

# one Island

The community  
magazine for  
the Isle of Wight

Issue 29  
September 2010



## Get fit the **One Card** way

See inside for new  
*Fall into Fitness* campaign





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**Cover picture:** Medina Leisure Centre staff, Yvette Nicol and Richard Nembhard

One Island is a community magazine produced by the Isle of Wight Council with its key public sector partners – NHS Isle of Wight, Isle of Wight Police (Hampshire Constabulary) and the Isle of Wight Rural Community Council. Working together through the Island Strategic Partnership, we are striving to create an Island that is *safe and well kept; healthy and supportive; inspiring; and thriving.*

**This magazine is available on request as an audiotape, in large print, in Braille, in other languages and online at [www.iwight.com](http://www.iwight.com) For further details, please contact One Island on 823105.**

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# FIRST WORD



## Give your support to the Isle of Pink

The Breast Cancer Campaign's Isle of Pink initiative has returned to the Isle of Wight for the third year running this month.

The annual initiative, supported by the council and many local businesses and fund raisers, aims to bring the colour pink to the fore throughout the Island.

All kinds of businesses and organisations are encouraged to show their support by giving the campaign prominence and making a donation or buying a pink ribbon.

This year the charity has launched an Isle of Pink ribbon pin badge so fund raisers can have a special way to show their support.

The pink month climaxes with Pink Aerobics, involving two

hours of aerobics including sessions of Zumba, Street Cheer, Broadway Boogie and Pilates led by top Island fitness instructors at Carisbrooke High School on 26 September.

If you would like to take part in Pink Aerobics please visit [www.breastcancercampaign.org/isleofpink](http://www.breastcancercampaign.org/isleofpink) and sign up online.

In the past two years the Isle of Pink has raised more than £46,000 for the Breast Cancer Campaign – equivalent to £1 for every person diagnosed with breast cancer each year in the UK.

To find out more about the Isle of Pink and how you can get involved, please call 0207 7493708, email: [lbaskett@breastcancercampaign.org](mailto:lbaskett@breastcancercampaign.org) or visit [www.breastcancercampaign.org/isleofpink](http://www.breastcancercampaign.org/isleofpink)

## Bestival helps with water awareness

Island schoolchildren are being taught about the importance of water saving, thanks to an initiative involving the Bestival Foundation.

The foundation, a new charity launched to help improve Isle of Wight life, is working with The Footprint Trust charity to fund the programme about water saving.

Every Island schoolchild aged under 16 is being provided with a free, fully recycled water bottle as part of the 'Adopt a Bottle' initiative over the next three years.

In addition to the Adopt a Bottle scheme, schools are being given the chance to host

free water-saving workshops where both staff and pupils can receive advice and assistance on reducing water wastage in school and at home.

Full eco-audits will also form

part of each visit.

Any Island schools keen on hosting a workshop should contact The Footprint Trust, tel: 822282.



## Keep collecting for the hospice

Keep collecting your plastic milk bottle tops. That is the message from the Earl Mountbatten Hospice at Newport which is using the items to raise vital funds.

Collecting bins are set up at all the hospice charity shops in Newport, Ryde, Cowes, Ventnor and Freshwater, as well as Morrisons at Lake.

Only plastic milk bottle tops are needed, and for each ton sent for recycling the hospice gets £50. Almost all the appropriate tops will carry a recycling sign and have the number two or four in them.



## Don't forget to register to vote

Forms have been sent out to 69,000 Island homes as part of the annual canvass to update the register of electors.

The new register is due to be published on 1 December, and residents are being reminded to return their completed forms by the deadline of 30 September.

The forms allow people to make any changes to the names of those registered as electors at their address.

Even if there have been no changes, it is vital the forms are returned; it is a legal requirement to supply the information, and being on the register ensures you can exercise your vote.

Subject to approval by Parliament, 2011 could see Islanders joining the rest of the country in going to the polls for a referendum on electoral reform.

Increasingly, the register of electors is also used to check people's identity when they apply for credit, and if you are not registered at the address you give on your loan application, you may be refused credit, or at least find it more difficult to obtain.

The canvass form also allows you to request an application form to vote by post.

If your household has not yet received a canvass form, please call the electoral services office at the council on 821000.



## Register office moves to Newport

The Island's registration service for births, deaths and marriages will be based at the council offices at Seaclose, Newport from 1 October.

The last day the service will operate from Northwood House, Cowes will be Wednesday 29 September.

There will be no service – other than for emergencies – on Thursday 30 September and the service will open as normal at Seaclose on Friday 1 October.

The newly-located office will be open between the extended hours of 8.30am and 5pm.

Under the changes, archived records will no longer be stored at the office, so it will no longer be possible to call and collect

copies of certificates while you wait.

You can order copy certificates either via the online forms on [www.iwight.com](http://www.iwight.com), by telephone, or by writing to the superintendent registrar with the correct fee. The service will deal with requests within five working days, and will try to turn around genuine emergency requests sooner.

The council is also progressing plans for a small wedding room at Seaclose as well as licensing two rooms at Ventnor Botanic Garden.

• For more information about the new service please visit [iwight.com](http://iwight.com) or call 823233.

## Landmark project moves ahead



**Pictured:** Artist's impression of the new Cowes school

Progress is continuing apace on the exciting plans for the new Cowes Secondary School.

The planning application for the £30 million Cowes One School Pathfinder project on the existing Cowes High site was due to be considered this month.

Project director for the council, Janet Newton, said: "We are looking forward to working with staff and pupils in September to develop the furniture requirements, colour schemes, external equipment etc.

"We are also setting up two mock classrooms in Cowes High School that can be used to trial new furniture and ICT equipment. The classrooms will be ready for use during the autumn term."

The new Cowes Secondary School is intended to provide a state of the art learning environment and an asset for the whole community – far beyond the role of a traditional school.

Due to open for the new academic year in 2012, it will include many features in keeping with the Eco Island agenda.

# SPORTS UNIT ROUND-UP



## Celebrating National Play Day

**Just under 2,000 people attended this year's National Play Day on the Island, held at Medina Leisure Centre, Newport on 4 August.**

The event was organised by play development officer Carly Bain and play ranger Sophie Biggs, and once again featured a wide range of activities.

Play Day celebrates a child's right to play, encouraging families to come together to allow children to explore different types of freely chosen play.

This year's event included messy play, a beach themed area, giant wooden play letters which the children could paint, bouncy castles, magic shows, a rough and tumble area, sports and games, a fire engine, a toddler area, face painting and circus skills.

For more information on play rangers, mini rangers, or National Play Day, please contact Carly on [carly.bain@iow.gov.uk](mailto:carly.bain@iow.gov.uk) or tel: 823818.



## Big hopes for new girls' football league

**New players and new teams are wanted for the 2010/2011 girls' football season on the Island.**

The season is due to begin in the next few weeks, and the hope is to build on the progress of 2009/2010, which resulted in four tournaments being held in the spring.

New clubs have been set up at Ventnor, Sandown, Ryde, East Cowes, Newport and Brighstone, which will take part in a new league this season.

All the clubs welcome new players, regardless of ability or previous experience, especially beginners. If you are aged between seven and 12 and would like to get involved, please contact the sports unit for more information (*see contact details below*).

For further details on any sports unit initiatives please call 823818 or email: [sports.unit@iow.gov.uk](mailto:sports.unit@iow.gov.uk)

# Getting set for the biggest games yet



**Preparations for the 2011 NatWest Island Games on the Isle of Wight are proceeding well following a recent visit by delegates from the 25 member islands.**

The delegates and members of the games' executive committee visited the Island to coincide with the one-year countdown to the games.

During the visit a countdown clock (pictured above) was unveiled at Newport's Guildhall and delegates visited sporting venues and accommodation that will be used for the games.

The games on the Island are expected to be the largest to date.

The International Island Games were established in the Isle of Man in 1985 and today include 25 member islands in, or associated with, the nine sovereign nations or groups of nations of Canada, Denmark,

Estonia, Finland, Greece, Norway, Spain, Sweden, the UK and the Caribbean.

In 1999, NatWest became the title sponsor of the games, which have become among the largest participation events behind the Olympics and Commonwealth Games.

The NatWest Island Games 2011 are being run by the Island Games Association (Isle of Wight) supported by the council, which is also a sponsor.

The 25 member islands compete every two years in a range of sports including archery, athletics, badminton, basketball, cycling, football, golf, squash, swimming, shooting, table tennis, tennis, volleyball, windsurfing and sailing.

If you would like to get involved in supporting the 2011 games – whether through volunteering, sponsorship or participation – please visit [www.natwestislandgames2011.co.uk](http://www.natwestislandgames2011.co.uk)

## Funding for sports clubs

**A number of Island sports clubs have secured grant funding in recent months.**

The Isle of Wight Canoe Club has been awarded £5,000 by Grassroots Grants, to help buy new canoes, kayaks and accessories. The grant will also support the club to extend its coaching programmes.

Smaller grants have been approved by Grassroots Grants for projects for Bembridge Youth and Community Centre and Ventnor Table Tennis Club.

Newport Rowing Club has secured £1,000 from Sportsmatch, to help with new equipment to allow it to increase its activities.

## Two year countdown to London 2012



**A series of free activities were recently held across the Island to mark the two year countdown to the 2012 Olympic Games in London.**

The Open Weekend initiative saw hundreds of events take place across the UK, and on the Island included rowing, pilates, yoga, swimming, golf and tennis.

The initiative also provided the opportunity to look ahead to next year's Isle of Wight NatWest Island Games.

More information on the events that took place can be found at [www.london2012.com/openweekend](http://www.london2012.com/openweekend)



## Ryde pupils triumph as St Helena

**Pupils from Ryde became the Island's champs recently at the third Primary School Island Games.**

The Ryde area primary school pupils went under the flag of St Helena at the annual games, where Island schools represented different islands from the Nat West International Island Games.

More than 400 children took part in the games, organised by the council's sports unit.

Each Island Games island – the Cayman Islands, St Helena, Rhodes, Greenland, Menorca, Gibraltar, Western Isles and Bermuda – was represented by a cluster of Isle of Wight

primary schools for the areas of Ryde, Sandown, Ventnor, Cowes and East Cowes, Newport, Carisbrooke and the West Wight.

There were around 1,000 spectators watching sports including tennis, girls' football, athletics, tag rugby, netball, cycling and basketball.

Also attending was the International Island Games executive committee and guests from all 25 member islands.

The Ryde area pupils, as St Helena, won six out of the seven sports, followed by Sandown (Cayman Islands) in second place, and Ventnor (Greenland) in third.

## Gold medallist Sarah opens new 'adiZone'



A new multi-sports zone in the shape of the London 2012 Olympics logo was recently unveiled at Sandham Gardens, Sandown by sailing gold medallist Sarah Gosling (pictured left).

The free-to-use facility has been developed by sports firm Adidas and features a climbing wall, outdoor gym, basketball court and football goals.

Sarah Gosling, who won Olympic gold in 2004 and 2008 in the Yngling class, cut the ribbon at the adiZone, which has been paid for through funding by Adidas, the Small Rural Towns Project and Isle of Wight Community Safety Partnership.

The project is also supported by the Island's NHS, Hampshire Constabulary and Sandown Town Council, and is the 50th adiZone to be built in the country.

Two other new community facilities were also launched at Sandham Gardens – the Fort Multi Play Courts and the Fort Play Park, opened by Sandown Town Council and Sandown Community Partnership.



## Remembering the Island's fallen

A special Field of Remembrance is to be unveiled in the Princess Beatrice Garden at Carisbrooke Castle, commemorating those in the uniformed services from the Island who lost their lives in service of their country.

The field will be next to the castle's chapel and will be formally



unveiled at a short service of remembrance at the castle, conducted by the archdeacon of the Isle of Wight, the Venerable Caroline Baston at 11am on 11 November.

It is the first time a field of remembrance has been created for the whole Island, and its siting is next to a chapel which lists all the servicemen and women from the Island who lost their lives during the First World War.

The Field of Remembrance opens to the public on 10 November at 10am and will remain open until 4pm on 15 November.

The Royal British Legion is making crosses available for members of the public to purchase from the visitor centre at the castle – these can then be placed in the appropriate section of the Field of Remembrance.

Island libraries are to play a frontline role in trading standards advice on safe buying on the internet.

Trading standards officers will be giving guidance via computers in the libraries as well as through display boards and other information.

There will be advice on how to review websites and check their origins and how to shop

online safely, including using secure payment facilities.

The main aim of the initiative is to encourage people without home access to the internet (and novice or irregular users) to purchase goods and services safely online.

The dates for the advice sessions (taking place between 9am and 3.30pm) are:

Lord Louis Library, Newport	20 September
Ryde Library	15 October
Sandown Library	9 November
Freshwater Library	29 November
Cowes Library	18 January
Ventnor Library	22 February

ISLE OF WIGHT  
**2010**  
 WALKING  
 FESTIVAL

# Don't miss the Autumn Walking Weekend

Next month will see the third staging of the Island's autumn walking weekend, a popular offshoot of the successful annual walking festival in May

**Autumn  
 Walking  
 Weekend**  
 22-25  
 October

**M**ore than 60 themed and guided walks are in the schedule for the 2010 Isle of Wight Autumn Walking Weekend, taking place from 22 to 25 October.

This year there will be a variety of new routes and themes during the council-organised event, including a round the Island coastal path walk for the first time at the autumn weekend.

As usual there are walks for all ages and abilities, with all

the walks led by experienced volunteers and most free of charge. You can view all the walks online at [www.isleofwightwalkingfestival.co.uk](http://www.isleofwightwalkingfestival.co.uk), and download a pdf to give you your own personal brochure. Hard copies will be available from tourist information centres.

If you are looking for somewhere to stay on the Island during the weekend, visit [www.islandbreaks.co.uk](http://www.islandbreaks.co.uk) for details.

THESE  
 BOOTS  
 WERE  
 MADE...

## A selection of walks

### *Beaches, bars and blisters walk*

A round-the-Island coastal path walk is being organised for the first time at the autumn event. It is being staged by the author of the *Beaches, Bars and Blisters* book.

### *Disabled scooter ramble*

This event is being held for disabled scooter users, taking them off the road to enjoy the countryside. The scooter ramble starts from Yarmouth and follows the Freshwater Trail looping round to Afton Down.

### *Children's walks*

There is a wide selection of walks for youngsters. These include: the Autumn Earth Walk with the Wildlife Trust; a walk through Bouldnor Forest in search of red squirrels; a tea party walk; and a walk searching for dinosaur fossils.

ISLE OF WIGHT  
 WALKING  
 FESTIVAL  
**2011**  
 7-22 MAY

## Isle of Wight Walking Festival 2011

Don't forget to book the dates in your diary for the 2011 walking festival from 7 to 22 May. In 2010 more than 21,000 people took part.

# It's time to turn over a new leaf

The hardest part of getting fit is getting started. The council's leisure centres have launched a special *Fall into Fitness* campaign to help you get fit, tone-up and de-stress...

Each Tone Zone gym at The Heights, Medina Leisure Centre and Westridge Centre, has a wide range of equipment for an all-over fitness regime.

Another way to get active is to try aquafit and fitness classes at The Heights and Medina Leisure Centres, geared to help you get more flexible and fit.

If you're a beginner, try Back to Basics at The Heights. This fantastic workout has easy-to-follow aerobic routines and toning exercises. If you're tired and exhausted, Stretch and Relax

also at The Heights is the class for you to lengthen and stretch those stiff and aching muscles.

If you're after hypnotic Latin rhythms and easy-to-follow moves, Zumba is what you need and there are classes at both The Heights and Medina throughout the week.

For more information, download a class timetable from [iwight.com/leisure](http://iwight.com/leisure) or pick up a copy from The Heights, Medina Leisure Centre, Waterside Pool or Westridge Tone Zone.



## A new kind of flexibility at the heart of your fitness

Join the successful *One Card* scheme for some of the best fitness deals on the Island.

*One Card* is now in its tenth year and its options have been rebranded to make it even easier to choose which *One Card* is for you.

Thousands of Island residents have signed up to the *One Card* since its launch in 2000. It's a great way to get the best value from the council's leisure facilities.

There are cards for adults, juniors and students, all for a monthly fee with flexible payment options.

If you're receiving certain benefits, you may qualify for a concessionary *One Card*, giving you affordable access to health and fitness. Ask leisure centre staff for information.

### Gold Card

The all-round fitness solution. Unlimited\* use of everything (over 16s only). From £33 a month.

### Silver Card

The choice for all your water-based fitness and leisure activities.

Unlimited\* use of our three swimming pools, plus racket sports and the health suite at The Heights.

(\*subject to availability)

### Special offer

To celebrate *Fall into Fitness*, and help you get the most from your fitness, some special offers have been lined up for new and existing customers during our open day (see opposite page).



and don't miss our special  
**Fall into Fitness**

# open day

Come and see what's on offer at your local leisure centre. Visit the Tone Zone gyms and see the wide range of equipment, from bikes, to rowers to steppers.

The Tone Zones are bright and welcoming and our enthusiastic staff will be on hand to advise and help you choose what's best for you. Don't worry if you're not used to the gym - everyone's had to start somewhere.

## Open Day on Saturday 25 September

The Heights and Medina Leisure Centre, 10am to 4pm.  
Westridge Squash and Tone Zone, 10am to 1pm.

- At The Heights and Medina, you can swim for free during one of our public sessions (check the availability on your visit). You can pick up a free swim voucher at Westridge to use at Waterside Pool, Ryde.
- You can also get a taste of our fitness facilities with try-before-you-buy sessions.
- Sign up for a Gold One Card during the open day for a minimum of three months, and we'll give you a month for free (terms and conditions apply). And the first 25 customers to sign up for a Gold One Card will get a free gift.
- If you're one of our existing customers, you're not left out. We all know that a fitness programme can get boring after a while, so book to refresh your programme at one of our Tone Zone gyms (you must book ahead for the open days). If you book for a refresh, you'll get a free session in one of our far infrared therapy cabins at The Heights or Medina Leisure Centre.

**Special offer for One Card holders** - Half price sessions in the far infrared therapy cabin at The Heights and Medina. One Card holders pay just £5 a session (terms and conditions apply).



## Look out for our new leaflets

All our information leaflets have a bright new look. Check out the displays at the leisure centres and pick and mix the information you need.



## Making a real difference to young people's lives

The council's Combined Accommodation Scheme works with social work teams to support young people who are currently in or have been in foster care.

The focus of the scheme is to ensure continuity of care and accommodation for young people and to improve their health, education and lifetime opportunities.

The team responsible for the scheme recruits, assesses and provides ongoing support to those who wish to provide foster care/supportive lodgings for young people.

The scheme welcomes couples, families and single people, who are able to value, respect, encourage and listen to young people.



People are needed who can promote young people into independence and care for them at the same time.

Some young people say that the turning point in their lives has come when they have experienced a positive relationship with someone who cares about them as an individual through the bad times.

• Please see the advertisement opposite for details.

## The Combined Accommodation Scheme

Young people have better chances in life if they have a stable, caring home background, but some may never have had this positive experience. Carers can make a difference to young people like these, but it can take time and perseverance, and can be challenging at times.



We are looking for consistent and stable carers to offer older young people care and accommodation. If you are interested in being a carer for the Combined Accommodation Scheme, please contact Fostering Duty on (01983) 566011 or visit [www.iwight.com/fostering](http://www.iwight.com/fostering)



## Great activities for disabled children

Nettlecombe Farm in Whitwell is offering a variety of activities for disabled children and their families/carers via the government's Aiming High for Disabled Children programme.

The activities are among a range planned across the Island over the coming months in an initiative run by the council and the NHS.

The vision behind Aiming High for Disabled Children is for all families with disabled children to have the support they need to live ordinary family lives.

Nettlecombe Farm has nine luxurious self-catering holiday properties, three well-stocked coarse fishing lakes, many animals on the farm for guests to enjoy (ranging from rabbits to emus), a rustic adventure play facility, a range of play equipment and special bikes for disabled children.

'Stay on a farm' overnight breaks at Nettlecombe Farm are available at substantially discounted rates for parties that include a child or young person who meets the Aiming High eligibility criteria.

Nettlecombe Farm owner, Jose Morris, said: "We are delighted to offer our facilities to disabled children who live on the Island. The Aiming High programme has allowed us to do this and we very much look forward to making a difference to the lives of these children and their families."

More details can be found at [www.nettlecombefarm.co.uk/aiminghigh](http://www.nettlecombefarm.co.uk/aiminghigh) or by emailing [aiminghigh@nettlecombefarm.co.uk](mailto:aiminghigh@nettlecombefarm.co.uk)

• Details of other activities on the Island can be found at [www.iwight.com/council/aiminghigh/default.asp](http://www.iwight.com/council/aiminghigh/default.asp) or from the Family Information Zone, tel: 821999.

Aiming High for Disabled Children

## Fishing & Farm Breaks at Nettlecombe Farm

\* Free day fishing \* Fishing tuition \* Discounted accommodation for disabled children who meet the aiming high eligibility criteria.



A peaceful farm nestling in rolling south Wight countryside, Nettlecombe Farm has three fishing lakes, luxurious self-catering accommodation, plenty of animals to see and fun play areas for children of all ages and abilities.

**Nettlecombe Farm, Whitwell, IW, PO38 2AF**  
**Tel: (01983) 730783**  
[www.nettlecombefarm.co.uk/aiminghigh](http://www.nettlecombefarm.co.uk/aiminghigh)  
[aiminghigh@nettlecombefarm.co.uk](mailto:aiminghigh@nettlecombefarm.co.uk)

Isle of Wight Council and NHS IW provide a range of short breaks for disabled children, thanks to funding provided by the Aiming High for Disabled Children scheme.



# Annual report and summary statement of accounts 2009/2010



## Inside this report

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## Feedback

The council would like to know if you find this information useful or if you think it could be presented differently.

We would welcome your comments on any part of this report, but specifically on the following questions:

- Which parts of this report did you find useful?
- Were there any parts which were difficult to understand?
- How do you think we could improve this report next year?

Please write with your feedback, to Carol Harrison at:

Financial Services, Isle of Wight Council,  
FREEPOST (SCE 13306),  
County Hall, Newport, Isle of Wight  
PO30 1UD



## Introduction

This report is a summary of the council's priorities and achievements together with its financial accounts for 2009/2010.

Last year the council faced a range of challenges as a result of the difficult economic climate – and as we continue through 2010/2011 many of these pressures remain.

In providing key services for Island residents, the council remains committed to ensuring these services are delivered in a manner that represents best value for the council taxpayer.

We are determined the services we provide are delivered to a high quality and that they will continue to make a real contribution to the quality of life enjoyed by local residents.

**Councillor David Pugh, leader of the council**

## Our key priorities

To help focus resources on the areas of most importance to residents, the council has set a list of priorities.

These priorities are: schools' re-organisation; improving roads and the Highways Private Finance Initiative (PFI) scheme; transforming social care; providing local housing; regeneration of the economy; modernising the Island's fire service; and delivering better overall services.

The priorities were decided following public consultation, including exercises such as the annual residents' survey.

There have already been some major

successes in these priority areas:

- The start of work on the new Pan Meadows development at Newport will provide a boost to the local economy and affordable homes for local people.
- The schools' two-tier reorganisation is now well underway, and plans are progressing well for the creation of a flagship new Cowes Secondary School.
- Key steps have already been taken to modernise the Island's fire and rescue service, focusing on creating two new fire stations at Ventnor and Newport, specialist new equipment and more full-time firefighter posts.

*More details on these priorities can be found throughout the annual report.*



## Children's services

### Priorities and achievements

#### Schools' reorganisation

The reorganisation of Island schools into a two-tier system is now well underway. It brings the Island in line with much of the rest of the UK.

The change is designed to improve educational attainment: while performance compares well at primary school level, the Island lags significantly behind national averages by the time pupils take their GCSEs.

The council believes that pupils will benefit from spending longer in the successful primary education sector, and a two-tier education involves fewer potentially disruptive changes of schools.

To get to a two-tier structure for the start of the new academic year, the council has had to make changes to school buildings and areas like its school transport and admissions policies.

#### Cowes One School Pathfinder

A key part of the schools' reorganisation at Cowes is the new £30 million One School Pathfinder project on the site of Cowes High School.

A state of the art, environmentally-friendly school will be created to serve the entire Cowes community.

#### Other achievements

- Three quarters of Island schools now enjoy Healthy Schools' status, which means young people are developing healthy lifestyles to maintain through their adult lives.
- The council commissioned a range of short breaks for 300 disabled children to give them the chance to take part in activities including sailing, tree-climbing, football, swimming – while providing their carers and families with respite support.
- External funding was secured from partners, including the Youth Opportunities Fund and Wightlink, to support the Island's entry into the 2010 World Youth Games in the Azores.

**Pictured:** Artist's impression of the new Cowes school



## Economy and the env

### Priorities and achievements

#### Highways PFI project

In 2008 the council learned it was one of only three councils (areas) nationally to qualify for non-repayable grant funding under the first wave of Highways Private Finance Initiative (PFI).

Since then, it has been working through a complex procurement process to find a private sector partner to undertake the work and to make sure the project specification brings maximum benefits to the Island.

Following this year's general election, the incoming government announced it was reviewing departmental spending and all major projects of this type against the need to reduce the national debt.

The Island's £364 million scheme was one such project – the council has had its first stage clearance from the Treasury and is now awaiting the sponsor department, the Department for Transport, to re-approve the project. It is likely that the outcome will be known this autumn.

In the meantime, the council continues to manage the procurement process, in partnership with the three international engineering and funding consortiums bidding to be the council's partner, and also with government officials to ensure all work that can be done in advance of the announcement is undertaken.



# ironment

## Fire service modernisation

The council's fire and rescue service is on course for a major modernisation.

The move will involve an £8 million investment in the service to create new fire stations in Newport and Ventnor and provide new equipment such as extra appliances specifically kitted out to respond to road traffic accidents.

It also involves employing more whole-time firefighters to reduce the service's reliance on retained or part-time crews. This will enable more emphasis to be put on fire prevention work to keep Island residents and businesses safe (see special feature on pages 14 to 16).



## Helping the economy

- Following the announcement of the closure of wind technology firm Vestas in July last year, the council became an active member of a task force to help staff find alternative training and employment. The council also played a key role in helping establish the new Vestas research and development facility at Stag Lane, Newport which will create an estimated 300 jobs.
- Also in Stag Lane, a local company has been granted an option to use council land to develop a major biomass plant with the potential to generate power for thousands of Island homes.
- Through the Future Jobs Fund the council bid for money to give six months' employment across the authority to 38 long-term unemployed people and help towards gaining full-time employment.
- The council also worked closely with GKN to enable the company to expand its Whippingham site to develop wing tip technology to help make future aircraft travel more environmentally-friendly.
- The council continues to work with Southampton University to test the strength of tidal flows off Fort Victoria and St Catherine's Point, with a view to the sites becoming locations for future tidal energy testing and power generation.
- The council is also working hard to make sure the Island gains maximum benefit from the new Eneco offshore windfarm to be built off the Island's south west coast.

## Other achievements

- At the beginning of the year, the Island experienced some of the worst snowfalls for many years, with council staff and contractors working continuously for ten days to tackle the effects of the freezing conditions. While the winter maintenance plan generally worked well, several changes have been incorporated to enhance the response next time it is needed. The conditions meant the council had to fill in 8,000 potholes in the first three months of 2010.
- Island schools were awarded 14 bronze and one silver award for their school travel plans. The silver achieved by Godshill was the only one achieved outside London and the school went on to win the National Travel School of the year. All schools now have travel plans.





## Community services

### Priorities and achievements

#### Transforming social care

Social care on the Isle of Wight and nationally is changing. The way people receive their care and the type of care they get is moving away from the traditional methods of the past.

The aim of the transforming social care agenda is to give people more choice and control over how they live their lives. In the past, a social worker or care manager would have arranged care services for an individual.

Under the new way of working, individuals are given a personal budget from which to choose the services to meet their needs (a series of features on how personal budgets are changing people's lives has been run in recent editions of *One Island*).

On the Island, the transformation of social care is a priority for the council and we are working with a range of people, including service users and carers, organisations, staff groups and providers to create a shared idea of how this can best be delivered.

Overseeing this work is the transforming social care board, made up of people from different departments in the council and health service, as well as providers and voluntary organisations.

For more information on transforming social care you can visit: [www.iwight.com/living\\_here/health-and-wellbeing/Your\\_Care/transfor.asp](http://www.iwight.com/living_here/health-and-wellbeing/Your_Care/transfor.asp)

### Pan Meadows

Perhaps the biggest achievement in community services has been the start of work on the Pan Meadows development at Newport.

This partnership project will see 846 homes – a third of which will be designated as affordable – built next to and dovetailed in with the existing Pan community.

The homes will be built to an environmentally-friendly specification and the development will be supplied with heat and hot water from a specially-built biomass plant.

Pan Meadows will also feature new play areas and nature parks – and development partner Barratt's has pledged to use as much local labour and as many local suppliers as it can.

Also at Pan, the council has been working hard to drive down recorded crime. Between April and October 2009, reports of violence against the person fell 32 per cent (from 65 incidents to 44) and criminal damage and arson by 54 per cent (from 72 incidents to 33). This is the result of partnership working developed by the Pan Neighbourhood Partnership.

Among schemes and projects contributing to the reduction have been:

- the Pan community wardens and the junior warden scheme;
- the revitalisation of Pan Youth Club;
- the construction of a multi-use games area;
- an increase in community activities.

### Homefinder scheme and special grants

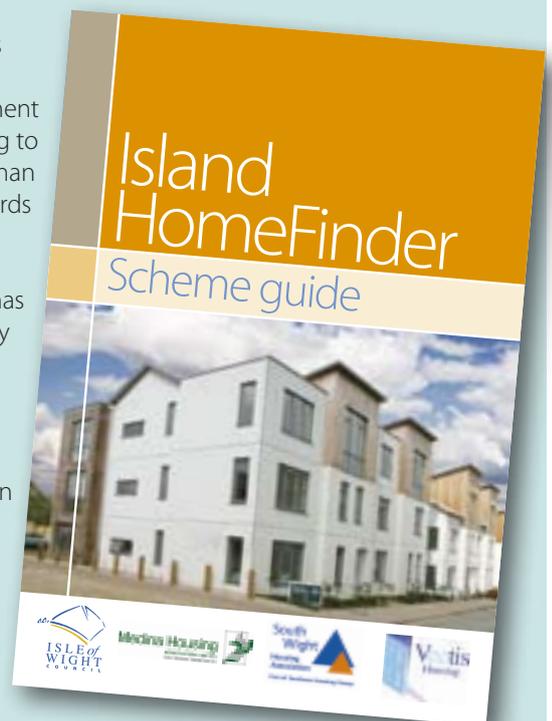
After residents identified a clear need, the council's housing services department worked with Island housing associations to create Island Homefinder, giving tenants the chance to view and bid for available properties.

Part of this process involved contacting 5,000 households to see if they wished to remain on the housing register – with 3,300 currently on that list.

The housing renewal team approved more than £2.4 million worth of disabled facilities grants, repair grants and grants for additional measures to make properties more environmentally-friendly.

The team has also dealt with many enforcement matters, helping to remove more than 400 major hazards from Island homes.

The council has also significantly reduced the number of people living in temporary accommodation on the Island, from 181 at the end of March 2009 to 121 at the end of March 2010.



Pictured: Artist's impression of the new Pan Meadows development



### Pharmacy Fix

In partnership with the NHS, the council's drug and alcohol action team worked with nine Island pharmacies to raise awareness of, and to vaccinate against, hepatitis.

The Pharmacy Fix Project encouraged those susceptible to the viral condition to come forward for testing and vaccination. Pharmacists were trained to screen, counsel and offer vaccinations to injecting drug users who are a particularly high risk group for contracting hepatitis.

The pioneering project could now be spread to other vaccination programmes such as seasonal and 'bird' flu. The project gained several awards for its innovative approach.

### CCTV improvements

The council's CCTV control room was completely refurbished with state of the art technology introduced to give better



quality imagery and to allow greater and more effective use of mobile CCTV.

Fifteen new cameras were installed at Cowes and Shanklin, funded by the local town councils.

### Street pastors at Ryde

The council's environment and neighbourhood officers were instrumental in supporting a new street pastor scheme in Ryde.

The pastors work closely with vulnerable groups such as drug users, and their presence helped contribute to a 43 per cent cut in violent crimes in Ryde town centre on Friday nights (between June and December 2009). This year the scheme will be extended to Newport.

### Other achievements

- The council has been nominated as one of only 11 local authorities to be a Big Tidy Champion in recognition of its work as part of the Litter Free Island group.
- Under the Community Payback scheme, parish and town councillors and Isle of Wight council members are able to refer to a single contact point, any scheme that could be undertaken by those serving community penalties. Between January and December 2009, more than 60 projects taking nearly 8,000 hours and with an estimated value of £46,000 were completed.
- Twenty-two Island licensed premises



were accredited in the Island's Best Bar None awards to promote the highest standards of

operation within licensed premises such as pubs and clubs

- The Scores on the Doors scheme to promote high standards of food hygiene also achieved impressive results. When launched in 2007, 20 per cent of premises had earned the maximum five star rating following inspection, but by the end of the last financial year this had risen to 53 per cent.
- Much work has been done by trading standards both in terms of legal action against rogue traders and in educating people – including 2,500 school children – to prevent them from becoming victims.
- Trading standards also worked with parish and town councils to create No Cold Calling Zones covering 8,700 homes. Responding to particular complaints about cold calling by energy companies, pressure was successfully put on the top six companies to amend their code of practice so they do not call at homes displaying a 'no cold calling' sticker.
- Work continues with the police on making test purchasing of age-sensitive products such as knives and alcohol, with considerable success in reducing the number of inappropriate sales.

# Resources

## Priorities and achievements Transformation

The council is looking to deliver high quality services more efficiently through its 'transformation' project.

By operating more efficiently – for example by working from fewer buildings and using new computer software that removes duplication – the council aims to save money to allow it to be directed to priority services.

Recent examples of this include the introduction of a new system that puts internal services including payroll, human resources and procurement onto one single operating database.

Several departments have been relocated as part of the transformation, including community service finances, payments services, recruitment, training, and pensions from Newport offices (mainly County Hall) to Westridge at Ryde.

The space vacated at County Hall will be used by staff who worked in other buildings. These buildings will either be sold to realise a cash receipt or the leases will be surrendered to realise ongoing revenue savings.

The move is part of the council's ongoing efforts to save money by reducing the number of office buildings from which it operates from 36 to 14.

## Other achievements

- Work to prevent benefit fraud identified £420,000-plus that had been claimed illegally or wrongly. This led to 137 sanctions and 36 prosecutions to secure

repayment of the money. The work meant that for the third time, the fraud team achieved top place among the 14 local authorities with which the council is compared.

- The collection rate for council tax – 98.5 per cent – was among the highest in the country.
- Also, the average time for processing housing and council tax benefit was well within targets despite an increase in the number of people claiming during the economic downturn. That meant claims were processed faster at a time when help was most needed.
- The council's website at *iwight.com* was once again a finalist in the annual Hantsweb Awards. The council was one of three finalists in the Best Public Service website 2009 category.
- An online service developed by the council to provide people with long term health and social care needs with essential information also received national recognition. The One Link service won the Independent Living award at the National eWellbeing Awards 2010.
- The council's call centre experienced its busiest time on record during January's cold snap, taking more nearly 18,000 calls over the first eight days of the freeze. The staff have also been fully trained to work with the new online payments system that went live on October 1 enabling them to process invoices for things like council tax and parking notices.

# Partnerships

The council has launched a new grant-making programme for voluntary and community organisations to bid to deliver public services. This has resulted in real opportunities to develop exciting new local services.

The council's partnership team, working with the Island NHS, has also launched the council's first participatory budgeting scheme. The national scheme encourages community involvement in making spending decisions.

The first scheme enabled young people in West Wight to decide how to spend more than £20,000 on projects to encourage healthy lifestyles.

The partnership team also manages the council's role as part of the Island Strategic Partnership (ISP). The ISP brings together the public, private and voluntary sectors to deliver the Eco Island sustainable community strategy.



# Equality and diversity

To ensure all residents have equal access to services regardless of race, age, gender, disability, sexual orientation, marital status, religion/belief or maternity status, the council operates to a nationally-agreed equality improvement framework for local government.

To encourage and celebrate disability diversity on the Island, four new categories have been added to the Isle of Wight Lord Lieutenant's annual community celebration of achievements awards.

The council is also supporting the government's agenda by working in closer partnership with the Island's NHS on equality and diversity issues, and has developed a single equality scheme, which will be promoted during the autumn of 2010.



## Sustainability

### Carbon footprint

The council's carbon footprint is made up of emissions from building energy use, street lighting energy use, fleet vehicle fuel consumption, business travel fuel consumption, and waste.

In 2009/2010 the council's carbon management measures helped to achieve an 11 per cent reduction in the level of carbon dioxide emissions.

The figures in the table show the emissions for the period 2004/2005 to 2009/2010.

Year	Emissions (tonnes of CO <sub>2</sub> )
2004/2005	25,939
2005/2006	28,413
2006/2007	24,065
2007/2008	27,183
2008/2009	30,187
2009/2010	26,864

### Sustainable accounting

Sustainable accounting is a new type of reporting which shows how we are contributing to sustainable development.

Sustainable development relates to the direct impact the council has on our environment, such as carbon emissions, and the wider roles of waste management, economic development and the health and well-being of the Island's population.

Capital investment is often required for larger projects which contribute to sustainable development – and in 2009/2010 the council invested £2.9 million in such projects.



## Annual governance statement

The council has a statutory obligation to provide an annual governance statement, published with its statement of accounts.

In preparing the statement, council heads of service complete a declaration confirming that effective internal control has operated throughout the year and where this cannot be confirmed, they identify any weaknesses and the causes and planned action to address the problem.

During 2009/2010, the council identified that improvements were needed in its:

- implementation of council strategies and policies;
- delivery of council services – in particular information communication technology, financial control, education and vulnerable clients;
- governance, in particular, consultation arrangements and partnerships.

• Full details of the issues and plans for improvement can be found in the governance statement available at [www.iwight.com](http://www.iwight.com)

# Summary statement of accounts 2009/2010

## Where the money comes from

Revenue funding sources	2008/2009 £000's	%	2009/2010 £000's	%
Dedicated schools' grant	72,708	21	74,162	21
Formula grants	56,747	17	59,129	17
Other government grants	95,083	28	107,320	30
Council tax	66,123	19	71,626	20
Charges, rents, other incomes and adjustments	52,646	15	46,120	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>343,307</b>		<b>358,357</b>	

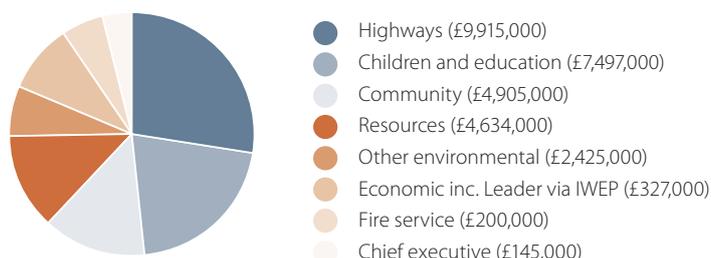
## How we spent it

Gross revenue expenditure	2008/2009 £000's	%	2009/2010 £000's	%
Culture, environment, regulatory and planning	41,945	12	43,799	12
Children and education	138,486	40	136,560	38
Housing services (including benefits)	53,930	16	63,697	18
Fire and rescue service	6,441	2	6,954	2
Adult social care	54,891	16	56,770	16
Highways, roads and transport	22,588	7	24,536	7
Core and democratic services	25,026	7	26,041	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>343,307</b>		<b>358,357</b>	

## What we're worth

Long term assets – owned	2008/2009 £000's	2009/2010 £000's
Intangibles	812	2,923
Land and buildings	268,349	281,318
Vehicles, plant, furniture and equipment	10,035	10,574
Infrastructure – roads, bridges etc	69,020	74,483
Community	1,931	2,553
Shared ownership dwellings	1,198	1,195
Assets under construction	7,727	4,676
Surplus assets held for disposal	5,546	2,420
Other	105	99
<b>Total</b>	<b>364,723</b>	<b>380,241</b>
Long term liabilities – owed		
Borrowing	-135,931	-130,819
Capital grants & contributions	-40,023	-63,116
Deferred liabilities	-5,943	-6,589
<b>Total</b>	<b>-181,897</b>	<b>-200,524</b>
<b>Net long term assets (31/3/10)</b>	<b>182,826</b>	<b>179,717</b>
Short term assets		
Stock	618	689
Cash and investment	15,869	10,487
Money owed to the council	18,429	23,472
<b>Total</b>	<b>34,916</b>	<b>34,648</b>
Short term liabilities		
Money owed by the council	-21,843	-23,710
Provisions	-4,005	-3,223
<b>Total</b>	<b>-25,848</b>	<b>-26,933</b>
<b>Net short term assets (31/3/10)</b>	<b>9,068</b>	<b>7,715</b>
<b>Total assets (31/3/10)</b>	<b>191,894</b>	<b>187,432</b>
Financed by		
Earmarked reserves	16,490	13,042
General fund balance	11,515	7,273
Capital & accounting reserves	163,889	167,117
<b>Total</b>	<b>191,894</b>	<b>187,432</b>
Long term pension liability	-145,588	-269,763

## 2009/2010 capital spending



## Savings generated

The 2009/2010 budget identified additional expenditure of £11.776 million for services. Of this increase, £4.424 million resulted from the economic downturn, particularly the council's ability to generate income.

A further £4 million was identified for inflation and other pressures, £1.776 million additional spending on schools and £1.575 million for the revenue impact of capital investment.

These increases were to be

funded from £5.6 million in efficiency savings, a £2.3 million increase in formula grant, a £3 million increase in council tax and a £1.7 million increase in the dedicated schools grant.

This was offset by a reduction of £1.1 million in the amount being withdrawn from the general fund. The council resolved not to increase fees and charges.

Of the savings target of £5.6 million, the council achieved actual savings of £9.542 million in 2009/2010.

## Statement by director of resources

I certify that the statement of accounts presents a true and fair view of the financial position of the authority at the accounting date and its income and expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2010. At the time of going to print, this statement of accounts is being audited by an auditor appointed by the Audit Commission – the government's public spending watchdog.

## Glossary of accounting terms

**Capital** Spending on the acquisition, creation or enhancement of assets, either by the council or indirectly by the form of grants to other persons or bodies such as schools. Expenditure not falling within this definition of capital expenditure is classed as revenue.

**Dedicated schools grant** A government grant for schools-related spend only.

**Other government grants** Government grants to support a range of services.

**Council tax** A property tax collected from local taxpayers.

**Formula grant** Comprises two elements: revenue support grant to support local services generally and non-domestic rates (business rates), a tax collected by councils and paid into a national 'pool' which the government then shares back out to councils.

**Charges, rents, other income and adjustments** Income from charging for services – leisure centres, car parking etc – and adjustments such as depreciation.

**Earmarked reserves** Funds held by the council for specific purposes including unspent budget held by schools, and money set aside for insurance and risk management. Such reserves allow a degree of flexibility between years.

**General fund balances** Funds to meet any unforeseen demands.

**Capital and accounting reserves** Technical accounting entries, the majority of which represent unrealised gains on the value of assets and the long term pensions liability, and are therefore not available to finance the council's spend.

# Island Waste, working on behalf of the Isle of Wight Council

## Complete this questionnaire for a chance to win a £50 gift voucher



We know visitors to the Island are impressed with the cleanliness of our Garden Isle, but we would like your views as well. You may notice these questions are the same as those we asked last year. This enables us to undertake comparative analysis of each year's results.

**Please tick the answer you feel is the most applicable.**

### STREET SWEEPING

**(Please note that Island Waste Services' contract does not include weed removal)**

1 The contract is responsible for cleaning over 800km of roads and 22km of cycle track. In relation to your own locality do you feel it is?

- Very clean**                      **Acceptably clean**  
 **Not clean enough**

2 When travelling around the Island do you generally perceive it to be?

- Very clean**                      **Acceptably clean**  
 **Not clean enough**

3 The Isle of Wight Council provides over 270 dog bins, emptied by the contractor. Are you...

- Satisfied with the frequency of emptying dog bins**  
 **Not satisfied with the frequency of emptying dog bins**  
 **Not applicable/don't know**

4 The Isle of Wight Council provides over 1,200 litterbins. Are you...

- Satisfied with the frequency of emptying litterbins in your area**  
 **Not satisfied with the frequency of emptying litterbins in your area**  
 **Not applicable/don't know**

5 The contract includes a rapid response team able to react to littering and fly tipping.

**Are you aware of any litter hot spot/fly tipping areas?**

- YES**                       **NO**

**If you answered YES, please state where.**

To help us, please could you complete this section:

- AGE – Under 21**       **41-50**                       **MALE**  
 **21-30**                       **51-60**                       **FEMALE**  
 **31-40**                       **61+**

**POST CODE (please complete)**

**Please return this questionnaire to: Island Waste Services, Freepost, SCE6194, Newport, Isle of Wight PO30 5YX. If you would like to be entered into the prize draw to win a £50 gift voucher, please complete the section below (closing date 30 November, see [www.islandwaste.co.uk](http://www.islandwaste.co.uk) for terms and conditions). If you also require a recycling box and/or bucket please complete this section as well.**

Name

Address

Postcode

Please deliver (tick as appropriate):  Organic waste bucket       Kerbside recycling box

### REFUSE COLLECTION

1 When your household waste is collected each week, where do you think it is taken?

- Landfill**  
 **The Resource Recovery Facility in Forest Road**  
 **Other (please state)**

2 How satisfied are you with your refuse collection service?

- Very satisfied**                       **Satisfied**  
 **Not satisfied**

3 How satisfied are you with recycling services on the Island?

- Very satisfied**                       **Satisfied**  
 **Not satisfied**

4 How satisfied are you with the facilities at the Island's three civic amenity sites (Afton Road, Freshwater; Forest Park, Newport; and Lynnbottom, Arreton)?

- Very satisfied**                       **Satisfied**  
 **Not satisfied**

5 Are you participating in the organic kitchen waste collection service (green bucket) and kerbside recycling service (black box) for newspapers, magazines, glass bottles and jars and textiles?

- Organic waste**       **YES**       **NO**  
**Kerbside recycling**       **YES**       **NO**

**NB. You can request a FREE bucket or box if you do not have one, by filling out the form below.**

6 Please could you indicate in how many of the following you have seen/heard information about Island Waste Services in the last year. Please tick all that apply.

- IW County Press**                       **One Island magazine**  
 **From your children**                       **Community group talks**  
 **The Beacon**                       **Local shows, eg Chale**  
 **Guided walks**                       **Other (please state)**



# Dedicated to the community

**F**or Sue Golding, the reassuring visit of a home fire safety team from nearby Ryde fire station has made a significant and crucial difference to her life.

The visit, one of many Ryde firefighters carry out in the area each month, has given Sue and her family the vital support and advice they need following a recent fire at their home.

Crew manager Kevin Pont and firefighter Ross Smallcombe guided Sue on the siting and upkeep of smoke detectors, as well as other key measures to maximise the safety of her family home.

Sue said: "The night of the

fire it was bewildering and frightening. This visit has been very reassuring and I now feel comforted and know the right things to make our home safer. I would recommend to other people to get their homes checked."

The increased number of home fire safety checks are among the many measures placing Ryde fire station at the heart of the community it serves.

Central to the changes at

Ryde has been the switch from a retained to a day-crewed station, a development geared to improving fire cover and incident prevention.

Station manager Dave Grundy explained that alongside the day-crew staffing of the station has come the provision of new equipment and the availability of extra fire appliances to increase capacity for different incidents.

The opportunity has also

been created for more training time at Ryde as well as vital data-gathering about local properties, to improve the information to hand when call-outs occur.

Linked with all this is additional community work: via home visits, site inspections, school visits and other initiatives to ensure the people of Ryde and the surrounding area know their local station is there to serve them.

**Main picture:** Ross Smallcombe discusses home safety issues with Sue Golding  
**Above right:** Ryde Fire Station  
**Inset:** Watch manager Kelvin Wright (left); station manager Dave Grundy

Major changes are underway to place a modern and effective fire and rescue service at the very heart of the Island community. Here we turn the spotlight on a revamped day-crewed Ryde fire station, where the changes are already making a difference to local people's lives



## *A new approach for Ryde fire station*

The conversion of Ryde to day-crew staffing is central to the modernisation of the service approved by the council's cabinet in April 2009.

The programme includes an £8 million construction programme for the stations at Ryde, Newport and Ventnor.

A team of 13 day-crew firefighters has now been in place at Ryde since February this year, supported by 13 retained firefighters.

Eleven of the new day-crew have been recruited from among the Island's retained firefighters, and have undergone intensive training since their appointment.

Watch manager Kelvin Wright said: "The new day-crew firefighters have all just undertaken a new BTec qualification as part of their training, as well as a five-day road traffic collision course, training with the turntable ladder which has been moved here from Newport, and fire

appliance driver training.

"We now have 13 day-crew firefighters five days a week, 9am to 5pm, and then 13 retained covering for evenings and weekends on a rota basis. The day-crew firefighters are also on call during the evenings.

"This means we can now guarantee enhanced fire cover 24 hours a day from Ryde, which wasn't the case before. The area this station covers has now increased from the town of Ryde to far further afield."

Dave Grundy said the moving of the turntable ladder to Ryde was particularly relevant as there were a lot of tall high risk buildings on the eastern side of the Island that were now covered by the station.

"We now have a greater capacity to cover a range of different incidents from Ryde, and in turn across the whole Island."

Firefighter Ross Smallcombe, who was successfully appointed from retained at East Cowes to day-crew at Ryde, said: "I joined three years ago and when the chance came to apply for a day-crew position, it was the perfect opportunity."

At Ryde, of the 11 new day-crew firefighters, five had been retained at Ryde, and two retained from each of Cowes, East Cowes and Ventnor.

As a result of the modernisation measures at Ryde, Ross said they were now able to give more time to the community and enhanced incident cover.

"People are taking far more notice of the fire station here and it is making a real difference."

## Getting out into the community

Key areas of the community involvement of Ryde's new day-crew firefighters, include the home fire safety checks and working with local schools and other organisations.

"We are carrying out a high number of home fire safety checks every month at the moment, mainly thanks to the new staffing resource at Ryde," said Kelvin.

The home checks are promoted through a variety of routes, including at events in the community attended by the fire and rescue service, via other agencies referring people and properties which may be vulnerable, and through contacts established from actual incidents.

"We have also been out to most of the local schools and many more people are becoming aware we are here and able to help and advise them. We would also like more groups to come to see us at the station."

The Ryde firefighters are also involved in a safer roads programme and cycling safety initiatives.

**If you would like to arrange a home fire safety visit you should contact the community safety department on 533834.**



## Better cover for incidents on the roads

A key part of the modernisation at Ryde has been the introduction of a new rescue pump vehicle and extraction equipment for dealing with road traffic collisions.

Previously rescue pumps with cutting and other gear were based at Newport, but now Ryde also has a rescue pump and a similar arrangement is planned for Sandown in 2011.

"It means an improvement in response levels combined with new equipment for safely and quickly removing people from their vehicles," said Kelvin.

The new equipment includes cutters, spreaders and hydraulic rams.



## Extra facilities

Work is due to begin this month on extending Ryde fire station to create extra office and training space for firefighters and community use facilities.

"We will be able to use the extension for meetings and lectures, increasing our level of community use," said Dave Grundy. The extension is due to be completed by January 2011.

## Crucial data saves lives

Having a day-crew staff has also enabled the further data gathering for, and development of the database held on the Toughbook mobile data terminals, which were successfully introduced in 2009.

The data they are gathering on businesses and communal flats in the Ryde area is accessible at the fire and rescue service control room, and on the Toughbook computers kept on the fire appliances. This gives them crucial information on properties when attending incidents. The data collected will also determine whether a fire safety inspection is needed.

"Ryde is the test bed for the database. We are focusing on areas where we

know there is a risk to start with, and estimate it should take about 12 months for us to complete," said Dave. Already a similar database has been started at Newport and the eventual aim is to cover the whole Island.





# The Island's NHS



**HAVE YOUR SAY**

There are a number of issues on which the NHS needs to know your views:

- The re-provision of Shackleton and Dementia Services.
  - Mental Health Day Services.
  - Community Mental Health Services.
  - The government's White Paper 'Liberating the NHS' and associated consultation papers: Commissioning for patients; local democratic legitimacy in health; regulating healthcare providers; transparency in outcomes – a framework for the NHS; and later this year a further paper on public health is expected.
  - Unscheduled care.
  - Children's heart surgery.
  - Pharmaceutical needs assessment.
  - East Cowes Health Centre.
- You can find out more about all of these issues on our website at [www.iow.nhs.uk/yoursay](http://www.iow.nhs.uk/yoursay)**

## Best ever scores for environment, food, privacy and dignity

The best ever scores achieved by the NHS on the Island for environment, food and privacy and dignity have been published by the National Patient Safety Agency (NPSA). This means that patients on the Island: receive care in a first class environment; are provided with high standard food; and importantly, are treated with dignity and respect.

Under the national Patient Environment Action Team (PEAT) programme, every healthcare facility in England with ten or more inpatient beds is assessed annually, focusing on non-clinical aspects of patient care and given a rating of excellent, good, acceptable, poor or

unacceptable. Both St Mary's Hospital and Whitelodge in Newport have improved their previous scores. This year they have received the following ratings.

	St Mary's	Whitelodge
Environment	Excellent	Excellent
Food	Excellent	Excellent
Privacy/dignity	Good	Excellent

Carol Alstrom, chief nurse and director of infection prevention and control, said: "I am delighted with the improvement in these scores as this demonstrates our ongoing commitment to providing high quality patient care in a clean, safe and dignified environment. Staff and islanders can be very proud of these results."

• For more information about PEAT and to view the scores please visit [www.npsa.nhs.uk](http://www.npsa.nhs.uk)

## Commissioning improves

NHS Isle of Wight is a healthcare organisation that currently both 'commissions' and 'provides' all NHS services.

Commissioning means that we assess and prioritise the health needs of Islanders and make arrangements (contracts) with services, both Island-based and on the mainland, to meet the needs of Island residents.

The latest report on our commissioning service shows that we are getting better at this.

In the report, NHS Isle of Wight has improved its rating in all 11 of

the 'competencies' and in particular was praised for its strengthened financial performance and financial efficiencies.

Helen Shields, director of commissioning at NHS Isle of Wight, said: "I was delighted that the work undertaken by commissioning within the primary care trust has been recognised as improved, when compared with last year across all competency areas.

"This improvement in the skills of our staff supports the commissioning of better healthcare for the Island population."

• The full report is available at [www.iow.nhs.uk/publications](http://www.iow.nhs.uk/publications)



# Isle Of Wight Police AWARDS



**Hampshire**  
POLICE AUTHORITY  
for Hampshire & the Isle of Wight



The courage and skills of the police force was praised by the Hampshire Police Authority during an awards ceremony at Ventnor Botanic Garden. Police officers and staff were honoured by Isle of Wight police commander Superintendent Norman Mellors for providing an excellent service to the community, catching criminals, and having an active presence in their local neighbourhood.

**PC Matt Rumsey and Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) Mike Thornton** of the West Wight Safer Neighbourhoods team were congratulated for their response to youths who were threatening a man and shouting racial abuse. Extensive enquiries led to the offender being successfully prosecuted.



**PC Rob Clarke and PC Jamie Dupey** of the island's Targeted Patrol Teams were praised for their calmness and professionalism in giving first aid to a stab victim. Paramedics told the police that without the officers' actions, the man could have died.



**PC Michael Hughes, PC Stuart Ross and PC Chris Worsfold** received commendations for their outstanding work and calm attitude in dealing with the immediate aftermath of a fatal road traffic collision near Newport.



**Crime Scene Investigator Fred Cooper** was thanked for his forensic work that helped to catch and convict a prolific burglar on the Isle of Wight.



**Inspector Mark Bell** was thanked for his dedication in reinforcing closer co-operation between the police and community safety partner agencies.



# Violent Crime?

## Not on our Island



The police force on the Isle of Wight is reinforcing its work with the Community Safety Partnership to prevent violent crime during the autumn and winter.

Police and Isle of Wight Council officers visit pubs, clubs and off-licences to check licensing laws are not breached and gather information on any issues.

Police provide information to independent Pubwatch and Shopwatch schemes, which ban known offenders from buying alcohol.

Specialist officers and staff from the Public Protection Unit monitor high risk domestic abuse situations with partner agencies.

Frontline officers take positive action on patrol to protect the victim and any children involved from harm or further injury. Where there is evidence that supports a power of arrest then an alleged offender is normally detained.

High visibility patrols start earlier on Friday and Saturday evenings to identify and deal with potential problems and offenders before they cause crimes.



Police work alongside Isle of Wight Council CCTV operators to direct patrols to areas where there is a risk of crime and disorder.



Lawful powers are used to ban people aged 16 or over from specific areas for up to 48 hours if they are involved in anti-social behaviour.



Police confiscate and dispose of alcohol where anti-social behaviour is suspected.

Illegal drugs are seized by officers using trained dogs and specialist technology.

The Isle of Wight's former High Sheriff Gay Edwards went on patrol with frontline officers PC Juliet Proctor and Sergeant Adam Edwards. She said: "The officers' keen attention to people who were about was apparent and they seemed to use their eyes like radar constantly. On the occasions we stopped to investigate what they had noticed, I saw them calmly and politely approach the people in question and quietly deal with each situation. There was about them a measured authority at all times. I found this both impressive and comforting."



Crime went down last year with 1,236 fewer victims of crime across the island. Thank you for your information and assistance. We want to continue this reduction in crime by listening and responding to local concerns and acting on your feedback.

Phone the police on 101 or 0845 045 45 45. If you wish to remain anonymous, call independent Crimestoppers charity on 0800 555 111.

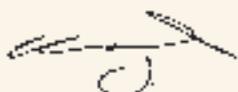
# Policing on the Island



**Hampshire Police Authority** is an independent organisation that ensures communities receive an effective, efficient and high quality policing service.

Policing is one of the key services that people rightly expect to be excellent – and there when they need it. As the organisation responsible for ensuring that local people get the best possible policing services, we speak to a wide range of groups, communities and businesses across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight to find out what people want from their local police.

The drop in the number of overall crimes last year – 16,536 – is more than a 10 per cent reduction, a tremendous achievement and a credit to the Chief Constable and his team. This is more than three times the target we set and means that local residents and visitors can be confident crime rates are falling and that Hampshire and the Isle of Wight are even safer places.



**Councillor Jacqui Rayment**  
Chair, Hampshire Police Authority

**Local results** *Figures in bold are 2009/10 and in brackets are 2008/09*

#### Number of crimes

**9,009** (10,245)

*Down 12.0 per cent or 1,236 crimes.*

#### Number of dwelling burglaries

**246** (283)

*Down 13.0 per cent or 37 burglaries.*

#### Number of vehicle crimes

**442** (591)

*Down 25.2 per cent or 149 crimes.*

#### Number of serious violent crimes

**69** (62)

*An increase of 11.2 per cent or 7 crimes.*

#### Resident's satisfaction with service

**68%** (71%)

*Down 3 per cent.*

#### The police authority says:

“The Isle of Wight continues to remain one of the safest places to live and visit. Crime figures have consistently been falling on the island over the past few years. We would, however, like to see further reductions in the number of serious violent crimes on the island, the actual numbers themselves are relatively small, however we know that violent crime is an important area that the public want the constabulary to be tackling.”

#### Superintendent Norman Mellors says:

“Crime on the island has reduced by 12% last year. Anti-social behaviour, criminal damage,

arson, serious acquisitive crime & violence against the person all fell on the island last year. Strong internal teamwork and effective collaboration with partners had a very significant influence on these outcomes. These successes were achieved within budget and despite issues with Police buildings and estates, that in one case date back over 100 years.”

#### Working with partners

We work with community safety teams to make sure local priorities are heard at a strategic level and reflected in the policing priorities for Hampshire Constabulary.

#### How to contact us

##### Hampshire Police Authority

Call: **01962 871595**

Email: [police.authority@hampshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:police.authority@hampshire.pnn.police.uk)

To see our publications, including the latest Annual Report and Policing Plan, visit:  
[www.hampshirepoliceauthority.org](http://www.hampshirepoliceauthority.org)

You can also find out more about our public meetings, which you are welcome to attend.

##### Hampshire Constabulary

In an emergency always dial 999.

For non-emergencies call 0845 045 4545 or 101  
[www.hampshire.police.uk](http://www.hampshire.police.uk)

**Crimestoppers** 0800 555 111  
[www.crime-stoppers-uk.org](http://www.crime-stoppers-uk.org)

##### Victim Support Line

0845 30 90 900  
[www.victimsupport.org.uk](http://www.victimsupport.org.uk)



# What are our policing priorities?

The police authority has a statutory duty to engage with the communities of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight to find out their community issues, concerns and priorities.

This ensures people's views and opinions are reflected in future plans including the Policing Plan – a three year rolling document that sets the policing priorities for Hampshire Constabulary.

In this year's plan there are six policing priorities:

- providing an excellent service
- catching criminals and managing offenders
- an active presence in every neighbourhood
- protecting our communities
- making the most of our resources
- equipping our team to deliver

## Working with local people

During 2009/10 the police authority attended more than 30 community events to find out what people want the police to tackle, as well as a survey of 3,600 local people. Your views help us to focus on your priorities for the next Policing Plan.

## What you wanted

We asked about your priorities and took action to tackle:

- anti-social behaviour
- vehicle crime
- speeding / anti social use of vehicles
- criminal damage

## Cuts in crime/increase in residents' satisfaction

**From 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010 across Hampshire:**

- all crime **down 10.4 per cent** (16,536 fewer crimes)
- criminal damage **down 19.0 per cent** (6,738 fewer crimes)
- vehicle crime **down 19.7 per cent** (2,832 fewer crimes)
- rowdy and nuisance behaviour **down 18.7 per cent** (14,005 fewer incidents)
- vehicle nuisance / inappropriate vehicle use **down 24.7 per cent** (3,243 fewer incidents)
- gun crime **down 12.6 per cent** (15 fewer crimes)
- knife crime **down 8.4 per cent** (60 fewer crimes)
- serious violent crime **down 4.4 per cent** (42 fewer crimes).
- resident satisfaction levels **increased by 3 per cent to 67 per cent.**

Serious acquisitive crime (robbery, household burglaries and vehicle thefts) detection rate **improved** - but not enough to meet its target.



## Good value for money and high quality, efficient policing

We make sure the police deliver good value services through:

- the police budget
- use of resources
- recommendations from inspections
- measuring performance

The Constabulary not only made efficiency savings of over £6 million last year but also achieved significant improvements in performance.

The police authority and Hampshire Constabulary are using efficiency savings from the 2009/10 financial year to support the 2010/11 budget, with a contribution from reserves of £2.3 million. Another £1.5 million is being saved by delivering further efficiency savings in police staff working practices.

Efficiency savings are helping to reduce the impact of recent cuts in Government funding for local policing.



# COAST & COUNTRY

## Take a look at new shoreline plan

The draft of the Island's new Shoreline Management Plan has been published for public examination until 23 October.

The plan sets out policy for the management of coastal flooding and erosion risks around the Island's coastline and estuaries for the next 20, 50 and 100 years.

The three month consultation period began in July, and Island residents are being invited to submit their comments before the closing date.

The draft plan, a summary leaflet and a response form can be found at [www.coastalwight.gov.uk/smp](http://www.coastalwight.gov.uk/smp)

A copy is also available at the Lord Louis Library, Newport and the Coastal Visitors' Centre, Ventnor (by appointment, tel: 857220).

Following the end of the consultation period, the

results will be used to review and set the final policies in November this year, and the final plan will be completed in December.



# FLOODING



**Island residents are being encouraged by the Environment Agency to check if their home or business is in a flood risk area.**

It is estimated about 2,000 properties on the Island are at risk of flooding – and you can check if you are affected by visiting [www.environment-agency.gov.uk/floodsouth](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/floodsouth) (entering your postcode). You can also find out by calling Floodline on 0845 988 1188.

If you live in a flood risk area you can register online or by telephone to receive free flood warnings from the Floodline Warnings Direct service. You will then receive advance warning of any potential flooding, giving you the time you need to make sure your family or business is safe during a flood.

The Environment Agency website also advises on how you can protect your property, offering a downloadable personal flood plan and information on how to prepare a flood kit.

The costs of applying measures such as waterproof doors, windows and airbricks can range from £3,000 to £10,000 for a whole house. You can help to reduce the impact of flooding by preparing in advance.

If you are interested in more information on current flood defence plans for the Island, the new Shoreline Management Plan has recently been launched for public consultation. You can visit [www.coastalwight.gov.uk/smp](http://www.coastalwight.gov.uk/smp) to view the plan online.

The plan is also available in the Lord Louis Reference Library, Newport, or the Coastal Visitors' Centre, Ventnor (please telephone 857220 to arrange an appointment).

# NATURE NOTES

'Between a rock and a hard place' may describe a difficult situation in which we find ourselves – but spare a thought for the plants that are always found growing on stone walls and roofs. They find a foothold in crevices but shortages of nutrients and water, combined with extreme temperatures all combine to make a difficult place to live. Plants spring up rapidly at first but become scorched when the weather warms up.



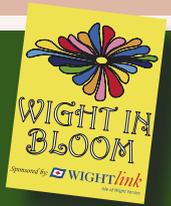
Ivy-leaved toadflax (*above*) was first recorded in Britain in 1640, having been introduced from Mediterranean Europe. It is now common on walls and pathways and its folklore names of 'roving jenny' and 'roving sailor' may relate to its ability to spread. Its flowers are like miniature mauve and yellow snapdragons held out to the light on long stalks above bright green ivy-shaped leaves tinged red at the edge. Once the flowers have faded and set seed, the stalks bend away from the light and seek out the dark fissures where the plant is rooted. After the fruits ripen, they burst open and scatter the seeds deep into nooks and crannies where they will later germinate and continue the plant's existence.

Ferns such as wall rue (*left*), black spleenwort (*middle*) and maidenhair spleenwort (*bottom*) are wall-dwellers. They grow close to the surface to help conserve water. Less commonly, rustyback fern may be seen. In times of water shortage, the fronds of this plant curl up tightly and the reddish-brown spore-bearing undersides, from which the plant takes its name, become clearly visible.

Anne Marston,  
assistant ecology officer



## Encouraging wildlife in our gardens



Inspirational wildlife-friendly gardens were celebrated at the recent Wight in Bloom awards.

Winner of the gold award in the wildlife garden category was Northwood Primary School, showing "an outstanding diversity of habitats and good use of water recycling and composting".

Silver went to the Vectis Road allotments in East Cowes, particularly noted for their community beehive, and bronze to Afton Park Apple Farm, with its nature trails, featuring long grassed areas and a multitude of

wild flowers.

The wildlife category was supported by the Isle of Wight Biodiversity Partnership as part of the International Year of Biodiversity celebrations in 2010.

A wildlife friendly garden is one planted to encourage wildlife and may incorporate a range of flowers or habitats which ideally provide shelter and food for a wide range of species throughout the year.

• For more ideas on wildlife gardening visit [www.bwg.naturalengland.org.uk](http://www.bwg.naturalengland.org.uk).



Main picture: Afton Park won a bronze award  
Inset: Northwood Primary School won gold (left); Northwood's wild flower garden (centre); Vectis Road allotments won silver (right)



## Seasonal guide to wildlife gardening

As autumn progresses, gardeners' thoughts turn to tidying before winter. Lavender bushes are trimmed back to help preserve the shape for future years but if you are willing to leave some seed heads you may be rewarded by the sight of goldfinches feeding on the energy-rich seeds in a cold snap.

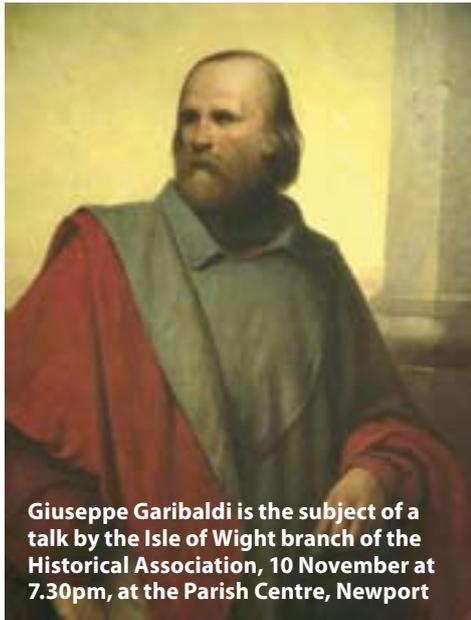
## ACTIVITIES

### SSAFA Celebration Dinner (23 October)

In aid of SSAFA Forces Help, 125th anniversary, guest speaker Alan Titchmarsh, Cowes Yacht Haven, 7.30pm, tickets £45, contact Sue Giles, tel: 882317.

### Huge Hospice Quiz (11 November)

The largest charity quiz on the Island, Lower Hyde, Shanklin, 7pm, teams of four, register in advance, contact Earl Mountbatten Hospice fund raising, tel: 528989.



Giuseppe Garibaldi is the subject of a talk by the Isle of Wight branch of the Historical Association, 10 November at 7.30pm, at the Parish Centre, Newport

## EXHIBITIONS

### Bembridge Art Society, autumn exhibition (15-17 October)

Exhibition of paintings, demonstrations by members, Bembridge Village Hall, 10am to 4.30pm.

### The History of Northwood House and the Ward Estate (23 October – 14 November)

Cowes Heritage presents its annual exhibition of photos and historical documents, Northwood House, Cowes, 10am to 4pm, free entry.

## FAIRS & SHOWS

### Isle of Wight Craft Guild, Craft Fair (28-29 September, 23 October, 20 November)

Hand crafted items made on the Island, at Ventnor Botanic Garden (28-29 Sept), East Cowes Town Hall (23 Oct, 20 Nov), 10am to 4pm, items for sale, entrance free.

### Brighstone Autumn Show (9 October)

Autumn show, Wilberforce Hall, Brighstone, 1.30pm to 4pm, presentations at 4pm.

### Antique and Collectors' Fayre (24 October)

More than 30 stalls, selling furniture, ceramics, paintings, books, valuations available, Ventnor Winter Gardens, 10am to 3pm.

### Isle of Wight Society for the Blind, Christmas Fair (20 November)

Gifts, crafts, toys and games, mulled wine, tea, coffee, Millbrooke House, Carisbrooke Road, Newport, 10.30am to 2pm.

## MEETINGS

### Brighstone and District Horticultural Society, annual meeting (9 November)

At Wilberforce Hall, Brighstone, 7.30pm.

### British Airways Retired Staff Association (monthly)

Coffee morning, third Wednesday, White Lion, Arreton, 11am.

### Isle of Wight branch of the British Cactus and Succulent Society (monthly)

Second Saturday each month, Church Close Community Centre, Wootton, 7pm to 10pm.

### Vectis Branch of the Submariners' Association (monthly)

Fourth Wednesday in each month, Camp Hill Prison Officers' Club, Newport, 7.30pm.

### Vectis Railway Enthusiasts (monthly)

Third Monday, slide presentations and guest speakers, Southern Vectis Social Club, Newport 7.30pm.

## MUSIC

### Wolverton Manor Concert (18 September)

Rachel Lindop (mezzo-soprano) with friends, evening of prose, music and poetry, Wolverton Manor, Shorwell, 7.30pm.

### Concert, Some Enchanted Evening (24 September)

The Island Savoyards sing songs from shows old and new, East Cowes Town Hall, 7.30pm.

### Newchurch Male Voice Choir, charity concert (30 September)

Concert in aid of Earl Mountbatten Hospice's Yellow Week, St Catherine's Church, Ventnor, 7.30pm.

### Aizhana Nurkenova (16 October)

West Wight Arts Association presents pianist Aizhana Nurkenova playing music by Bach, Schubert, Kapustin and Liszt, Memorial Hall, Freshwater, 7.30pm, tickets: tel: 752956.

### Ben Baker and Sasha Grynyuk (13 November)

West Wight Arts Association presents violinist Ben Baker and pianist Sasha Grynyuk, playing music by Schubert, Schumann, Paganini and Brahms, Memorial Hall, Freshwater, 7.30pm, tickets from the Memorial Hall, tel: 752956.

### Wolverton Manor Concert (20 November)

Nette Robinson (soprano) and Michael Garrick (jazz musician and composer) in concert to remember

Bill Evans, Wolverton Manor, Shorwell, 7.30pm.

### Veni, Veni, Emmanuel (1 December)

Concert of words and music for advent, by the choir of St Alban's and friends, St Alban-the-Martyr Church, Upper Ventnor, 7.30pm, admission free.

## TALKS

### Edward Jenner and the small pox virus (6 October)

A talk to the IW Branch of the Historical Association, by Tim Mason, Parish Centre, Newport, 7.30pm, contact Terry Blunden, tel: 524410.

### Giuseppe Garibaldi (10 November)

A talk to the IW Branch of the Historical Association, by Lucy Hughes-Hallett, Parish Centre, Newport, 7.30pm, contact Terry Blunden, tel: 524410.

## THEATRE

### Too Good to be True, the Scambusters musical (12 October)

A musical depicting three scam victims, presented by the council's trading standards service and Age Concern, at Broadway Centre, Sandown (10.30am) and Memorial Hall, Freshwater (2.30pm), entry by ticket only, free tickets for Sandown event from trading standards (tel: 823370) or email [trading\\_standards@iow.gov.uk](mailto:trading_standards@iow.gov.uk), for Freshwater event from Age Concern IOW (tel: 525282).

### The Ghost Train (28-30 October)

The classic 1920's comedy thriller by Arnold Ridley, set at an isolated station in Cornwall, Memorial Hall, Freshwater, 7.30pm, tel: 752956.

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](mailto:oneisland@iow.gov.uk)**

Please conform to the format shown. Entries are included at the editorial team's discretion. Next scheduled edition: 19 November (listings for period 19 November to 2 February).

Title of event/activity:

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Date:

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Brief description:

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Venue:

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Time:

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Contact name:

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Telephone:

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**Please return (by 29 October) to:**

**Time & Place, One Island, Publications Unit, County Hall, Newport, Isle of Wight PO30 1UD** or email to [oneisland@iow.gov.uk](mailto:oneisland@iow.gov.uk)

