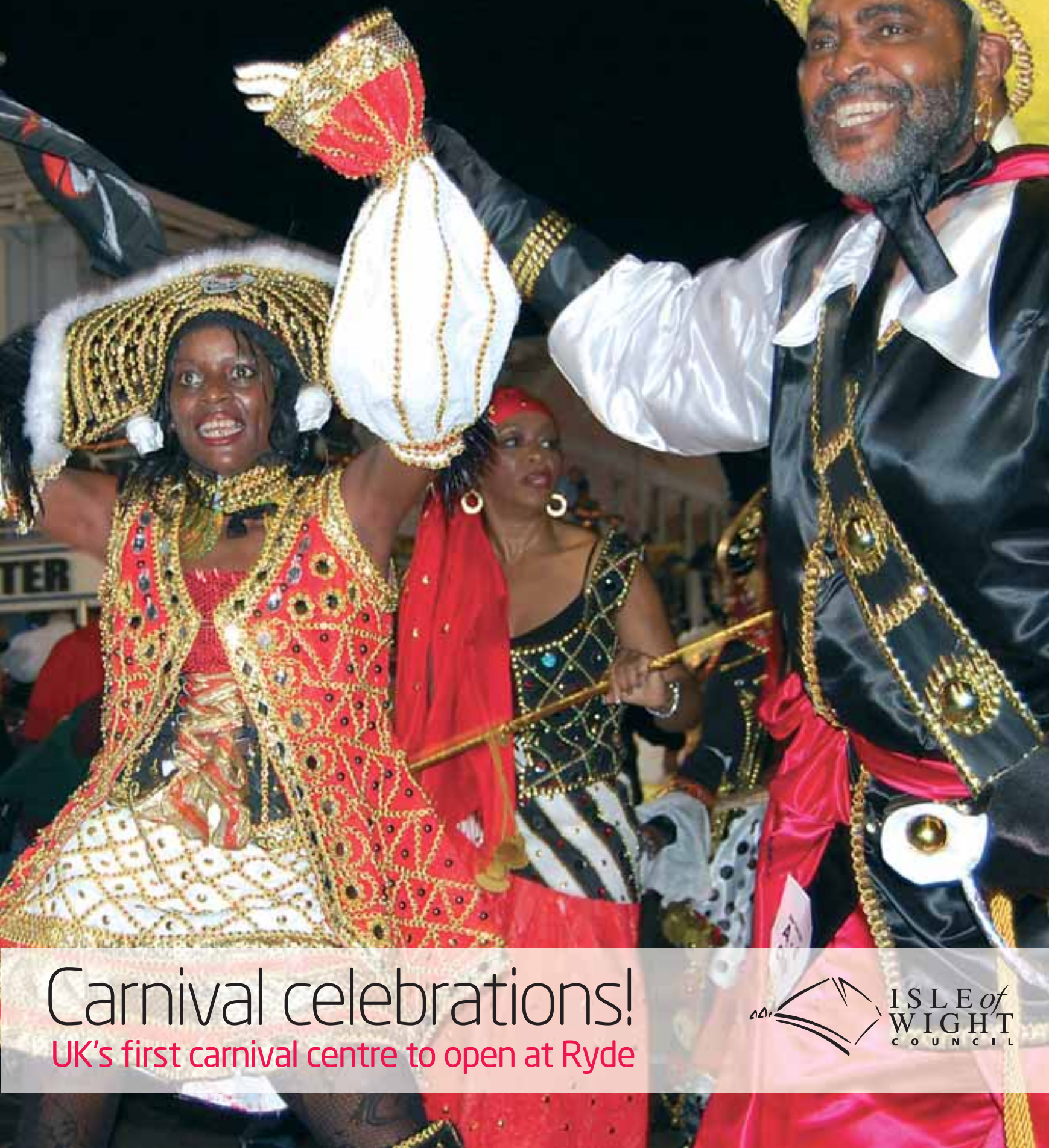


oneIsland

Your magazine from the
Isle of Wight Council
Issue thirteen
March 2008
www.iwight.com



Carnival celebrations!

UK's first carnival centre to open at Ryde



ISLE of
WIGHT
COUNCIL

Welcome



Welcome to the March issue of the Isle of Wight Council's magazine, which this month looks ahead to several key events in the Island's calendar.

Next week the council and its partners will be staging the Eco Island conference at Cowes Yacht Haven, launching the Island's new sustainable community strategy and Eco Island vision. This event is for the business community and will be followed in May with another event, the Big Green Picnic, for all Island residents, to be held at Newport.

Meanwhile, in April we will be celebrating the opening of the UK's first dedicated carnival learning centre at Ryde.

By now you will have read of the decision made by councillors on which option for change to the Island's education system has been preferred. At the time of going to print, however, the decision had not been made, and so we will bring you an update in our next issue.

As with the paramount issue of education, we remain committed to achieving and maintaining improvements in your council services. At the heart of these are the Eco Island vision and many One Island projects we plan to make a reality over the coming months.

**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 Onelsland@iow.gov.uk

Telephone 823105

makingcontact

USEFUL CONTACTS

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Newport PO30 1UD

Fax 823333

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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

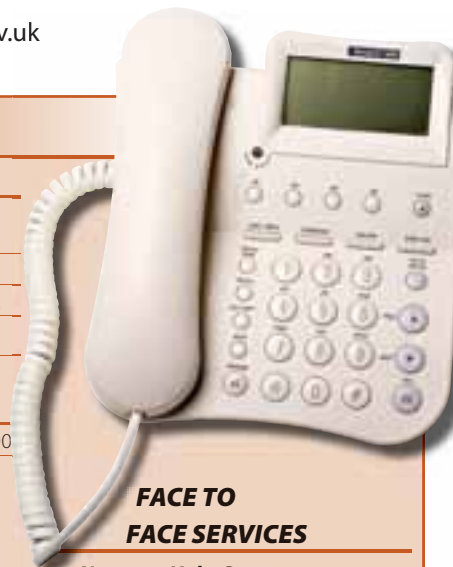
Fire and rescue
control centre (24hrs) 525121

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

oneIsland



council meetings



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

Council
(council chamber)
16 April (6pm)

Cabinet
(council chamber)
1 April (6pm)

Planning Committee
(council chamber)
22 April (4pm)

Licensing Sub-committee
(committee room one)
14 April (4pm)

Licensing (Determinations) Sub-committee (committee room one)
26 March (6pm)
31 March (10am)
14 April (10am)

General Purposes (Appeals) Sub-committee
7 April (1pm)

Scrutiny Committee
(committee room one)
10 April (6pm)

Policy Commission for Business and Infrastructure (committee room one)
3 April (6pm)

Policy Commission for Care, Health and Housing (committee room one)
9 April (6pm)

Policy Commission for Children and School Results (committee room one)
2 April (6pm)

Policy Commission for Safer Communities (committee room one)
27 March (6pm)

connexions

SOUTH CENTRAL

South Central Connexions sponsors One Island

South Central Connexions is a government initiative, funded by the Department for Education and Skills. It supports all young people aged 13 to 19 years (or up to 25 for young people with learning difficulties and disabilities). Connexions provides impartial and independent advice on a range of issues affecting young people.

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Countdown to big event
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REGULARS

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Rural and coastal news
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Events and activities

Cover picture: Junkanoo carnival performers from The Bahamas, who will be the first users of the Island's new carnival centre at Ryde



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

ISSN 1752-8038

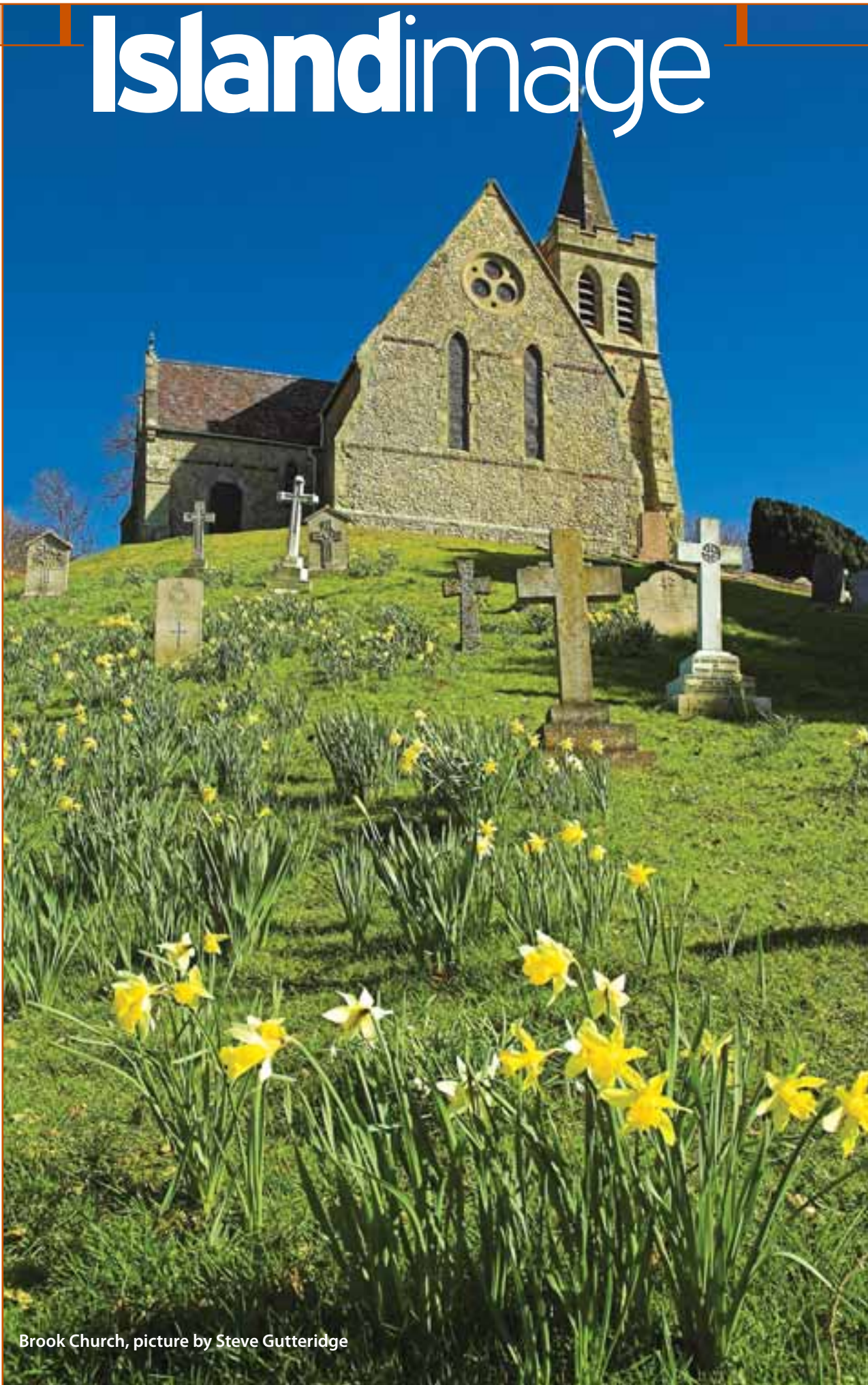
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County Hall, Newport,
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When you have finished with this magazine please pass it on or recycle it

Islandimage



Brook Church, picture by Steve Gutteridge

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



Schools' reorganisation update...

At the time of *One Island* going to press, a decision on which of the three options for schools' reorganisation to take forward, had not yet been made.

But news of a decision on the way ahead, will have been published in the local media.

During the consultation process, which ended on 22 February, the council held ten well-attended public meetings and also received many emails and letters about the reorganisation proposals.

More than 3,000 questionnaires were sent to an independent research firm commissioned by the council. If you want to see a detailed breakdown of the findings from the questionnaires, you can find the

information on the council's website at www.iwight.com

Now that a decision has been made, formal consultation will be held with individual schools, pre-schools and nurseries over the next few months.

No major changes will be brought in before September 2010.



Charter mark accolade for environmental health

The level of customer service provided by the council's environmental health and office services team has seen it retain its coveted charter mark.

The Cabinet Office award acknowledges the team's commitment to customer services, including: listening to customer needs; acting upon their views; and effectively delivering services.

The charter mark was retained following a re-assessment in January this year.

Assessor David White said the department had made excellent progress in its first year of charter mark.

"The team is excellent in consulting with customers, partners and staff on many different issues."

Council director of environment and neighbourhoods, Stuart Love, said: "The particularly pleasing thing about this charter mark is that it reflects the excellent service being offered to Island residents."

Support for green energy schemes

Three green energy schemes costing almost £40,000 have been supported by the council.

The schemes, project managed by Lightworks Engineering, are at the Brading Centre, Yarmouth harbour office and Shorwell Village Hall.

Cash generated from an energy saving scheme has allowed the Brading Centre to sell power it generates back to the National Grid. Ten solar panels costing £7,988 have been mounted on the roof of the centre and connected to the electricity grid.

Surplus electricity generated is sold back to power companies and income credited to the centre. Half the cost of the panels was paid for by the Low Carbon Buildings programme.

At Yarmouth, the harbour commissioners have supplemented their heating system with solar panels costing £20,180.

And at Shorwell Village Hall, with the additional assistance of Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Partnership funding, a system has been installed which uses a heat pump to extract low grade heat from the ground to warm the hall. The system cost £10,805.

Each system was supported by a grant of £4,000 from EU Leader+, managed by the Isle of Wight Economic Partnership.

Event offers special needs advice

Parents of children with special educational needs attended an information day earlier this month to find out more about services available to them.

The tenth annual Special Educational Needs Information Day took place at the Isle of Wight College, Newport, and featured a range of displays from the council's children's services section, schools, voluntary organisations and health services.

The event was organised by the Parent Partnership, a council-supported group.

Staff from groups who took part were on hand to answer questions and provide advice on a wide range of subjects. Visitors were also able take



part in a series of workshops.

Speakers at the event included the council's director of children's services, Steve Beynon, and Sally Bunday (pictured), the founder of the Hyperactive Children's Support Group – a registered charity which has been successfully helping children with Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder and their families for nearly 30 years.

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.



This month a copy of the council's new A to Z of services should have been dropping through letterboxes across the Island.

The A to Z booklet also includes details of your council tax

for 2008/2009, as well as information on the Hampshire Police Authority.

The booklet is designed to make it easier for residents to access council services.

Caring for autistic children

If you feel you can make a difference to the lives of children with autism, the council would like to hear from you.

Earlier this month Share the Care Week took place, a national initiative run by the Shared Care Network (SCN), with the aim of recruiting people to become carers for children with autism.

Such carers are known as Family Link carers, looking after a disabled child on a regular basis, from one evening a week to a weekend every month.

A national report shows that regular short breaks help overcome some of the difficulties faced by children with autism and their families.

- For more information, contact Matthew Penney at the council's fostering service on 566011.

West Wight Crew Week is big success



The Island's latest Crime Reduction and Environment Week (Crew), held in the West Wight, has been hailed a great success by the council and its partners.

Crew weeks are a well-established initiative in the Island and Hampshire, with the council working with the police and other partners.

They balance enforcement and positive projects such as truancy sweeps and licensing issues and are a chance for the whole community to take part in a number of events.

In the West Wight initiative, council trading standards officers test purchased at nine shops selling alcohol and tobacco in Yarmouth, Freshwater and Totland, and were pleased to find no premises sold age restricted products to under aged people trying to test procedures on behalf of the council.

Along with the test purchasing, ten dogs

were electronically "chipped" during the week in a scheme designed to help people trace their missing pets.

Around 200 people also attended a hard hitting mocked-up crash scene event in central Freshwater (*pictured*) where emergency crews rescued trapped victims from vehicles and dealt with casualties.

Community support officers from the council were on hand throughout the week with a special trailer parked in Moa Place. Community work was also carried out with young offenders.

Simon Dennis, of the Safer Neighbourhoods Partnership, said: "The Freshwater and Totland Crew has been really successful – particularly the crash scene event which attracted more than 200 residents and had a great impact on the community."

Ryde librarian leads the field



Ryde librarian Selina Smith (*pictured*) has become the only person in the country to complete an advanced modern apprenticeship in library work.

Selina, 25, undertook her apprenticeship between 2003 and 2006 – and was then taken on by the council's library service as a full time library and information assistant based at Ryde.

She was presented with a special certificate to mark her achievement, by Gina Lane, director of Lifelong Learning UK.

Selina originally joined the council's library service as a Saturday assistant at Sandown Library.

Increasing fitness and reducing emissions

While thousands of people use Isle of Wight Council leisure centres to get healthy, the buildings themselves have been shedding tonnes from their carbon footprints.

After a year operating under a new environmentally-friendly regime, The Heights at Sandown has reduced its carbon dioxide emissions by a staggering 60 tonnes and its electrical energy consumption by 13 per cent.

The changes have meant an £11,000 reduction in fuel bills.

Measures which have led to

the improvements have included: installing high efficiency electric motors and improving heating and ventilation systems; and new electric control panels and timing clocks.

The cost of installing the new technology has already been offset by the reduction of energy bills in the first year.

Meanwhile a new combined heat and power unit at Medina Leisure Centre, Newport, saved 51 tonnes of carbon dioxide in 2007, the equivalent to a forest of 7,912 mature trees.



Sports news round-up



Helping our sports stars of the future

Island Games record holder and international athlete Andy Frost (*pictured*) went back to school recently to present medals to potential sports stars of the future.

The hammer thrower presented medals to six pupils who have qualified for further coaching under the council's Search for a Star programme, which

aims to identify talented young athletes.

Six children from Bembridge Primary School displayed great skill and talent during Year Four trials held at every Island primary school since September. More pupils from the school were selected for further coaching than from any other primary.

The Bembridge youngsters will join pupils from other primary schools for the further training at Medina Leisure Centre. They

will be given the chance to hone their skills in a range of sporting and multi-skilled activities – helped by a team of highly motivated coaches and young leaders.

Tina Baker, headteacher of Bembridge Primary School, said: "We have worked hard over the last two years to improve our provision in PE. This year we achieved our Sports Activemark for the second year running and are justly proud of our six pupils who did so well in this programme."

Andy Day, partnership development

manager for the Sandown School Sports Partnership, said: "The Search for a Star programme is an excellent example of partnership working between the council, schools and local sports clubs and will provide a great opportunity for children to develop all the core skills needed to play any sport."



Some of the world's top athletes could be preparing for the 2012 London Olympics on the Isle of Wight.

Three local sporting amenities have been chosen as potential venues for pre-games training sessions.

The London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (Logoc) has selected The Fairway Athletics Centre at Lake, Medina Leisure Centre, Newport, and Cowes as venues recommended to athletes as training or acclimatisation facilities prior to the games.

Fairway was selected as an athletics centre, Medina as an indoor sports centre for basketball and indoor volleyball and Cowes as a yachting and sailing centre.

Council leader David Pugh, also cabinet member for leisure, said: "It speaks volumes for our sporting facilities that three are deemed of a standard suitable for Olympic athletes."

Stuart Quarrie, chief executive of Skandia Cowes Week, said: "This is fantastic news for the Island. The diverse sailing and yacht clubs of Cowes and Gurnard will be able to offer some great facilities, while the waters off Cowes will give visiting competitors a taste of south coast tides and conditions."

The three Island facilities will be incorporated in the official guide for national Olympic committees, subject to them completing a number of steps laid out by the Logoc.

Celebrating hedgelaying



Crowds were out in force for the council-supported 16th annual Isle of Wight Hedgelaying competition held recently.

The competition was staged in a cauliflower field alongside the main Arreton-Sandown road, with 15 pitches cut and a demonstration pitch by a former national champion. Other attractions included a demonstration of hurdle-making and an impressive display of billhooks.

The event was organised by the Isle of Wight Hedgerow Group.

The winners were: Paul Davis (open class), Rob Richards (novice class), and Red Hot Solar Panel (team class).

Keep active during the school holidays



No excuses for being bored during the school holidays this spring!

At the council's leisure facilities there will be a wide range of activities for young people and their families.

The junior sports challenge and 'try it out' sessions are the most popular activities at Medina Leisure Centre, Newport, while the focus is on water activities and swimming lessons in the pools at The Heights at Sandown and Waterside at Ryde.

And don't forget there's free swimming

for Island youngsters aged four to 15 at all council pools during the casual sessions held throughout the school holidays (5 to 20 April). Remember to sign up for a free Junior One Card before you take part in free swimming.

If the weather's good, then take the whole family for a challenging game of golf or have fun with crazy golf. Details can be found in our feature on pages 14 and 15.

- Contact your local leisure centre for details of spring holiday activities or visit the council's website at www.leisure.iwight.com

Forensic tag for unsuspecting criminals

An innovative coding system called SmartWater is being introduced on the Island to help crackdown on crime.

Police and the council are bringing in the forensic system, which can be used to catch criminals, identify property and deter burglaries.

SmartWater is a completely non-hazardous liquid that can be used to mark property or as a spray to shower intruders when they enter premises protected by the system.

Each batch has a unique forensic code tying its use to a specific location or item of property.

Once a suspect has been sprayed, the SmartWater will then show up when checked out using an ultra violet corridor at Newport police station.

So sophisticated is the award-winning system that it can also identify how the suspect has come into contact with the SmartWater. It can last on an offender's skin for weeks and on clothes for even longer. The system is used successfully by 95 per cent of UK police forces and has led to a 100 per cent conviction rate.

Stuart Love, director of environment and neighbourhoods, said: "While we are fortunate to live in one of the safest places in the UK, we nevertheless need to utilise every available means of making sure it stays that way. Not only is SmartWater useful in crime detection, it is also a proven deterrent. SmartWater research shows you are five times less likely to be burgled if your property is protected by the system."

Inspector Mark Bell said: "The success of SmartWater is well known among the criminal fraternity. It is feared by criminals because they know it can be used to catch them long after a crime has been committed."

The police and the council are currently evaluating where SmartWater can best be deployed. Elsewhere in the UK it has been successfully used in homes, businesses, warehouses, offices, factories, schools, colleges and hospitals. It has also proved effective in isolated areas.

Smoke free awards for four businesses

The first four Island businesses to be recognised for going beyond the letter of the law in promoting a smoke free environment have been presented with special plaques.

Gossips Café at Yarmouth, the Leaconfield Hotel at Bonchurch, the Clifton Hotel at Shanklin and engineering firm Pascall at Ryde had their efforts acknowledged at the recent Island Expo event at Cowes Yacht Haven.

The council, Isle of Wight NHS Primary Care Trust and the Isle of Wight Chamber of Commerce, Tourism and Industry, are promoting the scheme to establish the Island as a UK leader in smoke free environments.

From 1 July last year it became an offence

to smoke in substantially enclosed public places or workplaces.

Businesses that meet the Smoke Free Award criteria will be eligible to receive an attractive plaque to display on their premises.

Environmental health manager Warren Haynes said: "Island businesses and the public have responded very well to the requirements of the smoke free legislation and compliance levels are very high."

- Further information on the Smoke Free Awards is available on 823000.

PICTURED: Some of the Smoke Free award winners with their plaques





England to Italy - fund raising for vital equipment

Island firefighters have raised more than £23,000 towards a Wessex Cancer Trust appeal to fund new equipment for Island cancer patients.

The fund raising is part of the Square to Square Challenge, launched last year, in which a team of firefighters will cycle 1,400 miles over 14 days from St Thomas Square, Newport to the Vatican Square in Vatican City.

The challenge was announced in August last year, and ongoing fund raising will take place until the cyclists undertake their trek in September this year.

The aim of the appeal is to raise enough money to buy a thoroscope for St Mary's Hospital, Newport, helping Island cancer patients and their families, who might otherwise have to travel to the mainland.



Esplanade benefits from offenders' graft

Ryde Esplanade is currently being brightened up under the Unpaid Work scheme, which was previously known as community service.

Groups of individuals who are undergoing punishment and rehabilitation under the scheme have been undertaking projects including painting benches on the esplanade.

The work has been identified and co-ordinated by Ryde town centre managers in partnership with the Probation Service and the council's parks and beaches section.

The project is one of many resulting from a partnership between the Hampshire Probation Service and the council's Environment and Neighbourhoods directorate.

Other projects include the removal of graffiti and the cutting back of undergrowth on public footpaths in areas of the Island where crime and fear of crime are a problem.

Alex Hicks, Safer Neighbourhoods service manager, said: "The use of offenders in this project has fulfilled several important aims of Unpaid Work.

"It has benefited the community, been a punishment because offenders have had to give up their leisure time and it has taught them valuable lessons in being better citizens, such as working in a team to achieve something that others will appreciate.

"It has also introduced the offenders to new skills which could improve their job prospects. It is a fact that offenders in a steady job are at least three times less likely to re-offend than their unemployed counterparts."

The Island currently benefits from an average of 18,700 hours of Unpaid Work a year, 30 per cent of which is carried out in individual placements. Often these offenders have skills that can be utilised to help meet an organisation's specific needs.

Frogspawn advice to fight disease



Island nature enthusiasts are being urged by pond experts not to move frogspawn around for fear of spreading disease and pests from pond to pond.

Ray Harrington-Vail of the Island's Pond Warden scheme said: "Diseases of amphibians appear to have increased in the last few years, and research is underway involving Froglife and other conservation bodies. We can help stop the spread of disease by not moving creatures and spawn from one body of water to another.

"It is fine to move spawn around within your garden and to place some in an aquarium so you can observe it but don't pass it around your neighbourhood or the rest of the UK.

"Excess spawn should be left for the birds. That's nature's way. Most spawn is not destined to survive."

• Reports of frog and toad numbers on the Island can be reported to Wight Wildlife, tel: 533180, or email lucyt@hwt.org.uk

A special insight into our historic sites

The council is working with the Civic Trust, local businesses and groups to promote Heritage Open Days, which celebrate the nation's architecture and culture.

The open days – held over four days each September, this year from 11 to 14 September – give free access to properties that are usually closed to the public or which normally charge for admission.

Nationally, buildings of all ages and styles throw their doors open, from castles to cottages, and thousands of volunteers give their

knowledge.

Last year 19 organisations across the Island took part in the event, opening a range of venues, and providing guided walks in some areas.

• If you are a historic property owner and would like to open your door to visitors for this year's open days, or if you would like to run a guided tour or activity linked to the event, you should contact Stuart van Cuylenburg at the council's conservation and design team on 823552 or email stuart.van-cuylenburg@iow.gov.uk

Company profiles on iweight.com



If you are wanting to publicise the work of your business, the council's *iweight.com* website has a section devoted to company profiles.

Listed under the 'Working' section are details of a range of businesses, from leading edge firms in aerospace engineering and technology to medium-sized and small firms manufacturing products as diverse as fine glass and greetings cards.

To include your business, all you need to do is to draw up a profile similar to those already on the site (approximately one A4 page including contact details should be sufficient). Then email this through to the webteam@iow.gov.uk with accompanying photographs (where relevant) and a logo to feature on the main menu.



Apprentice-style challenge

Teams of students (*pictured left*) took part in a special challenge based on television show *The Apprentice* at County Hall, Newport earlier this month.

For the event organised by the Isle of Wight Young Chamber of Commerce, 30 students were split into teams of five and set tasks organised by the council and companies such as Wightlink and Liz Earle.

The council task involved a fictional Italian furniture company looking at setting up a factory in the UK. It had three locations to choose from, one being the Isle of Wight. The teams' challenge was to come up with a presentation within 90 minutes that would sell the Island to the Italian firm's managers and convince them they should set up on the Island.

Council Leader, Councillor David Pugh, said: "Although this was a fictional challenge, it gave young people the chance to learn how important attracting investors to the Island is."

Youngsters have their say at annual event

More than 200 young people attended the popular Wight 2B Heard annual conference at Bembridge recently – a multi-agency event managed by the council and Connexions.

The main theme for this year was 'Taking Down Barriers', with topics for discussion including bullying, drug abuse, and the property ladder.

One of the main parts of the conference was to give Island youngsters the chance to question a panel of Island leaders. This year the panel included council leader, Councillor David Pugh, and director of children's services, Steve Beynon.

Among the conference speakers was equality and diversity expert, Trevor Gordon.

Grant help for young people

Youth groups, organisations and promising young sports stars on the Island are being invited to apply for grant help from the Youth Opportunities Fund.

Funds for 2008 become available from 1 April, and it is hoped will help many young people across the Island.

Over the past two years more than 80 projects and almost 3,000 young people have benefited from the council-supported annual funding scheme. Close to £170,000 was handed out in 2007.

The funds are managed and distributed by a panel of young people, and previous grants have helped a wide range of people and groups, from young athletes with training and travel to youth music groups with new equipment.

Some exciting long-term projects have also been supported with the Youth Capital Fund. These include the Freshwater Multi Use Games Area (Muga) and Ventnor Skate Park.

Fund coordinator Matthew Bell said: "The Youth Opportunity and Youth Capital Funds have helped young people on the Island to access new experiences, equipment, training and facilities."

- People aged 13 to 19 (up to 25 with additional needs), youth groups and organisations are being invited to send in applications for grants ranging from £500 up to £10,000 from 1 April. For more information, applicants should contact Matthew Bell on 529790 or email: Matthew.Bell@iow.gov.uk



Easter refuse collection arrangements



Refuse normally collected on:

Friday 21 March

Monday 24 March

Tuesday 25 March

Wednesday 26 March

Thursday 27 March

Friday 28 March

Will be collected on:

Saturday 22 March

Tuesday 25 March

Wednesday 26 March

Thursday 27 March

Friday 28 March

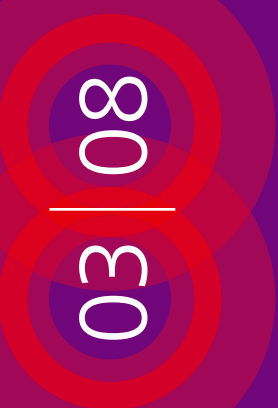
Saturday 29 March

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



Isle of Wight Connexions news

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

Transition

This is the last edition of One Island that will be sponsored by South Central Connexions.

As from 1 April 2008, the responsibility for delivering the Connexions Service will pass to the local authority.

The Isle of Wight Council has decided to take the service "in-house" and so existing staff will transfer to them on 1 April 2008. We are currently working with the Council and our staff to try and ensure that there is as little disruption as possible.

The Connexions Centre in Newport will remain open, offering all kinds of support for young people - from careers guidance and coaching on job search techniques to placing into training or employment and from pregnancy testing to specialist help in money management. Connexions Personal Advisers will also continue to offer services to young people through the local schools, college and training providers.



The Isle of Wight RON programme

The Isle of Wight Connexions team has been involved in running a new pre-e2e engagement programme, called RON - Real Opportunities Now! The project is funded by the LSC and aims to engage young people who are not in employment, education or training (NEET) in a short programme of confidence building and motivational activities.

The first roll-out of the RON programme ran from 15 - 25 January, and 8 young people took part. The programme was delivered over a two-week period: the first week focused on team building activities to allow the young people to explore their motivations and interests in a fun way, and the second week offered education and training taster sessions.

During the first week the young people had the opportunity to experience mountain biking, climbing and power boating. These activities helped many to improve their confidence and self-esteem, as well as teaching them essential team building skills. During the second week young people were introduced to some of the Island's training providers, and had the opportunity to taste training with the College, IWIGTS, HTP and Smart Training.

After the January programme two young people were interviewed by HTP, two young people had interviews with Smart Training, and two applied to the Isle of Wight College.



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

Telephone: **01983 525927**

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

Floristry, pottery, sailing, fashion - so many creative careers to choose from at the Careers 4 All event!



It was billed as the biggest careers event on the Island this year, and that is exactly what Careers 4 All was! More than 1300 people of all ages flocked to the Medina Leisure Centre on Thursday 21 February to take part in the day.

Over 90 exhibitors, including employers, training providers, universities, other education establishments and small businesses, answered questions about creative opportunities and career paths.

The venue was buzzing with hands-on demonstrations, interactive and informative

workshops, a fashion show, and live music and entertainment for all the family. Some of the highlights included a creative writing conference led by well known writers, publishers and editors; introductory workshops on floristry, photography, sailing and setting up your own business; guitar workshops

delivered by Jim Davies, guitarist for The Prodigy; music sessions led by Drum 'n' Bass star MC \$pyder and DJ Krooks, Platform One's resident DJ; and our very own Creative Village - showcasing the talents of local people who have used their creativity to make a living.



A local artist.



Jim Davies leads the guitar workshop.



Some of the art competition entries.



Power FM Thunders.

Winners 0-12yrs

Ethan Mitchell
 'All about me'
 St George's School

Charlie Marshall
 'Batik Unicorn'
 The Clatterford Centre

Winners 13-19yrs

Liam
 'Self Portrait'
 St George's School

Stuart Fraser
 'Moon sisters'
 Independent

Winner 20+

John Steggles
 'Full English Breakfast'
 Independent

Careers 4 All art competition

We received an overwhelming number of entries for the art competition - thanks to all of you who entered your work! All entries were of such high quality that we short listed 23 pieces of work. Congratulations to the entrants (see left), who won vouchers and the opportunity to exhibit at Quay Arts for two weeks.

South Central Connexions working in partnership with:



Leading learning and skills



A centre for carnival excellence

Looking ahead to the opening of the UK's first dedicated carnival centre

A NATIONAL MILESTONE will be achieved by the Isle of Wight on 25 April – with the opening of the UK's first dedicated carnival and celebratory arts centre at Ryde.

The Carnival Learning Centre at Westridge has been funded by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) and Arts Council England, and will be formally opened by The Bahamas Minister of State for Culture, Charles Maynard.

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 (see panel).

Arts development officer Chris Slann said the creation of the centre was the result of much planning and a lot of hard work.

"This will be a phenomenal facility for the Island and will help the Island to be recognised nationally as a centre for carnival excellence."

The centre's creation, at a cost

of £450,000, has been funded externally by the LSC and Arts Council England. It is located at the Isle of Wight Council-owned Westridge Centre, with the council supporting the centre through its adult learning and arts budgets.

Chris said the facilities at the centre provided extensive scope for learning about, and working in, a range of carnival-related activities.

"We are very excited about its potential and what it will provide for many people. The range of opportunities is vast."

The major part of the new centre is a huge teaching area that will offer many carnival-related courses, taking in all aspects of costume and prop making. This is connected to areas that offer informal teaching, as well as instruction in specialist skills such as metal and woodworking.

There is also a fully-equipped IT suite which can be used by up to 16 people, and will allow the centre to teach a range of creative work.

The centre's staff will have use of the office facilities on the mezzanine floor of the building.

"We are very proud of the reputation we have already established nationally for carnival work on the Island, and are confident the new centre will really build upon this," said Chris.

As well as having strong links with other carnival activities up and down the country, the Island has built international connections with carnivals in Italy, France, and The Bahamas.

Recently a group of 33 people from the Island took part in carnival performances in Nice in the south of France, and Chris and his colleague Frankie Goldspink, the carnival arts development officer, will soon be speaking at conferences in Liverpool, Birmingham and London about the Island's pacesetting carnival work.

Although the new centre is based at Ryde, Chris stresses that its role is to serve the whole Island



celebrations

Bahamas-style

The first users of the Island's new carnival learning centre will be Junkanoo artists from The Bahamas.

Junkanoo is a celebration unique to The Bahamas which features highly colourful hand-made costumes as well as the distinctive music of the islands.

Representatives from the National Junkanoo Museum of The Bahamas recently visited the new centre at Ryde, and an all-star Junkanoo Troupe will take part in Ryde Arts Parade on Saturday 5 July.

The carnival relationship between the Island and The Bahamas was formally recognised earlier this year when staff from the Island's new centre met The Bahamas' High Commissioner in London.



PICTURED: At work in the IT suite at the new carnival centre (opposite top left); Chris Slann and Frankie Goldspink (opposite top right); Junkanoo performers (main and above right)

ce

through an extensive outreach service.

"The Island has an incredibly strong carnival tradition, and in recent years there has been a series of projects to build upon this tradition. With the new centre we will be better placed than ever to support carnivals and carnival-related activities across the Island."

The centre has a special carnival outreach truck to help it provide a service across the Island.

"Although the linking theme of what happens at the centre will be carnivals, the skills that will be learned here and the activities that will take place will have a far wider-reaching positive effect on individuals and groups across the Island," said Chris.

Over recent years, the work carried out by Chris and his colleagues with schools and other groups has shown the benefits that carnival-related skills and learning can have.

"The LSC and Arts Council

England also view the new centre as very much a regional resource and an engine room for carnival work across the south east," said Chris.

A major role the centre is set to play over the next few years is towards the cultural aspect of the build-up to the 2012 Olympics at London.

"From when the Beijing Olympics finish this year and right through to 2012, this country will be involved in what is known as the Cultural Olympiad. The LSC and Arts Council England see us as playing a role in this national build-up to the Olympics, and we will also be supporting the 2011 Island Games here on the Isle of Wight.

"These are exciting times for us all, and we hope the Island's new carnival learning centre will play a major part in putting the Isle of Wight on the map," said Chris.

• The new carnival learning centre can be contacted on 817280, or by emailing chris.slann@iow.gov.uk

Pitch and putt, water slide and dinosaurs!

With spring in the air, many of the council's leisure services are gearing up for some busy months ahead. Here we take a look at what some of the facilities have to offer

OPEN FROM Easter for the summer season, the council's outdoor leisure facilities are offering a wide range of activities for Island residents and visitors to enjoy.

One of the major activities which people of all ages can take part in is golf. The council offers pitch and putt courses at Sandown and Ryde, both located just a stone's throw from the sea shore and bathing beaches.

At the eastern end of Sandown's seafront, Browns family golf has been a popular venue since it was opened 75 years ago by famous golfers Henry Cotton and Joe Kirkwood. There's a choice of two 12-hole pitch and putt courses, a 15-hole long-shot putting course and 18-hole bantam putting, with different challenges for all the family.

Browns is rich with local history and is popular with customers attracted by its traditional service and activities.

For a less demanding game with plenty of fun, there is the crazy golf and putting on Shanklin Esplanade and at Sandham

Grounds just along the seafront from Browns.

The nine-hole pitch and putt course in Ryde's Appley Park presents more of a challenge but it's worth taking on for the location itself – a lovely wooded park with panoramic views of the Solent plus Ryde's famous sandy beaches just a short walk away.

Visitors can combine their visit to Browns with some time on the glorious beach nearby or at neighbouring Dinosaur Isle, the UK's first purpose-built dinosaur museum. Its displays of fossils and life-size replicas of some of the dinosaurs that roamed the Earth million of years ago will amaze and fascinate you.

Fun on the water

The picturesque boating lake next to Waterside Pool in Ryde is a great place to take the family out on the water in a swan pedalo or you can paddle your way round the lake in a canoe.

If the weather lets you down and you want to make a splash, Medina Leisure Centre at Newport has the Island's only public

waterslide – a 25 metre twisting chute taking you right into the largest of the centre's two indoor pools.

The Heights leisure centre at Sandown is another multi-purpose leisure centre with two indoor pools, and Ryde's Waterside Pool on the seafront has a unique retractable roof so when the sun's shining you can have the best of both worlds.

Live entertainment

In the evenings, you can head for Medina Theatre at Newport or Shanklin Theatre, with their varied programmes of entertainment to suit all tastes, from concerts to musicals and live entertainment.

If you want something more lively, The Venue @ Ryde Theatre is the premier venue for live music on the Island, with everything from local bands to international cover groups.

• Outdoor facilities remain open until the end of October half term, while indoor facilities are open all year.





Browns



Medina pool



Dinosaur Isle



Ryde Theatre



Ryde boating lake



SIR TERRY FARRELL



PROFESSOR SIR
GHILLEAN PRANCE



PROFESSOR BILL
WAKEHAM



THE RIGHT REV DR
KENNETH STEVENSON



DAME ELLEN
MACARTHUR



DAVID TAYLOR

An Island of eco excellence

Next week, businesses from across the Island will be attending a major conference to launch and promote the Eco Island vision. Here we look ahead to the event and the Big Green Picnic in May

COWES YACHT Haven on Wednesday 26 March is the venue for a landmark conference in the Island's ambitious journey towards becoming the UK's leading sustainable community.

The conference will attract businesses and organisations with the aim of embracing a shared long-term vision of creating a world-renowned Eco Island.

A key part in the Eco Island conference will be the unveiling of a Sustainable Community Strategy by the Island Strategic Partnership – which lays out the vision and how its goals might be achieved.

The event has attracted top speakers, including: Dame Ellen MacArthur; the

Rt Rev Dr Kenneth Stevenson, Bishop of Portsmouth; David Taylor, chief executive of Sustainable Energy Ireland; Professor Sir Ghilleen Prance, scientific director of the Eden Project; Sir Terry Farrell, renowned international architect and Isle of Wight design champion; and Professor Bill Wakeham, vice-chancellor, University of Southampton.

Council leader David Pugh said: "A key strand of Eco Island is about creating wealth and opportunity for all, boosting the economy so everyone can benefit from a greener, healthier, dynamic and inspiring Island."

Council chief executive Joe Duckworth,

said: "We have all been extremely encouraged with the momentum that has quickly built up around Eco Island. This conference is a means of harnessing that positively and channelling it in a way that allows us all to move forward together."

"The council has set out where it wants to be in terms of reducing its carbon emission – four percent a year over the next 20 years – but we are all in this together and need to know how we are all faring in terms of making our individual contributions as businesses or organisations."

● More information about the conference is available from the website at www.eco-island.org.uk/conference

Big Green Picnic

Involving the whole of the Isle of Wight in Eco Island



While the Eco Island conference is aimed chiefly at businesses, the wider community will have its chance to get involved through the Big Green Picnic event at Church Litten, Newport on 24 and 25 May.

The Big Green Picnic will be designed to encourage families and individuals to do their bit towards the Eco Island vision. The event will take place from 10am to 7pm each day, with free entry to the public.

The event aims to inspire people to adopt a green lifestyle, providing practical examples of sustainability and to help residents, visitors and businesses act in ways that minimise their environmental impact.

The Big Green Picnic will also provide the chance for businesses and voluntary groups to highlight their green credentials and activities. Existing green organisations will also be invited to explain the work they are involved in.

Attractions at the event will include:

- an electric vehicle exhibition;
- library exhibitions;
- a council tent with information about composting, solar car heaters and other Eco Island issues;
- information from Island Waste Services on recycling;

- a Quay Arts tent featuring straw bale housing and the footprint pledge project;
- information on making eco friendly bags, and proposals to ban plastic bags;
- a mobile phone recycling unit;
- a cinema tent showing green videos;
- a health and beauty area;
- a Bestival bandstand with local performers and green storytelling;
- games, workshops and a picnic area.

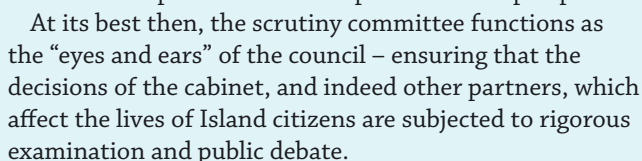
It is also planned that the event will practice what it preaches by minimising the use of resources. It's hoped the central location will reduce travelling, and on-site there will be recycling and healthy food. A biodiesel generator provided by a local company will also provide power for the site.

For more information go to the event website at www.thebiggreenpicnic.com, send an email to info@eco-island.co.uk or call Claire Critchison on 203891.



*Councillor Muriel Miller,
scrutiny committee chairman*

Other members of the committee comprise members of the council on a politically proportional basis. There are two independent voting co-optees drawn from the Isle of Wight generally. For education matters there are two members representing parent governors with two from the faiths, one from the Roman Catholic diocese and one from



Nature notes

Have you seen any 'mad March hares' – full of the joys of spring? Males vying with each other for mates chase rivals; 'boxing' is usually a female rebuffing an over-amorous male!

They have tawny brown fur and black tips to their very long ears and are more likely to be seen in spring when crops are still low. They bound at speed across fields or sit tight to the ground, when from the distance they look like boulders strewn across the countryside.

They do not live in burrows but make depressions called 'forms' in long grass, where they spend most of the day before moving to feed in open ground at night.



Tree buds are swelling and bursting; the white blossom of blackthorn and silky grey willow catkins were out early. The velvety dull black buds of ash open soon after to reveal bunches of purplish anthers. The pollen is wind-borne and fruit – like bunches of keys – will form later in the season.

On bright sunny days skylark song floats high above the countryside. The birds rise almost vertically with rapid wing beats; after reaching a considerable height, they hover for several minutes, mere specks in the sky, declaring their territories in song.

Then they drop back to their nests which are in hollows in the ground lined with grass and leaves. They are at risk from being trampled, so keeping to the paths and having your dog on a lead will help skylarks breed successfully and their exultant song to be heard next year too.

Anne Marston, assistant ecology officer



Keeping an eye on our coastal defences

Members of the public are being encouraged to contact the council if they spot any defects in the Island's coastal defences.

The council's centre for the coastal environment at Ventnor is responsible for inspecting and monitoring council-owned coastal defences.

The centre also carries out repairs to

maximise the life of coastal defence structures owned or maintained by the council. These structures include seawalls, railings, revetments, groynes, slipways, navigation aids, steps and breakwaters.

• If you have any concerns or questions relating to coastal defences you should call the council on 821000.

GPS monitoring in Ventnor

The council's coastal management section has been conducting Global Positioning System (GPS) surveys in Ventnor to help accurately monitor ground movement over a long time-scale.

Fifty permanent ground markers were installed around the town in 2003 and accurately surveyed using differential GPS,

which uses satellites to locate a point to an accuracy of about seven millimetres. Repeat surveys were conducted in 2005 and 2006.

So far the surveys have not detected any significant movement of the ground markers over this short period, but further surveys over the coming years and decades may reveal important information.



PICTURED: James Houghton from the coastal centre, sets up the GPS system in Ventnor

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Seasonal hint for garden wildlife

Birds are nesting now, and bits and pieces left after tidying the garden – moss raked from the lawn or long grass with some dead stems – will be a great help to several species. Mud from the edge of the pond can be used by song thrushes to hold their nests together.



ACTIVITIES

Fossil Walk

(21 March) A guided fossil walk led by a member of staff from Dinosaur Isle, meet at Dinosaur Isle, Sandown, 2pm, for approximately two hours, contact Trevor Price, tel: 404344, cost adults £3.60, children £2.20, family (two plus two) £11, booking essential.

Easter Egg Trail

(23 March) At Mottistone Manor Garden, 11am to 1pm, normal admission plus £1 per trail sheet.

Table Top Sale and Coffee Morning

(5 April) An event staged by 1st Wootton Beaver Scouts, with bargains and refreshments, at Wootton Scout Hut, Wootton Recreation Ground, 11am to 2pm.

CINEMA

Mulholland Drive

(17 April) David Lynch's

film of suspense in Los Angeles following a car wreck in winding Mulholland Drive, Quay Arts, Newport, 7.30pm, tickets £4, tel: box office 822490.

EXHIBITIONS

Mad as Mustard

(19 February – 24 March) Showcasing illustrations, stories, abstracted thought and poetry within handmade books by local artist, Holly Maslen, Café Wall, Quay Arts, Newport.

Rituals

(1 March – 5 April) Textile designer Vicki Fong draws inspiration from her upbringing, Chinese culture set in rural Yorkshire, Rope Store Gallery, Quay Arts, Newport.

Kolzwerk

(3-29 March) An exhibition titled Once I Was a Papa, photographic works highlighting the issues of fatherhood, Ryde Library, library opening times.

Carnival Magic! The Carnival Learning Centre

(15 March – 26 April) A showcase of work by adult learners on a carnival-learning programme, Learning Curve Gallery, Quay Arts, Newport.

Four Artists in the Picture

(21-24 March) An eclectic combination of styles and media from four professional artists, Edna Coatsworth, Sandy Medany, Sarah Marsh and Becky Samuelson, featuring marine, landscape, figurative and floral pieces, at Ventnor Botanic Garden, 10am to 4pm.

Wall of Art

(1-30 April) An exhibition of paintings by the Wednesday Art Group, Ventnor, at the Troubadour Café, Ventnor, during café opening hours, free admission.

St Lawrence Art Society

(5-11 April) Spring



Vicki Fong will be showing some of her vibrant textiles at Quay Arts, Newport

exhibition of paintings in all media, Echium Terrace, Ventnor Botanic Garden, 10am to 4pm.

Bembridge Art Society Open Days

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

All that Glitters

(12 April – 17 May) Works by Island artist Pat Clarke, featuring her paintings which combine illumination, fantasy and abstract imagery, Quay Arts, Newport.

MUSIC

Get on with it Chumbawamba

(22 March) A mix of skewed pop, traditional English folk and acappella song, Quay Arts, Newport, 8pm, tickets £12/£11, tel: box office 822490.

Haydn's Creation

(25 March) Turn up and sing classical music at Sts Thomas Church, Newport, singers 7pm, audience 7.30pm, performance at 8pm, proceeds to Cancer Care, donations welcome.

Bembridge Singers' Spring Concert

(9 April) A selection of choral, solo and instrumental seasonal music, Holy Trinity Church, Bembridge, 7.30pm, entrance £5, proceeds to local charities.

Corinne West

(9 April) Part of a UK tour, combining Bluegrass and progressive folk music, Quay Arts, Newport, 8pm, tickets £10/£9, tel: box office 822490.

John Renbourn

(11 April) Vaguely Sunny in partnership with the Farringford Hotel present guitarist and songwriter John Renbourn and Scottish musician, singer and songwriter Robin Williamson, in concert at the Farringford Hotel, Freshwater, 8pm, tickets £15, tel: 752500, also from Waterstone's, Newport and Crafty Caulkhead, Ryde.

Beck Sian

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

Newchurch Male Voice Choir Ryde Concert

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

church funds.

TALKS

Striking it Rich - the Californian Gold Rush 1849

(3 April) A talk to the Isle of Wight Branch of the Historical Association by Professor Margaret Walsh, University of Nottingham, at Nodehill Middle School, Newport, 7.30pm, contact Terry Blunden, tel: 524410.

Ryde Waterworks

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

THEATRE

Art

(27-29 March, 3-5 April) Trinity Theatre, Cowes presents the hit comedy by Yasmin Reza, focusing on how the purchase of an unusual painting affects a group of friends, at Trinity Theatre, Cowes, 7.30pm, tickets £5/£6 (three for the price of two on opening night), available from the box office (open 11am to 2pm daily, not Sunday) from 21 March, tel: 295229.

The Juniper Tree

(29 March) Goat and Monkey present live music, storytelling and magic in an unforgettable theatrical adventure, Quay Arts, Newport, 8pm, tickets £7/£6 (£4 for under-16s), tel: box office 822490.

An Inspector Calls

(4-5, 12 April) Ventnor Theatre Group present the play by J.B. Priestley, Whitwell Village Hall, Ventnor Road, Whitwell, 7.30pm, contact Bill King, tel: 854560.

Funny Girl

(16-19 April) Curtain Up Dramatic Society presents the popular musical that follows the story of Fanny Brice and her rise to stardom, Memorial Hall, Freshwater, 7.30pm, tickets £5, first night £3.50, tel: 752956.

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: 26 March (11 April publication date).

Title of event/activity:

Date:

Brief description:

Venue:

Time:

Contact name:

Telephone:

Please return to:

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