

oneIsland

Your magazine from the
Isle of Wight Council
Issue fourteen
April 2008
www.iwight.com



Passionate about Eco Island
Ellen supports exciting vision



ISLE of
WIGHT
COUNCIL



The past few weeks have seen some momentous decisions affecting all of us on the Isle of Wight.

In this issue of the council's magazine we tell you about these decisions, including the move towards a two-tier education structure, the approval of a £325 million government Private Finance Initiative for our roads, and the launch of the ambitious Eco Island vision.

We also bring you up to date on developments with some of our key One Island projects, including the installation of more than 120 signs to help control speed on the Island's roads.

Thanks should be recorded for the contribution of our chief executive, Joe Duckworth, in helping drive through many of these projects, and we wish him well when he leaves for his new post in the London Borough of Newham this summer.

We remain as committed as ever to seeing through our ambitious agenda for developing and improving council services across the Island.

**Councillor David Pugh,
Leader, Isle of Wight Council**

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

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

Post One Island, Communications, County Hall, Newport
PO30 1UD
Email Onel Island@iow.gov.uk
Telephone 823105

makingcontact

USEFUL CONTACTS

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

Fax 823333

Email customer.services@iow.gov.uk

Website www.iowight.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

Automated telephone payments	559310
Council tax	823901
Education	823455
Environmental health	823000
Housing benefits	823950
Libraries	203880
Licensing	823159
Planning	823552
Refuse collection	823777
Roads and highways	823777
Tourism	813818
Trading standards	823396
Consumer Direct	08454 040506
Leisure services	823828
Wightbus	823782
Dial-a-bus	522226

Adult and children's services

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

Headquarters	520600
Housing	823040

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

In an emergency dial 999

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



FACE TO FACE SERVICES

Newport Help Centre

Tel 821000

County Hall, Newport PO30 1UD

Mon to Fri: 8am to 6pm

Sat: 9am to 1pm

Ryde Help Centre

Tel 812678

188 High Street, Ryde PO33 2PN

Mon to Fri: 8.45am to 5pm

Sat: 9.30am to 12.30pm

Brading Help Centre

Tel 401770

West Street, Brading PO36 0DR

Mon and Fri: 9am to 12 noon, Tues,

Wed, Thur: 9am to 4.30pm

Shanklin Help Centre

Falcon Cross Hall, Falcon Road, Shanklin

Mon only: 10am to 4pm

West Wight Information Centre

Tel 821000

Freshwater Library, School Green Road,

Freshwater PO40 9AP

Mon: 9am to 5.15pm,

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

Wootton Bridge Centre

Tel 884361

Joanne's Walk, Brannon Way,

Wootton Bridge PO33 4NU

IW Council desk – Mon, Tues,

Thurs, Fri: 9.15am to 1pm

Cowes Help Centre

Beckford Court, Beckford Road, Cowes

Fri (mornings): 9am to 12 noon



councilmeetings



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

Council

(council chamber)

16 April (6pm)

21 May (6pm)

Cabinet

(committee room one)

13 May (6pm)

Audit Committee

(committee room one)

20 May (6pm)

Planning Committee

(council chamber)

22 April (4pm)

Licensing Sub-committee

(committee room one)

12 May (4pm)

Licensing (Determinations) Sub-committee

(committee room one)

14 April (10am)

23 April (6pm)

Scrutiny Committee

(committee room one)

15 May (6pm)

Ethical Standards Committee

(committee room one)

19 May (6pm)

Policy Commission for Business and Infrastructure

(committee room one)

7 May (6pm)

Policy Commission for Care, Health and Housing

(committee room one)

30 April (6pm)

Policy Commission for Children and School Results

(committee room one)

14 May (6pm)

Policy Commission for Safer Communities

(committee room one)

1 May (6pm)

A comprehensive listing of all the council's services and contact numbers can be found in the new A to Z booklet. It is designed to make it easier for residents to access all of our services, across every council directorate, from abandoned vehicles to the youth service.



NEWS DESK

- 4-8** Council and community news

FEATURES

- 9** **Eco Island conference**
A vision for the future
- 12** **Education structure**
What happens next?
- 14** **The sharp end of climate chaos**
A look at Ventnor Botanic Garden

REGULARS

- 19** **Coast and country**
Rural and coastal news
- 20** **Trailers**
Events and activities

Cover picture: Dame Ellen MacArthur, one of the key speakers at the recent Eco Island conference



ONE ISLAND is published by the Isle of Wight Council. The council does not accept responsibility for goods or services offered by advertisers. Additional copies are available from the Customer Service Centre at County Hall, libraries and other council facilities. Typetalk calls welcome.

Written, designed and produced by Corporate Communications, Isle of Wight Council.

ISSN 1752-8038

© COPYRIGHT 2008

Isle of Wight Council,
County Hall, Newport,
Isle of Wight PO30 1UD.
Printed on recycled paper by
Engage Group.



When you have finished with this magazine please pass it on or recycle it



Flamingo Park pelican, picture by Dick Moon

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



Go ahead for big funding scheme for Island roads

The council has secured £325 million to improve its road network under the government's Private Finance Initiative (PFI) scheme.

It means investment into Island roads, on a scale never before possible, will be able to take place – ensuring journeys are smoother and safer for all road users.

Council chief executive Joe Duckworth said the Island's drive to become an Eco Island had featured in its case for PFI money.

"We want to minimise the impact of our scheme on the environment and will use project management techniques to ensure our materials and methods of working reflect this objective. We will also co-ordinate our

work with the utilities companies to ensure that disruption and the need to dig up recently re-laid road surfaces is minimised.

"We will build in quality design to schemes that are sympathetic to the environment, reduce maintenance and address safety issues."

He said the PFI news would also provide an economic boost. "To help us to improve job opportunities, and grow the economy, it is vital we improve our transport infrastructure. We now have secured the finance to do this."

Council leader, Councillor David Pugh, said: "This is fantastic news for the Island. We are now in a position to make much-needed improvements to our road network."



Free parking scheme encourages low emission cars

Drivers of cars on the Island that qualify for low emission road tax can park their vehicles free in council car parks.

The green initiative includes those vehicles that fall into government rated bands A and B (vehicles which emit less than 120g of carbon dioxide per one kilometre travelled).

The free parking is for Island long stay, short stay or shoppers' car parks, and takes in both Island residents and motorists from the mainland who qualify for the scheme.

Those who qualify will be allowed to park free for up to eight hours in long stay car parks, up to three in short stay and up to five in shoppers' car parks – the same criteria as those who pay for an Island resident's permit.

The initiative is already proving popular with drivers who want to do their bit for the environment and save money at the same time.

• Owners of cars in band A pay no road fund tax, and those of cars in band B pay £35 road fund tax every year.

Don't forget next month's walking festival!

Next month, from 3 to 18 May, will see the tenth staging of the hugely popular Isle of Wight Walking Festival.

The 2008 event sees a big rise in the number of different walks, from 200 last year to 265 this May.

For the first year back in 1999 there were 39 walks, attracting 4,995 participants. By last year the number had risen to 15,500

people taking part.

As well as the festival itself in May, a special anniversary celebratory weekend is being staged from 24 to 27 October.

The launch of the festival will take place on 3 May, hosted by the Island's first Riverfest, involving tv personalities Alan Titchmarsh and Ben Fogle.

The range of walks for 2008 includes the annual fund raising

Walk the Wight, dinosaur and geology walks, a reading ramble, garden walks, tea party walks and food and pubs walks.

• To find out about taking part, pick up a festival programme from a tourist information centre or view the website at www.isleofwightwalkingfestival.co.uk

Walk the Wight

The annual Walk the Wight, to raise funds for the Earl Mountbatten Hospice at Newport, takes place on Sunday 18 May.

More details are available from the hospice, tel: 528989, and by visiting www.walkthewight.org.uk. The last date for registration is 25 April.





Do you have room for one more?

If you feel you can make a difference to a child or young person's life and are interested in becoming a foster carer, then look out for a special mobile road show on the Island in May.

The road show's trailer is touring the Island as part of Fostering Fortnight between 12 and 24 May, and gives the chance to speak to the council's fostering service for information and advice. The trailer can be found at the following locations:

- 12 May** Newport, St Thomas Square (10am to 3pm).
- 13 May** Cowes, Esplanade car park (10am to 3pm).
- 15 May** Newport, St James Square (10am to 3pm).
- 16 May** Sandown, The Heights car park (10am to 3pm).
- 19 May** Newport, St Thomas Square (10am to 3pm).
- 20 May** Shanklin, Old Village car park (10am to 3pm).
- 21 May** West Wight (Freshwater), Moa Place car park (10am to 3pm).
- 23 May** Ryde, Esplanade car park (10am to 3pm).

• If you would like more information about Fostering Fortnight or the council's fostering service, call 566011 or visit www.iwight.com

The One Island programme

You will see the One Island badge shown here attached to various articles throughout the magazine. This signifies projects forming part of the council's One Island programme of improvements.



Show to celebrate traditional building crafts



Historic buildings and the traditional crafts involved in their construction and maintenance are to be the focus of a special trade show organised by the council at Northwood House, Cowes on 27 April.

The Historic Buildings' Trade Show, supported by the Listed Property Owners' Club, aims to encourage specialist craftsmen to come to the Island, and raise awareness of the importance of traditional skills.

Owners of historic properties and those interested in the Island's historic built environment are being invited to the show, where experts will provide displays and encourage

participation in workshops. These will include a practical demonstration of traditional brickwork, and will provide up-to-date advice on planning and building regulations, VAT, and modern-day fire regulations for church buildings.

Visitors will be able to pick up information related to energy conservation in historic buildings and English Heritage guidance. The show will take place from 10am to 4pm, with free admission.

- For more information you should contact the council's conservation and design team on 823552 or email: conservation@iow.gov.uk

Bahamas flavour for carnival centre opening

The UK's first dedicated carnival and celebratory arts centre – at Westridge, Ryde – is due to be formally opened by The Bahamas Minister of State for Culture, Charles Maynard, on 25 April.

The first users of the specially-designed centre will be Junkanoo artists from The Bahamas, who will be conducting workshops and a series of masterclasses.

The centre's creation, at a cost of £450,000, has been funded by the Learning and Skills Council and Arts Council England, with council support through its adult learning and arts budgets.

Arts development officer Chris Slann said: "This will be a phenomenal facility for the Island helping it to be recognised nationally as a centre for carnival excellence."



Chief executive to take up new post



The council's chief executive, Joe Duckworth, has been appointed to a new job with the London Borough of Newham.

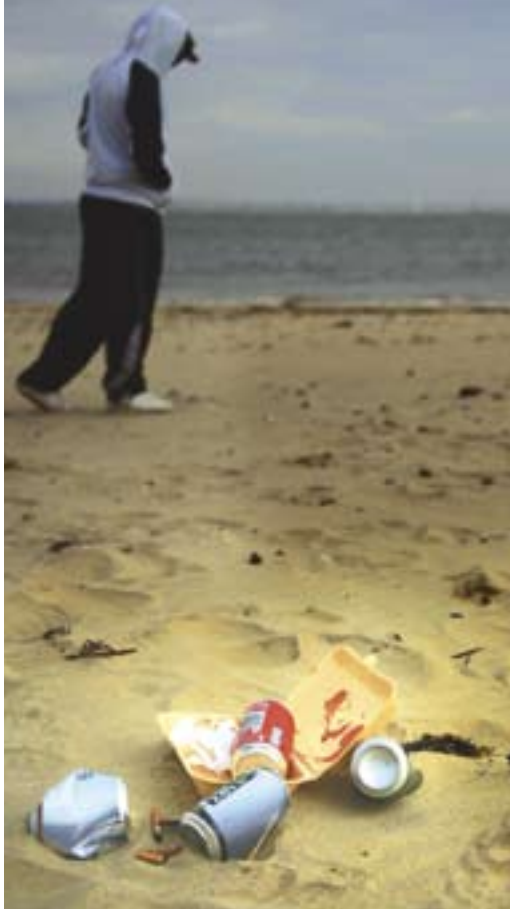
Mr Duckworth, who joined the Isle of Wight Council in 2006, will leave to become chief executive of the London borough this summer.

Council leader, Councillor David Pugh, said: "Joe leaves a tremendous platform from which we can continue to improve the services the council provides across the Island."

Until a replacement for Mr Duckworth is found, director of finance David Burbage will be interim chief executive.

Mr Duckworth, said: "I am immensely proud that I can leave the Island and the council having played my part in developing the exciting Eco Island vision."

Fixed penalties replace yellow cards



A two month period of town centre managers, community support officers and dog wardens on the Island issuing yellow warning cards to anti-social residents is now over.

The yellow cards were an educative approach in advance of a new range of fixed penalty notices which were introduced from 2 April.

People who drop cigarette butts, leave refuse outside their homes other than on designated rubbish collection days, abandon vehicles, daub graffiti or allow their dogs to foul, will now face a range of fines.

The fines range from £50 for litter dropping rising to £75 if you haven't paid within 14 days, to abandoning a vehicle which will cost you £120 or £300 if you haven't paid within 14 days.

Cash raised will be re-invested back into the service where the offence was committed.

Other fines that could be issued by town centre managers include for smoking in a smoke free place, allowing a dog to enter an area where the animal is not allowed, or failing to have a dog on a lead.

The new system comes into place under the Clean Neighbourhood and Environment Act 2005.

A creative lesson in resisting peer pressure was given to Island schoolchildren at a recent series of performances by the Stopwatch Theatre Company.

The theatre group was visiting the Island for the fifth year running, and this year presented a show called *Chicken*, which focused on safety advice for young people.

The performances were supported by the council and the Isle of Wight Children's Fund, and were followed by interactive workshops for youngsters to develop their understanding of why it is important to stand up for yourself.

The performances and workshops demonstrated that



Theatre company shows the way on peer pressure

in peer pressure situations, people always have a choice. They also gave examples of assertiveness techniques.

Fourteen middle schools took part in the initiative over a two-week period,

with more than 1,300 children involved.

The work is one part of the Risk Education for Accident Prevention Programme which is open to all schools and is being delivered via the Healthy Schools Programme.

Tribute to Anthony Minghella



The Isle of Wight Council has paid tribute to Island-born film director Anthony Minghella who died in March.

The council also made available a book of condolence following the death of the 54-year-old Oscar-winning director and screenwriter.

Council leader, Councillor David Pugh, said: "We were deeply saddened to hear of the death of Anthony Minghella. He was a tremendous ambassador for the Island and a great supporter of the community. He will be sorely missed."

Chairman of the council, Councillor Roger Mazillius said: "He was an extremely talented man who rose to the very pinnacle of his career and remained a tremendous ambassador for the Isle of Wight throughout."

May Day and Spring bank holiday refuse collection arrangements



Refuse normally collected on:

Monday 5 May
Tuesday 6 May
Wednesday 7 May
Thursday 8 May
Friday 9 May
Monday 26 May
Tuesday 27 May
Wednesday 28 May
Thursday 29 May
Friday 30 May

Will be collected on:

Tuesday 6 May
Wednesday 7 May
Thursday 8 May
Friday 9 May
Saturday 10 May
Tuesday 27 May
Wednesday 28 May
Thursday 29 May
Friday 30 May
Saturday 31 May

Recycling services for the kitchen waste bucket and the kerbside recycling box will change in line with the dates given above.

Remember that the recycling box is a fortnightly collection and must be kerbside by 7am. If you are not sure of your week of collection please use any of the contact details given below.

Isle of Wight Council, tel: 821000, website: www.iwight.com
Island Waste Services, tel: 821234, website: www.islandwaste.co.uk



Do your bit to keep packaging sensible

The council's trading standards service is issuing important advice to traders and customers about packaging of goods.

The advice is given with a view to requirements surrounding issues such as safety, hygiene and recycling.

It has been estimated the average household can spend as much as £470 a year on packaging, with more than ten million tonnes of packaging waste being produced annually in the UK.

Proper packaging protects goods from contamination, deterioration, tampering and damage, and acceptable labelling helps to guide and instruct consumers.

Essential requirements which the trading standards service should ensure are met include:

- that the minimum amount of packaging is used;
- that noxious or hazardous substances are minimised;
- that packaging can be recovered in at least one of the following ways – recycling, energy recovery, composting or biodegradation.

Sometimes retailers may be justified in claiming that more than the minimum amount of packaging is needed to attract consumers and to cover issues such as safety and hygiene.

What can consumers do?

To play their part in keeping packaging acceptable, consumers are advised to:

- buy fruit and vegetables loose, not pre-packed;
- buy non-perishables such as household cleaning products in bulk – you only have one container to buy and it is generally cheaper;
- choose goods with the least packaging;
- choose packaging that can be recycled, eg glass, tins and aluminium cans;
- buy refills for products you buy regularly, eg washing detergents.

If you think your purchase uses excessive packaging you can report the matter to the council's trading standards service: Trading Standards Service, Jubilee Stores, The Quay, Newport PO30 2EH, tel: 823370.

Accolade for *iwight.com*

The council's *iwight.com* website has once again scored highly in the annual review of local authority websites – coming in the top ten for unitary councils.

The review is run by SOCITM (the Society of Information Technology Management) who work with the government to give advice to local councils.

A team of reviewers assess all local authority websites and compare them against criteria including ease of use, how up to date the content is, how easily you can find information and which services you can access online.

As well as featuring in the top websites for unitary authorities, *iwight.com* was also in the top five in the region for usage.

There are now more than 200 council services available at *iwight.com* with more being added all the time. The site can help you to apply for a school place for your child, request a library book, pay for an excess parking charge, submit a planning application, report a highway defect and apply for a job with the council.

iwight.com was also singled out as one of only five local government sites to have been in the list of top unitary authority websites at least five times throughout the last ten years.

Service for young people joins council



A service that offers advice and guidance to young people on issues from careers to staying healthy, has moved under the control of the council from the start of April.

South Central Connexions helps and guides young people aged between 13 and 19, and up to 25 if they have learning

difficulties and disabilities.

All Connexions staff based on the Island have transferred to the council and the Connexions Centre in Newport High Street has remained open with services unaffected.

Connexions personal advisers will also continue to offer

services to young people through schools, the Isle of Wight College and via training providers.

Director of children's services, Steve Beynon, said: "Connexions offers an important service to young people who may seek advice on a range of topics such as sexual health and money management.

Taking the service in-house and employing existing staff reflects the council's commitment to improving services for the Island's young people."

- The Connexions Centre in Newport High Street is open six days a week from 9.30am Monday to Friday, and from 10am on Saturdays.



Award for Ryde regeneration scheme

Part of a council-led scheme to repair and regenerate historic buildings and areas in Ryde has been recognised with an Isle of Wight Society conservation award.

A recently-completed project to regenerate St Thomas's Churchyard, at the heart of the town, was chosen for the award.

The churchyard enhancement scheme was designed to visually improve the southern boundary of the area. This involved accurately replicating original cast iron railings removed during the war, and landscaping the churchyard to make it more appealing to passers-by.

Local firm Island Stone Conservation carried out the work, which also involved council departments including archaeology, conservation and design, and parks and countryside.

The churchyard project was part of the ongoing Ryde Townscape Heritage Initiative Scheme, in which the council has been working in partnership with the local community and Heritage Lottery Fund.

The scheme is due to be completed in 2010 and will involve the refurbishment of several buildings in the centre of Ryde.

Cabinet member for the environment, Councillor Tim Hunter-Henderson, said: "The work has been carried out to a very high standard and the churchyard is now a pleasant and safe environment for people to retreat to from the busy town centre."



Partnership will help save more lives

A scheme that gives specialist first aid training for Island firefighters to use during emergencies has been expanded.

The Co-Responder partnership between the Island's fire and rescue and ambulance services has been extended to include Ventnor and its neighbouring communities.

Co-Responders are fire personnel who have been given additional training by the ambulance service so they can attend certain 999 medical emergency calls in their local area.

The partnership scheme has been developed to help the ambulance service meet its eight minute response time for life threatening emergencies.

Ventnor Fire Station has now been included in the scheme, with nine firefighters trained in patient assessment, extended first aid, oxygen therapy and the management of medical emergencies. Much of the training has also concentrated on the use of automatic defibrillators, which are used to try to restart the heart after a cardiac arrest.

With the latest evidence showing these machines are most effective if used within the first five minutes after a patient has collapsed, it is hoped the Co-Responder scheme will continue to play a key role in improving survival rates for patients.

Cabinet member for safer communities, Councillor Diana Tuson, said: "Reacting to medical emergencies as co-responders alongside our professional colleagues from the Isle of Wight Ambulance Service, increases the chance of patient survival and recovery."

David Arnold, director of operations for the ambulance service, said: "Having co-responders available in the local area will mean that they are very likely to arrive before the ambulance and therefore start the life-saving process early. As an ambulance is always sent at the same time, it is clear that co-responders will be an enhancement of the service we provide, ensuring those patients most in need receive prompt and efficient treatment."

Dog owners encouraged to become responsible



Dog owners are being asked to clear up after their pets in a new council educational drive.

Dog fouling has consistently been highlighted as a major issue of concern by residents.

While a poster and advert campaign will highlight the dangers of not clearing up, new dog control orders being drawn up by the council will address the issues of penalties.

These orders, which also make clear where and when dogs can be walked, are due to go before councillors for approval.

Alex Hicks, Safer Neighbourhoods Partnership service manager, said: "The council is very dog-friendly - all we ask is for the owners to be responsible. Responsible owners have nothing at all to fear from new orders."



New reactive signs to help cut road speed

More than 120 new signs have been installed across the Island as part of the council's commitment to improving road safety under its One Island programme of improvements.

The majority of the signs are intended to appeal to motorists

to slow down, while 24 others display the speed of approaching vehicles.

Director of environment and neighbourhoods, Stuart Love, said it was hoped motorists would be taking heed of the new signs and cut their speed on the roads.



Eco Island conference 2008

Hundreds of Island business people and representatives of other organisations recently attended one of the most important conferences ever to be staged on the Island. Here we turn the spotlight on the Eco Island Conference 2008...

THE ISLE of Wight's Eco Island vision was the focus of the first annual conference organised by the council to inspire businesses and organisations to help secure a sustainable future for the Island.

The conference, attended by more than 350 delegates at Cowes Yacht Haven on 26 March, was marked by powerful messages from top-level speakers and supported by many from the Island's business community.

One of the key speakers at the conference, yachtwoman Dame Ellen MacArthur, highlighted how modern living has become detached from the resources it consumes.

"It is not that people are lazy, it is just that we have grown up in a time when everything is available and cheap. If we want something all we have to do is go out to the supermarket. We need to get back to a stage where we value what we have."

Drawing on her own experiences, she added: "On a boat you learn to value the resources you have and to make the most of them. That is the sort of thinking we need to be applying to everyday life."

Dame Ellen, who has lived on the Island for ten years and whose Offshore Challenges business employs 50 people from a base in East Cowes, has become a passionate advocate of Eco Island.



PICTURED:
Sir Ghilleen Prance,
scientific director of the
Eden Project, addresses
the Eco Island conference

Speaking about the conference, she said: “It has been a fantastic event and it is really encouraging to see so many people here who want to make a difference.”

Speakers at the event also included Professor Bill Wakeham, vice-chancellor of the University of Southampton, which is working with the council on a number of renewable energy initiatives.

Others on the platform were Sir Ghilleen Prance, scientific director of the Eden Project, the Rt Rev Dr Kenneth Stevenson, Bishop of Portsmouth, Dr Vanessa Lawrence, chief executive of Ordnance Survey, and David Taylor, chief executive of Sustainable Energy Ireland.

The conference was opened by council leader, Councillor David Pugh, who afterwards said: “The conference was all about inspiring local businesses and organisations to get behind the Eco Island ethos. Eco Island is an ambitious goal but it is one that we can achieve if all of us – from the biggest organisation to the individual – work together.

“The speakers showed us that there is the technology out there to help us become sustainable and also that there is a real need for us all to do this.”

Leading organisations including the council launched the Island’s Sustainable Community Strategy – the document setting out how Eco Island will become a reality – at the conference.

Participants also included Island businesses which are leading the green agenda locally, such as the Isle of Wight County Press, Liz Earle cosmetics, Vestas, Gurit and Mountjoy-Nviro. Other groups and organisations attending included the Carbon Trust, e-on UK, Forum for the Future, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Sustainable Business Partnership and Business Link.

The conference itself was carefully coordinated to minimise its carbon footprint with conference banners, decor and materials all made from eco-friendly materials and either re-used or recycled after the event.

Delegates also enjoyed a lunch made entirely from local produce and their travel to the conference was recorded so that it could be offset in a variety of ways.

- Don’t forget the Big Green Picnic at Newport on 24 and 25 May will give you a chance to hear how you can get more involved in Eco Island.

PICTURED:
Scenes from the Eco Island conference, including
Dame Ellen MacArthur speaking (below left)



What are we doing towards Eco Island?

A selection of those attending the conference told us what they are doing towards the Eco Island vision.



John Owen, Island Carbon Neutral

"We are involved in carbon offsetting largely by the planting of trees. By increasing the number of trees and tree cover we are helping businesses and the Island to become carbon neutral."



Alan Marriott, Isle of Wight County Press editor

"We are promoting Eco Island through the newspaper and our website. We are playing our part in getting the Eco Island message out as widely as possible."



Louise Bateman, Island Business magazine.

"We are publishing a magazine to help businesses become greener. In terms of our own business, we are a small team who are very conscious about recycling and use a biomass heating system."



Michael Coombes, Isle of Wight Radio

"I have stopped using plastic bags when I go to the supermarket. Events like this conference make me more likely to do more."



Amy Willcock, The George Hotel

"We will be doing our bit by showing the best of Isle of Wight produce, and marketing the Island as a destination for people to come and see how we do things here and take away ideas."



Lynn Fleming, Newport's Blue Door Café

"We are very proactive in recycling waste including bottles, cans and food waste, which is taken away and composted."



Zoe Stroud, Needles Pleasure Park

"We provide a free bus service for our staff to reduce car usage and were recently nominated for a Green Chamber of Commerce Award. We will shortly be installing new recycling bins around the park, encouraging people to recycle their waste."



Julia Damrow, Biffa

"Our fleet of vehicles will shortly be part-run on Bio fuels, and we are actively visiting businesses encouraging them to sign up to recycling schemes."



New two-tier
education structure

What happens next?

Last month
the Isle of Wight
Council voted
to adopt a new
primary/secondary
model for our schools.
Here we look ahead to
the implementation of the
system from September 2010



WORK IS underway on how best to introduce the new education structure for the Isle of Wight.

On 19 March a majority of councillors voted to opt for the two-tier model following extensive consultations with the public, pupils, teaching staff, governing bodies and others.

The new primary and secondary school model will replace the existing primary, middle and high school structure.

The role for each existing school site under the new model will be revealed later in the summer.

Primary schools will be established with a mix of one and two classes per year group while secondary schools will feature sections for 11 to 14 year olds (lower) and 14 to 19 year olds (upper). No major changes will be brought in until at least September 2010.

Formal public consultation on a school-by-school basis will take place over the summer before legal statutory notices are issued later this year.

Council education officers will explore a number of ways forward as part of the

reorganisation. These include how leisure facilities can be co-located with school provision, how Island businesses can be involved in the delivery of the new 14 to 19 diplomas, and how all children are able to get to school safely within an acceptable daily travel time.



The new structure will allow funding to be more evenly distributed among schools and will release extra money for students who are vulnerable or have special educational needs.

All resources released during the reorganisation will be reinvested into children's services and capital money raised will be utilised with government funding to deliver the best environment for Island schoolchildren.

Council leader, Councillor David Pugh, said: "The debate to reorganise our education system has been going on for years, but finally we now know in which direction we are heading. In one sense, the journey is now only just beginning and we now start the long road to improve educational standards. It is very important we continue to work closely with teachers, school support staff

and their representative bodies, parents, governing bodies and children to ensure the transition to a two-tier system is a smooth one."

Cabinet member for children and young people, Councillor Alan Wells, said: "During the consultation process, it was made clear the Island favoured a two-tier system and that is what we will now work towards. Representations made during the consultation played a huge part in shaping the model we are now planning, and I am looking forward to seeing the changes brought in over the next two years and beyond."



Director of children's services, Steve Beynon, said: "Thousands of parents, teachers and students told the council to make a decision regarding the future of education on the Island, and members have now done that. I know that all our school staff will continue to provide the highest standard of education during and after the process of change. This is an historic and exciting time for education on the Isle of Wight."



At the sharp end of climate chaos

WHEN SIMON Goodenough, curator of Ventnor Botanic Garden, travels to work from the north to the south of the Island, he can experience a temperature rise outside of as much as six degrees centigrade.

The sometimes chillier mainland facing north part of the Island can be quite a contrast to the sun-warmed south-facing slopes of the botanic garden.

But for Simon (*pictured*), the occasional localised contrast in daily temperature is minor when compared to the significant long-term effects that climate change has had on the many plant species of the renowned gardens.



"I have been here 22 years, and if you told me when I started that we would be able to grow some of the species we have here now I just wouldn't have believed you," said Simon.

Today, the council-run garden is increasingly focusing on more exotic species from areas such as the Mediterranean and the southern hemisphere.

"This is all down to climate change. We have adapted here as our climate has changed over the past decades, and what we are growing outdoors now at the botanic garden is remarkable when compared to 22 years ago."

Simon, who attended the major Eco Island conference at Cowes at the end of March, said the botanic garden was a key yardstick to what was happening with the climate.

"The changes in types of species and when they are growing are clear markers as to how our seasons and climate are changing. On one day in February here this year, the temperature reached as high as 19 degrees centigrade. You only need a day like that and plants will click into growth."



The effects of climate change have had a dramatic impact on the nature of Ventnor Botanic Garden in recent years. Here we look at how it has adapted to, and evolved with the changing times



"A lot of things we have done in the past with our plants here, we just can't do anymore.

"Effectively we are now in a period of climate chaos, and as a result we are having to look long and hard at how we tend and what we grow in our gardens. This is something British gardeners will have to adapt to and get to grips with.

"Although we should be a little circumspect about what is happening, it has been clear in recent years, for example, that we just aren't getting the conventional British winters we used to and are experiencing other changes like more warm, early snaps in April."

Simon, who previously worked at London's Kew Gardens, was recently struck by an episode of the BBC's *Around the World In 80 Gardens*, which focused on South Africa.

"I used to work in South Africa many years ago and it was very interesting to see some of the southern hemisphere plants featured in the programme which we are now able to grow outdoors at Ventnor."

Plants from South Africa are doing well at the botanic garden, as are species from the Americas, Australia and New Zealand.

"We are increasingly seeing a move towards a more Mediterranean-type climate here, and as a result many of the species we have introduced in the last five or so years are doing well. Plants that grow in short days (ie autumn and spring) seem to be benefiting from these changes and from factors such as the drier springs and more chaotic rainfall in autumns that we have experienced.

"We don't seem to be getting as many of the moist springs that our traditional cottage gardens require."

Ventnor Botanic Garden is affected by the distinct microclimate of the Island's Undercliff, but as Simon admits: "We almost have micro-climates within the micro-climate here, such is the diversity."

Looking ahead, and adapting to the evolving nature of the botanic garden, Simon is keen to work on those areas of the garden which are still unexploited.

"We are very keen to optimise the potential of our south facing banks and terracing which we have been working on over the past four or five years. Particularly areas such as our Mediterranean garden. We are growing plants outdoors here from the Canary Islands which we couldn't even have thought of doing 20 years ago."

For many years the botanic garden has also been using a more "relaxed" approach to plant management in terms of siting and moving species.

"We are growing many plants which we allow to find their own equilibrium, as part of a less tended and more laid-back approach. It was interesting to see this style being



emphasised in the *Around the World in 80 Gardens* programme focusing on South Africa. This is something we have been doing here ourselves for a long time,” said Simon.

The garden’s evolving collections are also proving of international scientific value, with regular exchanges of expertise with botanic gardens and botanists around the world.

“An example of this is our work with botanists from New Zealand. There are some species there which have been decimated by pests and diseases, but remain unaffected here, and some pests and diseases we have here which they don’t have in New Zealand. As a result we are able to share our experiences and findings.”

Longer term, Simon said plant repositories and seed collections like those at Ventnor would have a major role to play in bio-diversity and adaptation to climate change. The work at the botanic garden has also featured in many specialist publications.

Since its re-design in the late 1980s and with the opening of its modern visitor centre at the turn of the century, Ventnor Botanic Garden has seen significant growth in its number of visitors.

“In the late 1980s we were getting 40,000 to 50,000 visitors a year. Now we are getting between 250,000 and 300,000,” said Simon.

“As well as our important scientific work we have developed as an important public attraction, and interestingly there has also been a shift in the people we attract. While we have always attracted the traditional coach parties, we are now getting many more people in groups from horticultural and botanic societies, as well as more visitors from overseas.”

The Visitor Centre has helped establish the botanic garden as a major community facility for the people of Ventnor and further afield on the Island.

“We are extensively used for exhibitions, seminars and meetings by a broad cross-section of organisations, groups and businesses. The demand is such that we could probably book the rooms three times over. The exhibitions particularly give added cultural value to the centre and contribute to year-round use of the facilities.”

Looking to the future for the botanic garden Simon admits he has an ambition to see the creation of an exemplar, architecturally stunning and fully-sustainable glasshouse building on the site.

The idea would be to have one-and-a-half acres or so under cover, creating microclimates for the growth of species ranging from those found in desert areas to those which inhabit Alpine regions.

“We have such great potential here and will no doubt continue to play a key role in demonstrating how our plants are helping us monitor and adapt to climate change,” said Simon.

PICTURED:

Previous pages, (left) Simon Goodenough, curator Ventnor Botanic Garden, (centre) *Echium pininana* x *wildpretii*, (top right) *Dicksonia antarctica*

This page, (centre) South African terraces, (right) *Grevillea juniperina*



Botanic garden fact file...

Ventnor Botanic Garden, on the site of the former Royal National Hospital for Consumption, covers 23 acres of the south-facing Undercliff.

Much of the garden was all but destroyed by the freeze of 1986 followed by the big storm of 1987. But since then it has been redeveloped and today harmonises many subtropical plants into the microclimate of the Undercliff.

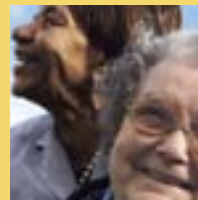
It is described as having "an eccentric blend of the traditional and modern in horticulture", with its contrasting areas ranging from walled borders, mixed borders and the Temperate House to ever-growing sections devoted to plant species from the Mediterranean, the Americas, South Africa, New Zealand and Australia.

At the heart of the site is the Visitor Centre, which houses exhibition areas, a horticultural reference library, café and gift shop.

Ventnor Botanic Garden, Undercliff Drive, Ventnor can be contacted on 855397.



Are you looking after someone? Then you may be a carer



The Isle of Wight branch of Carers UK (working with the council) is conducting this survey to try to find out how many people on the Island are looking after someone in an unpaid capacity.

It could be a family member, friend or neighbour who has an illness, disability or is frail due to old age. You could

be a man, woman or a young person.

We hope you will complete this survey so that we can take your views into account in planning services for carers in the future. If you give unpaid care to someone, please complete the questions on this page and return the form to the address shown below.

What is your relationship to the person you care for? <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse <input type="checkbox"/> Parent <input type="checkbox"/> Child <input type="checkbox"/> Other relative <input type="checkbox"/> Friend	Did you have to give up work/study to look after this person? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
What do you do for them? <input type="checkbox"/> Cooking <input type="checkbox"/> Shopping * Personal care can include help with washing, dressing, eating, using the toilet, and with medication. <input type="checkbox"/> Cleaning <input type="checkbox"/> Personal care* <input type="checkbox"/> Companionship <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please state)	Do you think your own health has suffered as a result of looking after this person? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Roughly how many hours a week do you care for them? <input type="checkbox"/> 0 to 19 hours <input type="checkbox"/> 20 to 49 hours <input type="checkbox"/> More than 49 hours	What would enable you to continue in your caring role, or feel better in yourself? <input type="text"/>
Do you get any help? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If yes, please tell us who you get the help from (if you know) <input type="text"/>	Are you able to get a break from caring? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Do you have a job or are you studying, as well as caring? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	What is your age group? <input type="checkbox"/> Under 18 <input type="checkbox"/> 18 to 65 <input type="checkbox"/> Over 65
	Are you... <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female
	What is your ethnic group? <input type="text"/>
All responses will be treated in confidence. Thank you for your help.	

You do not have to give your name, but it would help us if we could contact you about your answers. If you are willing to be contacted, please complete your personal details below:

Name _____ Address _____

_____ Phone number _____

Email _____

Please return this form to: **Freepost RRUR-SYLK-BZRX, IW Carers, Newport PO30 2QR**
Return by 30 April 2008.

CARERS UK
the voice of carers

Registered charity number 246329



Nature notes

When has spring arrived? For a meteorologist, it is 1 March, but vernal equinox on 21 March is more often counted as the first day of spring. Apart from the calendar, signs of awakening in the natural world are welcome after the drabness of winter. According to tradition, when your footprint covers a number of daisies – various sources suggest three, nine or even a dozen – then spring is really on the way.

Do the old sayings still hold true in a changing climate? Recently, the Springwatch* survey has added to our knowledge of how plants and animals are responding, but back in 1736 Robert Marsham began noting his 'Indications of Spring' in Norfolk. He continued his recording for the next 62 years, noting 27 natural events, including leafing and flowering times of hedgerow shrubs like hawthorn.

Hawthorn leaves open before the flowers. It has many names including: 'bread and cheese' because the young leaves are edible; 'quickthorn', because it grows fast making a dense hedge to contain livestock, and in Island dialect 'hogiles' or 'hogails' – the name of its dark red berries.



It is also called 'may' from its month of flowering. It was used for May Day garlands and the rhyme "here we go gathering nuts in May" refers to the collection of 'knots' of hawthorn blossom. "Ne'er cast a clout till May is out" was advice that warmer weather hadn't really arrived until the blossom was in flower. Look for it from the end of April if the days are fine and sunny.

Anne Marston, assistant ecology officer

* Want to know more about recording the signs of spring? Go to <http://www.naturescalendar.org.uk>

Advertisement

**Buy your family a new
AGA Cooker**

**Better food, a warm
kitchen and happy
meal times**

Why not drive in and see us ?

**Also Bathrooms, Calor Gas and
Heating and Plumbing Supplies**



523041

28 Daish Way Newport (off the St Mary's Roundabout)



It's our 40th birthday!
So there is 40% off
selected items in our
Bathroom Showrooms
each month

Planning for our coastline – 100 years into the future

Island residents and businesses with an interest in the coast will be asked to contribute to a major shoreline plan over the next year.

The council is preparing an updated Shoreline Management Plan which will review an original document published in 1997.

The plan will assess the risks associated with coastal processes over the next 100 years, and how to reduce their effects in a sustainable way. It will look at erosion and coastal flooding and how to balance environmental,

social and financial issues.

Responsibility for management of the Island's coastal defences against erosion and flooding is shared between the council and the Environment Agency. The updated plan will be prepared using guidelines set down by the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

- To register for updates about the plan, please visit www.coastalwight.gov.uk or call 857220.

Learning about the Island's coast



The Isle of Wight Coastal Visitors' Centre at Ventnor is now open for the coming season.

The centre, at Salisbury Gardens, operates to educate and inspire people about the Island's coastal environment and also showcases the work of the council's coastal management service.

This summer season, as with previous years, there will be exhibitions about the Island's dynamic coastline and the effects of erosion, as well as about special habitats, geology and items of historic interest.

The centre also has a technical library (non-lending) open to the public on weekdays

and a new public study room.

For schools and groups there are science and geography field courses, as well as rock pool rambles during the May half term, and family fun days. Last year more than 3,450 pupils visited the centre.

The centre is open Mondays to Fridays from 10am to 4pm. Entry is free for under 16s and £1 for those aged 16 or over.

For more information on the centre you can call 855400 or visit www.coastalwight.gov.uk/coastalcentre; for education programmes visit www.coastalwight.gov.uk/education; for events visit www.coastalwight.gov.uk/events

Seasonal hint for garden wildlife

If you don't have a pond, April is a good month to consider making one. Even a tiny one can attract a variety of wildlife. You can make a start by getting hold of a copy of the Natural England leaflet 'Garden ponds and boggy areas: havens for wildlife', which can be downloaded from www.naturalengland.org.uk/publications/default.htm

ACTIVITIES

RNLI Cowes Guild AGM

(23 April) Annual meeting at the Royal Corinthian Yacht Club, Cowes, 2.30pm, guest speaker Norman Harvey.

Nearly New Sale

(26 April) For National Childbirth Trust, Wootton Community Centre, 11.30am to 1.30pm.

St Lawrence Peace Garden

(28 April) Official opening of the Peace Garden, Seven Sisters Road, St Lawrence, by Alan Titchmarsh, 3pm.

Bellringing Open Day

(5 May) Watch and learn about traditional church bellringing, St George's Church, Arreton, 10.30am to 12.30pm and 2pm to 4pm, donations to Caring Cancer Trust.

CINEMA

Pan's Labyrinth

(22 May) A chilling story in 1944 rural Spain,

Quay Arts, Newport, 7.30pm, tickets £4, tel: box office 822490.

EXHIBITIONS

Exhibition of Photographs

(30 March - 25 April) Exhibition of photographs by members of Focus Ryde Imaging Group, Ryde Library, normal library opening hours.

Paintings by Patricia Jarratt

(1-28 April) Exhibition at Bembridge Library, usual library opening times.

Wall of Art

(1-30 April) Exhibition of paintings by the Wednesday Art Group, Ventnor, Troubadour Café, Ventnor, during café opening hours.

Isle of Wight Photographer of the Year 2007

(11-28 April) Exhibition of 50 shortlisted entries, Quay Arts, Newport.

Bembridge Art Society Open Days

(12-13 April) Exhibition of paintings and demonstrations by members, Bembridge Village Hall, 10am to 5pm.

All that Glisters

(12 April - 17 May) Works by Island artist Pat Clarke, Quay Arts, Newport.

David Badman and Jane Flux

(26-27 April) Sculpture in reclaimed steel and timber, paintings from portraits to seascapes, at Robin Hill Garden Show, 10am to 5pm each day.

Greig Burgoyne

(26 April - 5 June) Drawings by the UK artist, Quay Arts, Newport.

MUSIC

Beck Sian

(19 April) The singer/songwriter cousin of Kate Bush performs at Quay Arts, Newport, 8pm, tickets £8/£7, tel: box office 822490.



"The Green Man", by Pat Clarke, in her All That Glisters exhibition at Quay Arts, Newport

Newchurch Male Voice Choir Ryde Concert

(25 April) A charity concert, St John's Church, Ryde, 7.30pm, retiring collection to church funds.

Cantata Choir Concert

(26 April) The Cantata Choir, accompanied by a large orchestra, performing Carmina Burana, Medina Theatre, 7.15pm, tickets £10 from the theatre from 8 April.

Band of the Hampshire Constabulary

(27 April) Concert for the family, raising money for the Wessex Cancer Trust, Cowes Yacht Haven, 3pm.

Evening of Easy Listening

(9 May) Charity concert by the Select Singers and instrumentalists, Zion Chapel, William Street, Ryde, 7.30pm.

Philip Clouts Quartet with Carlos Lopez-Real

(9 May) Uplifting music influenced by Latin and African jazz and New Orleans funk, Quay Arts, Newport, 8pm, tickets £10/£9, tel: box office 822490.

Grow Your Own, the Martin Harley Band (10 May) Acoustic musician Martin Harley,

Quay Arts, Newport, 8pm, tickets £10/£9, tel: box office 822490.

Brass in Concert

(12 May) Cowes Concert Band plays music for all tastes, St John's Church, Sandown, 8pm, free admission.

TALKS

Ryde Waterworks

(12 April) Talk by Fred Caws to Ryde Social Heritage Group, George Street Centre, Ryde, 10.30am to 12.30pm.

Transport and Local Events

(29 April) Cowes Heritage presents film and a talk by Bob Ennis, Northwood House, Cowes, 7.30pm, preceded by the AGM, 7pm, all welcome.

THEATRE

An Inspector Calls

(12 April) Ventnor Theatre Group presents the play by J.B. Priestley, Whitwell Village Hall, Ventnor Road, Whitwell, 7.30pm, tickets £5 on the door or from Seasons Newsagents, Ventnor.

Funny Girl

(16-19 April) Curtain Up Dramatic Society presents the popular musical, Memorial Hall, Freshwater, 7.30pm, tickets £5, first night £3.50, tel: 752956.

Arsenic and Old Lace

(18-19, 23, 26 April) Pepperpot Players present the black comedy by Joseph Kesselring, Whitwell Village Hall (18-19 April) and Niton Village Hall (23, 26 April), 7.45pm, tickets £5 (children £2.50), contact Doreen on 730316 or Pat on 730564.

The Winged State

(24 April) No Limits Theatre performance about the price of freedom, Anthony Minghella Theatre, Quay Arts, Newport, doors 7pm, tickets £7/£6, tel: box office 822490.

Loot

(24-26 April, 1-3 May) Black comedy by Joe Orton, Trinity Theatre, Cowes, 7.30pm, tickets £5/£6, available from box office (open 11am to 2pm daily, not Sunday) from 18 April, tel: 295229.

Iolanthe

(30 April - 3 May) Presented by the Island Savoyards, Shanklin Theatre, 7.45pm (2.30pm on 3 May), tel: box office 868000.

Buddy

(1-3, 5 May) Ventnor Theatre Group presents the story about the three years leading up to Buddy Holly's death, featuring his greatest hits, Winter Gardens, Ventnor, 7.30pm (2.30pm on 5 May), tickets £8/£6.50 from the box office, tel: 857581 (12 noon to 2pm daily), or on the door.

Sam and I Take the Space

(16 May) Siobhan Nicholas' sensitive portrayal of Elizabeth Pepys, Quay Arts, Newport, doors 7pm, tickets £10/£9, tel: box office 822490.

An Evening with CS Lewis

(23 May) Discovering the man behind the books, Memorial Hall, Freshwater, 7.30pm, tickets £5.

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: 21 April (9 May publication date).

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 21 April