash the bird thoroughly inside, and dry with clean kitchen paper.
- Do not stuff until just before putting the bird into the oven. Only stuff the neck end, not the body cavity. Cook any extra stuffing separately.
- As a rough guide the bird should be roasted at 190°C/375°F/Gas 5, for a duration determined by its weight and whether it is in foil or not (details of weights and cooking times can be found at www.iwight.com/living).
- Individual ovens may vary, so always check that the bird is thoroughly cooked. Test it with a skewer by piercing the deepest part of each thigh. The juices should run absolutely clear, not pink. If they run pink, return the bird to the oven and cook further, checking every 15 minutes.

Serving

- After carving, cool any remaining meat as quickly as possible (preferably within 90 minutes).
- It is very important to store cooked meat in the fridge (0°C to 5°C), as bacteria can grow at room temperature.

Use of leftovers

- When serving cold poultry, take out as much as you are going to use and leave the rest in the fridge.
- If you are reheating, make sure it is piping hot all the way through.
- Ideally try to use leftovers within 48 hours.

For more information on food safety and hygiene issues contact: Environmental Health, Jubilee Stores, The Quay, Newport, Isle of Wight PO30 2EH, tel: 823000, email: eh@iow.gov.uk



Take up the Schools Walk the Wight Challenge!

Schools across the Island are being invited to register for the 2008 Schools Walk the Wight Team Challenge.

The scheme raises money for the Earl Mountbatten Hospice at Newport while engaging the school community in encouraging a healthy lifestyle.

High school pupils are asked to form teams of ten to compete in the 26.5 mile Walk the Wight event on 18 May, with prizes on offer for the fastest teams.

Middle and primary school pupils are being challenged to walk the equivalent of the width of the Island (26.5 miles) before the actual Walk the Wight event in May. This can be done over a number of days. Pupils, for example, may wish to walk just a mile a day until they reach their target. Each pupil is responsible for raising sponsorship.

Those in middle schools who would like a more of a challenge are being invited to take part in the 72 mile challenge. This is similar to the primary/middle school 26.5 mile challenge, except pupils will be walking the equivalent of the Island's circumference. Again, they do this prior to Walk the Wight in May. For every mile a pupil completes, they get a sticker.

- Schools wishing to take part in any of the events are asked to appoint a co-ordinator and contact Karen Eeles at the Earl Mountbatten Hospice on 528989 for a registration pack.

A total of £20,000 was raised during the 2008 Schools Walk the Wight Challenge, with mainland schools also taking part.

Reflecting on major events from 2007



As another year comes to an end, why not reflect upon some of the successful events that helped make 2007 memorable on the Isle of Wight?

Iwight.com's 'Events of the Year' section features comprehensive reviews of all the major events that took place on the Island during the year, including an extensive online photo gallery.

Reports range from the Mega Wheels Car Show in April and Walk the Wight in May, to the Isle of Wight Festival in June and Skandia Cowes Week in August.

To recall these events and many others, go to www.iwight.com/2007

Libraries help us beat those winter blues!



In January, the Island's library service is to focus on an initiative called 'New Beginnings' – promoting books and information resources around health, diet, fitness, smoking cessation and self help.

The aim is to help us beat those winter blues and focus on feeling better about ourselves.

Some Island libraries already have 'mind, body and spirit' collections to make it easier to find books on all aspects of health and well-being.

Libraries staff will be working with the Island's new health trainers to promote their particular services, and library users will be able to come along to meet them in person.

When the Island's library service surveyed its adult customers in 2007, 42 per cent said they used libraries for health information, and 72 per cent said libraries improved their health and well-being. This included using the internet and borrowing information books as well as fiction, CDs and DVDs.

The survey findings revealed that the welcome that people receive from our staff and the feeling that libraries are an oasis of calm in a hectic world, and a place to meet other people contributed to these feelings of well being.

Rob Jones, head of libraries, said: "Libraries are more than places where you can borrow books – they can help you to improve and change your life."

Awards recognise Island designs

Architectural design and green business on the Island were acknowledged at recent awards held as part of the council's support for sustainable development.

Among the winners were:

Brading Roman Villa – a special award for the innovative design of its cover building and for conserving and enhancing the villa site.

Haddon Lake House, St Lawrence (pictured) – the Agenda 21 Sustainable Design Award for excellent conservation of energy, impressive rainwater harvesting system, low water use, and use of natural organic materials. Also the AONB Rural Design Award in recognition of high quality contemporary design, complementing its surroundings and for the restoration of the



lake, ornamental and walled kitchen garden.

Ryde School's Fiveways Nursery and Pre-school – the Design in Context Award for the sensitivity and respect to historic surroundings of the school's extension.

The awards presentation ceremony was held in conjunction with the Green Island Awards scheme.

Sports unit round-up

Vital support for sports clubs and volunteers

Following on from a successful sports club and volunteer conference held at Ryde in October, the council's sports unit has been providing clubs and individuals with a wide range of support.

The conference was designed to raise awareness of funding sources, and the benefits of becoming an accredited club, as well as supporting and gaining volunteers.

Since the event, the sports unit has been supporting clubs in applications for funding; setting up coaching sessions linked to clubs; and developing a programme of training for volunteers, coaches, officials and committee members.

• For more information on support the sports unit can provide, you should call 823818.



If you are wanting to nominate anyone for a coveted Isle of Wight Sports and Recreation council achievement award, you still have until 29 December to put names forward.

Nominations forms should be submitted to Terry Blunden, Chairman, 20 Halberry Lane Newport, no later than the 29 December.

The awards, which have been organised since 1974, will be presented at a ceremony at Newport's Riverside Centre on 22 February.

As well as recognising sporting achievement the awards focus on the contributions of the many volunteers in clubs and associations.

Nominations may be made by any club or association affiliated to the sports and recreation council.



Getting active!

Thinking of getting back into a sport you haven't played for some time? Why not try some of the activities being promoted by the council's sports unit?

Volleyball

Sessions are now running for anyone over the age of 16:

- Ladies only sessions, on Sundays (7pm to 8pm) at Medina Leisure Centre, Newport, £2 per session.
- Men only sessions, on Sundays (8pm to 9pm) at Medina Leisure Centre, Newport, £2 per session.

Sessions resume after Christmas. For more information contact Vicki Wallis at the sports unit, tel: 823818, email: vicki.wallis@iow.gov.uk

Badminton

Sessions for all abilities and equipment provided free of charge:

- Ladies only club, on Wednesdays (8pm to 9pm) at Ryde Sports Centre, starting 23 January, ten-week course, cost £20, please book in advance.

For more information contact Thomas Lyons at the sports unit, tel: 823818, email: Thomas.lyons@iow.gov.uk

A healthy way to get to school

Island youngsters are helping lead a pedestrian revolution by reducing the use of the car on the school run.

More and more Island schools are adopting special travel plans to encourage pupils to travel to and from school in a safe, sustainable and healthy way.

Helen Stichbury, school travel plan advisor, said: "Currently almost 50 per cent of schools have travel plans, with more working on them. Schools with travel plans have cut car use by six per cent, by increasing walking, cycling and car share."

The increased walking and cycling also gives a fitness boost to the youngsters, and schools taking part are eligible for government grants.

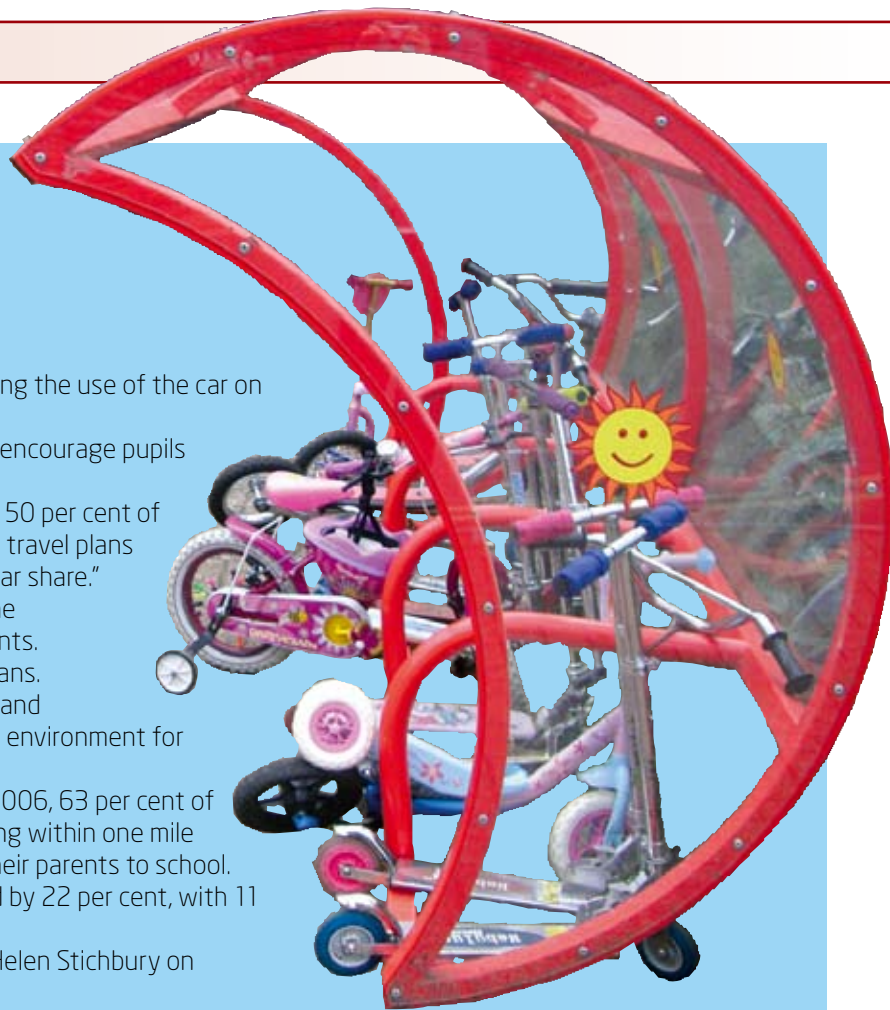
So far, £175,000 has come to local schools through their travel plans.

"These plans look at reducing car use, increasing healthy activity, and improving safety around schools – as well as helping to improve the environment for everyone," said Helen.

Typical of the success has been Cowes Primary School. In March 2006, 63 per cent of the school's 276 pupils arrived by car, despite almost all families living within one mile of the school. Just three pupils children cycled (or scootered) with their parents to school.

By March this year, with a travel plan in place, car use had dropped by 22 per cent, with 11 per cent more pupils walking and 11 per cent more pupils cycling.

- For more information on school travel plans, you should contact Helen Stichbury on 821000.



Investing in our sporting future



PICTURED: (left to right) Ray Scovell; Lee Matthews, sports unit manager; and Tom Lyons

Two new development officers have joined the council's sports unit to help with the major increase in sporting participation expected in the build up to the 2011 Island Games and 2012 Olympics.

With the Isle of Wight hosting the Island Games, and London the Olympics, the council is committed to increasing opportunities and activities, as well as inspiring the Island's sportsmen and women.

The new development officers will help with what is seen as a once in a generation opportunity to support and develop sport and physical activity across the Island.

Ray Scovell has moved from his community coach role in the sports unit to become the sports development officer for 'talented and

gifted athletes' – a role which will cover most sports, and will involve working with schools, community sports clubs and governing bodies of sport. Ray will be coordinating a range of development programmes to support the Island's top young talent.

Ray has been involved with development of junior club athletics on the Island for 15 years. He is a UK Athletics Level 4 Development Coach and a Level 3 Throws Coach, and is also involved with sports hall athletics on the Island.

The other new officer is Tom Lyons, whose role will be to focus on increasing and sustaining sport participation in local sports clubs and facilities. He will be working closely with local sports clubs and governing bodies of sport on a range of development programmes.

Tom graduated from Chichester University in 2001 after completing a degree in Sports Science. He is a keen sports coach, providing both football and tennis coaching on the Island.

Recycling help for people in flats

Help is at hand for people who are not able to take part in kerbside collections but want to do their bit for recycling.

The council, in partnership with Island Waste Services, is making available free micro-recycling sites for people living in flats or apartments.

Sarah Buttress, waste minimisation and recycling officer, said: "People living in flats or apartments tend not to participate for a variety of reasons and we would like to offer a solution for those wishing to join in and do their bit for.

"Taking part in home recycling is the easiest and quickest way to diverting and reducing the amount of waste and valuable resources that are filling the limited landfill resources on the Island. It is the perfect opportunity for people to do their bit."

The new micro-recycling sites use wheelie bins of a lesser volume than found at public bottle bank sites and the bins would be housed in locked frames to prevent vandalism and misuse. The banks would be emptied/ maintained on a regular basis.

The council is now looking for suitable sites. It is in contact with housing associations, and any individuals with suggestions should contact Sarah Buttress on 823777.



How to be prepared for the threat of flooding

At this time of year spare a thought for many residents of Hull, Sheffield and large parts of Gloucestershire who suffered severe summer flooding in 2007, and will be spending this Christmas still in temporary accommodation.

On the Isle of Wight we are never far from water, and it is important we remember the precautions we should take with flooding in mind.

Key Island services work together to help us prepare for and tackle flood-related issues, and the Island's own Flood Plan was tested in June this year.

Julie Jones, the council's resilience manager, said: "The Island is no more, and no less at risk of flooding than any other area of the UK. However, heavy bursts of rain can result in flash floods, so you don't need to live by the sea or a river to be affected. We are not suggesting that people need to worry, but knowing what to do to protect your family and homes quickly is vital."

Here is some simple, practical advice:

- Driving licences, passports, insurance policies, birth certificates, bank statements, baby photos? Losing property is awful, but losing sentimental items is heartbreaking, and replacing identity documents is problematic. Move important items to a higher shelf, or even better, to an upper floor.
- Discover what the different flood warnings mean for you. Do you live on a flood plain? What can you do without sandbags? Check out the answers to all of these at www.environment-agency.gov.uk. This website is full of useful, practical flooding information.
- Get in the know and register with the Environment Agency's Floodline Warnings Direct Service on 0845 988 118. Registration is free and you can receive flood warnings by phone, mobile or fax.
- Find out how to turn off gas, water and electricity supplies.
- Check your home and contents insurance policy. Is it in date, does it give you the cover that you need?
- Teach your family that floodwater is a hazard. Floodwater can contain a nasty toxic mixture of anything from diesel to sewage so keep out. In addition, drain covers may have become dislodged, leaving hidden hazards.

Initial forecasts are predicting an average, to above average rainfall this winter. You can't keep floodwater out, but you can minimise the damage it brings.

More
free
swimming



Free casual swimming for young Island residents aged four to 15 will continue during the Christmas holidays and for the next half-term holidays in February.

To swim free during 'casual' sessions at four Island pools, all children need is a junior resident's registration One Card, which is available from all participating pools. The card is free, but requires a completed form signed by a parent or guardian.

The pools involved in the scheme are: Waterside Pool, Ryde (tel: 563656); Medina Leisure Centre, Newport (tel: 523767); and the Heights Leisure Centre, Sandown (tel: 405594). The offer is also available at West Wight Sports Centre, Freshwater (tel: 752168).

Opening hours will vary over the holiday period, so don't forget to check.

What does a No Cold Calling Zone mean to you?

The Island's trading standards service is in consultation with town and parish councils who hope to create a No Cold Calling Zone in their area.

It follows the success of similar zones already created in several places across the Island.

No Cold Calling Zones are designed to support and encourage local residents to have the confidence to say "no" to uninvited sales people – and warn off rogue traders and cold callers. Doorstep crime can arise from such callers, and sometimes leads to distraction burglary.



Results from a national survey show that 96 per cent of people do not want doorstep cold-callers.

For a No Cold Calling Zone to be successful it requires the co-operation of local residents in understanding their role and how to deal with uninvited callers.

On the Island this has been achieved by delivering to each household within a zone an information pack. A sticker to place in a prominent position is also in the pack to make the statement to any traders in the area that cold calling is not welcome.

In cases where vulnerable areas of the zone are identified, there can be a personal visit from the trading standards service to assist residents. The zone will also be defined by signage.

- If you see anyone you do not know in your area calling on houses, or if you are visited by someone selling goods or a service, please contact the trading standards service on 823371. A brief description of the people involved and a registration number of a vehicle would be helpful.

Good Health

Staying healthy so you can

What to do/who to contact

Self care

Be prepared



It is difficult to prevent you or your family from catching colds and flu, but a balanced diet and regular activity will help boost your immune system and your resistance.

No-one wants to think about becoming ill at a holiday time, but if you make sure that your home medicine chest contains a few simple remedies, you will be able to cope with most minor ailments and incidents. All of the basic items can be purchased from your local pharmacist – take this checklist with you next time you go shopping.



Pain relief for headaches, sore throats and other aches and pains:

- paracetamol, soluble aspirin or ibuprofen
- children's paracetamol and/or children's ibuprofen syrup

Easing the symptoms of coughs and colds:

- decongestant for adding to hot water, eg menthol and decongestant medicines
- decongestant for children

For upset tummies and over-indulgence:

- mild laxative
- indigestion remedy, eg antacid
- anti-diarrhoeal solution

Other basic first aid items:

- antiseptic solution
- thermometer
- selection of plasters in assorted sizes
- sterile dressings and triangular bandage
- two sterile eye pads
- cotton wool, safety pins, tweezers, sharp scissors and disposable gloves

It is important that you keep the medicine chest in a secure place that cannot be reached by small children.

IF YOU OR A MEMBER OF YOUR FAMILY HAVE REGULAR PRESCRIPTIONS, MAKE SURE YOU HAVE AN ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF THE MEDICATION TO LAST INTO THE NEW YEAR.

Pharmacist

Ask your pharmacist



The winter months can bring a host of minor ailments. With many modern medicines available over the counter, a visit to your local pharmacy can provide the expert advice and remedy that you're looking for.



Christmas and New Year pharmacy rota

Christmas Day 25/12/2007

■ Regent Pharmacy, Regent Street, Shanklin	12pm to 1pm
■ Lloyds Pharmacy, The Esplanade, Ryde	12pm to 1pm
■ Yarmouth Pharmacy	12pm to 1pm
■ Boots the Chemist, High Street, Newport	1pm to 2pm

Boxing Day 26/12/2007

■ Boots the Chemist, High Street, Newport	9am to 2pm
■ Boots the Chemist, High Street, Shanklin	12pm to 1pm
■ Boots the Chemist, High Street, Ryde	12pm to 1pm
■ Alliance Pharmacy, Freshwater	12pm to 1pm
■ Siddy's Pharmacy, High Street, Newport	5.30pm to 6.30pm

New Year's Day 1/1/2008

■ Day Lewis Pharmacy, Regent Street, Shanklin	12pm to 1pm
■ Blakeley's, Tower House, Ryde	12pm to 1pm
■ Kemkay Pharmacy, Freshwater	12pm to 1pm
■ Lloyds Pharmacy, Pyle Street, Newport	2pm to 3pm

There is no rota service on a Saturday or Sunday. Tesco in Ryde is open on Sunday (10am to 4pm); Boots in Newport is open on Sunday (10.30am to 2.30pm); Yarmouth Pharmacy is open on Sunday (8.30am to 5pm).

NHS Direct



NHS Direct is a nurse-led helpline providing confidential healthcare advice and information, at any time of the day or night. Calls are charged at local rates.

NHS CALL 24 HOURS ON
Direct 0845 4647

enjoy the Christmas and New Year celebrations
if you become ill and need treatment

GP surgery

If you need to see a doctor



Surgeries will provide a normal service up to 2pm on 24 December.

The telephone numbers of local GP surgeries are listed below. The out of hours service will provide emergency cover from 2pm on 24 December until 8am on 27 December and again from 6pm on 31 December until 8am on 2 January 2007.



■ Cowes Medical Centre	295251
■ Sandown Medical Centre	0844 477 3001
■ Beech Grove Surgery, Brading	407775
■ Beech Grove Surgery, Lake	408408
■ East Cowes Health Centre	0844 477 3116
■ Shanklin Medical Centre	862245
■ Argyll House, West Street, Ryde	562955
■ South Wight Medical Practice, Brighstone	740219
■ South Wight Medical Practice, Niton	730257
■ South Wight Medical Practice, Godshell	840625
■ Medina Healthcare, West Street, Newport	522198
■ Carisbrooke Health Centre	522150
■ Garfield Road, Ryde	565103
■ Tower House, Rink Road, Ryde	811431
■ Esplanade Surgery, Ryde	0844 477 0940
■ The Dower House, Pyle Street, Newport	523525
■ St Helens Medical Centre	0844 477 2454
■ Grove House Surgery, Ventnor	852427
■ Brookside Health Centre, Freshwater	0844 815 1428
■ Brookside Health Centre, Yarmouth	0844 815 1428
■ Ventnor Medical Centre, Ventnor	852787

Island Health Line

If you need to see a doctor out of normal surgery hours



0845 6031 007

If you think you need the help of a doctor out of normal surgery hours, you should ring the Island's Health Line on 0845 6031 007. All calls will be handled on the Island by highly trained NHS staff. They will take your details and may: give you advice on treating yourself; book you to see a GP at St Mary's; pass the information to a GP so that they can ring you back to give you further advice or arrange to see you; refer you to another appropriate healthcare professional.



Emergency

A&E/999



999

Call 999 or visit A&E for emergencies only such as loss of consciousness, severe chest pain, serious accidents or serious loss of blood. For all other cases contact the Island Health Line. Emergency contraception can be obtained from the Maternity Unit at St Mary's Hospital at any time.

Dentist

If you need to see a dentist



0845 6031 007

The Emergency Dental Service will be available on 22, 23, 25, 26, 29 and 30 December, and 1 January for emergency appointments only from 8.30am to 12.45pm, by telephoning the Dental Helpline on 0845 6031 007. Normal service will be available at all other times. Patients registered with a local dentist should first try to get an emergency appointment at their own surgery.

814280 **Island Quitters**
Isle of Wight specialist stop smoking service



Your views on education reforms

Consultations are due to begin in January on the latest proposals to improve educational standards on the Island...

THE NEW Year will see the start of the consultation process into the three options for change in the Island's education structure. Your views will help shape the final decision – due to be made in March – on which option will be implemented.

The three options are:

- **Option 1** – All post-14 learning centres will be run under a single leadership and governance. Year 9 will be retained in middle schools.
- **Option 2** – Schools for ages four to 11 will be established with a minimum of two classes per year group (school size of 420 places). A mix of ages 11 to 16 and 11 to 19 secondary schools will be established.
- **Option 3** – Schools for ages four to 11 will be established with a mixture of one class per year group (for school size 210 places) and two classes per year group (for school

size of 420 places). A mix of ages 11 to 16 and 11 to 19 secondary schools will be established.

In November a meeting of the council rejected a fourth option. This would have seen the setting up of schools for ages four to 11 schools, lower secondary ages 11 to 14 schools and upper secondary 14 to 19 schools run under a single leadership and governance. This option will not form part of the consultation and is no longer one of the choices available.

Council education officers have been preparing detailed plans for each of the options ahead of the public consultation, which will include area by area and school by school details.

Each of the options are financially viable and the earliest any will be implemented is September 2010.

"We are passionate about improving educational standards on the Island. Our youngsters deserve a system that will give them the best start in life and at present, many are not getting that. We are listening to the public and there is more choice on the table."

"Whichever option the council chooses, there will be some schools that will no longer be viable to keep open. Parents will need to be prepared and accept we are doing this to make our education system better. There is a long journey ahead of us and we are still only a few steps on the road. I am looking forward to receiving the comments of Islanders during the consultation period."

Councillor Alan Wells, cabinet member for children and young people



PICTURED: Margaret Blair (below left) ...

The fitness route to a better life

Two Island residents reveal how the council's Tone Zone fitness gyms have made a major difference to their lives...

EACH OF us has only one body, and how it works and how long it lasts is very dependent on how we look after it.

As we all know, the body is incredibly complex, and needs the right care, attention and fine-tuning. Some times when neglected, things can go wrong, and at other times through no fault of our own, problems can occur.

A crucial factor behind maintaining a healthy mind and body is exercise. When problems occur, specially selected exercise programmes can greatly assist the road to recovery.

On the Island many people have joined the Tone Zone fitness gyms operated by the council. The gyms at the Medina and The Heights leisure centres and Westridge Centre in Ryde all have a variety of equipment. They also have a qualified and dedicated team of instructors, who work with customers to ensure that everyone gets the most from a visit.

The first visit to one of the gyms will focus on an induction process to determine fitness levels and learn how to use

the equipment correctly. A programme for future visits is also worked out depending on individual needs. You can then work at a pace set to achieve your own goals, with advice on hand if required.

Island residents Margaret Blair and Keith Roberts tell how their lives have been significantly improved by the Tone Zones.

Margaret Blair

Margaret Blair had been on steroids for over two years, treating polymyalgia rheumatica that caused pain, stiffness and tenderness in large muscles. Then, in an unfortunate running incident, Margaret damaged her knee joints.

Turning to physiotherapy, Margaret's joints improved, but it was the muscles that needed work, and a visit to the gym was recommended.

"At the Medina Tone Zone, instructors devised a programme to work my muscle groups and improve general fitness. In just eight weeks I lost a stone in the weight I'd gained from the steroid treatment. My programme was revised and my mobility started to improve. Unable to kneel down and get up without help of a support, I am now playing badminton. But it is more than that, my regular trips have helped to lower my blood pressure and my asthma problems have significantly improved.

"I am now more motivated, feel a lot fitter, feel good and can walk the dog for three miles with no discomfort. Without my regular visits to the Tone Zone I would be stuck on the couch."

- As well as using the gym many people enjoy swimming for all round exercise. Special aerobic classes are also available, led by qualified instructors. Sessions can last up to an hour and include a variety of movements, using the water as resistance.

For more information on council-operated facilities visit www.leisure.ilight.com or contact a centre listed in the Christmas opening hours section.



ABOVE: Kieth Roberts...

Keith Roberts

At the age of 56, Keith had a severe recurrence of the asthma he had suffered periodically since childhood.

"I had to use three different types of inhaler up to four times every day when the asthma returned. My GP referred me to The Heights in Sandown and, under guidance, I worked hard to improve my fitness – in two years, all my hard work paid off and I was able to stop all asthma medication for the first time in my life. Now aged 63, my lung function is well above average. I still use the Tone Zone at least three times a week, regularly running about three miles a week on the machines. Being fitter has also greatly improved my work and social life.

"I have taken part in Walk the Wight end to end each for four years – something I would never have dreamed of being able to do before I took up regular exercise."

Keeping our food chain safe

It is one of the least publicised of council services – but one that plays a vital role in ensuring many links in our food chain are kept safe. Here we look at the work of Claire Draper, a trading standards officer specialising in agriculture, animal feed and fertilizers

“Playing a key role in keeping our food chain safe is a little known council service, but one that has significant implications for us all.”

Councillor Diana Tuson, cabinet member for safer communities

CLAIRE DRAPER is a council officer who more often than not has to don a pair of wellies to do her day job.

Farms around the Island are often where she can be found – keeping close tabs on animal feed, fertilizers and other issues of an agricultural nature.

Following a series of food scares in recent decades there has been a wealth of legislation requiring council trading standards sections to monitor agricultural issues.

It means Claire has to keep checks on activities ranging from the production, manufacture and use of farm produce, feed and fertilisers, through to their storage, import, export, marketing and sale.

Councils now have to register, advise and inspect agricultural businesses, as well sample farm animal feed, pet food and fertilizer.

Claire explained: “In a nutshell, we have to ensure good standards are maintained

throughout the food chain – from ‘farm to fork’ and from ‘plough to plate.’”

She admits her role does not fit what the public might expect as the job description for a council officer.

“I find myself undertaking activities such as the taking of material samples from animal feed troughs, through to testing for heavy metals and other potentially harmful substances.”

A key part of her work involves ensuring key information on farms and food producers is compiled via a registration process.

“I am currently in the process of registering primary producers with trading standards, using a mail-shot exercise, and through a website and visits to premises,” said Claire.

The registration is statutory, designed to ensure the traceability of food and feed, and to minimise the likelihood of any hazard.

Also – due to new legislative controls to

protect public health – livestock and arable farms and growers of ‘ready to eat’ crops are now subject to food and feed hygiene inspections.

Claire said: “The initial approach I am taking in applying this new legislation is educative through verbal and written advice, as the first few months with this new legislation is a learning process for both the industry and enforcers.”

But there are special orders available to the council that she may have to make use of in the future.

Many chemicals used in agricultural processes can be hazardous if not handled properly, and as part of her role Claire is responsible for supervising the unloading of imported ammonium nitrate – the main use of which in the UK is as a fertilizer. More than 2,000 people have been killed in ammonium nitrate-related explosions and fires in the last 50 years.

“My job is to ensure that importers, transporters, and those who store and use ammonium nitrate exercise good housekeeping standards when handling separating the fertilizer from incompatible materials.

“For example, the risk of fire or explosion is greatly increased if ammonium nitrate is mixed with combustibles or materials such as urea or copper salts.”

As ammonium nitrate, urea and copper salts are all products that are commonly found on agricultural premises, her visits to such businesses include the inspection of stored additives and pre-mixtures, fertilizers and even waste products.

Claire admits her job is one of those unsung roles that probably does not readily come to mind when the public thinks of a typical council officer. But that does not worry her.

“I realise my job and doing it properly has very important consequences for a food chain that affects the health and daily lives of many us. It is very rewarding to know that my work can make such a vital contribution in this way.”



PICTURED: Claire Draper (above and main image) checks out animal feed at an Island farm

Isle of Wight Council services - Christmas and new year arrangements

EMERGENCY SITUATIONS NOT REQUIRING A 999 CALL

Highways emergencies

- Flooding, fallen trees, traffic lights not working, etc – tel: 525121.
- Non-emergencies – a message recording service will operate from pm Mon 2 Dec to 8.30pm Wed 2 Jan.
- Severe weather (snow or exceptional rainfall) – the highways emergency control room will be set up – tel: 823777.

Council buildings or land

For emergencies involving council-owned buildings, contact Wightcare on 821105.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND TRADING STANDARDS

The offices at Jubilee Stores, Newport will be closed from 4.30pm, Mon 24 Dec to 8.30am, Wed 2 Jan. For emergencies, contact Wightcare on 821105.

REVENUES AND BENEFITS

IW Council Offices, Broadway, Sandown: office closes 4.30pm, Mon 24 Dec, reopens 8.30am Wed 2 Jan.

CUSTOMER ACCOUNT SERVICES

Message-recording service from pm Mon 24 Dec to 8.30am Wed 2 Jan.

COUNTY RECORD OFFICE

Closes 1pm, Mon 24 Dec. Re-opens 9am, Wed 2 Jan.

LIBRARIES

- Branch libraries open to usual opening times, Sat 22 Dec, Sun 23 Dec and Mon 24 Dec.
- Branch libraries will operate normal opening hours on Sat 29 Dec. Ryde and Newport libraries will open 10am to 1pm on Sun 30 Dec.
- Branch libraries resume normal opening hours, Wed 2 Jan.

ADULT AND COMMUNITY SERVICES AND CHILDREN'S

Most operations shut down from 4.30pm, Monday 24 December to Wednesday 2 January, but there will be special arrangements for certain services. For more information, call the Customer Service Centre on 823200, or ring 821000. Newport Help Centre and the Call Centre at County Hall, and Ryde Help Centre will be open on 24 December until 5pm. Newport Help Centre and the Call Centre will be open on 27, 28 and 31 December from 9am to 4pm.

SERVICES

- Cowes, Sandown, Ryde SSC offices close 5pm Mon 24 Dec and reopen on Wed 2 Jan.
- Community Services HQ office closes 5pm Mon 24 Dec and reopen Wed 2 Jan.
- Newport SSC office closes 5pm on Mon 24 Dec and is closed Tues 25 and Wed 26 Dec, and Tues 1 Jan.
- Thur 27 Dec, Fri 28 Dec, Mon 31 Dec – skeleton staffing for emergencies, 9am to 5pm (4.30pm on Fri), reopening Wed 2 Jan (normal working hours).

Emergency duty service available outside working hours through Wightcare services, tel: 821105.

All services for adults – via Social Service Centre, 147 High Street, Newport, tel: 823340.

All services for children – via the Children's Service Centre, Atkinson Drive, Newport, tel: 525790 (switchboard in operation 27, 28 and 31 Dec, at all other times via out of hours service).

Housing services – on-call arrangement for emergencies via Wightcare Services, tel: 821105.

Normal office hours resume for all offices, Wed 2 Jan.

ISLE OF WIGHT CREMATORIUM

- No cremations or burials 25 to 26 Dec or 1 Jan (the grounds, chapel and Book of Remembrance Room will be open to the public between 2pm and 4pm on these days, weekends and holiday dates).
- All cremation papers should be delivered to the crematorium by noon on the working day before the cremation.
- Burials will take place on all other days at the usual times. Burial forms should be delivered to the cemetery office (with coffin sizes) two clear working days prior to each burial.

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRES

Tourist information centres will be open from 10am to 3pm on:
Cowes: Fri 28 and Sat 29 Dec.
Newport: Fri 28 and Sat 29 Dec.
Ryde: Fri 28 and Sat 29 Dec.
Sandown: Fri 28 and Sat 29 Dec.

Shanklin: Fri 28 and Sat 29 Dec.

Yarmouth: Fri 28 and Sat 29 Dec.

The normal winter service will be resumed on Wed 2 Jan, tel: 813813 for more details.

REGISTER OFFICE

Closed: Tues 25 Dec, Wed 26 Dec (registrar available for extreme emergencies, contact via Wightcare Services on 821105, 9am to 11am), Tues 1 Jan.

Normal office hours: Thur 27 Dec, Fri 28 Dec, Mon 31 Dec.

Please note, priority will be given to death registrations on these days: Sat 29 Dec, by appointment only.

MUSEUMS

- **Dinosaur Isle:** closed 24 to 26 Dec, 1 Jan (also closed 7 to 11 Jan).
- **Cowes Maritime Museum:** please refer to Cowes Library details.
- **Museum of Island History, Newport Guildhall:** please refer to Newport Tourist Information Centre details.

LEISURE SERVICES FACILITIES

Facilities and activities operated by the council at The Heights in Sandown, Medina Leisure Centre and Medina Theatre in Newport, Waterside Pool, Westridge Centre and The Venue at Ryde Theatre in Ryde, and Shanklin Theatre, will all have seasonally adjusted opening hours over the Christmas and New Year holiday between Sat 22 Dec and Wed 2 Jan. All facilities will be closed on Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

Both Medina and Shanklin Theatres feature pantomime during the holiday. Contact the box office for show details.

Full details on opening times will be available in all centres or on the website www.leisure.iwight.com

Further details are also available by contacting The Heights 405594, Medina Leisure Centre 523767, Medina Theatre 527020, Waterside Pool 563656, Westridge Centre 566243, The Venue at Ryde Theatre 568099, and Shanklin Theatre 868000.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND RECYCLING CHANGES

Refuse and recycling collections will be changed for three weeks.

Refuse normally collected on:	Will be collected on:
Mon 24 Dec	Mon 24 Dec
Tues 25 Dec	Thur 27 Dec
Wed 26 Dec	Fri 28 Dec
Thur 27 Dec	Sat 29 Dec
Fri 28 Dec	Mon 31 Dec
Mon 31 Dec	Wed 2 Jan
Tues 1 Jan	Thur 3 Jan
Wed 2 Jan	Fri 4 Jan
Thur 3 Jan	Sat 5 Jan
Fri 4 Jan	Mon 7 Jan
Mon 7 Jan	Tues 8 Jan
Tues 8 Jan	Wed 9 Jan
Wed 9 Jan	Thur 10 Jan
Thur 10 Jan	Fri 11 Jan
Fri 11 Jan	Sat 12 Jan

Kerbside recycling service

(Week A collections shown in bold, above) Please do not worry if your day of collection has moved into the next week. Just place your box kerbside by 7am on your revised collection day.

Christmas tree recycling

From Sat 29 Dec to Sun 13 Jan there will be skips at: Brighstone village car park, Ventnor Botanic Gardens car park, Lake Morrisons car park, Tesco (Ryde) car park, Cowes St Mary's Road car park, East Cowes Esplanade car park.

Christmas trees can also be placed with garden waste at civic amenity sites (see below for opening times).

Civic amenity sites

The main civic amenity site at Lynnbottom will only be closed on Christmas Day.

The weekend sites at Afton and Forest Road will be open as normal.

Contact details

Island Waste Services,
tel: 0800 3283851,
website: islandwaste.co.uk
Isle of Wight Council,
tel: 821000
website: iwight.com

For details of Island NHS services, please see pages 10 and 11.

12 | 07

Isle of Wight Connexions news

information, advice,
guidance and support for
young people, parents,
carers and employers

CAREERS4ALL 2008

Free event
for all ages

In the October edition of One Island we informed readers of our exciting learning and guidance event taking place next year. Since then we have been busy working on the detail and now have a name for the event!

CAREERS4ALL promises to be a fun-filled, interactive and informative event that is free and open to all.

Already so much has been organised! Some highlights from the programme include:

- **Creative Careers Workshops** in music, photography, creative writing, CV skills, and setting up your own business.
- **Activities and demonstrations** offering you the opportunity to get involved and try your hand at something new.
- **Live music and entertainment** throughout the day.
- **Employers, training providers, universities and small businesses** will be on hand providing information and advice on a range of careers.
- **The Creative Village** showcasing local arts and crafts, with the opportunity to talk to the artists and the chance to purchase, too.

The **Power FM Thunders** will be at CAREERS4ALL from 12pm until 3pm, handing out give-aways and broadcasting live from the event!

So, whether you're looking for a career that is new and creative or you simply want to try something a bit different, why not come along to CAREERS4ALL between **12pm and 6pm** on **Thursday 21 February 2008** at the Medina Leisure Centre?

For more information about CAREERS4ALL visit
www.connexions-southcentral.org/iow
or contact the Connexions Centre.

CAREERS4ALL

Newport Connexions Centre
29 High Street, Newport, PO30 1SS

Telephone: 01983 525927 Email: xxxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx.xxx

Opening Times: 9.30am-4.30pm Mon to Wed 9.30am-6.00pm Thu 9.30am-4.00pm Fri 10.00am-1.00pm Sat

Connexions Centre Christmas opening times

Saturday 22 to Wednesday 26 December
Closed

Thursday 27 December
Normal opening hours

Friday 28 December
Normal opening hours

Saturday 29 and Sunday 30 December
Closed

Monday 31 December
Normal opening hours

Tuesday 1 January
Closed

Wednesday 2 January
Normal opening hours

Area Prospectus

Don't forget, the online area prospectus, www.futures4me.com/iw, is available for young people aged 14 to 19 to search for courses, qualifications and training opportunities on the Isle of Wight.



The site is updated regularly and provides additional information on open days, finance and transport.

Decision Time?

Did you know that the Island is now achieving national recognition for innovation in education and training? In the national NEET Strategy (NEET stands for not in employment, education or training), launched on 5 November, Government Minister Ed Balls states that he expects every area in the country to have a common application process in place by 2010. As a result of cutting edge work by the Isle of Wight Council, the LSC, local providers of learning and Connexions, ours goes live this month!

All learning opportunities open to students leaving Year 11 can be found in the amazing new Isle of Wight Area Prospectus, at www.futures4me.com/iw. In fact, not only can opportunities be found on the new electronic prospectus but, at a recent meeting of the Island's 14 - 19 Consortium, local learning providers agreed to implement an advanced system of application for progression from Year 11 based on this.

This needs some careful thought and clear decision making by young people but, working with local High Schools and St George's School, Connexions now offers every student in Year 11 individual careers guidance. In fact, we have some of the best qualified and most experienced Personal Advisers in the country working in partnership with local schools. So, while school staff will be helping Year 11 students to master the new system, Connexions PAs will be working hard to ensure all young people make the very best choices they can.



South Central Connexions working in partnership with:



Leading learning and skills



Getting to know our coast

A total of 3,459 school children have taken part in courses run by the council's coastal visitors' centre at Ventnor this year.

Those attending have ranged from Year 4 pupils learning about rockpool habitats to A-level students looking at geological hazard management.

They have been able to see at first hand the fragile changing nature of the Island's coastal environments and

how the council's coastal management section works to protect people, property and the environment.

- The coastal centre's exhibition area is currently closed until March while exhibits are updated. For any student enquiries or advice for homeowners/buyers in the Undercliff area the technical library is still open by appointment. For more

information you can contact the centre on 855400, email: coastal.centre@iow.gov.uk, website: www.coastalwight.gov.uk

Better access to coastal heritage

The Heritage Lottery-funded project REACH (Resources, Education and Access to Coastal Heritage) is underway at the coastal visitors' centre. It aims to create better access to the Island's coastal heritage through exhibitions and publications.

The past six months has seen the technical library at the centre updated expanded to create a public and student study room, and soon a My Heritage project will be launched, creating a database of photographs and stories of what the Island's coastal heritage means to residents and visitors. The database will be used to create a permanent and travelling exhibition and a website.

Island plays key role in Channel project

The council's centre for the coastal environment at Ventnor has been playing a key role in a European project working on issues affecting the Channel region, including the Island.

The Espace Manche Development Initiative (EMDI) has been running for the last three years, and has been focusing on subjects including economic development, tourism, coastal management, and maritime safety.

The project is co-financed through the Interreg IIIB programme of the European Commission, and involves English and French local authorities, universities and regional development agencies around the Channel region.

The council's senior coastal scientist, Claire Marriott, has been running the project's Research and Development, Transfer of Technology and Innovation Working Group – which in the last year has been looking at the issue of renewable energy.

Last month the Island's centre for the coastal environment organised a business fair at Portsmouth Historic Dockyard, focusing on marine renewable energy. It attracted experts throughout the field and it is hoped will lead to an increase in the sharing of expertise.

- More details on the project are available from Claire Marriott, tel: 857220, email: claire.marriott@iow.gov.uk.

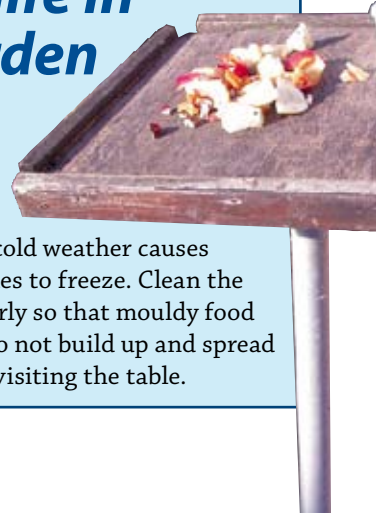
Undercliff guide

In the November issue of the magazine, details were given of a new guide promoting the sustainable management of ground instability in the Island's Undercliff area, from Blackgang to Bonchurch.

Copies of the guide are available by calling 855400, or emailing: coastal.centre@iow.gov.uk

Seasonal guide to wildlife in the garden

Winter can be a difficult time for birds. You can help by putting out water when cold weather causes ponds and puddles to freeze. Clean the bird table regularly so that mouldy food and droppings do not build up and spread disease to birds visiting the table.



This defence of space is critical to its survival, as it allows the robin to obtain sufficient supplies of food. It can use up to a tenth of its body weight during a cold winter night, and it needs to feed well every day. The fat reserves it has laid down will only keep it going for a week or so. Bird tables can make a big difference to the survival of robins – meat scraps, fat, cheese, cake and biscuit crumbs, dried fruit and chopped nuts will all make a feast.

Anne Marston, assistant ecology officer

Nature notes

In the winter countryside, flocks of birds are conspicuous – starlings and jackdaws silhouetted against the sunset sky as they head off to roost, skeins of geese calling over river valleys and charms of goldfinches feeding on seedheads of thistles and teasels. In gardens, the song of the robin is heard all through the winter, often at dawn and dusk. It varies with the seasons: in autumn it is subdued and melancholy in tone, while the spring song, which can start in mid-December, is more powerful and confident.

Out of the breeding season, this most familiar of garden birds is a solitary one. Its reputation for friendliness comes from its habit of perching near to gardeners in the hope of a juicy worm being turned up by the spade. However this cordiality is not extended to other robins. The red on the breast, head and throat triggers surprisingly aggressive behaviour and it will even attack a stuffed robin or a tuft of red feathers. Invading another's territory will start a fight, usually fairly brief, but occasionally resulting in injury.

ACTIVITIES

Book Fair

(29 December)
A book, postcard and ephemera fair, at the Parish Centre, Town Lane, Newport, 20p admission, 10am to 3.30pm.

Wightcat Crafts

(12 January – 27 February)
Regular Scrapbook Club (12 January, 9 February, 10.30am to 1pm), Cardmaking Workshop (26 January, 2 February, 10.30am to 1pm), Beginners' Parchment Class (23 January, 20 February, 1.30pm to 4pm), Parchment Craft Club (16 January, 6 February, 27 February, 1.30pm to 4pm), booking in advance essential at Wightcat Crafts, 14 Carisbrooke Road, Newport, tel: 527525.

Basic Heraldry and Manor House Families

(12 and 19 January)
Two linked day-schools from the Workers' Educational Association, with a focus on the manor of Knighton Gorges, tutor Jean Peters, at Education Room, Carisbrooke Castle,

10.30am, £24 fee, contact Margaret Rylands, tel: 529589.

Newchurch Horticultural Society Quiz and American Supper

(14 January)
At the pavilion, Watery Lane, Newchurch, 7.30pm.

RNLI Coffee Morning

(30 January)
Stalls and souvenirs, at the Royal Yacht Squadron, Cowes, 10.30am to 12 noon.

RNLI Fish and Chip Lunch

(13 February)
At Murray's Restaurant, Cowes, 12.30pm, booking tel: 296233.

CINEMA

Elizabeth: The Golden Age

(13 February)
Cate Blanchett revives her role, Medina Theatre, Newport, 7.45pm, tickets £2.80/£3.50.*

Ratatouille

(20 February)
An animated tale of a rat with a taste for fine food, Medina Theatre, Newport, 7.45pm, tickets £2.80/£3.50.*

Once

(27 February)
A Dublin busker falls for the charms of a Czech immigrant, Medina Theatre, Newport, 7.45pm, tickets £2.80/£3.50.*

Atonement

(5 March)
A relationship shattered by lies and jealousy in wartime, Medina Theatre, Newport, 7.45pm, tickets £2.80/£3.50.*

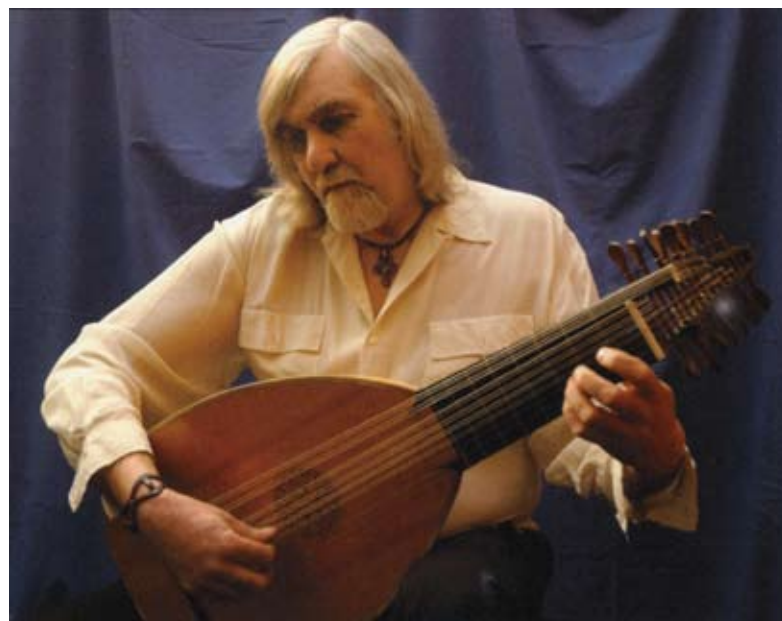
EXHIBITIONS

The Royal Watercolour Society Group Exhibition

(19 November – 12 January)
An exhibition curated by David Firmstone, vice-president of the society and an Isle of Wight artist, with works by society members who are some of the most distinguished artists working in the medium today, Quay Arts, Newport.

The Light of Creation, Melanie Swan

(24 November – 12 January)
Mosaics, iconography and traditionally-painted icons by local



John Cadman performs at Quay Arts, Newport on 22 December at 8pm

artist Melanie Swan, Quay Arts, Newport.

MUSIC

Rockin' on Heaven's Door

(21 December)
A stunning tribute show to Elvis, Big 'O', Buddy Holly and Eddie Cochran, Ryde Theatre, 7.30pm, tickets £14.*

John Cadman

(22 December)
Lute and guitar music from the Medieval, Renaissance, Baroque, Classical and Romantic periods as well as contemporary music by Spanish and South American composers, and original compositions, Quay Arts, Newport, 8pm, tickets £7/£6, tel: box office 822490.

Electric 80s

(22 December)
The ultimate 80s Christmas party, Ryde Theatre, 9pm, tickets £5/£6.*

Roy Ayers

(23 December)
Gifted musician Roy Ayers with his live group, a jazz/funk

night, Ryde Theatre, 7.30pm, tickets £17.50/£22.50/£30.*

Hipshaker

(31 December)
See the year out in style, Ryde Theatre, 9pm, tickets £15.*

New Year Concert

(3 January)
Isle of Wight Youth Symphony Orchestra concert, Medina Theatre, Newport, 7.30pm, tickets £6/£3/£15, book at Medina box office tel: 527020.*

A New Year Concert

(6 January)
Martin Stroud conducts the Isle of Wight Youth Concert Band, Medina Theatre, Newport, 2.30pm and 7.30pm, tickets £6.*

Phoenix Jazz Ensemble

(11 January)
Top Island jazz exponents present A Tribute to Bill Evans, in recognition of one of their major influences, with some of Evans' compositions as well as original material and biographical narrative, performed at a Jazz Café evening, Quay Arts, Newport, 8pm.

Brian Sharpe, Doug Watson and Keith Roberts

(12 January)
At Ryde Theatre, 8pm, tickets £8.*

One Night Only

(13 January)
Hilary Hall and Nicholas Bailey present an evening of song and dance from the best of the West End and Broadway shows, Medina Theatre, Newport, tickets £8/£4.*

Winter Warmers Concert

(20 January)
Robin Tweedle conducts the Island Concert Band, Medina Theatre, Newport, 2.30pm, tickets £6.50.*

Isle of Wight Symphony Orchestra

(26 January)
Works by Mendelssohn, Brahms, Ravel and Vaughan Williams, Medina Theatre, Newport, 7.15pm, tickets £12/£6.*

Rock 'n' Roll Revolution

(26 January)
Mersey hits from The Shakers, Ryde Theatre, 7.30pm.*

Future issues:

Issue date	Listings period covered	Deadline for submission
29 February	29 February to 4 April	4 February

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MUSIC

The Ian Siegal Band

(1 February)
One of the finest blues voices and most talented musicians to emerge on the European blues scene in years, with support from the Island's Amen Boogie Blues Band, at The Venue, Ryde Theatre, 8pm, tickets £12/£14, tel: box office 568099.*

Band of HM Royal Marines School of Music Portsmouth

(2-3 February)
A blend of military, classical and swing, in aid of Diabetes Research on the Island, Medina Theatre, Newport, at 7.30pm on 2 February and 2.30pm on 3 February, tickets £11.*

Fairport Convention

(15 February)
Celebrating their 41st year, Ryde Theatre, 7pm, tickets £18.50.*

Shoom

(16 February)
An electro-rave night, Ryde Theatre, 9pm.*

Soul to Soul Sound System

(29 February)
Two times Grammy award-winning act, Ryde Theatre, 7.30pm, tickets £10/£12.50.*

Red Hot Musicals

(1 March)
Outstanding vocalists, dancers and live music from classic West End shows, Medina Theatre, Newport, 8pm, tickets £13/£12.*

Isle of Wight Youth Music Festival

(2 March)
A range of music and song performed by Island youth groups, sponsored by Shanklin Rotary Club, Medina Theatre, Newport, 2.30pm, tickets £5.*

The Drifters in Concert

(7 March)
The Treadwell Drifters are back in the UK with a revamped and

energetic show, Medina Theatre, Newport, 7.30pm, tickets £16.50/£15.50.*

Piccadilly Dance Orchestra

(8 March)
Michael Law's Piccadilly Dance Orchestra brings to life the music of the 20s, 30s and 40s in spectacular style, Medina Theatre, Newport, 7.30pm, tickets £14.50/£13.50.*

Dead Ringer from Hell

(14 March)
Meatloaf-inspired rock opera, Medina Theatre, Newport, 7.30pm, tickets £15.*

TALKS

A Brief History of Oakfield CE Aided Primary School, Ryde

(12 January)
A talk by David Earle to Ryde Social Heritage Group, at George Street Centre, Ryde, 10.30am to 12.30pm,



Fairport Convention will be performing at Ryde Theatre on 15 February, 7pm

free entrance to group members, non-members welcome, £2 on the door.

Queen Henrietta Maria: Private Bliss or Public Disaster?

(17 January)
A talk to the Isle of Wight Branch of the Historical Association by Professor Barry Coward, president of the Historical Association, at Nodehill Middle School, Newport, 7.30pm, contact Terry Blunden, tel: 524410.

Good, Bad and Indifferent Silver

(17 January)
Vectis Decorative and Fine Arts Society presents a talk by Jolyon Warwick James on different types of silver, Medina Theatre, Newport, 8pm, tickets on the door.

The Lion in Winter Revisited: Family Politics in the Time of Eleanor of Aquitaine

(14 February)
A talk to the Isle of Wight Branch of the Historical Association by Professor John Gillingham, at The Theatre, Ryde School, Ryde, 7.30pm, contact Terry Blunden, tel: 524410.

Murders, Magicians, Madmen and Monarchs: Shakespeare Through the Artist's Eye

(21 February)
A talk by Vivien Heffermen on how Shakespeare has inspired many famous painters, Medina Theatre, Newport, tickets on the door.

The Royal Naval College, Osborne 1903 to 1921

(12 March)
A talk to the Isle of Wight Branch of the Historical Association by Dr Michael Partridge, at the Parish Centre, Town Lane, Newport, 7.30pm, contact Terry Blunden, tel: 524410.

THEATRE

Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs

(20-22 December)
The New Strolling Players present their annual family pantomime, at the Memorial Hall, Freshwater, 7.30pm each evening (plus Saturday matinee on 22 December at 2.30pm), tel: box office 752956.

Nativity play, The Journey

(24 December)
A traditional/modern nativity play by members of Holy Trinity Church, Cowes and friends, Christmas refreshments after, at Holy Trinity Church, 5pm.

Peter Pan

(26-30 December)
TaylorMade Productions present a traditional family pantomime by John Morley which remains true to the classic story, including villains to hiss at, music, dance and knockabout comedy, at Medina Theatre, Newport, 2.30pm daily and 7.30pm on 30 December, contact Genny Taylor, tel: 883341.*

Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs

(16, 17 and 23 February)
A family pantomime presented by The Wight Strollers, at Medina Theatre, Newport, at 1.30pm and 6pm on 16 February, 2.30pm on 17 February and 2.30pm and 7.30pm on 23 February, tickets on sale from 2 January, adults £6.50/children £5, tel: box office 527020.*

Trailers

These listings are provided free, as a public information service. Details must be submitted either by: **filling out this form, or emailing your details to oneisland@iow.gov.uk**

Please conform to the format shown. Entries are included at the editorial team's discretion.

Deadline for the next issue: 4 February 2008 (29 February 2008 publication date).

Title of event/activity:

Date:

Brief description:

Venue:

Time:

Contact name:

Telephone:

Please return to:

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