

oneIsland

Your magazine from the
Isle of Wight Council
Issue two
December 2006
www.iwight.com



The Island image

our photo competition winner

Also inside:
Residents' survey results
The science of Dinosaur Isle
Shaping up for 2007



Welcome



Welcome to the second issue of the Isle of Wight Council's new magazine, *One Island*, and many thanks to those who took the time to send us their feedback about the first edition.

It is our intention to develop the magazine as a publication which is not only informative for Island residents, but one which you find both useful and helpful in keeping up-to-date about council services and our many partnership and community activities.

In this edition we look at key issues including the consultation about the future operations of our fire and rescue service, as well as some positive news about visitor numbers to the Island, and how we plan to respond to the findings of our residents' survey.

We also include important information about opening hours for council services during the festive season.

Looking ahead to 2007, we remain fully committed to our pledge to develop and deliver high quality value-for-money services and a council of which Island residents can be proud. Our February budget will deliver a council tax rise at or below the level of inflation.

Finally, on behalf of all councillors and staff, please accept our very best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Andy Sutton
Leader, Isle of Wight Council

One Island is published six times a year, appearing in February, April, June, August, October and December. 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, Publications, County Hall, Newport PO30 1UD

Email Onelsland@iow.gov.uk

Telephone 823105

makingcontact

USEFUL CONTACTS

Isle of Wight Council, County Hall,
Newport PO30 1UD

Fax 823333

Email customer.services@iow.gov.uk

Website www.iwight.com

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

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



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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

Wootton Bridge Centre

Tel 884361
Joanne's Walk, Brannon Way,
Wootton Bridge PO33 4NU
IW Council desk – Mon, Tues,
Thurs, Fri: 9am to 1pm

councilmeetings



Council (council chamber)

17 January (6pm)

21 February (6pm)

Cabinet

9 January (6pm, Wootton Comm. Centre)

6 February (6pm, Wroxall Comm. Centre)

Development Control Sub-Committee (council chamber)

19 December (4pm)

23 January (4pm)

20 February (4pm)

Unless otherwise stated, all meetings are in public at County Hall. Call 821000 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.

Licensing Sub-Committee

(committee room one)

8 January (4pm)

12 February (4pm)

Audit and Performance Committee

(committee room one)

16 January (6pm)

13 February (6pm)

Regulatory Committee

(committee room one)

15 January (4pm)

Standards Committee

(committee room one)

29 January (6pm)

Scrutiny Committee

(committee room one)

21 December (6pm)

25 January (6pm)

15 February (6pm)

Policy Commission for Economy, Tourism, Regeneration and Transport

(committee room one)

10 January (6pm)

14 February (6pm)

Policy Commission for Care, Health and Housing (committee room one)

24 January (6pm)

28 February (6pm)

Policy Commission for Children and School Results (committee room one)

3 January (6pm)

7 February (6pm)

Policy Commission for Safer Communities (committee room one)

4 January (6pm)

1 February (6pm)

1 March (6pm)

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Cover picture: Kite surfer by Steve Gutteridge (photo competition winner)



Raising standards, creating opportunities

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Photocompetition



Sponsored by Island Photo Centre

Runner up

In this issue of *One Island* we feature the winning images from the photo competition launched in the first edition of the magazine. We would like to thank all those who entered, contributing more than 600 images of great quality and variety, and of course the competition sponsor, Island Photo Centre.

On the front cover is the winning photograph submitted by Steve Gutteridge, and pictured above is the second placed image of downland walkers at Compton, by Mike Dennis.

For full details of our winners and to view a selection of some of the other entries please turn to our special photo gallery on pages 26 and 27.

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

Flexible and friendly home care



The council's in-house Wightcare service, which provides vital support to older and vulnerable people, is being reshaped to deliver an innovative and flexible home care service.

The reshaped service will be in line with the latest government thinking and in partnership with the Island's newly formed primary care trust.

Cabinet member for Island health, housing and community well-being, Councillor Dawn Cousins, said: "Our changes to Wightcare are in line with the recent Commission for Social Care Inspection report 'Time to Care' that challenges councils to reshape services to support people living at home with more personalised care.

"Following a review we initiated in March we have concluded that our own in-house service can deliver truly flexible services for vulnerable people enabling them to stay in their own homes."

This service will be based on delivering what Island people have said are their priorities – enabling them to live safely at home for as long as possible, with round the clock rapid response and expert home care.



Be safe with your New Year fireworks

Firework safety and ensuring displays are organised properly are issues which face the council and government throughout the year, especially on New Year's Eve and Guy Fawkes' night.

Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) figures showed that 1,141 people were injured by fireworks in 2005.

Bill Berry, senior environmental health practitioner, said: "Fireworks when used safely and responsibly are fun, but irresponsible use can lead to problems. There are legal restrictions providing a framework within which fireworks can be enjoyed safely, and without causing environmental problems."

Noise and anti-social behaviour

Most complaints received by environmental health about fireworks relate to noise, and to control this there are legal limits on the levels permitted. To ensure you are not using fireworks that are too noisy, only buy those marked BS7114.

The Fireworks Regulation 2004, enforced by the police and trading standards, includes a number of provisions designed to cut the anti-social effect of fireworks:

- No-one under 18 may possess a firework in a public place.
- No fireworks may be let off between the hours of 11pm and 7am, except on 5 November, New

Year's Eve, Chinese New Year and Diwali (a Hindu festival).

- No-one may sell fireworks, except during defined periods of the year, unless they have a licence to do so.

Useful websites

Explosive Industry Group:

www.eig.org.uk

UK Firework Safety:

www.fireworksafety.co.uk

Department of Trade and Industry:

www.dti.gov.uk

Health and Safety Executive:

www.hse.gov.uk

Always follow the fireworks' code. Available at www.dti.gov.uk/fireworks/download/adultA5leaflet.pdf

We're improving your council services

Top marks for benefits

An "excellent" rating has been achieved by the council's revenues and benefits service, following a Corporate Performance Assessment from the Benefits Fraud Inspectorate.

It comes just two years after the service was rated one of the poorest in the country and one of the highest for costs. The rating recognises that processes to counter benefit fraud are among the best in the UK.

Charter mark awarded

The environmental health and office services support team has been awarded a national Charter Mark, recognising excellence in customer services.



CUSTOMER SERVICE EXCELLENCE

It is currently the only section of the council to have a Charter Mark, a benchmark that includes criteria such as setting standards, consulting users, using resources effectively and delivering customer satisfaction.

Two stars for adult care

Adult social services has been awarded a two-star rating by the Commission of Social Care Inspection (CSCI). The ratings, on a scale of zero to three stars, indicate the council is serving most people well.

Sarah Mitchell, director of adult and community services said: "This is complex and difficult work addressing the needs of older people, people with disabilities and learning disabilities. It requires absolute dedication."

Driving up school standards



Early in January the council will be welcoming a key new appointee to its staff, with Chris Vieler-Porter (*pictured*) joining as

head of school improvement.

Chris has worked in education and school improvement for many years, and comes to the Island from Thurrock Borough Council, where as principal officer for pupil achievement (14 to 19) he has established an excellent track record in raising standards.

Director of children's services, Steve Beynon, said: "The Island's schools will have the opportunity of drawing on Chris's extensive experience and knowledge, and we are very pleased to have the chance of working with a new colleague who has such an excellent track record."

- The council has also appointed a new head of planning, Bill Murphy, who comes to the Island from Kent County Council at the start of January.



George joins the cabinet

A new member has joined the Isle of Wight Council's cabinet. Councillor George Brown (*pictured*) has been appointed cabinet member for assets, planning and housing.

He will also take responsibility for the council's Local Delivery Vehicle (LDV), a new company, delivering land and infrastructure with the South East England Development Agency (SEEDA). The LDV is expected to manage major investment into the Island over the next few years.

Councillor Brown said he is looking forward to working with partner agencies to bolster the economic health and development of the Island.

Christmas shop at Brading Station

Brading Station will have a particularly festive flavour over the coming week, with a wide variety of local produce on sale at Brading Town Council's Christmas shop.

There will be natural beauty products, hand-crafted cards, jewellery and ornaments, as well as local craft work and foods including chocolates, jam, honey and mince pies. The shop is also able to take orders for local meat and vegetables for the Christmas period.

Town clerk Rebecca Tuck said: "The idea is not only to help sustain the future of Brading Station, but also help local producers to prosper."

It will be open seven days a week up to Christmas Eve, 10am to 4pm, and 10am to 8pm on a Thursday.

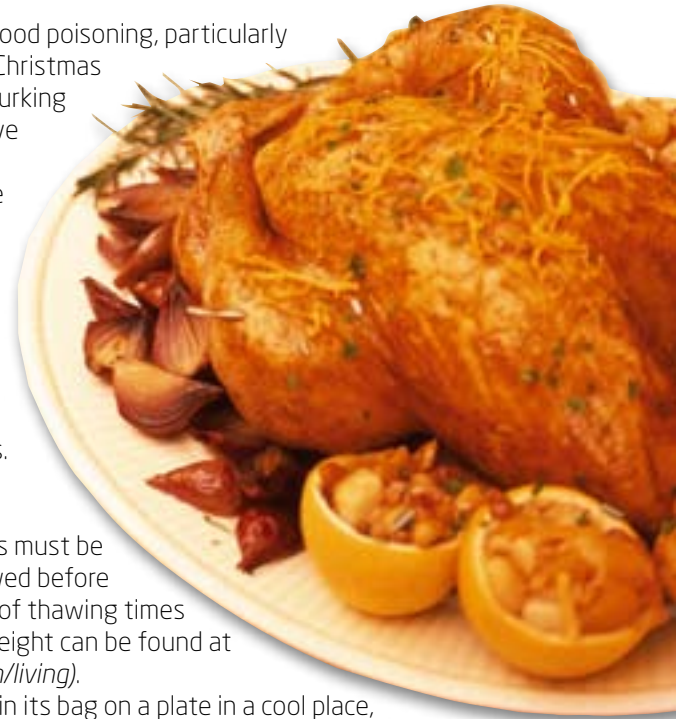
- For more details telephone 401770 or visit www.brading.gov.uk



Make sure your turkey is safe this Christmas

The spectre of food poisoning, particularly concerning the Christmas turkey, is often lurking during the festive season.

To help ensure our turkeys are prepared and cooked safely, the council's environmental health service has provided some useful tips.



Thawing

- Frozen turkeys 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 turkey 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 turkey 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 turkey as quickly as possible (preferably within 90 minutes) and store in a fridge (0°C and 4°C).

Use of leftovers

- Once cooked, turkey is perfectly safe to freeze for up to two months, even if it was a frozen bird in the first place.

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

Be sure about those sales bargains



consumer

direct

funded by government

Consumer Direct is delivered in partnership by Isle of Wight Council, the Office of Fair Trading and local authority Trading Standards services across the Isle of Wight.

Traditionally the weeks after Christmas are when many retailers hold their major sales, although some retailers stage different sales all year round.

To help consumers and retailers there is a code of practice about price displays in sales – a code backed by law and which shops must follow.

Richard Stone, the council's trading standards manager, said: "Although the code of practice is there to protect consumers, it is still easy to be misled by confusing marketing. Also people often do not realise that when they buy goods in a sale, they have all of the same rights as when they buy non-sale goods. Things bought in a sale should still be fit for their purpose, correctly described and of satisfactory quality."

Trading standards advice is to shop around and not

be taken in by claims of large reductions in price. Assess for yourself whether it really is a bargain.

If things go wrong with your purchase or you feel you have been misled, high quality 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.

Crime crackdown comes to Newport



The Island's county town, Newport, was recently due to be playing host to a special Crew Week initiative, a multi-agency sweep tackling crime, anti-social behaviour, public safety and community environment issues.

Crime Reduction Environment Weeks (Crew) are part of a scheme being used across the Hampshire Constabulary area, which includes the Island.

The approach combines high visibility policing and initiatives involving other agencies, including the Safer Communities Partnership, fire and rescue, trading standards, education welfare and the probation service.

The Newport Crew week was timed to coincide with Inside Justice Week and was due to include youth employment checks, truancy sweeps and checks on sales of tobacco and alcohol to under-age youngsters. There were also events designed to keep youngsters off the streets by demonstrating opportunities available to them locally.

Simon Dennis of the Safer Communities Partnership, said: "Crew weeks are becoming well-established across the Island and as our partners are getting used to the format, we are really starting to build on what we can offer for communities.

"Crew week gives a strong message to individuals and businesses that break the law, but has also helped reassure the community."

Key stats about your environmental health service

Public feedback is always vital in helping guide targets and objectives for council services. Here we highlight some latest facts and stats (for the period March to November) gathered by the environmental health service on how satisfied its users are, and more specifically about its food hygiene inspections.

Requests for service:

- There were 1,989 requests for advice/help from environmental health (a seven per cent increase) and the service has responded to 94 per cent of these within three working days.

How satisfied service users were:

- Speed of response: 86 per cent were highly satisfied/satisfied, and nine per cent dissatisfied/highly dissatisfied (five per cent no reply).
- Helpfulness of staff: 81 per cent were highly satisfied/satisfied, and nine per cent



dissatisfied/highly dissatisfied (ten per cent no reply).

Inspections:

- A total of 535 food hygiene inspections have been completed.
- There has been a 41 per cent cut in food businesses with a low confidence in their management control of food safety (their risk rating score).
- The approach of council officers during inspections has been described as: courteous

(78 per cent), helpful (66 per cent), constructive (52 per cent), informative (54 per cent), threatening (three per cent), patronising (one per cent).

Warren Haynes, environmental health manager, said he was pleased with the interim performance and particularly the overall results of customer evaluation.

The environmental health service plan and full interim report can be found at www.iwight.com

Winter road safety tips

The council's road safety and traffic management team has issued some top tips for drivers, cyclists and pedestrians to remember during the darker winter months:

Drivers

- Give yourself longer to reach your destination.
- Give the vehicle in front more room (poorer light means your reactions are likely to be slower).
- Give yourself extra time in the morning to scrape frost off your car, to maximise visibility.
- Make sure all your lights are in full working order.

Cyclists and pedestrians

- Wear bright colours so you can be seen (preferably reflective and fluorescent – strips of such material are available from most outdoor wear and cycle shops).
- Avoid dark clothing.
- Always take care at the side of the road, especially when crossing.
- All cyclists must use lights when it's dark, raining or foggy.



Christmas - a time for reducing, re-using and recycling

Island households are expected to produce more than 6,500 tonnes of waste over the festive season, equivalent to 800 double decker buses.

To avoid sending so much waste to landfill, the council and Island Waste Services are using various schemes to encourage us all to reduce, reuse and recycle.

- **Black box** Newspapers, stapled magazines, glass bottles and jars, textiles and paired shoes can be placed in the black box and left on the kerbside every other week along with your regular refuse.
- **Green kitchen caddy** Cooked and uncooked food, teabags, coffee grounds, fruit and veg peelings, bones and cut flowers can all be placed in the caddy, which is collected weekly with your normal refuse.
- **Christmas trees** From 30 December to 10 January there will be skips at the following car parks: Brighstone Village, Ventnor Botanic Garden, Morrisons at Lake, Tesco at Ryde, and Cowes St Mary's Road. Christmas trees can also be placed with garden waste at civic amenity sites. The main civic amenity site at Lynnbotttom will be closed on Christmas Day, and the weekend sites at Afton and Forest Road will be open the weekends before Christmas Day and New Year's Day.
- **Christmas cards** The Woodland Trust runs a scheme in partnership with Tesco where bins are put out for the collection of old Christmas cards, which are recycled and made into new cards. Island Waste Services will also provide a collection point at a number of schools across the Island.

If you have not opted into the black box and green kitchen caddy scheme then order them now, in time for the Christmas excess!

- Website: www.iwight.com
- Tel: 821000.
- Orders can also be placed at your local library.

Set your household a challenge to see if you can cut the amount of waste you put out for collection this Christmas.



REDUCE

- Send e-cards for Christmas.
- Use cloth napkins and crockery instead of paper napkins, plates and plastic cups.
- Only buy the food that you need.
- Choose food and presents with less packaging.

REUSE

- Buy rechargeable batteries for toys and electrical goods.
- Use bags for life for shopping or reuse carrier bags.
- Create your own gift tags using last year's Christmas cards.
- Instead of gift-wrap use gift bags which can be reused several times.
- Try some alternative recipes for Christmas leftovers.

RECYCLE

- If you have not opted in to the black box and kitchen caddy scheme then order them now.
- Use your kerbside recycling box and caddy for your empty bottles and kitchen food waste, or take to your nearest recycling centre.
- Make room for new toys – take the old ones to a charity shop.
- Recycle your old mobile phone, give it to a friend or relative.
- Buy recycled gifts and presents, details at www.recyclenow.com.
- Buy a tree with roots to plant in your garden or buy an artificial tree to use again and again, or look out for the special skips in January, to recycle your real tree.
- Take your Christmas cards to recycling points provided by Tesco or the nearest participating school.

Proudly representing the council



The build-up to Christmas and the New Year is a busy time for the chairman of the Isle of Wight Council, the authority's civic figurehead.

The chairman for 2006/2007 is Ryde councillor Charles Chapman (pictured above left with an Island veteran), and so far this year he has represented the council at more than 200 engagements.

His itinerary in December has a variety that is mirrored throughout the rest of the year, from supporting major events such as White Air to attending Remembrance services. This month, as well as representing the council at carol services, his diary has included attending a function marking European Day of the Disabled and hosting pupils from Osborne Middle School at County Hall.

Councillor Chapman said: "I have been very proud to represent the council during the past seven months. It is very rewarding to meet so many people on the Island who are doing so much good in our communities."

A key area of the chairman's activities is supporting his named charity, which for 2006/2007 is the Earl Mountbatten Hospice.

Councillor Chapman said: "I am looking forward to the remainder of my term as chairman, and would like to take this opportunity to wish our Island residents and visitors an enjoyable festive season and a prosperous and happy 2007."

Chairman factfile

- The chairman is the council's civic head and chairs meetings of the full council.
- The role is non-party political.
- The chairman is responsible for the council's civic affairs.
- The role includes promoting public involvement in the council's activities.

Communities help police training

Hampshire police and the council have been working together on a new initiative bringing community placement into police officer training.

Sam Burrows was the first trainee officer to take up the opportunity on the Island, recently spending a week with the Island's Safer Communities Partnership.

His experiences included: a day with the Island's Get Sorted team, which helps young people with drug and alcohol problems; working with the Island's CCTV unit; and linking up with the East Wight and West Wight environmental response teams.

Community support manager, Simon Dennis, said: "These training programmes are laying the foundations for better working between future police constables like Sam, police community support officers and council community support officers."



NHS services during Christmas and the New Year

Twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week NHS staff on the Island are on duty – and it will be no different over the Christmas and New Year period.

A special two-page advertisement providing information on services during the festive season can be found on pages 16 and 17 of this edition of *One Island*.

To help the NHS provide the most appropriate service, people are being asked to do their best in seeking the right treatment at the right time.

- The advice from the NHS is:
- please use services wisely and

only call 999 for emergencies such as loss of consciousness, severe chest pain, serious accidents or serious loss of blood;

- the Island's Health Line staff are available to give urgent help from a doctor outside normal surgery hours or during bank holidays (only use this service if your needs are urgent and cannot wait until your GP service is open again);
- make use of NHS Direct for healthcare advice and information, on 0845 4647.

Don't forget to turn to pages 16 and 17 for more detailed information.

Celebrate Christmas by steam

The Isle of Wight Steam Railway at Havenstreet is staging its popular *Santa Specials* and *Mince Pie Specials* this month – a chance to enjoy a flavour of the festive season by steam.

Advanced booking is essential for the specials, which can be done by contacting the steam railway on 885923 (Monday to Friday, 9.30am to 4.30pm).

The remaining *Santa Specials* take place on Saturday 16 and Sunday 17 December, and from Thursday 21 to Sunday 24 December – providing a great family day out, with adults receiving an alcoholic or soft drink and a mince pie, and children a goodie bag and quality present from Santa.

The *Mince Pie Specials* take place on Tuesday 26 and Wednesday 27 December. All adults will receive seasonal refreshments and there are also goodies for the children.

There will also be a *40 Years On* day at the steam railway on 31 December, an event marking the four decades since regular steam railway travel on the Island came to an end – followed by a *Hangover Special* on 1 January.



Picture: Paul Lucas



Lighting up the Island

Great splashes of festive colour have been brought to many Island towns in recent weeks, with spectacular lantern parades lighting up the streets from Ryde to Ventnor and from Chale to Cowes.

The lavish parades are the culmination of work in the community co-ordinated by the council's arts unit, and reached their zenith in the Ryde Lights of Love Parade, which this year took place on 2 December.

Carnival arts development officer, Frankie Goldspink, said the Ryde parade was very much the biggest of the events, and this year included a grand finale in the town's Western Esplanade with fireworks and other pyrotechnics.

"The Ryde parade is a council-organised event, and the others have tended to grow from it in recent years. There are now 11 parades this year, some of which are self-contained, and others which form part of Christmas carnivals, at Cowes and Newport, for example."

Frankie said this year more than 20 community groups, including schools, had taken part in creating the brightly-coloured willow and tissue paper lanterns, and making the Ryde parade such a success.

"People of all ages and abilities take part in these projects, and their creations and the parades are a real credit to the Island."

The remaining parades this year are at Ventnor on 19 December, and as part of Newport Carnival on 16 December.

iwight.com - the online route to recycling

Did you know you can now request a recycling black box and green bucket online via the council's *iwight.com* website? Reference is made to this in our special article on Christmas recycling (see page 7).

To follow the online route simply go to www.iwight.com, visit the extensive A-Z list of more than 850 council services, and find black box and green bucket request forms under the entry for 'Recycling.'

You can also check details about your recycling collection week and collection day at www.iwight.com/waste and if necessary report any problems, including missed waste collections.

By going to www.iwight.com/recycling it is possible to view the recycling rate for the three civic amenity sites online and obtain details of opening hours and the facilities available for recycling.

Island residents can also use this section of the site to locate their nearest bottle bank and find out the arrangements for recycling collections over the Christmas holiday period (these details are also provided in a special section on the back page of this edition of *One Island*).

Recycling and requesting a black box or green bucket are completely free of charge and so easy to do - why not take a minute to order yours online now?

New scheme helps us buy with confidence



Have you ever found yourself looking for a reliable tradesman, but not knowing where to start?

Consumers on the Island now have the option of choosing a *Buy With Confidence* approved member.

The *Buy With Confidence* scheme is run by the Isle of Wight Trading Standards Service. It is open to any business on the Island, but membership is only approved after rigorous checks to ensure a business operates fairly.

Julie Woodhouse, the council's senior fair trading officer, said: "Now that we are well on the way to recruiting our 100th member, the scheme has really become a useful means of finding a reliable tradesman. Also many businesses have found that their trade has increased as a direct result of membership."

"Our scheme has recently gained national recognition by gaining membership of the Office of Fair Trading Local Authority Approved Trader Network, which in itself is a true measure of its quality."

• More information about *Buy With Confidence*, including the list of members, can be found at www.iwbuywithconfidence.info or tel: 823370.

"Dinosaur Isle is a wonderful blend of the modern and the prehistoric. It's an internationally recognised example of what the Island has to offer tourists and residents alike, and it is a fantastic way to get involved with the Island's history, whatever your age."

*Councillor Tim Hunter-Henderson,
cabinet member responsible for
leisure and tourism*

The science behind Dinosaur Isle

Alongside the world-renowned Natural History Museum in London, Dinosaur Isle at Sandown is one of the UK's top institutions combining key scientific work and education with the display of important prehistoric material. Here we look at its behind-the-scenes research and advisory role

Each year thousands of visitors pour through the doors of the council's Dinosaur Isle at Sandown, hungry for information about the mysteries of pre-history and to learn of the extraordinary life forms that once dominated our planet.

As well as satisfying the sensory awe and educational curiosity of its eager visitors, Dinosaur Isle undertakes key laboratory and field work to help us better understand the animal and plant life of the distant past.

"At Dinosaur Isle we have a multi-faceted role which includes caring for and adding to the council's extensive fossil collection, important laboratory work, and helping other collectors with advice and guidance," said curator Martin Munt.

The fossil collection – the majority of which is stored at Cothey Bottom, Ryde – comprises 39,500 objects, spanning the Cretaceous (locally 125 million years to 80 million years ago), Palaeogene (locally 55 million

years to 38 million years ago) and Quaternary (ice age) periods.

"The diverse range of fossils includes shells, plants, crabs, mammals, turtles, insects, spiders, and of course dinosaurs," said Martin.

At Cothey Bottom the collection is stored in a specially controlled environment to afford maximum protection for the fossils – the majority of which have been discovered over a period dating from the 1820s to the present day.

"These items have been amassed over the years from sources including established and occasional collectors. The constant process of erosion, particularly in the Island's coastal areas means fresh material is regularly emerging, and the collection is increasing in size and diversity thanks to the enthusiasm and dedication of many people," said Martin.

Role of amateur collectors

Amateur collectors continue to play an important role in bringing new fossil discoveries to light, making finds from cliffs and beaches along the Island's coast.

One significant local collector is Andy Yule from Gurnard, who last year was awarded the national Mary Anning Award for his contribution to amateur palaeontology.

Martin Munt said: "The museum is always very keen to see finds and advise what they are. Over the years some very significant items have been brought in to us."

• If you have a find to report, you can call Martin at Dinosaur Isle on 404344.

Tips for amateur fossil collectors

Finding:

- Always have the permission of the landowner.
- Check the tides.
- Be careful of rock falls, don't climb cliffs.
- Only collect loose fossils on the beach.
- Report your finds to Dinosaur Isle.

Caring:

- Don't leave your fossils in the garden or garden shed as they may deteriorate.
- If you have collected your finds from a beach, and if they are stable, wash them in clean water to remove salt.
- Keep a record of where you find your fossils, including the rock type if you know it.
- Seek advice from Dinosaur Isle on how to clean up and repair your finds (avoid varnishing).

RIGHT
Martin Munt,
Dinosaur Isle
curator

MAIN
PICTURE
Museum
conservator,
Steve Hutt
investigates
cliff fall
material at
Yaverland



The researchers

The research work at Dinosaur Isle is spearheaded by staff with extensive experience and internationally-respected for work in their fields.

Conservator Steve Hutt is mainly involved in the study of carnivorous dinosaurs found on the Island, including *Eotyrannus* and *Neovenator*, both discovered in the past decade.

Last year he presented a paper on *Eotyrannus* at an internationally-important conference in Illinois, USA.

"I was fortunate to be invited and funded for the trip by the conference organisers. *Eotyrannus* is new to science, and may be allied to the early ancestral form of *Tyrannosaurus rex*," said Steve.

His trip also involved a valuable visit to the fossil-rich Black Hills of Dakota to look at various sites and establish important scientific contacts for Dinosaur Isle.

Steve said: "When a find is brought in our job is to identify it and discuss with collectors if they wish to include it in the museum's collection. The Isle of Wight will always yield dinosaur fossils, and we are always extremely keen to see people's finds."

Martin Munt specialises in the study of fossil snails and ancient environments from the Island's north coast covering the Palaeogene period, as well as fossilised fresh water mussels.

He, like Steve, has presented important papers in his specialist area, most recently this year

at international conferences in Manchester and Sheffield.

As well as undertaking ongoing research in their individual fields, the scientific staff at Dinosaur Isle plan and prepare material for summer exhibitions at the museum.

A display is planned for next year focusing on the evolution of mankind, from its earliest beginnings to about 200,000 years ago. Skulls are being made in the laboratory using old and new finds from around the world and the Island will feature as a locality for ancient stone tools.

Other research work has included input into producing a local geodiversity action plan for the Island, and the involvement of staff member Trevor Price in detailed audit reports on the status of geological sites across the Island (working closely with Natural England).



During the summer we carried out research among a sample of Island residents. Our aim was to find out:

- > what issues were really important to you;
- > how you felt about the council and our work;
- > the type of things you really wanted us to sort out;
- > how you like to receive council news and information.

Why we did the research

It was some time since we had gathered the views of Islanders in this way and wanted to ensure as we develop our plans and policies they meet your needs. We also want to reach you with information in the most appropriate way.

To build on this research we plan to carry out a similar exercise each year so we can check we are meeting your needs and can find out if you feel informed about what we are doing.

What you told us

It didn't always make easy reading and there are obviously some very serious issues the council needs to address.

We don't intend to shy away from this and want to be honest about where we need to improve and get things right for Island residents.

About the council

Only 18 per cent of residents said they would be positive about the council with 47 per cent more likely to be critical. This shows we urgently need to improve our reputation. Our communications has been rated as poor by both inspectors and residents.

Things have to change and we are using the local government reputation programme to put in place measures to redress this.

The *One Island* magazine is just one of those measures. We are also working hard to improve our relations with the media

and develop our council identity guidelines so you can identify our services more clearly. Next year we will also be introducing a new A-Z of services.

We were also concerned to find out that our harshest critics are our own staff. As a result we have launched an in-depth staff survey and are working hard to improve communications inside the council.

About overall services

Only 44 per cent of you were satisfied with council services. This needs to be vastly improved.

We will achieve this by implementing the actions we set out in our Corporate Performance Action Plan, in particular working on health, older people's services, children's services, housing, ensuring communities have respect for each other and that our street environment is safe and clean.

It is encouraging that many of you think we are improving the Island (48 per cent) and that you have the confidence that we can get better at delivering services (85 per cent). We are working hard to meet those expectations.

We are aligning budgets with priorities, changing the way we do things internally, improving our performance management, introducing freedoms and flexibilities for managers to enable them to focus on their jobs, managing risk and putting in place a series of actions to improve services for Islanders.

LISTEN

to your view



Research background

- > The survey was based on 400 interviews with Island residents aged 18 and over and carried out by QA Research.
- > It was conducted by telephone with a random sample of residents (between 28 July and 10 August 2006) and quotas were set to ensure we surveyed a representative sample of residents with an accuracy of +/- four per cent.
- > We followed up the survey with four focus groups to test the findings.
- > QA Research is a member of the Market Research Society (MRS) and fully abides by its code of practice.

To view a copy of the full report visit www.iwight.com

ING NS



“We are determined to become an excellent authority.”

Council leader Andy Sutton (left) and chief executive Joe Duckworth (right)



The themes which sum up the issues you raised through this survey fall into three categories:

>Respect >Pride >Value

Respect

The research has shown there are key anti-social behaviour issues that the council and its partners need to address. The biggest problems you identified were people not taking responsibility for the behaviour of their children (55 per cent), speeding drivers (52 per cent) and people not treating others with respect and consideration (46 per cent). Improved involvement and communications with the council is also a key respect issue you raised. You rightly want the council to respect your views.

Action: We want to encourage better neighbourhood relations. We will work harder to understand and act on community concerns working with the police. For example we want to put more staff into roles in our towns and villages to ensure our streets are clean and safe, tackling petty vandalism early. We will take your views into account when we make decisions, improving consultation with the authority and responding to this research is the start of that process.

Pride

This means anything that impacts on the environment that people live in such as clean streets. There is a pride in the Island that is being undermined by concern about the quality of roads and local amenities and vandalism. The poor conditions of the roads and public amenities were identified as the top weakness of the council.

Ninety-five per cent agree the Island is a good place to live and 92 per cent agree it is a good place to have a holiday. However you are less likely to agree it is a good place to invest in (54 per cent) or to work (44 per cent). You are active residents and have a strong sense of community and this is reflected in the survey.

Action: We want to encourage active local involvement and provide the educational and social services that help communities thrive and create a sense of pride. We are working hard to improve education on the Island, for example we are currently listening to your views on the future of post 16 education.

Value for money

Underpinning the research is a concern that the council is not delivering good quality value for money services, in particular local roads and amenities. There is no clear feeling that the council is providing value for money. Only 30 per cent agreed that the council was giving residents good value for money.

Action: We want to provide value for money services at an affordable council tax level – at or below inflation every year. We will have a continued emphasis on controlling costs, ensuring we spend on identified priorities, not diluting efforts and driving up standards.

So what are we going to do next?

These are only some of the actions we are taking to address your concerns. We are developing a series of realistic actions for 2007/2008 that we are calling ‘One Island’. The ‘One Island’ goal is to provide good value local services by raising standards and creating opportunities. Why have we called it ‘One Island’? It reflects our determination to bring the Island together, working with one shared vision – encouraging respect and enforcing order, developing a renewed pride in our towns and villages as well as providing value for money council services.

We want you to be involved

in this developing vision for the Island. You have told us you want better services and an improved Island. Help us achieve the ‘One Island’ goal by working with us to ensure we are delivering what you want.

We want to hear from as many people as possible with their views on the developing themes of respect, pride and value.

We want to talk to you about the plans we have for 2007/2008 to address your concerns and get your feedback on these. During January we will be holding a series of public meetings where you can talk to us face to face or if you prefer you can let us have your views in writing or by email. We want to ensure the

priorities we focus on next year really address your concerns and that we are spending your money in the right areas. If you would like to register to receive more information about the public meetings, or just give us your views please email oneislandteam@iow.gov.uk.

Alternatively you can write to us at County Hall addressing your letter to the One Island Team. For the County Hall address see page three.

Council leader, Councillor Andy Sutton said: “We promised to listen to residents, and we have done and will continue to do so. We are determined to become an excellent authority and that means responding to residents’ concerns by delivering high quality, value for

money services.”

Chief executive, Joe Duckworth, said: “We have a tough task ahead but we have the foundations in place and we are already making progress in many areas.

“We have a top team recruited and ready to deliver, we have reduced our predicted budget overspend from £6 million to zero and we have improved our systems and processes internally to make sure we make timely decisions that are legally and financially sound.

“We are determined to continue our dialogue with the community and with our staff and deliver realistic improvements to services that meet the concerns of Island residents.”

Moving ahead with the Undercliff Drive scheme

You may have read recently that the council is seeking compulsory purchase orders to help bring the long-awaited Undercliff Drive road scheme in the Niton and St Lawrence area to fruition. Here we explain what this means



In November the council's cabinet gave the go ahead to seek compulsory purchase orders (to obtain land plus one property) and side road orders to proceed with the Undercliff Drive road stabilisation project.

The requests for the orders go to the Secretary of State for Transport for a decision, and involve a period for objections to be lodged, and possibly a public inquiry, if the Secretary of State decides one is necessary.

Undercliff Drive is part of the main A3055 road along the Island's south coast and minor damage due to ground instability happened over many years. But in 2001 the road was seriously breached at a site called Beauchamp and investigations found other areas under imminent threat.

Principal highway services engineer, Nick Gallin, said: "The council decided remedial works were needed to maintain the route and access to property in the area. This was especially important as the A3055 route is of strategic

significance to the Island and its tourism-based economy.

"In planning the project we have taken account of a wide range of factors, including local planning policies, government guidance on sustainability, and issues of a social, economic, transport, heritage, countryside, nature conservation and environmental nature."

The stretch of road is also in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and parts have been recently designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest.

Instability in the Undercliff landslide area is caused by a complex pattern of geological features, including the underlying strata (prone to slippage), high groundwater levels, and coastal erosion.

The main effects of the works on the landslide system would be to lower the peak winter water table to summer levels and strengthen ground in the upper part of the system. Water removed from the upper part would be fed back into existing watercourses lower

downslope.

Five areas of instability have been identified:

- At the Beauchamp site, a 250 metre road diversion has already been built, but stabilisation works over a more extensive area are needed.
- At the west of Mirables site, 160 metres of road is supported by a retaining structure and both are showing effects of movement. Repairs to this structure, together with drainage and piling are planned.
- At the Undercliff Glen site, the road is now under serious threat from continued landslide. A 450 metre road realignment is planned to take the road further away from the unstable slope. Drainage, piling and earthworks will be needed.
- Next to the Woodlands site, lightweight reconstruction of the carriageway is planned and stabilisation through drainage with limited downslope earthworks. This will be over a 180 metre length of road.
- West of St Lawrence it is proposed to carry out a

movement monitoring programme, with the sealing of tension cracks as they appear. If major ground movement becomes apparent, drainage and other stabilisation measures may be needed.

Nick said: "When the various works are completed those areas affected will either be allowed to regenerate as woodland or will be kept open and managed as grassland – in line with an agreement between the council and Natural England."

Footpath links will be retained on the line of the old road, where it has been abandoned, and connecting public footpaths lost through landslides at the Beauchamp and Undercliff Glen sites, will be reinstated.

• The council has commissioned an independent review by Southampton City Council's director of legal services into contractual arrangements concerning the scheme. The results will be published in due course. This will not get in the way of delivering the scheme on time.

"The Undercliff Drive project is a real challenge because of the complex social, economic, transport, heritage and conservation needs that the area represents. The council has been working across all these issues to find a solution that balances these needs in the most appropriate way. I'm delighted we have found a way forward."

Councillor Ian Ward, cabinet member for environment and transport

TOP This dramatic photograph shows the extent of the destruction caused by the landslide

RIGHT An artist's impression of how the rebuilt road will look



Fighting the fear factor

Chief superintendent Stephanie Morgan on why Islanders have little to fear, but fear itself

“When we say the Isle of Wight is one of the safest places to live in the country, we’re not just paying you lip service. As you’ll see from the small selection of statistics provided here, the facts really do back up the claim. We’re detecting more and more crime, and the reality is that the Island is still a relatively safe place to live. So we’re starting to win the war on crime. But we’ve got another battle ahead – the fear of crime.

“You’ve told us that one of the ways we can help you feel safer is greater visibility in our Island communities. As we continue our move towards a new style of neighbourhood policing, the Island will soon have another line of defence. Over the coming months, police community support officers (PCSOs) will begin to join the Island’s crime fighting force. PCSOs will be working alongside our dedicated neighbourhood police officers, helping you to solve the problems and the concerns you have identified in your local area.

“Our many neighbourhood teams will be visible, but in many more ways

than just on the streets. They’ll be walking and working among us, with partners and residents, getting to the heart of the underlying problems within our communities and not just reacting to the symptoms.”

May I wish you all a very happy and safe Christmas.

Dear Santa

For Christmas I would like to live in a place where:

- 1. Our police are beating targets for solving all types of crime.*
- 2. The number of house burglaries is falling.*
- 3. There will soon be a more visible police presence in the community.*

This Christmas

there is no need to ask Santa for any of these things because police on the Isle of Wight are achieving them all, as detailed below. And, as well as being one of the safest places to live, the Isle of Wight will soon have more police community support officers working with you to solve problems where you live.

- 1. Isle of Wight police have exceeded the detection rate target for all crime.**
- 2. Isle of Wight police have reduced burglary by a third since last year.**
- 3. In line with neighbourhood policing, the Isle of Wight will receive more PCSOs during the coming year.**



GOOD HEALTH

- Staying healthy so that you can enjoy the
- Who to contact if you do become ill and

Please use our resources wisely, take the 'appropriate' action if you feel unwell or have an accident. Please use the appropriate route for care. We wish you a healthy and happy Christmas

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, e.g. menthol and decongestant medicines
- decongestant for children

For upset tummies and over-indulgence:

- mild laxative
- indigestion remedy, e.g. 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 THAT 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 & New Year Pharmacy Rota

Christmas Day 25/12/2006

Siddys, High Street, Newport	2pm-3pm
Alliance Pharmacy, Regent Street, Shanklin	12pm-1pm
Boots the Chemist, High Street, Ryde	12pm-1pm
Alliance Pharmacy, Freshwater	12pm-1pm

Boxing Day 26/12/2006

Lloyds Pharmacy, Carisbrooke Road, Newport	1pm-2pm
Regent Pharmacy, Regent Street, Shanklin	12pm-1pm
Blakeley's, Tower House, Ryde	5:30pm-6:30pm
Kemkay, Avenue Road, Freshwater	12pm-1pm

New Years Day 1/1/2007

Lloyds Pharmacy, Pyle Street, Newport	2pm-3pm
Boots the Chemist, High Street, Shanklin	12pm-1pm
Gibbs & Gurnell, Union Street, Ryde	12pm-1pm
Totland Pharmacy, Totland	12pm-1pm

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

NHS DIRECT ↓

ABOUT 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
0845
Direct 4647

the Christmas & New Year celebrations
need treatment

GP SURGERY ↓

IF YOU NEED TO SEE A DOCTOR

Surgeries will provide a normal service up to and including 22 December 2006.

The telephone numbers of local GP surgeries are listed below. The out of hours service will provide emergency cover from 6.30 pm on 22 December until 08.00am on 27 December and again from 6.30pm on 29 December until 08.00am on 2 January 2007.

Cowes Medical Centre	295251
Sandown Medical Centre	0844 477 3001
Beech Grove Surgery, Brading	407558
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, Godshill	840625
Medina Healthcare, West St, 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	753433
Brookside Health Centre, Yarmouth	760434
Ventnor Medical Centre, Ventnor	852787

ISLAND HEALTH LINE ↓

IF YOU NEED TO SEE A DOCTOR OUT OF NORMAL SURGERY HOURS

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

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 Marys Hospital at any time.

DENTIST ↓

IF YOU NEED TO SEE A DENTIST

The Emergency Dental Service will be available on 23, 24, 25, 26, 30 and 31 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.

NATIONAL QUIT SMOKING HELPLINE
0800 1690 169

Some exciting seasonal deliveries are being made to the Tone Zone gyms at The Heights Leisure Centre, Sandown and Medina Leisure Centre, Newport – new exercise equipment and facility improvements to the tune of £120,000.

The new equipment and improved facilities will be available from 21 December, with a special emphasis on accessibility and use by all customers. Some of the new pieces will be suitable for disabled and wheelchair users, as well as elderly and junior customers.

The Heights

At The Heights, in addition to the existing Tone Zone, a new fitness suite is being created in the area previously occupied by the bar. It will mainly be used by customers referred by their doctor and will also target groups with specific needs. The improved facility will be open to all customers in the evening to help with capacity problems and avoid customers having to queue for a space in the existing Tone Zone fitness suite.

The existing Tone Zone is having brand new cardiovascular equipment installed including treadmills, bikes, rowing machines, a step machine and a cross-trainer. A cardiovascular workout places emphasis on circulation. Cardiovascular exercise has become increasingly popular since awareness has increased about the benefits of a healthy heart.

The new fitness suite which opens on 8 January will also be used for the new *junior gym* sessions. These will be held four days a week, after school and on Saturdays. Just like adult users of the gym, juniors will also have to undergo an induction on how to use the equipment. Special group inductions are being planned for up to five children at a time. The £3 induction will cost the same as a normal session. Junior inductions are being planned from Tuesday 2 January. Full details are available from The Heights' reception.

Also new is the provision of an Easy Line Circuit, suitable for people with mobility problems, and to help increase the range of motion by putting very little resistance on to muscle groups. Rather than using weights, this equipment uses hydraulic pistons to create resistance – the harder you work, the greater the resistance and the benefits.

Medina Leisure Centre

At Medina Leisure Centre, the Tone Zone is being extended to

accommodate new equipment.

The new equipment at Medina includes three runners, four upright and two recline bikes, one cross-trainer and two stepper machines. The new equipment will sit alongside the existing machines, which will be refurbished, resulting in an increased number of exercise stations available.

All the equipment is being supplied by Technogym, regarded as a world leader in the provision of health and fitness equipment and well-being technology.

The council's commitment to healthier lifestyles

As more and more people sign up to the One Card to use the council-managed fitness facilities, the new improved equipment will help meet the rising demand.

The investment at The Heights and Medina Leisure Centre follows a similar level of commitment to Waterside Pool at Ryde, where repairs to the sliding roof recently took place.

The council recognises the increase in obesity rates in the UK, particularly prominent among children, and the need to promote healthier lifestyles.

Department of Health figures show that one in four children in the UK under the age of 11 is overweight and one in seven is clinically obese. Childhood obesity is 30 times more prevalent than it was 30 years ago.

The improvements to facilities will help initiatives such as *junior gym* to be developed, with sessions planned for after school and at weekends, and aimed at ten to 12 year olds and the 13 to 15 year old age group.

Initiatives such as *junior gym* aim to address the fact that some children never take any form of regular exercise. Research has suggested some children never walk or cycle to school or play any kind of sport.

The council offers Island residents and visitors a range of activities to contribute to a healthier lifestyle, with qualified instructors to give advice about getting fit and maintaining fitness.

Are you looking to shed those extra pounds and get fit? As part of its drive to improve the health of Islanders, the council has invested in new equipment to help you realise your goal...

Sh for 20



"The council is very keen to provide the best possible health and fitness facilities, and these new developments are a real investment into the health of the Island's biggest asset – its people."

Councillor Tim Hunter-Henderson, cabinet member responsible for leisure and tourism



aping up

07

1 ONE CARD,
TEN ACTIVITIES,
LESS THAN 90P A DAY

The most cost-effective way to make use of the new facilities at The Heights and Medina is to sign up to the One Card:

- A single annual payment of £315 will give an adult 12 months' use for the price of ten and, subject to availability, unlimited access to the new facilities, as well as fitness and water workout classes, casual swimming, the health suite, and sauna and racquet sports – all for less than 90p a day.
- If you can't commit to an annual payment, a monthly direct debit of £31.50 will also give you access to all these activities. The monthly cost for cash, cheque or credit card is £36. Price options are also available for juniors and students
- Concessionary rates are available for those on low incomes – details of qualifying benefits are available in the concessionary One Card brochure from our facilities and on the website www.onecarddoesitall.com.
- There's also a value option One Card, ideal for people who like to swim regularly and also have the option of playing badminton or squash.
- Facilities are also available for swimming at Waterside Pool and squash at Westridge in Ryde.

Terms and conditions apply to the use of One Cards. Cards and details are available from Isle of Wight Council leisure centres.

Avoid the rush

During mid-December the Tone Zones will be closed to allow the new equipment to be installed and for staff training to be completed. Both Tone Zones re-open on 21 December.

Existing gym users will be encouraged to take advantage of the quiet Christmas break to come along and try out the new equipment.

Anyone planning to join the gym in the New Year may wish to consider doing so earlier, to avoid the traditional post-Christmas rush to satisfy those healthy New Year resolutions to lose weight and get fit.

*Further information is available from:
The Heights, Sandown (tel: 405594),
Medina Leisure Centre, Newport (tel: 523767),
Waterside Pool, Ryde (tel: 563656),
Westridge Squash, Ryde (tel: 566243)
or www.leisure.iwight.com*

Celebrating a successful 2006

Cabinet member responsible for leisure and tourism, Tim Hunter-Henderson, looks back on a year to be proud of

RIGHT Tim Hunter-Henderson, cabinet member responsible for leisure and tourism



For the Island's tourism industry, the year of 2006 is one we can confidently celebrate, with record spells of hot weather, sell-out music festivals and other events, and we have seen an unprecedented growth in visitor numbers over the last two years, particularly in the short breaks market.

Beyond the scenes the council's tourism services has been playing a vital role in putting the Island in front of millions of potential visitors and giving them information quickly and efficiently to help persuade them to come to our special island.

the new islandbreaks.co.uk website in January 2006 and a new online booking service in June, helping the Island reach a global audience as never before. Online bookings have been received from as far afield as the USA, Canada, Australia, Denmark and Spain.

Our tourism call centre and six tourist information centres (TICs) are linked to the latest state of the art e-tourism system that means enquiries and bookings can be dealt with quickly, maximising the potential benefit for the Island. The TICs are also proving to be effective outlets for locally produced arts and crafts as well as selling tickets for key events.

With our private sector partners, we have attended trade and consumer exhibitions in the UK at GMex Manchester, NEC Birmingham, Olympia London, Bournemouth, Cheltenham and overseas at Vakantibieurs and the



With our private sector partners we have been constantly driving forward new marketing initiatives and innovations to attract visitors in key customer groups.

Thankfully, all this has been rapidly translated into increased visitor numbers, and with higher spending capacity. A renewed confidence with private sector developers has also led to a string of new high quality developments to boost the Island's image.

Head of tourism services, Nigel Smith, and his staff have been co-ordinating a high profile image campaign that has led to major advertising features in *The Times* in April, the *Sunday Times* and the *Mail on Sunday* in May and the *Radio Times* in September – helping the Island reach a readership of more than 12 million.

Meanwhile, we have hosted more than 60 press visits to the Island during the year, helping to bring positive press coverage to the value of almost £3 million.

There was also the launch of

British Travel and Leisure Shows in Holland and Belgium.

Our tourism development plan has given us a clear sense of direction and makes it easier for tourism services to be more focused in using resources effectively and helps the private sector to feel confident in how to make its own investment.

It is important we pay tribute to our private sector partners, including Wightlink, Red Funnel and the Chamber of Commerce, Tourism and Industry for their support, as well as the organisers and promoters of the phenomenal festivals and events that are raising the profile of the Island to greater and newer audiences.

Renewed confidence in the industry has also been shown by new developments at the Savoy in Yarmouth, a 60 bedroom Travel Lodge in Newport, and 40 bedroom hotel at Gurnard Pines – the latter being the first new hotel developments on the Island in ten years.

RIGHT The *Radio Times* carried a major advertising feature promoting the Isle of Wight as a holiday destination





Your fire and rescue service, your say

The Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service is currently undergoing a modernisation process, following a “poor” rating in its Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) 2005.

Since then, improvements have been made, including a peer review in March 2006 (following the CPA), which found the service to be improving with strong leadership.

These improvements are reflected in some of the results of a new government-led operational assessment, in which the fire and rescue service has scored a grading of two overall (out of four), and has been assessed as “performing adequately”.

However, two themes in the overall assessment were found to be inadequate. These were operational preparedness and emergency response. Risk analysis, prevention and protection, call management and incident support were found to be performing adequately.

The areas that need addressing are being actioned in an improvement plan, which will also include closer collaboration with the Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service, to assist the Island’s service in areas where joint

working could speed up progress.

The final score of “two” for the operational assessment is only a partial score which contributes to the overall service assessment score. The Audit Commission’s fire and rescue service assessment for 2006/2007 (which also incorporates a use-of-resources and direction-of-travel self assessment) will include an overall score delivered in the New Year.

These scores are important, because the Island’s fire and rescue service is looking at ways to modernise and improve following the original CPA rating.

The council is looking at three options for modernisation, which were recently explored in an independent options appraisal report.

Copies of the options appraisal report can be viewed on the website www.iwfire.org or a hard copy in libraries.

Why your views count

When the council decides on the way forward for modernising the Island’s fire and rescue service, it is important all the information needed to make the decision is available. This includes the recently published options appraisal report, supporting financial

information, the operational assessment results and the views and opinions of as many staff and Island residents as possible.

Let us know what you think

- You can attend a public meeting, where you will be given a full picture of the options available and have an opportunity to ask questions and take part in the debate.
- You can also complete the questionnaire that will be distributed in the *Isle of Wight County Press* in January. You can complete the questionnaire online at www.iwfire.org
- Some public meetings have already been held but you can still get involved on the following dates:
 - Monday 8 January**, Shanklin – Gatten and Lake Primary School, 7pm.
 - Tuesday 9 January**, Freshwater – West Wight Sports Centre, 7pm.
 - Wednesday 10 January**, Sandown – Broadway Centre (hall), 7pm.
- You can write to us at: Fire Options Consultation, Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service, St Nicholas, 58 St John’s Road, Newport, Isle of Wight PO30 1LT. Tel: 823194, email: fireoptions@iow.gov.uk

let's talk about **Connexions** on the Isle of Wight

Christmas Opening Hours

Saturday 23rd December	Closed
Monday 25th December	Closed
Tuesday 26th December	Closed
Wednesday 27th December	10.00am - 3.00pm
Thursday 28th December	10.00am - 3.00pm
Friday 29th December	10.00am - 3.00pm
Saturday 30th December	Closed
Monday 1st January	Closed
Tuesday 2nd January	9.30am - 4.30pm

connexions direct

When we are closed you can still contact Connexions Direct. Connexions Direct advisers are available from 8am to 2am, seven days a week.

Phone: 080 800 13 2 19 Text: 07766 4 13 2 19
Website and e-mail: www.connexions-direct.com

Hear by Right on the Isle of Wight



By 2008 every local authority in England must have children and young people's trust arrangements in place. This means that the local authority will be responsible for all children and young people's services.

As part of the development of the Children's Trust on the Island a multi agency group was formed: the Central Cluster. The group's purpose was to provide an update to the Trust detailing the stages at which services on the Island were with regard to the involvement and participation of young people. To achieve this, the Central Cluster needed to map out the current level of participation and consultation from young people within Island organisations.

The Central Cluster group worked on a paper that was presented to the Children's Trust Process Board, who advised the way forward. It was agreed that the 'Hear By Right' model, a model used by many other local authorities to establish common values of youth support services, would be used to inform the local authority about the levels of participation already achieved on the Island.

Connexions, in partnership with the Children's Trust, will be coordinating the Hear By Right project on the Island. A planning and mapping exercise will be used to gain feedback from all schools and organisations working with young people from the age of 4 to 19 years. The result of this audit will inform the Participation Strategy which will be completed in draft by May 2007.



At the last count there were 360 apprenticeship opportunities on our new interactive website!

Visit www.apprenticeshipsonline.org to view current apprenticeship vacancies and apply online.

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

Telephone: 01983 525927

Email: infoiw@connexions-southcentral.org

Opening Times: 9.30am-4.30pm Mon to Wed

9.30am-6.00pm Thu

9.30am-4.00pm Fri

10.00am-1.00pm Sat

Your Learner Entitlement

All the high schools and work-based learning providers on the Isle of Wight, and the Isle of Wight College, are working together to provide young people with high-quality learning that:

- » meets high national standards;
- » suits interests and abilities; and
- » lets young people fulfil their potential.

Young people on the Isle of Wight should expect:

- » a positive and inspiring learning environment;
- » an enjoyable and motivating learning experience;
- » a range of high quality resources;
- » a broad and flexible curriculum open to all learners;
- » positive progression from one level to the next; and
- » success on their chosen course.

The Learner Entitlement is currently being rolled-out across the Island. All young people attending a high school, work-based learning or the Isle of Wight College should be aware of what they are entitled to while learning. For a copy of a leaflet, which details the Learner Entitlement and what young people can expect, contact your local Connexions Centre 01983 525927 or the 14-19 Team at the Isle of Wight Local Authority on 01983 821000.

If you do not feel that a place of learning is meeting your needs, or the needs of your child, please discuss this with them.

If you are still not happy, contact the 14-19 Team at the Isle of Wight Local Authority on 01983 821000.

Futures4me is a new website that contains information on and availability of all courses for 14-19 year olds on the Island. The site also has a section on the Learner Entitlement.

Please visit www.futures4me.com/iw/ for further information.



Leading learning and skills



A Big Day Out!

The Isle of Wight is well known for hosting big events, the Isle of Wight Festival and the Bestival for example. The 'Big Day Out', another of the Island's great events, took place on Sunday 8 October at the Ventnor Botanical Gardens and we joined in with the fun!

The free event marked the start of Family Learning Week, and was open to children, young people and families. The day was packed full activities, information and entertainment. Over 4000 people attended.



Isle of Wight Council

Summary of accounts 2005-2006

This special summary of accounts tells you where the council spent its money in 2005/2006, on services ranging from education to highways and transport.

We are keen to have your feedback, so please fill in and return the questionnaire on the opposite page.

A full copy of the council's 2005/2006 audited accounts is available online at www.iwight.com. A paper copy can be made available upon request.

"It's important the council is fully open and accountable when we are spending your money. Your views are important to us and vital in determining the best way forward for sharing summary accounts with you, so please do find the time to fill in the questionnaire."

Councillor Jilly Wood, cabinet member for resources and town and parish empowerment

In a typical year, we:

- educate 19,475 pupils in our schools;
- provide an average of 124,800 hours of home care support to Island residents;
- collect 98.4 per cent of council tax and 98.5 per cent of business rates;
- support 192 people on the Direct Payment scheme to control the arrangement of their own personal care and independent living;
- look after 110 kilometres of coastline, 822 kilometres of roads and pavements, and 827 kilometres of public rights of way;
- look after 11,761 street lights and 2,250 illuminated traffic signs and street furniture;
- welcome more than 3.2 million customers to our cultural and leisure services facilities;
- determine 2,500 planning applications;
- deliver fire safety education to 4,971 children/students island wide;
- deal with a total of 80,000 tonnes of household waste.

What we spent

What we spent

The table below shows the net cost of running council services between April 2005 and March 2006 and where the money came from to finance those costs.

Net expenditure	2005-2006 (£'000)	2004-2005 (£'000)
Education services	83,761	79,467
Social services	42,890	38,695
Cultural and planning	26,661	25,994
Highways and transport	10,155	9,158
Fire services	6,973	6,825
Housing services	5,086	3,912
Corporate services	8,614	6,660
Court services	505	639
	184,645	171,350
Change in balances	(126)	3,787
Less: other operating costs and income	(15,241)	(16,725)
	169,278	158,412

Where the money came from

Local council tax payers	59,625	56,748
Government revenue support grant	62,558	62,658
Business rates	46,979	38,984
	169,162	158,390
Net revenue deficit for the year	116	22

During 2005/2006, we:

- assisted 550 adults with a learning disability to meet their personal care needs;
- completed 256 affordable housing units;
- provided 1,963 people with housing-related support through the Supporting People programme;
- launched the Young People's Substance Misuse (Get Sorted) Service;
- achieved Beacon of Excellence status for the national occupational standard in parent education training;
- dealt with 780 applications for licences under the new Licensing Act;

Capital expenditure and financing

Capital expenditure generally represents money invested by the council on buying, upgrading and improving assets such as roads and buildings. The council and its stakeholders expect to receive a benefit from capital expenditure over a long period of time. During 2005/2006 we spent money as follows on providing new assets and improving existing assets. The expenditure was financed from a combination of borrowing, grant and receipts from the sale of assets.

	2005-2006 (£'000)	2004-2005 (£'000)
Education services	10,288	9,785
Highways and transport	7,574	6,920
Social services	253	1,026
Fire services	240	74
Housing services	2,667	1,434
Coast protection	1,375	3,011
Other services	3,321	5,362
	25,718	27,612

This was financed by

Increase in long term loans	18,156	13,784
Capital grants and contributions	7,149	12,665
Income from sale of land and buildings	413	1,163
	25,718	27,612

- received prestigious national awards for new coast protection schemes at Seaview Duver and Castlehaven, Niton;
- encouraged 198,000 cyclists to use the Island's cycle paths;
- conducted 1,453 home fire safety checks;
- achieved a combined waste recycling and composting rate of 38.8 per cent of household waste, which continues to place the council as the highest performing unitary authority in the country.

Balance sheet – what the council owns and what is owed

The balance sheet shows the end of year financial position for the council as a whole. It provides details of the financial value of land, buildings, roads and other assets owned by the council, and the value of borrowings and other amounts owed.

	2005-2006 (£'000)	2004-2005 (£'000)
Capital assets	303,753	286,678
Stocks	612	593
Cash in bank and investments	34,183	46,640
Money owed to the council	14,362	13,647
Money owed by the council	(37,137)	(24,423)
Long-term borrowing	(131,307)	(142,308)
Pensions and other liabilities	(154,773)	(141,456)
Total assets less total liabilities	29,693	39,371

This was financed by

Earmarked reserves	31,237	31,494
Capital and accounting reserves	(3,482)	5,822
General fund balance	1,938	2,055
	29,693	39,371

Cash flow summary

This summarises the total cash inflows and outflows arising from transactions with third parties, and includes both revenue and capital transactions.

	2005-2006 (£'000)	2004-2005 (£'000)
Net borrowing on 1 April	(100,227)	(88,829)
Cash in	290,902	280,163
Cash out	(303,192)	(291,561)
Net borrowing at 31 March	(112,517)	(100,227)
Net increase in borrowing	(12,290)	(11,398)

Capital assets include land and buildings, highways' infrastructure, vehicles, plant and equipment and community assets. The largest part of the balance sheet value is in land and buildings, of which schools represents the highest amount.

Earmarked reserves represent funds held by the council for specific purposes. They include unspent allocations of budget held by schools, as well as money for insurance and risk management and to support future capital investment. Such reserves are held to meet future liabilities or spending commitments, as well as promoting good financial management by allowing a degree of flexibility between years. As part of its 2006/2007 budget, the council planned to spend £4.5 million of the available reserves to fund service improvements. Further use of reserves over the next four years will make a significant contribution to delivery of the council's objectives.

General balances are required to provide adequate funds year on year to meet any unforeseen calls on the council's available resources. The council has estimated that the minimum amount necessary to meet such financial risks is £2 million, and the general fund balance has consistently been held at that level for a number of years. The balance is relatively low as a percentage of net operating expenditure when compared with other similar councils, so financial risks need to be predicted and managed effectively in order to avoid any significant calls on the general fund balance.

Questionnaire

Have your say...

This is the second time the council has published summary accounts in this format. We hope they are easily understood.

Your feedback is important to us, and we want to know what you think about the summary accounts and how you feel they could be improved.

Please complete this short questionnaire and let us know what you think about the content or layout. Alternatively you can email: Carol.Harrison@iow.gov.uk with your comments.

A number of people responded to last year's questionnaire, and as a result we have made amendments to the style and content of this year's summary.

Please return the survey to (there is no need for a stamp): **Summary of accounts survey, Financial Services (Room 210), Isle of Wight Council, FREEPOST (SCE 13306), County Hall, Newport, Isle of Wight PO30 1UD.**

Summary of accounts – survey

1. On a scale of one to five, where one is not at all useful and five is highly useful – please rate how useful you found the summary:

1 2 3 4 5

2. What aspects of the summary did you find most useful?

3. On a scale of one to five, where one is very poor and five is very good – please rate the presentation of the summary of accounts:

1 2 3 4 5

4. Do you consider this summary meets your needs for information about the council, or would you prefer to receive an annual report which includes summary accounts as part of the content?

5. If you have any suggestions on how we could improve either the content or the presentation of the summary of accounts, please add them here:

in the mix

Photo competition gallery



Third Place went to Oliver Parsons' picture of the Ryde Queen



Paul Lucas

What a terrific response we had to the photo competition launched in the first issue of *One Island*.

More than 600 superb images covering a wide range of themes were entered, showing the great skill and eye for a picture among Island photographers.

In recognition of the excellent quality we have decided to devote two pages in this issue to feature a selection of the images we received – and others may be shown in future issues.

The competition winner, featured on the cover of this issue, was Steve Gutteridge from Brighstone.

He will receive a Nikon Coolpix L4 digital camera kindly donated by the competition sponsor, the

Island Photo Centre.

The second prize of a £50 voucher goes to Mike Dennis of Newbridge, and the third prize of a £25 voucher goes to Oliver Parsons of Shanklin.

Also remember that images published in future editions will qualify for a £25 voucher, and will be credited with the name of the photographer.

As mentioned in the terms of entry, we are unable to return your photographs, but would like to thank all those who took the time to enter the competition, demonstrating what a wealth of creative talent there is on the Island.



Karen Sutton



Amy Wellings



Peter Stott



Chuck Eccleston



George V. Bush



Dick Moon



Ashleigh Ravenall



Carol Turvey



Ann Smith



Oliver Parsons



Steve Gutteridge



David Mendel



Mrs D Gazey



Davey Woodford

Scheme brings protection to Steephill Cove

One of the Island's most historic and attractive coves, Steephill at Ventnor, is now better protected against coastal erosion thanks to the completion of a £315,000 scheme.

Over many years, coastal erosion has undermined the Victorian natural stone walls at the centre of Steephill Cove, posing a serious risk to nearby properties.

But a remedy was found through the council's centre for the coastal environment, in consultation with local residents, and via 100 per cent grant funding from the

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

Coastal manager, Dr Robin McInnes, said: "We are delighted with the final appearance of the scheme and have received very positive feedback from local residents and users of the cove. We are also particularly pleased with the way that the beach has built up dramatically since the completion of our scheme."

• For more information on the Steephill Cove scheme you can visit www.coastalwight.gov.uk or contact Dr McInnes on 857220.

Island expertise helps top coastal project



The Isle of Wight Council has been playing a key role in a major three-year project looking at coastal zone management issues in Europe.

The project is called the Espace Manche Development Initiative (EMDI), and the council's involvement has been through the expertise of its staff at the centre for the coastal environment at Ventnor.

Senior coastal scientist, Claire Marriott (pictured), said organisations on both sides of the Channel, including the council, have been working together to address common issues in coastal management, research and development, tourism and other maritime themes.

"We have been leading the

EMDI working group on research and development, transfer of technology and higher education, particularly focusing on promoting business expertise, networking, enterprise and higher education/training."

Claire said a business fair to develop opportunities both on the Island and across the Channel region for specific sectors of industry will take place in 2007.

• More information on the project is available from Claire Marriott, tel: 857220, email: Claire.Marriott@iow.gov.uk.

EMDI is a three-year project co-financed by the European INTERREG IIB North West Europe Programme and will be completed in 2007.

Ladybird, ladybird, fly away...



A large swarm of ladybirds from continental Europe put the Isle of Wight in the headlines recently.

The harlequin ladybirds, normally from Eastern Asia, were spotted in their thousands descending on vegetation in Ventnor, Shorwell, Mottistone and Compton Down.

Parks and countryside manager Matthew Chatfield said: "The council is on the alert for this sort of event, and our ecology team provides a quick and authoritative response – in this case to reassure people there was no danger to humans.

"Our reaction to recent incidents such as foot and mouth disease, avian influenza, and the grey squirrel emergency response programme all depend on our network of volunteers and amateur naturalists backed up by the council's professional staff."

The harlequin ladybirds have been introduced as a biological control agent against aphids and

scale insects across the continent and in North America, where they have spread alarmingly.

They also feed on native ladybirds and butterfly eggs and caterpillars, which has proved of particular concern to ecologists.

The harlequin ladybirds come in a variety of colours, black with red spots, black with yellow spots and orange with many black spots. Locals on the Island have spotted the occasional specimen in their gardens this year, but not the numbers which appeared more recently.

County ecologist, Dr Colin Pope, said: "This is probably the first time that a mass migration has been observed in this country. Although there is no effective control, it is important to monitor their spread."

• To find out more about harlequin ladybirds and report sightings, log on to www.harlequin-survey.org

Nature notes

Winter – short days, cold nights, leaden skies and heavy grey seas pounding shingle against the cliffs? But there is colour in the winter landscape: a green haze of autumn-sown crops against the rich brown of ploughed fields; the fawn stubble of the harvest field that provides good feeding for seed-eating birds such as linnets; and the bare brown branches of oak woodland interspersed with patches of dark green conifers.

Berries remain in the hedgerows – food for the flocks of fieldfare and redwing. In the garden, we are cheered by robins

and blue tits. In larger gardens and parks, you may see a green woodpecker with its distinctive red cap and noisy laughing call searching for anthills.

Along the estuaries wigeon, wintering here from the north of Russia, make a low whistling call. Their plumage is predominantly grey with a bright chestnut coloured head, a pale yellow crown and pink breast. In contrast, the high-pitched call of the kingfisher is often heard before it skims by with a distinctive flash of orange and turquoise.

When the cloud lifts and the sun

breaks through, look for the rainbow sparkle on hoar frost in the early morning rays, the bright blue of the mid day sky and the multicoloured canvas of the sunset. Catch the final rays of the fiery sun as it dips beneath the horizon – the sea burnished with gold and the sky streaked with shades of peach, apricot, rose and vermilion. And then turn round to see the silver moon rising into the inky sky, which as the night draws on, will be studded with stars.

*Anne Marston,
assistant ecology
officer*



Seasonal hint for wildlife in your garden

Garden birds will benefit from food put out for them as the natural supplies begin to dwindle. Special seed mixes are available but food scraps, including fat, will also be appreciated.

It is important that food does not go mouldy. Bird feeders and tables, if not regularly cleaned, can be a source of infection.

Birds will welcome a supply of fresh drinking water if an icy spell causes ponds and puddles to freeze over.

A National Lottery-funded project to identify and record the Island's most magnificent trees and their heritage, is now underway.

The Histree Trail Project has been up and running for several weeks, with project officer Tina Williamson (pictured) taking up her new role in November. She will see the two year project through from start to finish, working three days a week, based at the council's parks and countryside section.

The project will take her out to meet people and organisations that have information regarding magnificent trees and/or local heritage.

She said: "We're looking for magnificent trees and stories that go with them. We want to know about the trees in your area – and especially the things you know about them. Perhaps someone famous planted a tree, or maybe it marked the spot where something once was. Or it could be personal to you – perhaps your mum



used to tell you a story about it! If you want to get involved please contact me."

The project will go on to publish some of these stories with a series of walking and cycling trails across the Island.

The Histree Trail Project has brought to the Island a £47,000 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund; the culmination of several years work by local volunteers Pete Dyer, Gill Salter, Roy Brinton and Charles McNamara. The development works and funding application were overseen by Karl Dyson, who as leading wildlife ranger is funded by Leader+ monies secured through the Isle of Wight Economic Partnership, and the council.

• To get in touch with Tina Williamson, or provide details that might be included within the project, you can call the parks and countryside section on 823893 or email histreetrail@iow.gov.uk



An Evening with Julian Richards
The "Meet the Ancestors" tv presenter gives a talk at Medina Theatre on 3 March

(7 Feb)
A talk by Dr Adrian Smith, senior lecturer in history, Southampton University, to the Isle of Wight branch of the Historical Association, at the Parish Centre, Newport, 7.30pm, contact Terry Blunden, tel: 524410.

An Evening with Julian Richards, Meeting the Ancestors - and some Vikings

(3 Mar)
An evening with Julian Richards of tv's *Meet the Ancestors*, presented by the Isle of Wight Natural History and Archaeological Society, at Medina Theatre, Newport, 7.30pm, tickets £5 (adults), £2 (children), available from the box office (from 2 January), tel: 527020.

ACTIVITIES

Santaland Express Christmas Collections

(16, 20-23 Dec)
Santa and members of the Rotary Club of Cowes will be playing festive music and raising funds for local charities, at Nat West Bank, Cowes (16 Dec), Morrisons, Newport (20 Dec), Marks and Spencer, Newport (21 Dec), Sainsbury's, Newport (22 Dec), St Thomas' Square, Newport (23 Dec), 10am to 4pm each day.

Pereira, Dimbola Lodge Museum (open Tuesdays to Sundays 10am to 4pm), Freshwater Bay, tel: 756814.

Fanky Chak, Street Photography - Misplacement and the Way Out

(1 Dec - 21 Jan)
Exploring the public and private space within a city, Dimbola Lodge Museum (open Tuesdays to Sundays 10am to 4pm), Freshwater Bay, tel: 756814.

Island to Island, Inspired Portraits

(19 Jan - 11 Mar)
Images by six photographers with very different

approaches, Dimbola Lodge Museum (open Tuesdays to Sundays 10am to 4pm), Freshwater Bay, tel: 756814.

Stephen Wake, Exhilaration of Speed and Moments of Serenity

(26 Jan - 18 Mar)
From racing cars speeding round the streets of Monaco, the luge, bikes racing down the Cascade at Ventnor, and the fun of kite surfing, to the serenity of butterflies, caterpillars and birds, Dimbola Lodge Museum (open Tuesdays to Sundays 10am to 4pm), Freshwater Bay, tel: 756814.

MUSIC

Carols in the Square

(16 Dec)
Enjoy the Christmas tree lights while singing carols in Yarmouth town square, 6pm.

Carol services, Binstead

(17 Dec, 24-25 Dec)
Come and sing your favourite carols at Binstead Methodist Church, 17 December (4pm), 24 December (4.30pm), 25 December (11am).

1,000 Year Mix: Ergo Phizmiz

(6 Jan) A trip through musical history with Island sound sculptor Ergo Phizmiz, Anthony

Minghella Theatre, Quay Arts, Newport, 7.30pm, tickets free.

Don Weller Quartet

(2 Feb)
The Isle of Wight Jazz Organisation presents its monthly jazz night at the Ventnor Towers Hotel, tel: 856206/856200.

SHOWS

Quay Arts Craft at Christmas Show

(25 Nov - 23 Dec)
Work from 30 new artists and 80 artists whose work is already available at the Crafts Council-listed shop, Quay Arts, Newport, 9.30am to 5pm, free entry.

TALKS

The Island at War 1939-1945

(11 Jan)
A talk by Adrian Searle to the Isle of Wight branch of the Historical Association, Nodehill Middle School, Newport, 7.30pm, contact Terry Blunden, tel: 524410.

At Sea But Not All At Sea - Lord Mountbatten Fighting the First World War

THEATRE

The Merry Gentleman

(13-16 Dec)
A play about the spirit of Christmas with music by Dorothy Reynolds and Julian Slade (creators of *Salad Days*), Apollo Theatre, Newport, all seats £6, box office tel: 527267.

Cinderella

(14-16 Dec)
A pantomime by Robert Marlowe, performed by the New Strolling Players, Memorial Hall, Freshwater, 7.30pm, also matinee at 2.30pm (16 Dec), adults £5, children £2.50, family rate (two adults, two children, £12.50), details from Memorial Hall office tel: 752956.

Aladdin

(26-30 Dec)
A traditional family Christmas pantomime by Chris Denys and Chris Harris, with laughter, song and dance and plenty of audience participation, a TaylorMade amateur production presented by arrangement with Josef Weinberger, at Medina Theatre, Newport, performances

EXHIBITIONS

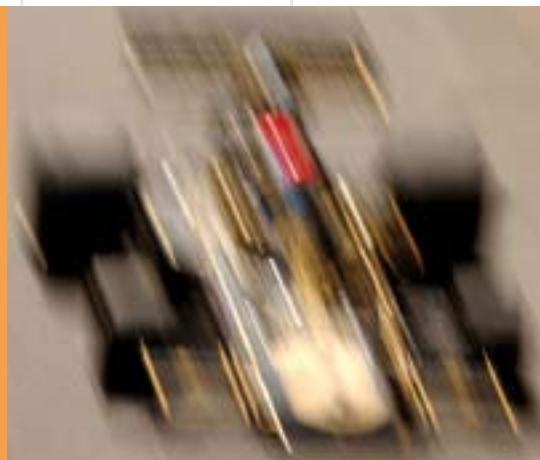
Lyn Hanham, Bus Station Redevelopment

(21 Nov - 18 Dec)
An exhibition of photographs showing a timeline of building work from start to finish, Dimbola Lodge Museum (open Tuesdays to Sundays 10am to 4pm), Freshwater Bay, tel: 756814.

Steve Pereira, Deepwater Steel

(24 Nov - 14 Jan)
An exhibition of the photography of Steve

Stephen Wake, Exhilaration of Speed and Moments of Serenity An exhibition of photographs at Dimbola Lodge, 26 January to 18 March



2.30pm daily, and one 7.30pm performance on 30 December, box office tel: 527020.

HMS Pinafore
(7-10 Feb)
Solent G&S Company present Gilbert and Sullivan's famous operetta, at Trinity Theatre, Cowes, performances start at 7.30pm, tickets £8.50 and £9, available from the theatre box office (open daily from 27 Jan, 11am to 2pm, not Sundays), tel: 295229.

Witness for the Prosecution
(7-10, 14-17 Feb)
By Agatha Christie, Apollo Theatre, Newport, all seats £6, box office tel: 527267.

Jack and the Beanstalk
(10-11, 17 Feb)
A family pantomime presented by the Wight Strollers, at Medina Theatre, Newport, 1.30pm and 6pm (10 Feb), 2.30pm (11 Feb), 2.30pm and 7.30pm (17 Feb), proceeds to local charities, tickets go on sale 2 Jan, contact Medina Theatre box office, tel: 527020.

Abigail's Party
(1-3, 8-10 Mar)
Cowes Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society present Mike Leigh's play, Trinity Theatre, Cowes, 7.30pm.

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: 8 January.

Title of event/activity: _____

Date: _____

Brief description: _____

Venue: _____

Time: _____

Contact name: _____

Telephone: _____

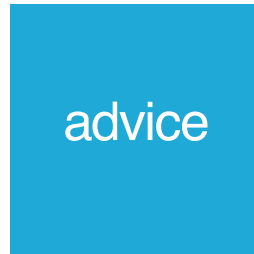
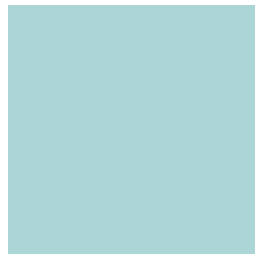
Please return to:

Trailers, One Island, Publications Unit, County Hall, Newport, Isle of Wight PO30 1UD
or email to oneisland@iow.gov.uk no later than 8 January 2007

Future issues:

Issue date	Listings period covered
16 February	16 February to 4 May
20 April	20 April to 29 June

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- consider career changes
- return to work after a break

for FREE information & advice call

01329 234 665

www.nextstephampshire-iow.org.uk



Christmas and new year arrangements

Many of the council's services will be closed or reduced over Christmas and the New Year. Most operations shut down from 4.30pm, Friday 22 December to Tuesday 2 January, but there will be special arrangements for certain services. For more information, call the Customer Service Centre on 823200, or ring 821000. The Customer Service Centre will be open on 27, 28 and 29 December, 9am to 4pm.



EMERGENCY SITUATIONS NOT REQUIRING A 999 CALL

Highways emergencies

- Flooding, fallen trees, traffic lights not working, etc – tel: 525121.
- Non-emergencies – message recording service from pm Fri 22 Dec to 8.30am Tues 2 Jan.
- Severe weather (snow or exceptional rainfall) – 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

Jubilee Stores offices, Newport will be closed from 4.30pm, Fri 22 Dec to 8.30am, Tues 2 Jan. For emergencies, contact Wightcare on 821105.

REVENUE SERVICES

Civic Centre, Sandown: office closes 4.30pm, Fri 22 Dec, reopens 8.30am Tues 2 Jan.

CUSTOMER ACCOUNT SERVICES

Message-recording service from pm Fri 22 Dec to 8.30am Tues 2 Jan. Payments can be made online at iwight.com/online by using our 24-hour automated telephone payment system on 559310 (you will need your invoice number and debit/credit card details).

COUNTY RECORD OFFICE

Closes 4.30pm, Fri 22 Dec. Re-opens 9am, Tues 2 Jan.

LIBRARIES

- Branch libraries normal opening hours, Sat 23 Dec.
- Branch libraries will operate normal opening hours on Fri 29, Sat 30, Sun 31 Dec (Lord Louis and Ryde libraries open 10am to 1pm).
- Branch libraries resume normal opening hours, Tues 2 Jan.

ADULT AND COMMUNITY SERVICES AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES

- All offices close 4.30pm, Fri 22 Dec. Also closed Tues 26 Dec and Wed 27

Dec. Emergency duty service only available through Wightcare Services, tel: 821105.

- Sandown, Ryde and Cowes neighbourhood offices and adult and community services HQ closed from 4.30pm Fri 22 Dec to Mon 1 Jan, reopen Tues 2 Jan. SSC 147 High Street, Newport will reopen Wed 27 Dec, Thur 28 Dec and Fri 29 Dec with skeleton staffing 9am to 5pm Wed, Thur and 9am to 4.30pm Fri.

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. Housing services – (closed 22 Dec to 1 Jan), out of hours call Wightcare Services, tel: 821105.

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

VENTNOR BOTANIC GARDEN

Visitor Centre closes Thur 21 Dec, re-opens Sat 6 Jan.

ISLE OF WIGHT CREMATORIUM

- No cremations or burials 23 to 27 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

Tourism information centres will be open from 10am to 3pm on: Cowes: Sat 30 Dec. Newport: Fri 29 and Sat 30 Dec. Ryde: Fri 29 and Sat 30 Dec. Sandown: Fri 29 Dec. Shanklin: Sat 30 Dec. Yarmouth: Fri 29 and Sat 30 Dec.

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

MUSEUMS

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

REGISTER OFFICE

Closed: Mon 25 Dec, Mon 1 Jan

(registrar available for extreme emergencies, contact via Wightcare Services on 821105, 9am to 11am). Tues 26 Dec (registrar available for extreme emergencies, contact via Wightcare Services on 821105, 9am to 11am).

Normal office hours: Wed 27 Dec, Thur 28 Dec, Fri 29 Dec.

Please note, priority will be given to death registrations on these days: Sat 30 Dec, by appointment only.

LEISURE SERVICES FACILITIES

Facilities and activities operated by the council at The Heights Leisure Centre in Sandown, Medina Leisure Centre and Medina Theatre in Newport, Rew Valley in Ventnor, Waterside Pool and Westridge Squash in Ryde will all have seasonally adjusted opening hours over the Christmas and New Year holiday between Sat 16 Dec and Tues 2 Jan. All facilities will be closed on Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

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 Squash 566243.

REFUSE COLLECTION

Refuse and recycling collections will be changed for **three weeks**.

Refuse normally collected on	Will be collected on
Mon 25 Dec	Wed 27 Dec
Tues 26 Dec	Thur 28 Dec
Wed 27 Dec	Fri 29 Dec
Thur 28 Dec	Sat 30 Dec
Fri 29 Dec	Tues 2 Jan
Mon 1 Jan	Wed 3 Jan
Tues 2 Jan	Thur 4 Jan
Wed 3 Jan	Fri 5 Jan
Thur 4 Jan	Sat 6 Jan
Fri 5 Jan	Mon 8 Jan
Mon 8 Jan	Tues 9 Jan
Tues 9 Jan	Wed 10 Jan
Wed 10 Jan	Thur 11 Jan
Thur 11 Jan	Fri 12 Jan
Fri 12 Jan	Sat 13 Jan

Kerbside recycling service

(Week one collections shown in bold, left). 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 30 Dec to Wed 10 Jan there will be skips at: Brightstone village car park, Ventnor Botanic Garden car park, Lake Morrisons car park, Tesco (Ryde) car park, Cowes St Mary's Road 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 the weekends before Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

Contact details

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