

one Island

The community
magazine for
the Isle of Wight

Issue 24
October 2009

A brighter life for Rachel

New care scheme
comes to the
rescue





WELCOME to the October issue of the council's One Island community magazine.

With this edition we include an eight-page annual report of the council's activities in 2008/2009 together with a summary of our accounts.

The report tells you about our priorities now and into the future, and highlights some of our achievements and the challenges we faced during the past year.

We also explain how our activities have linked to the Eco Island vision we share with our key partners, and take a look at some of the measures we have brought in to help cut our carbon footprint.

The report can be found at the centre pages of this edition.



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

Partner contacts

NHS Isle of Wight
(01983) 524081

Police
0845 45 45 45

Isle of Wight Rural
Community Council
(01983) 524058

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**

Monday to Friday: 8am to 6pm
Saturday: 9am to 1pm

We recommend you contact the call centre initially, where we aim to answer as many enquiries as possible at this first point of contact.

Popular numbers

Automated telephone payments	559310
Building control	823580
Council tax	823901
Education	823455
Environmental health	823000
Housing benefits	823950
Leisure services	823828
Libraries	203880
Licensing	823000
Parking services	823714
Planning	823552
Refuse collection	823777
Registrars	823233
Roads and highways	823777
Tourism	813813/813823
Trading standards	823396
Consumer Direct	08454 040506
Wightbus	823782
Dial-a-bus	522226

Community services

Adult services	520600
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 533772/821105
(out of hours)
All other council services 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

Ryde Library, 101 George Street,

Ryde PO33 2JE

Brading Help Centre

Tel: 401770

West Street, Brading PO36 0DR

Sandown Help Centre

Council offices, Broadway, Sandown

PO36 9EA

West Wight Help Centre

Tel: 756140

Freshwater Library, 41 School Green

Road, Freshwater PO40 9AP

Wootton Bridge Help Centre

Tel: 884361

Joanne's Walk, Brannon Way,

Wootton Bridge PO33 4NX

Please ring 821000 to confirm opening times.

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)

28 October (6pm)

25 November (6pm)

Cabinet (committee room one)

17 November (6pm)

8 December (6pm)

Planning Committee (council chamber)

27 October (4pm)

24 November (4pm)

15 December (4pm)

Audit Committee

(committee room one)

10 November (6pm)

Licensing and General Purposes Committee (committee room one)

9 November (4pm)

14 December (4pm)

Licensing (Determinations) Sub Committee (committee room one)

2 November (1pm)

Overview and Scrutiny Committee (committee room one)

10 December (6pm)

Adult Social Care, Health and Housing Scrutiny Panel (committee room one)

19 November (6pm)

Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel (committee room one)

4 November (6pm)

Environment, Transport and Infrastructure Scrutiny Panel (committee room one)

11 November (6pm)

Fire and Community Safety Scrutiny Panel (committee room one)

18 November (6pm)

Ethical Standards Committee (committee room one)

19 October (6pm)

Island Strategic Partnership Board (council chamber)

26 November (5pm)

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

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Isle of Wight Council Annual Report and Summary of Accounts 2008/2009

Cover picture: Rachel Mason-Harvey from Ryde, whose life has been turned around under a new care scheme (see page 10)

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



NHS
Isle of Wight



ISLE OF WIGHT
Rural Community Council

FIRST WORD



Keep warm and save carbon!

A major new scheme has been launched to help Island residents insulate their homes.

The council is offering householders free or subsidised insulation (depending on age and income) thanks to a partnership with leading energy company E.ON.

E.ON is working with the council to provide private homeowners and those in private rented accommodation with subsidised loft and cavity wall insulation.

Under the scheme subsidised insulation costs start from around £150, and will include a survey, materials and labour. Some

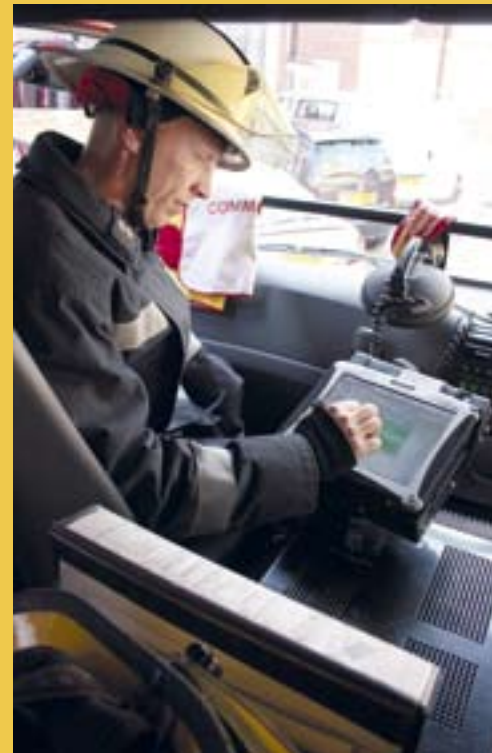
households will be eligible for free insulation.

The council scheme contributes directly to the Eco Island vision in several ways, including helping cut the Island's carbon footprint by saving around 280,000 tonnes of carbon and providing warmer and more efficient homes.

Quality cavity wall and loft insulation can help cut energy bills by up to £420 per year in an average sized home.

For your free, no obligation survey please contact E.ON on 0800 015 2475 (Monday to Friday, 8.30am to 5pm) or visit www.iwight.com/islandinsulation

Toughbook gives boost to fire service



A new mobile information system is set to make a real difference at fire and rescue incidents on the Island.

Each Island fire station has been kitted out with an outdoor-use laptop known as a Toughbook (pictured), giving vital information at the press of a button.

The Toughbook holds all the information needed when attending an incident, including maps, hydrant location, hazardous materials and premises and location information from previous site visits.

It also maps exclusion zones and calculates hose length requirements – saving crucial time in an emergency situation. The system was developed by Surrey Fire and Rescue Service.

Justin Harden, group manager (operations) for the Island's fire service, said: "Our firefighters are now even better equipped to respond to incidents as they have so much information at their fingertips."

"It is much easier to keep the information up to date. Previously new information would have to be typed up, printed out, laminated and placed in each fire appliance. Now the information is uploaded to the system and accessed instantly by the crews."

Join the **Big Tidy Up**



Island residents are being encouraged to join the Big Tidy Up – a national campaign to keep communities clean and green.

Between now and March 2010 you are invited to register your support on the Big Tidy Up website at www.thebigtidyup.org. Previous Big Tidy Ups on the Island have proved a big success.

In return for registering an event in your area you will receive a free help pack of refuse sacks, badges, stickers, posters and a special guide.

The Island has been selected by Keep Britain Tidy as one of 11 Big Tidy Up champions in the UK, and the council will be working with parish councils, schools and others to build on the work some have already carried out this year.

Phil Barton, Keep Britain Tidy chief executive, said: "The Isle of Wight Council is totally committed to tackling the problem of litter and that's why we're joining forces with them."

The Big Tidy Up is run by Keep Britain Tidy and partners: the Women's Institute, the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers, the Campaign to Protect Rural England, CleanUP UK, Waste Watch and Thames 21.

Schools' changes move ahead

The move towards a new two-tier education system for the Island has taken a major step forward.

The council has approved all the statutory notices that set out how each Island school would fit in with the proposals. The notices were widely advertised.

The only change to the notices was that Chale Primary School was given two months to present viable proposals for a federation with another school(s). If it fails to do that then the school will

close as indicated in the notices.

The council has also agreed preferred bidders to run six new schools created under the re-organisation – five secondary schools based around the existing high schools and a new East Cowes primary school.

The decisions were taken by the full council and ratified by the council's cabinet. Full details of the changes can be found at eduwight.iow.gov.uk/schools/reorganisation/educatio.asp

Find out about parking services



All you need to know about the Island's parking services can be found in a new annual report, published on the [iwight.com](http://www.iwight.com) website.

The council's parking services deal with a whole range of parking management and enforcement issues, designed to help cut traffic congestion, improve road safety and encourage sustainable transport.

The newly-published annual report also shows how parking services help residents and businesses with permits and general parking advice, and play a role in reducing traffic problems at schools.

One school that has felt the benefits is Oakfield Church of England Primary at Ryde. Headteacher Laura Fairhurst said: "The obvious presence of civil enforcement officers at the school gate in the mornings and afternoons has greatly improved the parking situation around the school, bringing road safety benefits for the children."

More information on parking services and general advice on parking issues is available via the council's call centre (tel: 821000).

In search of a Medieval mystery



A quote from an old Island book has provided an intriguing clue to the existence of a Medieval quay at Brading.

Armed with this and other evidence, a team from the Isle of Wight County Archaeological Service, together with local volunteers (pictured), embarked on excavations to search for the quay.

The quote came from W.H. Long's 1888 book, *The Oglander Memoirs: extracts from the Memoirs of Sir John Oglander, KT of Nunwell, Isle of Wight*, which stated: "Formerey ye boates came up ye middle of Brading Strete."

The excavations were undertaken as part of the Festival of British Archaeology and were supported by Brading Town Council, with the aim of finding evidence of the quay (estimated date 1066 to 1539 AD) and to involve the local community.

The team successfully excavated four trenches and found Medieval remains in two of them. In one they found the base of an industrial structure that may have been used to make salt and in the other a large quantity of Medieval ceramics were found.

Unfortunately no evidence for the Medieval quay was discovered, but it is hoped, through a process of elimination, continued work will gradually unravel the archaeological mystery.

Specialist court launched



Better support for victims and witnesses, and more consistent sentences for offenders are key aims for the new Isle of Wight Specialist Domestic Abuse Court.

The court at Newport hears cases each Monday, and is designed to improve the effectiveness of agencies working in this delicate and complex area.

Hampshire Constabulary, the Isle of Wight Council, Her Majesty's Courts Service, magistrates, the Crown Prosecution Service, the Probation Service, the Isle of Wight Women's Refuge, and Witness Support (*representatives pictured*) have all signed a protocol as part of the new arrangements. This includes providing protection and support to victims and witnesses, appropriate sentences for offenders, improving the quality of evidence at court, and reducing delays through the effective management of cases.

SPORTS UNIT ROUND-UP



New look Newport Skate Park officially opened

The revamped Seaclose Skate Park at Newport is now up and running, featuring new ramps and glide rails.

The £60,000 project was funded via the Youth Opportunity Fund, council grants and sponsorship from neighbouring Fairlee Service Station.

The new look skate park represents the culmination of two years of planning.

The old skate park was well used and it is hoped the revamped facility will be even more popular with young people.



Discus throwers inspired by Olympic champ

Five of the Island's most promising discus throwers recently benefited from coaching from the best possible source – an Olympic champion.

American gold medallist Stephanie Brown Trafton (pictured above) took time out from visiting family on the Island to conduct the coaching session with the youngsters.

Stephanie was asked by the Isle of Wight Athletic Club and the council if she would support a coaching session aimed at some of the Island's most talented athletes. She accepted and led a coaching programme that included both high quality technical work and personal advice on preparing for and dealing with top quality competitions.

Lee Matthews, the council's community development

manager, said: "We were thrilled that such a talented athlete offered some of her holiday time to support some of our up and coming discus throwers."

Stephanie presented each of the athletes with a signed photo and showed the group her gold medal from the Beijing Olympic Games.

Twelve-year-old Kieran Phillips, who took part in the session, said: "It was amazing to meet Stephanie. I hope to compete in the World Island Youth Games in the future and the tips Stephanie gave me will certainly help me get closer to achieving my goals. To hold her Olympic gold medal was fantastic."

The Island athletes who took part in the training session were: Kieran Phillips, Nicholas Percy, Eleanor Mitchell, Lizzie Lovegrove and Gary Newton.

Funding has been approved from the Big Lottery, via Sport England, to install new equipment at sporting venues across the Island.

The £150,000 grant was secured by the council and will provide new

goalposts, scoreboards, electronic timekeeping equipment, team shelters, badminton equipment, table tennis tables, and tennis, athletics, volleyball and golf equipment. The equipment ranges from new hammer cages to Olympic standard hockey goals.

The equipment will be used at Medina Leisure Centre, Newport; Rew Valley Sports Centre, Ventnor; East Cowes Multi-Use Games Area; the Fairway Sports Complex, Sandown; and various facilities at Ryde.

The athletics equipment is of international standard and will be used to support Island athletes in the lead up to the 2011 Natwest Island Games.



New equipment boosts Island sport

Online sports club directory launched

A new searchable online Isle of Wight Sports Club Directory has been launched by the council's sports unit.

The directory features details of clubs ranging from football to underwater hockey.

Anyone keen on taking part in a particular sport, or volunteering or coaching, can search the database for their local club and find information and contact details.



All sports clubs listed on the sports unit's database are featured in the directory. If your club isn't featured please contact the unit on 823818 or sports.unit@iow.gov.uk

The directory can be found at www.iowight.com/sportsdirectory

An even bigger Isle of Pink



The Island is playing its part in a month of fund raising as part of Breast Cancer Awareness Month during October.

The Breast Cancer Campaign has encouraged people to host pink fund raising events under the Isle of Pink banner.

Last year more than £20,000 was raised via the Isle of Pink initiative.

Lauren Basket, community development manager for the Breast Cancer Campaign, said: "Last year's Isle of Pink was a terrific success and this year we're hoping to make it even bigger and better. We're confident we can reach our £40,000 target."

As part of the initiative, Newport's Guildhall (pictured) was transformed into a pink beacon, with its traditional lighting swapped for a vivid shade of pink.

The council has given the initiative its full support, as have many other Island organisations and attractions.

Crackdown on anti-social behaviour



Pictured: Sergeant Steve Goodier of Ryde Town Safer Neighbourhoods Team

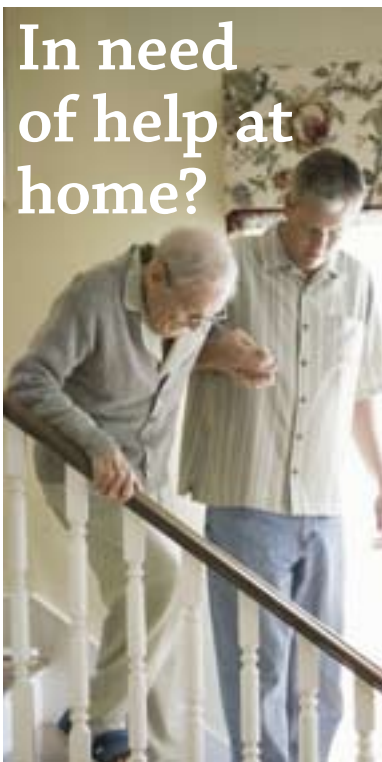
Police and the council recently combined to tackle key anti-social issues in Ryde.

Areas under the spotlight included noisy nuisance vehicles and alcohol-related disorder on Ryde Esplanade.

Motorists received warnings and bans on North Walk for speeding, loud wheel spins and car stereos, and groups involved in rowdy behaviour were moved on from the Esplanade and Simeon Street areas.

Titled *Operation Inferno*, the initiative included the installation of a CCTV camera on North Walk.

In need of help at home?



Age Concern Isle of Wight is launching a new home help service for people aged 50 years or over, called Help at Home.

The service can give help with everyday activities including cleaning, laundry, bed-making, ironing, prescription pick-up, pet care and short term support.

Fully accredited and trained home helps are used to provide the service, which is designed to assist people to live independent lives.

Clients pay the home help each week, plus a small service charge to Age Concern, with profits reinvested in Age Concern Isle of Wight to support the charity's many other services.

For more details on the service you should contact John Bentley at Age Concern Isle of Wight, tel: 539303, email: john.bentley@aciw.org.uk

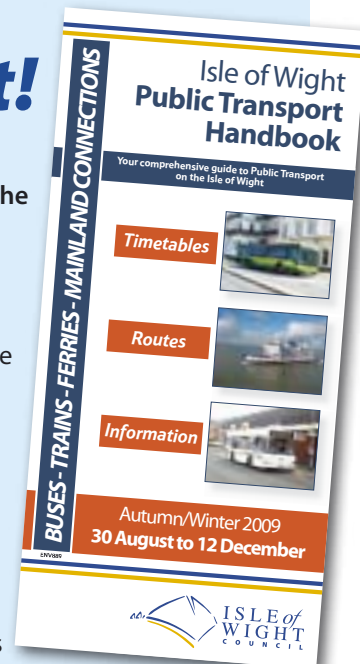
Handbook is just the ticket!

The Island's popular public transport handbook has won praise from one of the UK's leading bus and rail consultants.

Barry Doe, also an author on bus and rail issues, described the handbook as "outstanding" in his latest review of timetable information booklets across the UK.

The booklet, first produced by the council in 2007, is updated three times a year, and includes timetables for ferries, buses and trains. It also features local maps and information on Cowes floating bridge and school transport.

Copies of the handbook are available from libraries, tourist information centres and council help centres.





Island featured on *Crimewatch Roadshow*

Pictured: (From left) Simon Dennis of the Isle of Wight Council and Inspector Paul Savill, with BBC presenter Rav Wilding and the *Crimewatch* film crew

Policing outside the Isle of Wight Festival site at Seaclose Park, Newport was featured on a recent national television programme, BBC One's *Crimewatch Roadshow*.

The programme focused on the

nationally recognised skills and tactics used to help achieve low levels of crime among an extra population of more than 60,000 people.

The *Crimewatch Roadshow*

also highlighted a project by the Island's Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership to tackle graffiti and the offenders responsible.

The BBC interviewed council staff working on the local authority's online gallery of graffiti tags; accompanied environment and neighbourhoods officer Linda Shorter on patrol looking for graffiti with police officer PC Mick Baxter; and filmed council contractors Community Clean removing the graffiti with specialist equipment.

The programme culminated with BBC presenter Rav Wilding interviewing police Sergeant Dave Steele about cutting crime at the festival, and speaking with Inspector Paul Savill and the council's Simon Dennis about an appeal to solve a series of thefts from car park meters.

Exhibition marks 100 years of guide movement



A special exhibition celebrating the centenary of the girl guide movement is being staged at Newport Guildhall until March 2010.

Lord Baden-Powell set up the guides in 1910, and the first Isle of Wight guide company was formed at Ventnor in 1912.

The exhibition traces the history of guiding on the Island right through to the present day.

The actual centenary will be celebrated nationally on 20 October 2010.

Are you getting your full benefits?



Island families are being encouraged to check if they are getting their full entitlement from housing and council tax benefits.

From 2 November this year, child benefit income will be fully disregarded when calculating housing benefit and council tax benefit. It means the incomes of the lowest paid families may be boosted.

If you are not already getting help towards your rent or council tax, you may wish to check the council's online benefits calculator at www.iwight.com to see if you qualify. Alternatively you can call 823950 to discuss making a claim.

Existing claimants in receipt of housing and council tax benefits will have their claims adjusted automatically to disregard this income from their benefit calculation.

HM Revenue and Customs is responsible for paying child benefit, child trust fund payments, and tax credits. To discuss tax credits call 0845 300 3900. For child benefit call 0845 302 1444. Also view the website at www.hmrc.gov.uk



From Venetian masks to fire juggling

The website of the Island's carnival learning centre has recently been updated, featuring news items and details of events and projects for the coming months.

You can visit the website at www.thecarnivalllearningcentre.org, and find details of new courses and workshops at the centre at Westridge, Ryde – including costume-making, lantern-

making, Venetian carnival masks, shadow puppetry, fire juggling, stewarding after dark and digital photography.

The big community lantern-making workshop takes place on Saturday 28 November and the giant lanterns' masterclass weekend on 14 and 15 November, both held in preparation for Ryde's spectacular Lantern Parade on Saturday 5 December.

Don't miss sports clubs' conference

The third annual Isle of Wight Community Sports Club Conference is to take place at Newclose Cricket Ground, Newport on Monday 9 November.

The conference – hosted by the council's sports unit – will highlight important information on a range of issues affecting clubs and their officials.

The evening will start at 6.30pm and close at approximately 9pm. Places should be booked in advance (for catering purposes), by contacting the sports unit on 823818 or email: sports.unit@iow.gov.uk



Stepping out this autumn

More than 60 themed and guided walks will be featured at this month's Isle of Wight Walking Weekend, taking place from 23 to 26 October.

All the walks during the council-organised event are led by experienced volunteers and most are free – taking in themes ranging from history and wildlife to folklore and speed dating.

The weekend is a popular annual follow-on to the main Isle of Wight Walking Festival which takes place in May.

You can view all the walks online at www.isleofwightwalkingfestival.co.uk. The free programme is available from Island tourist information centres.



150 years of the floating bridge

This year sees Cowes floating bridge celebrate its 150th anniversary.

To help mark the occasion, the county record office at Newport has dug out this old photo from its collection, of the third floating bridge, built in 1896 and which went out of service in 1909.

The year 2009 also marks the centenary of the fourth floating bridge, commissioned from boatbuilder White's for £3,200, and which succeeded the one pictured here.

To find out more about the history of the floating bridge you can visit East Cowes Heritage Centre or the county record office.

Hitting waste targets



New figures show Island residents have dramatically cut the amount of waste they produce at home.

Domestic waste has fallen by 21.5 kilograms per Island household – and is among a series of Island successes in hitting government targets.

The recycling success – thanks to measures including more mini recycling centres and home compost schemes – is repeated in other target areas for the council and its partners in the Island Strategic Partnership.

The targets, set with the government, are designed to help improve life on the Island through a process called the Local Area Agreement (LAA).

Other LAA successes include:

- cutting the number of families in temporary accommodation – at the end of June 2009 there were 135, a big reduction on the 261 recorded in June 2008;
- a reduction in incidents of criminal damage – from 3,055 to 2,542 in the last year – due to steps including campaigns to remove graffiti, targeted patrolling by environment and neighbourhood officers, police community support officers and police officers, and the use of mobile CCTV and other measures.

Success in hitting targets means the Island is in line to get reward money through another government scheme called the Local Public Service Agreements (LPSA).

The amount received will depend on how many of these LPSA targets are reached and what progress has been made.

Spreading the tourism word



Tourism on the Isle of Wight has been boosted by accolades from several quarters in recent months.

Sandie Dawe, the chief executive of VisitBritain, the organisation which markets Britain to the rest of the world, said her recent holidays on the Island were “a really brilliant experience”, and she was a “massive fan” of the Island.

She made three visits, and congratulated the council and tourism businesses for improvements in areas such as street furniture, beaches and seafronts, as well as apartments and cafés.

The praise followed news that the Island had been named as one of the world's top holiday spots by children in a poll for Teletext Holidays, putting the Island ahead of places like Greece and Majorca.

The Island also achieved major positive coverage in a seven-page feature in the September edition of the BBC's popular *Countryfile* magazine, drawing attention to holiday accommodation, attractions and events.

Bringing a smile to Rachel

A new care scheme has transformed the life of Rachel Mason-Harvey from Ryde. Here we look at the difference 'personal budgets' has made

Every day is a real challenge for mum Rachel Mason-Harvey. While she struggles with an illness that drains her energy levels – her two year-old son Corin bounces around their Ryde home with enough energy for two toddlers.

Earlier this year the strain of coping

was becoming just too much for Rachel – diagnosed with Post Viral Chronic Fatigue Syndrome a few years ago following a serious bout of shingles.

Rachel's diagnosis followed a period in which, as she puts it, "I was under stress from all directions." The shingles followed

being made redundant three times over two years and a whole range of serious family issues to deal with. Her life as a successful IT software manager seemed to have completely disappeared.

But earlier this year a major change came to her rescue. Following an assessment by

the council's community services she was approved to go on the new personal budget scheme.

"Quite simply it has transformed my life," said Rachel, who moved to the Island a few years ago so she and her family could be nearer her husband's parents.

"The impact has been enormous in the four months or so I have benefited under the scheme.

"Before, we received support from carers coming in for half-hour periods to help mind my son and give me a breather," said Rachel, whose husband around this time was undergoing chemotherapy treatment.

"It was very difficult for us to cope with even the most basic of domestic duties."

But it all changed when a social worker decided to voluntarily give Rachel's family an extra bit of help by coming in to "deep clean" their kitchen.

"She got a real first-hand feel for what our life was like – and how we were so limited by my condition. She was able to gauge how much help we needed and in what areas."

Following the assessment they were approved for the equivalent of 35 hours of care a week under the personal budget scheme.

"This means we have a budget which we can spend on buying-in the personal care suited to our needs and also on key goods and services which can help lessen the level of care we need," said Rachel.

"Since we have been on the scheme it has helped in so many ways to make our lives better. It has helped with many little things like properly securing our windows so Corin can't climb out of them.

"He has the get-up-and-go of two children and is constantly into climbing. Often I haven't had the energy to keep up with him and in the past he has climbed out of windows and over walls.

"The personal budget scheme has given me peace of mind in coping with Corin's energy levels. We have been able to put fencing in the garden so I can enjoy being outside with him. This means I don't constantly need a second person nearby if he needs chasing after."

A key area Rachel said the personal budget had helped her with was giving her the chance to interview for live-in help at home.

"As well as live-in help, it gives me the freedom to seek respite care when needed, paying for Corin to be looked after elsewhere on occasions, giving me a break at home."

Rachel admitted before the personal budget scheme she was struggling to go out.

"It has enriched my whole life, giving freedom and flexibility in choosing personal and domestic care. It has also helped with

those areas of life you miss out on through disability, such as hobbies."

She said it is all a far cry from when she was first diagnosed with the neurological Post Viral Chronic Fatigue Syndrome, also known as ME.

"At Christmas a few years ago it was so bad that I was struggling to even put a sentence together. Since then it has gone in peaks and troughs, with a lot of physical weakness, fatigue and pain, and all very unpredictable.

"It can vary throughout the day, a week or even a year. I have periods when I can't physically pick up a piece of paper, or my left leg won't work, and I have frequent joint, muscle and skin pains."

Rachel said the personal budget scheme had in turn had a positive knock-on effect on her condition. "It has reduced the strain of trying to do things myself that I couldn't or shouldn't, and as a result has improved my mental outlook.

"I am now finding I can do more things again; simple things like enjoying cooking, even making jam. Before, it got to a situation when we seemed to be constantly living on pasta and tomato sauce." Having a personal budget has helped Rachel buy lighter crockery that she can properly manage.

"I was even able to have a yard sale recently. Others lugged the stuff outside, but I was able to contribute in a way I couldn't have in the past."

A major highlight for Rachel has been



Pictured (below, left and facing page): Rachel Mason-Harvey enjoys time in the garden with her son Corin



getting outside with Corin to enjoy the fresh air, safe in the knowledge the garden is secure and he can't suddenly dash off.

"I can now sit outside and watch him play without the worries I had before. It really has made life so much better."

About personal budgets

The personal budget scheme is designed to give people more control over their own health, independence and choice of care services.

It moves away from the system of professional assessment and commissioning care on behalf of vulnerable individuals – to a situation where they can assess their own needs (with professional support) and are given their own budget.

The budget varies according to need, and people can purchase their own support while meeting an agreed set of targets.

If you would like to find out more about personal budgets, please contact community services, tel: 520600, and ask for transforming social care.

From The Lost Symbol to The Enchantress of Florence

The Isle of Wight Library Service is at the forefront of a new scheme putting hundreds of popular audio books online. Here we look at the launch of the project

A new free audio book download service is being offered by the Isle of Wight Library Service, making more than 550 best-selling titles available online.

The Clipper DL service brings new current and classic titles in addition to the library service's existing audio book collection.

Among the new titles are:

- *The Lost Symbol* – Dan Brown;
- *This Charming Man* – Marian Keyes;
- *Exit Music* – Ian Rankin;
- *The Little Stranger* – Sarah Waters;
- *The Enchantress of Florence* – Salman Rushdie;
- *Mercy* – Jodi Picoult.

Library service manager, Rob Jones, said the Clipper DL service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

"All that library members need is a PC with broadband internet access, and they can transfer the audio book content to their computer, MP3 player, iPod or even their mobile phone."

More titles will be added to the collection every month, giving library members an ever increasing choice of unabridged audio books to listen to.

"This service now gives you the chance to download and listen to books like Dan Brown's *The Lost Symbol*, the sequel to *The Da Vinci Code*," said Rob.

For instant access to the service, you should go to www.iwight.com/thelibrary (follow the link on the left for the free audio downloads) and enter your library number and PIN code.



Free internet use at libraries

All the council's libraries have computers with internet access – all you need is your library card number and a password. The service is free, and classes can be provided to help you get started.

Get healthy with library walks

Library walks from Sandown and Brighstone libraries are an ideal way to get fit if you do not wish to visit a gym or fitness class. They are on fairly level ground and are led by qualified health walk leaders.

For more details call Lyn (tel: 740150) at Brighstone Library and Mandie or Robert (tel: 402748) at Sandown Library.

Online information about a series of illustrated walks based around the Island's libraries will also soon be available. You can learn about the history of Newport or Cowes, the literary heritage of Freshwater or Bonchurch, and about many other places. Visit the iwight.com website and follow the link for Library Walks for more details.

How to join your library

Island residents who are not members of their library are being encouraged to join up.

All you need to do is go to the library service home page (www.iwight.com/thelibrary) and follow the link on the left hand side. You will get a temporary library number and PIN straightaway and will then have instant access to all the libraries resources and services.

"We will send you your

new library card with a new number within a few days, and with your library number and PIN you can look through our library catalogue, and reserve books, DVDs and CDs to collect from your local library," said Rob Jones.

"You can borrow up to 30 books at a time and keep them for three weeks. You can also borrow up to four DVDs at a time for only 98p each – and some children's DVDs are only 49p a night."

Your library card number will also give you instant access to a range of other services, including:

- asking to borrow a book from another library service;
- accessing the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* online;
- accessing the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*;
- searching through national and regional newspapers at News UK.

Libraries are changing - why not take a look online to see what we have to offer you and your family

Annual report and summary statement of accounts 2008/2009



Inside this report:

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Feedback

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

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

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

Please write with your feedback, to Carol Harrison at:

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

Introduction



This report is a summary of the council's performance and financial accounts for 2008/2009.

In preparing this report we have tried to find a balance between telling you what we achieved and the challenges we faced.

During 2008/2009 there were significant challenges, particularly the impact of the economic downturn or 'credit crunch' which affected us all.

The council tried to balance its reaction to the downturn, recognising that while our budgets

were affected, our role in regeneration and tourism became even more vital.

We also recognised that Island residents might need extra support in finding housing, accessing benefits, finding work, and supporting children and older relatives.

The reprioritisation of our budgets and services in autumn 2008 sought to refocus our limited resources to meet these needs.

I hope you find this report informative and would encourage you to give us feedback on how we can improve it for the future.

Councillor David Pugh, leader of the council

Eco Island

Eco Island is an ambitious strategy setting out how the Isle of Wight will become a thriving, dynamic and confident community in balance with its local environment. The strategy has been developed by the Island Strategic Partnership.

Eco Island's ambitions are to achieve:

- a thriving Island;
- a healthy and supportive Island;
- a safe and well kept Island;
- an inspiring Island.

The Eco Island strategy was agreed by partners including the council. We have based our corporate plans around these four themes

or ambitions, and added a fifth theme – modernising the council.

This fifth theme relates to our priorities of putting the customer first and improving performance, value for money and our reputation.

Thirty-five Eco Island promises have been made and are shown in this report, along with our own 'modernising the council' priorities.

We show how we have performed against those priorities and those areas we need to continue to work on.

We hope this gives you a balanced view of our achievements and the challenges we face.



Look out for the tick symbols in this report, which highlight initiatives to reduce our carbon footprint.



Culture, environment and planning

Priorities – now and the future

- Protect and enhance our Island's natural beauty.
- Create wealth and reduce our carbon footprint.
- Support economic development and regeneration through increasing the skills of the whole community.
- Produce as much of our energy as possible from renewable sources.
- Ensure all people have a place to live and things to do in their local area.
- Enhance how our local areas look and feel.
- Reduce crime and substance misuse.
- Reduce anti-social behaviour and disorder.
- Reduce the fear of crime and increase public confidence.

Achievements – how we performed

- ★ The Island's gasification plant, at Newport, has operated consistently since February 2009, cutting the amount of waste sent to landfill and the council's liability for landfill tax. ✓
- ★ The Island's Historic Environment Action Plan has been completed. It will play an important part in the preservation and management of our historic landscape and buildings. ✓
- ★ In April 2008, our town centre managers gained discretionary enforcement powers to issue fixed penalty notices for offences such as dropping litter, fly tipping, fly

posting and dog fouling. The roles of the town centre managers were also combined with community safety officers to create environment and neighbourhood officers. The scheme was expanded to take in rural areas as well, now covering the whole Island, and working with the police, fire and rescue service and other agencies.

★ As part of the Ryde Townscape Heritage Initiative, St Thomas' Churchyard won the 2008 Conservation Award from the Isle of Wight Society; a sum of £2,000 was offered to recreate a traditional shopfront along the Esplanade; and £40,000 was offered to create a High Street pottery studio/workshop from a previously vacant property. Planning permissions were gained to recreate Victorian facades on the Esplanade, in place of amusement arcade streetfronts.

★ We successfully completed negotiations with the South East England Development Agency to offer support (via capital projects) for rural businesses and communities over a five year period.

★ Solar panels, wind turbines and small hydro turbines were fitted to new public conveniences. ✓

★ In August 2008 the council entered into an agreement with the Isle of Wight Chamber of Commerce, Tourism and Industry for the funding and development of tourism.

Challenges – what we need to work on

We need to continue to improve planning enforcement work to cut the backlog of

Adult services

Priorities – now and the future

- Improve health, emotional wellbeing and life expectancy across the Island.
- Support vulnerable people to live independent lives.
- Reduce levels of obesity in all ages.

Achievements – how we performed

- ★ The Minister of State for Care Services praised efforts on the Island ensuring individuals are given a greater voice in deciding their care, while not compromising the council's duty to keep people safe.
- ★ Homecare and our resource centres supported vulnerable people via the reablement programme – helping maximise people's independence in their own homes.
- ★ Adult Services directly assisted 2,400 people entitled to help with social care, to receive benefit support during 2008/2009.



- ★ April 2009 saw the launch of the Isle of Wight Specialist Domestic Abuse Court, a major step forward for agencies involved in supporting victims of abuse.
- ★ Satisfaction levels reported by home care service users rose to 94 per cent, with many stating they were very satisfied and full of praise for their carers.
- ★ The council is a national leader in securing implementation of continuing healthcare criteria, especially for older people. The reablement service is reducing the demands on care packages by helping people live

independently at home for longer.

Challenges – what we need to work on

As part of our commitment to transforming the way adult social care is provided, there will be a complete review of our business processes. We will continue to develop the transforming social care agenda and maximise the number of people using a personal budget to purchase the care and support they need, and help them towards greater independence.

We will help people with learning disabilities move from residential care homes into their own accommodation.

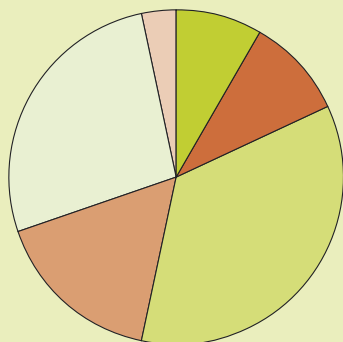
We are developing an Integrated Dementia Service to provide a specialist level of support for people living with dementia (and their carers).

We will ensure information on all types of support and care is freely accessible to residents.

enforcement cases – a simplified policy was adopted in May 2009 to help with this.

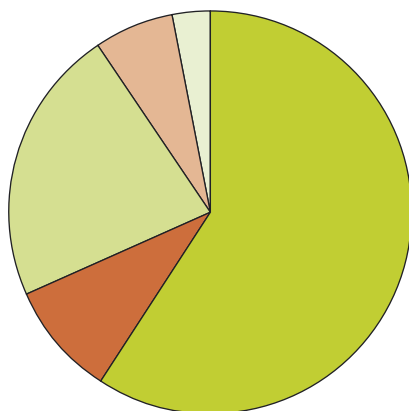
Our residual waste collection was identified as being 873 kilograms per household, against a target of 850 kilograms. We are working to increase the number of black recycling boxes that are issued, and have a dedicated recycling and waste minimisation officer working with the council's waste contractor. The council is also running campaigns such as 'love food, hate waste', a 'real nappies' campaign and 'recycling week' initiatives to try to raise awareness of, and encourage recycling.

What we spent



- Economic development, tourism and partnerships (£3,571,000)
- Planning (£4,044,000)
- Environment and waste (£14,797,000)
- Community safety (£6,891,000)
- Culture and leisure (£11,353,000)
- Other (£1,289,000)

What we spent



- Older people (£32,487,000)
- Physical disabilities (£5,097,000)
- Learning disabilities (£12,161,000)
- Mental health needs (£3,487,000)
- Other (£1,659,000)

Housing



Priorities – now and the future

- Ensure all people have somewhere to live and things to do in their local area.
- Support vulnerable people to live independent lives.

Achievements – how we performed

★ We have used initiatives such as the *My Choice Home Buy* scheme to help people solve their housing issues. In 2008 we held four information sessions with more than 140 residents attending. Twenty-one families used the scheme during 2008/2009 to buy their first home.

★ *Nettlestone Rural Housing Scheme* was completed (with Vectis Housing), providing ten new affordable homes for local people.

★ The introduction of the *Find a Home* scheme, a partnership involving the council and private landlords, has brought 36 units of accommodation back into use, and helped to significantly cut the number of people in temporary accommodation – including rehousing nine households previously in hostel or council homeless accommodation.

★ During 2008/2009, the council distributed grants to help people insulate and heat their homes as part of the government-funded *Warm Island* scheme. ✓

★ Pan Community Wardens have forged strong community links at Pan Estate, Newport, via schools, resident groups and service providers. In 2008 they were involved in activities such as archaeology at Great Pan Farm House, the Soapbox Derby Challenge, a Christmas carol service, and 'healthy eating on a budget' demonstrations. Two major successes were the new multi-use games area opened in November 2008, and a national award for the Family Learning Project on Pan.

★ The supporting people programme invested almost £6 million of government funding into the local community, assisting clients and providing more than 200 support worker jobs for local people.

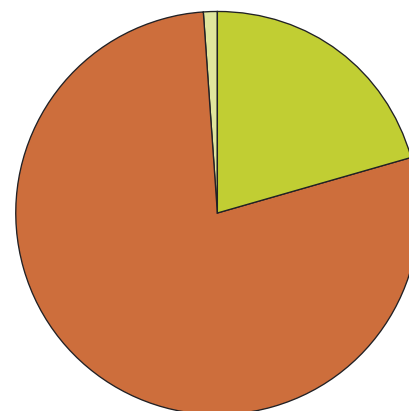
★ In the last year, the 26 care providers contracted by the council delivered more than 3,000 support packages to vulnerable members of the community. This does not include the hundreds of jobs completed by the Handyman service and the huge number of items of refurbished furniture supplied and delivered to vulnerable families by the Storeroom project.

Challenges – what we need to work on

We are looking at ways of renegotiating the numbers of affordable homes with developers and partners and agreements to aid their cash flow in the current economic climate. We are also investigating infrastructure funding for major schemes and changing the mix of units on schemes to make developments more saleable.

The development of a rural housing policy for each area of the Island is still in progress and we aim to complete this in 2009/2010.

What we spent



- Housing (£11,117,000)
- Housing benefit, admin and payments (£42,282,000)
- Other (£531,000)



Fire and rescue service

Priorities – now and the future

- Improve health, emotional well-being and life expectancy across the Island.
- Reduce the fear of crime and increase public confidence.
- Support vulnerable people to live independent lives.
- Support families and carers to provide a safe and positive environment for our young people.

Achievements – how we performed

- ★ The fire and rescue service has undergone major change and now focuses on prevention, protection and response.
- ★ The Audit Commission confirmed that the service was 'improving well', with performance levels rising in 80 per cent of indicators, resulting in a reduction in the number of fires, fewer injuries and no deaths.
- ★ Improved performance was achieved through working with local people and partner organisations to help our most vulnerable communities.
- ★ We helped reduce road traffic accidents, arson and anti-social behaviour through educational projects with young people, highlighting the consequences of their behaviour.
- ★ The track record of the service in achieving efficiencies and value for money was identified as best practice in the national report, 'Rising to the Challenge' (December 2008) published by the Audit Commission.

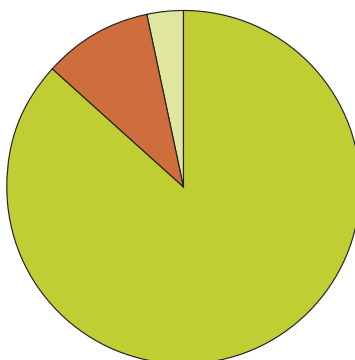
Challenges – what we need to work on

Modernising the service via the 'Model for Change' programme will improve public safety and enhance efficiency and effectiveness.

This means securing additional investment and using our resources, such as firefighters and stations, differently to provide a service that meets the needs of the community.

Providing properly-equipped fire stations in the right places, along with maintaining adequate fire cover to meet community needs, are essential.

What we spent



- Fire fighting and rescue operations (£5,595,000)
- Community safety and fire prevention (£640,000)
- Other (£206,000)

Highways

Priorities – now and the future

- Protect and enhance the Island's natural beauty.
- Create wealth and reduce our carbon footprint.
- Support economic development and regeneration through increasing the skills of the whole community.
- Enhance how our local areas look and feel, now and in the future.

Achievements – how we performed

- ★ The council secured an allocation of £325 million to improve its road network under the Private Finance Initiative. It means unprecedented levels of money will be available to improve roads on the Island. The cash will enable every stretch of Island highway to be brought up to standard in the coming years.
- ★ We agreed to provide concessionary bus travel in addition to the national minimum scheme for peak travel time, rail travel and for those suffering severe and enduring mental illness. A total of 3.5 million journeys were made using the scheme during 2008/2009, a rise of 29 per cent on the previous year. ✓
- ★ The Rights of Way section managed 520 miles of rights of way, including 326 miles of footpath, 165 miles of bridleways, and 29 miles of byways.
- ★ The council's Isle of Wight Walking Festival involved more than 24,500 people in 300-plus walks. ✓
- ★ The council was recognised regionally for its Speed Awareness and Safer Driving campaign.
- ★ The council is working with the NHS Isle of Wight on the development of a joint Workplace Travel Plan, to cut reliance on the car for those working for the council and at St Mary's Hospital. ✓
- ★ The council has also signed up to, and is promoting the national car liftshare scheme, the online journey matching system, under which you can share transport for local or mainland journeys (www.carsharewight.com). ✓

Challenges – what we need to work on

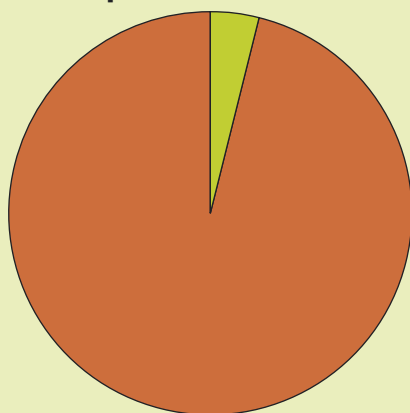
The assessment of alternative fuel sources for the council's fleet has resulted in a number of vehicles using bio fuel and others using Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) – but repair and other issues remain for LPG converted vehicles.



We did not meet our target for preventing deterioration of footway condition, but it is hoped the highways' private finance initiative will tackle this.

We did not meet our targets for reducing slight casualties and road casualties, but due to the low number of casualties to begin with, a percentage reduction each year can be difficult to achieve. It is anticipated that educational campaigns will continue to contribute towards this goal.

What we spent



- Public realm and harbours (£930,000)
- Highways, public transport and parking (£21,658,000)

An additional £5.6 million was spent on highways funded from capital.

Children and young people

Priorities – now and the future

- Make sure our children achieve better than the national average at school and college.
- Reduce childhood inequalities by tackling poverty, neglect and domestic violence.
- Support economic development and regeneration through increasing the skills of the whole community.
- Support families and carers to provide a safe and positive environment for young people.

Achievements – how we performed

- ★ Children's Services maintained its two-star rating following an Ofsted inspection. Among areas highlighted as strengths were the work in early intervention and inter-agency working. It also praised the way the council listened and responded to the views of children and young people through consultation activities; promoting inclusion and tackling disadvantage; support for those with learning difficulties; and good early years and foundation stage provision.
- ★ Twenty schools and nearly 1,000 pupils took part in 2008 Global Rock Challenge, with three Island schools in the southern finals and two in the national finals.
- ★ Private fostering campaigns encouraged more carers to come forward for assessments.
- ★ More than 4,000 children were trained to ride a bicycle at GoRide level 1.
- ★ At the end of 2008/2009, 86 per cent of local schools had travel plans. ✓
- ★ Fixed-term exclusions from school were reduced, with 296 in the autumn term of 2008, compared to 412 in 2007.
- ★ The council installed its first ground source heat pump, at Medina High School, to provide free heating to the new maths block. ✓

Challenges – what we need to work on

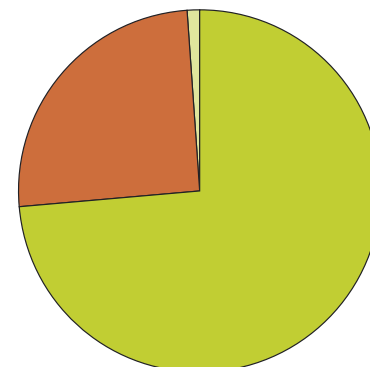
In March 2008 the council voted to take forward an option that will see a new two tier educational structure on the Island. This will be phased in from September 2010.

The council is building a new learning centre to replace the high school in Cowes. The centre will feature state of the art surroundings and technology, and new approaches to teaching and learning for students.

The economic recession is having a national impact on work to reduce poverty and the situation on the Island is likely to be even more challenging.

Activities for teenagers remain a concern among residents. A major programme of youth consultation has just been launched as the first step to tackling this issue.

What we spent



- Schools (£102,674,000)
- Children and families (£35,262,000)
- Other (£550,000)





Corporate and democratic

Priorities – now and the future

- Put the customer first.
- Support staff.
- Improve performance and value for money.
- Reduce the council's impact on the environment.
- Make our buildings fit for purpose.
- Improve our reputation with residents, visitors and local businesses.
- Establish, maintain and improve effective partnership engagement.
- Organisational development and improvement.

Achievements – how we performed

- ★ The council achieved the code of connection for Government Connect, protecting online sensitive and personal information.
- ★ The *iwight.com* website was ranked in the top ten sites for English unitary councils.
- ★ The budget strategy approved by the council in February 2009 included a council tax rise of 3.5 per cent, but no proposed increases in fees and charges, acknowledging the impact of the economic downturn on residents.
- ★ The council's Business Systems Improvement Project went live, with phase one in April 2009, implementing a new financial system. The project is aimed at making the council's operations more effective and efficient, thereby reducing costs.

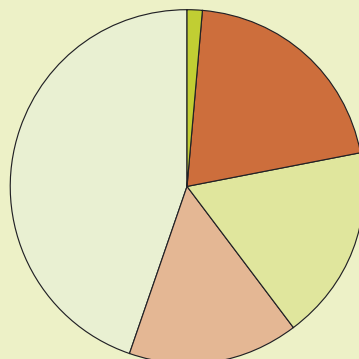
★ A review of electoral ward boundaries resulted in the number of councillors being reduced from 48 to 40, leading to a saving of £40,000.

Challenges – what we need to work on

Income from the sale of the council's surplus buildings and assets has been reduced by the economic recession. This has in turn affected the funds available to upgrade or maintain council property.

Continuing reductions in the real value of government grants over the next five years will have a further impact on the council and the services it provides.

What we spent



- Court services (£383,000)
- Central services (£5,133,000)
- Corporate and democratic core (£4,461,000)
- Others (£3,898,000)
- Council tax benefit (£11,151,000)

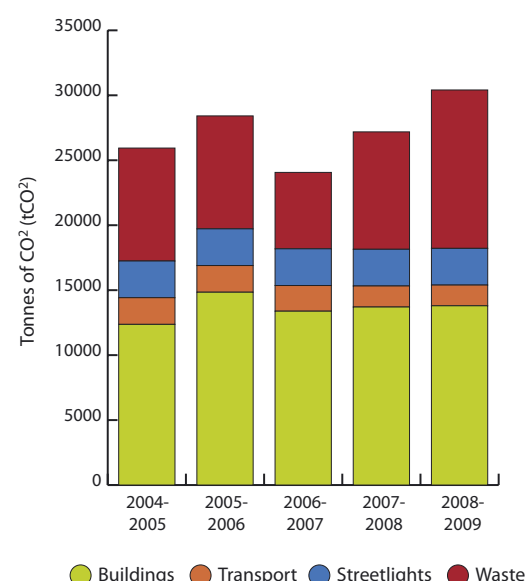
Sustainability

Carbon footprint ✓

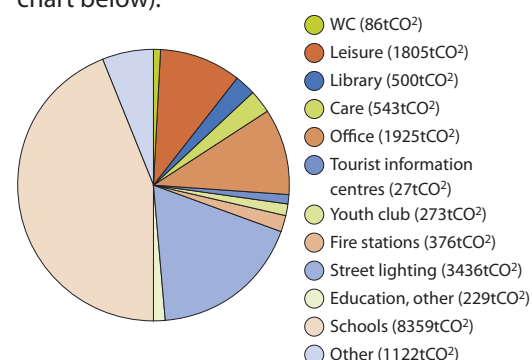
The council's carbon footprint is made up of emissions from building energy use, street lighting energy use, fleet vehicle fuel consumption, business travel fuel consumption, and waste.

During 2007/2008 the council took part in the local authority carbon management programme, with baseline carbon emissions measured and targets set for carbon reduction of four per cent per year.

The graph here shows the carbon emissions for the period 2004 to 2009.



The most significant part of the carbon footprint is emissions from buildings (see chart below).



During 2005 to 2008, energy saving initiatives were carried out including: building insulation, high efficiency lighting, replacement of oil-fired boilers and the introduction of renewable energy systems.

Because of the delayed start to the carbon management programme, the full four per cent annual reduction was due to be taking place from April 2009.

An initial sum of £200,000 has been allocated by the council for investment in carbon reduction measures and contracts are

currently being set up for thermal insulation (cavity wall, loft and pipe) and other schemes.

Work on lighting improvements, heating controls, renewable energy systems and smart meters is ongoing and transport issues are also being explored, including low-carbon options for fleet vehicles and pool cars. Opportunities for reducing emissions from street lighting are being looked at under the highways' private finance initiative.

Carbon savings will be realised during 2009/2010 through the diversion of waste from landfill. Assuming the gasification plant operates at 50 per cent capacity in 2009/2010 and 100 per cent capacity in 2010/2011, total carbon dioxide reductions for the council will amount to 14.8 per cent and 29.7 per cent from waste disposal alone.

Sustainable accounting

Sustainable accounting is a new type of reporting which attempts to show how the council contributes to sustainable development.

The council recognises it has a direct impact on sustainable development through its use of supplies, energy and water.

The council also has an indirect impact through its waste management and recycling responsibilities, economic regeneration, partnerships with local businesses and its contracts with local suppliers.

The consideration of the wider environmental and social costs of our actions enables us to come up with innovative and sustainable solutions to problems. It also allows us to make plans to be more efficient through transforming our services.

Capital investment is often required for projects which could lead to ongoing revenue savings, a reduced carbon footprint for the council, and a wider environmental benefit. During 2008/2009 the council invested £2.9 million in such capital projects.

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

The Isle of Wight Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) covers 191 square kilometres or just over half the Island.

A partnership was formed in 2002 to ensure a co-ordinated approach to the conservation and enhancement of our AONB, via a management plan. An updated plan was published in March 2009, following public consultation.

Partnerships

Every council area in the UK is required to have a Local Strategic Partnership (LSP). Our LSP is called the Island Strategic Partnership (ISP), comprising about 50 agencies from the public, private and voluntary sectors.

The council has worked hard to ensure that voluntary and community groups are central to the ISP operations and decision-making.

This relationship has resulted in a new voluntary sector 'compact and strategy' for the Island, which also contains a funding framework.

The council is also working with the University of Southampton to offer the ISP advice and collaboration. Projects include carbon footprint measurement and tidal energy generation.

Participation

One of the council's corporate priorities is 'putting the customer first'. One way we hope to do this is by giving as many people as possible the chance to have their say:

- The last annual residents' survey showed residents' satisfaction with the council had increased by nine per cent, while those areas of greatest concern – highways' maintenance and public toilets – are now the subject of multi-million pound improvement schemes.

- The annual budget consultation asked local residents how they wanted to see the budget spent, resulting in budgets directed to residents' priorities.
- The council is working to pilot a project called participatory budgeting. This involves delegating control of identified funds to a local level. The funds would come from a pot agreed by the council and/or the ISP.
- The council received 446 complaints during 2008/2009 about issues ranging from highways to children's services. In response the council has been working to improve the communication of its policies and procedures, provide faster responses to letters, and give more information to residents at their first point of contact with the council.

Equality and diversity

The council has adopted the equality improvement framework for local government.

This will ensure residents have equal access to services regardless of race, age, gender, disability, sexual orientation, religion/belief.

It has also been possible to introduce a multi-agency approach to incident reporting, where employees and members of the public can report incidents online or in writing to any public consultation.



Annual governance statement

The council has a statutory obligation to provide an annual governance statement which is published with the statement of accounts.

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

During 2008/2009 the council identified improvements required in its:

- implementation of council strategies and policies;
- delivery of services – in particular, business continuity planning, highways' maintenance, asset management, information communication technology (ICT), education and vulnerable clients;
- and governance – in particular communications, partnerships and climate change.

Full details of the issues and plans for improvement can be found in the governance statement available at www.iwight.com

Summary statement of accounts 2008/2009

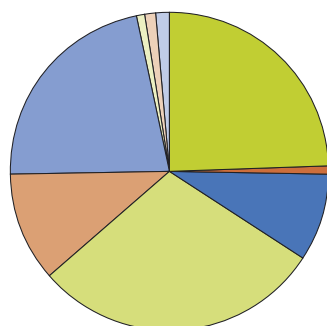
Where the money came from

Revenue funding sources	2007/2008 £000's	%	2008/2009 £000's	%
Dedicated schools grant	70,911	21	72,708	21
Formula grants	50,701	16	56,747	17
Other government grants	93,239	29	95,082	28
Council tax	64,142	19	65,865	19
Charges, rents and other income and adjustments	47,669	15	52,905	15
Total	326,662		343,307	

How we spent it

Revenue expenditure	2007/2008 £000's	%	2008/2009 £000's	%
Culture, environment and planning	40,205	12.3	41,945	12.2
Children and young people	128,499	39.4	138,486	40.3
Housing services	51,014	15.6	53,930	15.7
Fire and rescue service	7,909	2.4	6,441	1.9
Adult social care	56,531	17.3	54,891	16.0
Highways, roads and transport	23,254	7.1	22,588	6.6
Core and democratic services	19,250	5.9	25,026	7.3
Total	326,662		343,307	

2008/2009 Capital spending



- Highways (£5,557,000)
- Fire service (£199,000)
- Other environmental (£2,024,000)
- Schools' and children's projects (£6,671,000)
- Community (£2,494,000)
- Resources (£5,018,000)
- Chief executive (£67,000)
- Contingency (£231,000)
- Economic projects (£277,000)

Making savings

The demand for many council-funded services rose during 2008/2009, as did the costs of providing those services.

In many cases, the increases in income that the council received from sources such as government grants was not sufficient to meet these additional costs. This meant the council had to direct its resources to meet priorities and identify ways of saving money and being more efficient.

During 2008/2009 the council set itself a target for savings of £4.7 million. The actual savings achieved were £7.2 million. This included an additional £1.5 million generated in interest receipts on investments, vacancy management savings of £2.8 million and a saving of £900,000 from rating appeals on council owned properties. The council also cut its printing and stationery budgets.

As the council's statutory chief financial officer, I can confirm that the this year's statement of accounts has been prepared in line with the Accounting Code of Practice. The Isle of Wight Council's 2008/2009 accounts have been audited by an auditor appointed by the Audit Commission – the government's public spending watchdog.

Dave Burbage, director of resources

What we're worth

Assets – owned	£000's
Land and buildings	262,327
Vehicles, plant, furniture and equipment	7,924
Infrastructure – roads, bridges etc	69,020
Shared ownership dwellings	1,198
Assets under construction	7,727
Surplus assets held for disposal	5,546
Other	5,349
Stock	618
Cash and Investment	15,880
Money owed to the council	18,993
Total	394,582
Liabilities – owed	
Borrowing	-135,931
Money owed by the council	-22,323
Long term pension liability	-145,589
Provisions	-4,005
Capital grants and contributions	-40,023
Deferred liabilities	-477
Total	-348,348
Net assets at 31 March 2009	46,234
Financed by	
Earmarked reserves	16,490
General fund balance	11,515
Capital and accounting reserves	18,229
Total	46,234

Glossary of accounting terms

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

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

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

Council tax: A property tax collected from local taxpayers.

Formula grant: Comprises two elements:

- Revenue support grant to support local services generally.
- Non-domestic rates (business rates), a tax collected by councils and paid into a national 'pool' which the government then shares back out to councils.

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

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

General fund balances: Funds to meet any unforeseen demands.

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

On target

for highways' facelift

Work is pressing ahead in preparation for one of the biggest projects the Island has ever seen – a £325 million-plus revamp of our roads and other highways. Here we take a look at how the scheme is progressing

The condition of the Island's roads, many of which are little more than tracks designed for horse and cart with layers of tarmac applied over the years, has long been an issue of concern for residents.

But, things are about to change. Through the Highways' Private Finance Initiative (PFI), the council has been allocated a massive government grant to improve not only the roads and pavements but also the Island's extensive cycleway and footpath network.

It will be the largest investment ever in the Island's transport infrastructure and also the biggest engineering project of its type ever undertaken here.

Not surprisingly, a lot of preparation is needed before the roadworks can begin in 2013. This preparatory work will ensure the Island makes best use of the grant in terms

of improving its transport infrastructure and also in achieving maximum spin-off benefits to its environment, economy and employment prospects.

The extent of the project is outlined in a detailed document called the *Outline Business Case* which was recently submitted to the government, two months ahead of schedule.

As well as government money, the PFI will be supported by an annual council contribution of around £10.5 million, in line with what the council currently spends.

It is anticipated most of the major works will take place in the first seven years.

"This initial work is normally done over five years but we are seeking longer to reduce disruption, due to our limited ability to divert traffic and so we can minimise inconvenience during the tourism season," said Stuart Love,

director of environment and neighbourhoods.

The council staged a local industry day to encourage businesses such as aggregate suppliers to tap into the benefits of the project and a major task now is to help ensure the most is made of training and employment opportunities.

Already international construction companies have expressed interest in joining the PFI project.

Stuart Love said: "The PFI is a tremendous opportunity for the Island – a once-in-a-lifetime chance to bring our transport infrastructure up to standard and also to achieve substantial other benefits for residents and for businesses."

If you want to find out more about the PFI and what it could mean for you, please visit: www.iwight.com/highways-pfi/project.asp

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



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

Please tick the answer you feel is the most applicable.

STREET SWEEPING

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

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

- ☐ Very clean ☐ Acceptably clean
☐ Not clean enough

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

- ☐ Very clean ☐ Acceptably clean
☐ Not clean enough

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

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

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

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

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

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

- ☐ YES ☐ NO

If you answered YES, please state where.

To help us, please could you complete this section:

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

POST CODE (please complete)

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

Name

Address

Postcode

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

REFUSE COLLECTION

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

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

2 How satisfied are you with your refuse collection service?

- ☐ Very satisfied ☐ Satisfied
☐ Not satisfied

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

- ☐ Very satisfied ☐ Satisfied
☐ Not satisfied

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

- ☐ Very satisfied ☐ Satisfied
☐ Not satisfied

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

- Organic waste ☐ YES ☐ NO
Kerbside recycling ☐ YES ☐ NO

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

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

- ☐ IW County Press ☐ One Island magazine
☐ From your children ☐ Local community group talks
☐ The Beacon ☐ Local shows, eg Chale
☐ Isle of Wight Radio ☐ Guided walks
☐ Other (please state)



**PRIVACY
DIGNITY
RESPECT**

or those recovering from a heart attack, a number of improvements have taken place. The nurses' station has been relocated to ensure all patients can be monitored by staff even when their side curtains are drawn, providing better privacy and dignity to all patients.

According to Gemma Downer, staff nurse on the CCU: "This is definitely an advantage. We are able to observe and monitor all patients with often quite serious cardiac conditions but at the same time we can provide them with privacy and dignity, making sure they don't have to worry about their hospital stay."

Improvement work continues at St Mary's Hospital, Woodlands Mental Health Rehabilitation Unit and the Shackleton Unit for people with severe dementia. This work is due to be finished by the end of 2009.

You can find out more about the NHS constitution and the Island's NHS at www.iow.nhs.uk

Your privacy, our responsibility

Patients on the Isle of Wight now have one less thing to worry about when they are admitted to hospital.

We have been carrying out improvement works to ensure men and women do not have to share ward accommodation. This is part of a national campaign helping to improve patients' privacy and dignity.

Research has found that the environment in which patients are treated and the way they are cared for are both important in ensuring their hospital stay is a good one. In particular, if you are undergoing a sensitive procedure, sharing accommodation with members of the opposite sex can be worrying. So NHS Isle of Wight is committed to providing single sex accommodation wherever possible.

There may be some instances when single sex accommodation cannot be provided, such as an emergency, where fast, effective

treatment is more important. In these cases you will be kept informed and moved as quickly as possible.

"Increasing single sex accommodation is essential in maintaining our high standard of care and ensuring the highest levels of patient privacy and dignity are met," says the Island's chief nurse Carol Alstrom. "The NHS constitution states that every patient has the right to be treated with dignity and respect and we are committed to providing this."

The improvement work being carried out includes, creating more single rooms and improving washing and bathing facilities. Toilets and wash facilities are now easily identifiable and are separate for men and women.

On the Coronary Care Unit (CCU), which cares for patients with a range of cardiac conditions, particularly those with chest pain



Weaving a little musical magic

Every week at schools and other venues across the Island, thousands of children are inspired by music. Here we turn the spotlight on the work of the Isle of Wight Music Service



Pictured: French horn players with the Isle of Wight Music Centre wind band

Throughout the school year a little musical magic is woven into the lives of many Island schoolchildren – helping develop skills and bringing enjoyment to take into their wider lives.

At the heart of this work is the Isle of Wight Music Service – instilling its inspiration and expertise via music lessons, workshops and many different initiatives.

The numbers tell the story: 2,000 children receiving instrumental/vocal lessons each week; 8,000 learning musical skills through regular workshops; and hundreds taking part in concerts to showcase their skills.

“There is now a realisation that better performing schools tend also to be ‘musical’ schools,” said Phil Chapman, head of the Isle of Wight Music Service.

Head teacher Marilyn Davis, of Hunnyhill Primary School at Newport, endorses this view, having recently viewed the effects of music on her pupils via an initiative to give more of them musical opportunities.



Above: Downside Middle School pupils (Kitbridge campus) receive an introduction to the Javanese gamelan

"The children absolutely love it and there have been huge benefits in terms of their concentration at school," she said.

Phil said: "When thinking of music tuition in schools we tend to think of individuals learning a musical instrument as an optional and expensive extra. But this is not the case, our county music service is committed to raising musical standards and creating musical opportunities for all our children."

Research has shown that musical proficiency can have a profound effect on a child's general well-being and the standards they attain.



Above: Violinists rehearsing with the beginner/junior string ensemble

"I feel passionate about the Music Centre and am very proud to be part of it"

*Lorraine Bashford,
parent helper*

"Learning a musical instrument is almost unique in the skills that are developed in combination – creative, analytical, team-building, self analysis and assessment, self discipline, working towards common goals – and ensuring all parts of the brain are working together," said Phil.

At the heart of the music service are its experienced teaching

staff – assured performers in their own right, who as well as offering high quality music lessons, organise workshops and concerts ranging from string ensembles to complete orchestras.

One of the biggest challenges in recent years has been to develop the national Wider Opportunities scheme, introduced with the sentiments from the then Secretary of State for Education and Skills that: "Over time, all pupils in primary schools who wish to, will have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument. We will see happier, more musical, successful, confident and self-assured young people."

On the Island 18 schools are taking part in the scheme, and the aim is to involve all schools by 2011.

Phil said: "The work of the music service

extends even further – offering advice and consultancy to schools and curriculum teaching and support.

"Singing has also been developed through the Sing Up scheme, offering high quality singing activities at a large number of Island schools."

The Solent Music Partnership meanwhile has provided resources for kits of world music instruments to be used by schools, including gamelan, angklung, steel pans, djembes, tonechimes, boomwhackers and African drums.

The music service also supports the most able young musicians through bursary schemes, with many gaining places in national conservatoire in recent years. The Brenda James Trust supports children whose families are in financial stress.

More than 300 Island children, aged seven to 19, perform in orchestras, brass bands, wind bands, string groups, choirs and keyboard ensembles organised by the Music Centre at Medina High School, Newport

each Saturday. These ensembles cater for the near beginner to the advanced, and last year celebrated their 30th anniversary, featuring a concert with all 300-plus young musicians taking part collectively.

"There is hardly a child on the Island who will not be reached by the music service at some point in their school career," said Phil.

If you wish to find

out more about the music service, please visit eduwight.iow.gov.uk or contact the service at Thompson House, Sandy Lane, Newport, tel: 533523, email: iwms@iow.gov.uk

"We have learned so much, had many experiences and have lots of fun"

*Elisabeth, Roberta and
Charlotte, violinists*



Street pastors help to cut crime

Special volunteer 'street pastors' have been helping reduce crime on the streets of Ryde.

The Street Pastor scheme is a national community initiative, running in more than 100 towns and cities, and has helped to cut crime by 20 to 30 per cent in many areas.

The multi-agency scheme came to Ryde earlier this year and is supported by Hampshire Constabulary and the Isle of Wight Council.

The street pastors are Christian volunteers who can provide help, comfort, and a listening ear when it's needed. At Ryde they

first aid, working with young people, police protocols and mental health issues.

The aim is to have four or five areas of the Island covered in the next few years and to extend the number of nights covered in each area. Recruitment is currently taking place for more coverage in Newport.

If you would like to know more about the initiative please contact David Ouston on 07545 242782, or email isleofwight@streetpastors.org.uk. Further details are available at www.iowstreetpastors.org.uk

have worked in the town on Friday nights.

Co-ordinator David Ouston said: "Our first wave of recruitment gave us 22 volunteers ranging in ages from 29 to 84, coming from 14 different churches and six different traditions of church.

"A typical night would involve picking up broken bottles, helping to diffuse tense situations, giving water and wet wipes to individuals who are sick, and being a friendly face happy to listen to those that need to talk. We look out for anyone who might need practical help, especially young people or women on their own who might be in difficulty, or struggling to find their way home."

To become a street pastor each volunteer takes a 12 step training programme covering topics like drug and alcohol awareness, listening skills,

Crowds flock to voluntary fayre



Above: Enjoying healthy pancakes made by the community chefs

More than 2,000 people attended the first Autumn Fayre for Island voluntary and community groups, held recently at Brading Roman Villa.

Fifty organisations were represented at the fayre, ranging from Medina and Wight Diamond marching bands performing in the outdoor amphitheatre, to Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance showcasing its service.

There were also rescue boats, table tennis robots, community chefs, yurts and many other attractions. The event was organised by the Isle of Wight Rural Community Council and Brading Roman Villa.

Mike Bulpitt, chief executive of the rural community council, said: "This was the start of what is going to be an annual event, bringing volunteers and supporters together to demonstrate the invaluable role they play."

Play your part in Make A Difference Day

Make a Difference Day, the UK's biggest day of volunteering, is to take place later this month, on Saturday 31 October.

Organised by Community Service Volunteers (CSV), the initiative will feature activities taking place from 24 October to 7 November.

Events happening on the Island include a litter sweep through Freshwater and activities at the Riverside Centre in Newport.

Details of events can be found at www.csv.org.uk, and to play your part in making a difference, CSV has special 'kindness kits' available, offering ideas for kind acts that people can do to help other people or the environment.

This year CSV wants to create a wave of kindness throughout the UK – to bring people together, beat the recession gloom and help build stronger, happier and safer communities.

If you want to promote an event you are planning for the day, please contact the Isle of Wight Volunteer Centre on 539377 or email volunteer@iwrcc.org.uk

Awards for volunteer work

Six Island organisations have received the first ever Isle of Wight Volunteer Centre best practice awards.

The successful organisations were nominated by their own volunteers. The awards recognise good practice in the co-ordination, training and support of volunteers.

The organisations were: the British Red Cross, Homestart Isle of Wight, the Isle of Wight Advocacy Trust, the Green Gym, the Isle of Wight Law Centre and the Storeroom.

The awards were presented at the recent Voluntary and Community Fayre.



Pictured: High Sheriff Gay Edwards presenting an award to Shahida Nehorai of Homestart



Above: Representatives from the groups receive their Wightmark Awards

Eight Island organisations have been awarded Wightmark Awards for piloting a special framework for working with children and families.

The eight groups were: Home-Start IOW, Families First IOW, YMCA, Natural Solutions, Wight Diamond Marching Band, GirlGuiding Carisbrooke and South Wight District, the Isle of Wight Industrial Training Group and the Pavilion East Cowes.

The special quality assurance framework the organisations have piloted has been developed by the Isle of Wight Rural Community Council and the voluntary and community sector on the Island. The framework has been endorsed by the Children's Trust.

The framework for the Wightmark Awards covers areas such as safety, resources and customers, and sets standards designed to be challenging but achievable for small organisations.

The Pavilion and LJ's is a project for young people at East Cowes. Company secretary Joan Biggs said: "It is hoped this award will help the Pavilion to remain focused on what it does best – providing great places for young people to meet, learn and have fun."

If you would like to take part in the next stage of the Wightmark Award then please contact Claire Tillman on 539385.

National Coastwatch to open new stations on the Island



The National Coastwatch Institution (NCI) is currently looking at several new sites on the Isle of Wight as potential lookout stations.

The locations currently under consideration include Bembridge, Cowes, West Wight, Sandown Bay and Ryde.

The NCI is a registered charity set up in 1994 to restore a visual watch along the coast following the closure of many small coastguard stations.

Today there are 41 operational watch stations around the UK coast, from Cornwall in the south west to Wearside in the north east. Their mission is to assist in the protection and preservation

of life at sea and along the UK coastline.

The Isle of Wight NCI Team is keen to hear from anyone wishing to learn more about the charity and how to train as station crew. No previous experience is required, as full training is provided. Full details of the NCI can be found at www.nci.org.uk

The Island team is also currently looking for a treasurer to join its management team and those who may be able to assist with fund raising. For more information, contact John Marr, NCI Isle of Wight, tel: 07772 905123, email: john.marr@nci.org.uk

A new way of volunteering



The Isle of Wight Rural Community Council is looking for a special type of volunteer to help community groups across the Island.

The voluntary support team members will give specialist advice to groups in their area on topics including applying for funding grants, managing finances and preparing accounts, governance, information technology and supporting volunteers.

The plan is to set up eight teams across the Island by the end of the year, made up of existing community activists and new volunteers.

The rural community council is working in partnership with other voluntary groups and local town and parish councils, to establish and co-ordinate the teams, with support and training provided.

Mike Bulpitt, chief executive, said: "This innovative approach to supporting local groups will bring rich dividends across the whole Island. The Island has a large number of very small organisations and it is these groups in particular that will benefit from the extra support these teams will be able to provide."

The project is being funded by the Big Lottery Fund.

If you would like to become a team member, please contact Helen Snashall on 539377 or email volunteer@iwrcc.org.uk



Hampshire POLICE AUTHORITY

for Hampshire & the Isle of Wight

Hampshire Police Authority is an independent organisation and exists to ensure the communities of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight receive an effective, efficient and high quality policing service. Day-to-day policing is provided by Hampshire Constabulary, under the guidance of Chief Constable Alex Marshall. It is the role of the Authority to ensure Hampshire Constabulary plays its part in making the two counties places which feel safe and are safe.

"People's confidence in their police service is often based on their experiences, and those of their family, friends and colleagues. However, if they have not needed to be in contact with the police, how do they know their local officers are doing their jobs well? This summary provides people with a snapshot of crime in their local area, and how well the police are tackling it.

"Where crime is going down, the Authority congratulates officers for their hard work, but where crime is going up, our members will work on behalf of the public to scrutinise the reasons why, and to make sure the performance improves in future years."

Councillor Jacqui Rayment,
Chair, Hampshire Police Authority

What are our policing priorities?

Each year, Hampshire Police Authority and Hampshire Constabulary must together produce a Policing Plan, which sets out how policing is going to be carried out during the following 12 months. Within this year's Policing Plan, there are six policing priorities:

- Providing an excellent service – improving our response to calls from the public, listening and responding to local concerns, acting on feedback;

- Catching criminals and managing offenders – putting the victim first and protecting vulnerable people;
- An active presence in every neighbourhood – working with communities to build and maintain neighbourhoods where people are safe and feel safe;
- Protecting our communities – protecting from terrorism and domestic extremism and preparing for emergencies and major incidents;
- Making the most of our resources – being efficient and actively controlling our spending to make the most effective use of public money;
- Equipping our team to deliver – putting the right people in the right place at the right time.

A full copy of the Policing Plan can be found at www.hampshirepoliceauthority.org or by calling the Police Authority offices.

How have your police performed?

This summary is designed to provide an honest, balanced snapshot of crime and policing in Hampshire. However, the targets shown in this report are just a brief insight into the performance of the police. People should also want to know:

- Who are the local Safer Neighbourhood officers?
- What are the local policing priorities, and are they being met?
- What Government targets are the police trying to meet?
- Is Hampshire Constabulary signed up to and achieving the targets in the Policing Pledge?

More information can be found on Hampshire Constabulary's website: www.hampshire.police.uk

The cost of policing in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight

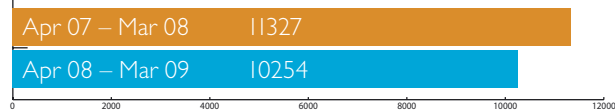
The expenditure of the Hampshire Police Authority for 2009/10 was £292.0m. The audit opinion will be made available in September and will be published on our website: www.hampshirepoliceauthority.org. If you do not have access to the internet, please contact Hampshire Police Authority on 01962 871595 for a hard copy. You can find details of how the police use their budget on www.hampshire.police.uk.

To find out what is happening in your area go to www.hampshire.police.uk or call 0845 045 45 45



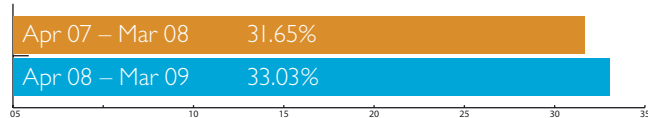
What are the facts?

■ Number of crimes



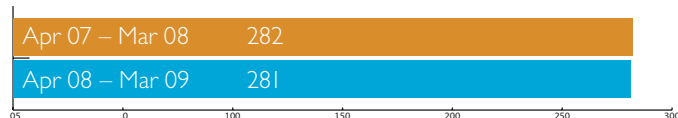
This shows a reduction of 9.47% (or 1,073 crimes) in the total number of crimes reported on the Isle of Wight, compared with a reduction across Hampshire Constabulary of 2.89% (or 4,749 crimes).

■ Percentage of all crimes detected



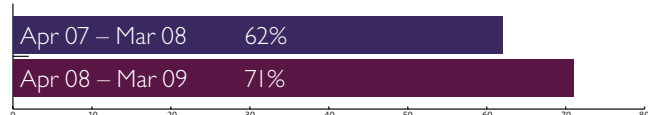
This shows that 33.03% of all crimes on the Isle of Wight were detected, compared with a detection rate of 25.2% across Hampshire Constabulary.

■ Number of house burglaries



This shows a decrease of 0.35% (or 1 crime) in the total number of house burglaries reported on the Isle of Wight, compared to an increase across Hampshire Constabulary of 13.7% (or 728 crimes).

■ Resident's satisfaction with service received from the police



Chief Superintendent David Thomas, Commander of Isle of Wight Operational Command Unit, says:

"This year's results reflect the tremendous effort that has been put into maintaining the Isle of Wight as a safe place in which to live. It is particularly pleasing to see there were over 1,000 fewer victims of crime on the Island than in the previous year. This is a testament to the hard work of not only the Police, but also our partners in the Island Strategic Partnership, and the strong sense of community that exists here.

"The challenge for the forthcoming year will be to reduce these low levels of crime still further, and in particular those crimes that have the greatest impact on people's lives. For these reasons, the public can expect to see us focusing on crimes of violence, and looking to build on the successful initiatives of the last year. The Island remains a safe place and we aim to keep it that way."

■ The Police Authority says:

"By the very nature of it being an island community, the Isle of Wight has the potential to be one of the better performing areas of the force. It has established excellent partnership working and has very good Safer Neighbourhoods officers who are liaising closely with the business community, youth groups and schools.

"As a result, the level of public satisfaction is high, and is at the highest level when compared to other parts of the Hampshire Constabulary area. Being an island, it also has a lesser number of the types of crimes expected in a mainland community, which are often caused by transient criminals who travel greater distances to commit crime. The challenge for police on the Isle of Wight is to maintain the high level of performance, while continuing to keep the public satisfied with the service they receive."

Contact Us

In an emergency, always dial **999**. To contact Hampshire Constabulary for non-emergencies, dial **0845 045 4545**, or **101**. www.hampshire.police.uk

To contact Hampshire Police Authority, dial **01962 871595**. www.hampshirepoliceauthority.org

Isle of Wight Council
01983 821000, www.iwight.com

Crimestoppers
0800 555 111, www.crimestoppers-uk.org

Victim Support Line
0845 30 90 900, www.victimsupport.org.uk



Up into the Canopy



A special tree climbing initiative held at Ryde's Appley Park during July and August, is to return over the October half-term holiday.

The scheme, run by Goodleaf Tree Climbing in conjunction with the Isle of Wight Council, saw tree climbers aged from ten to 70 take to the canopy on Sundays during the summer.

More than 100 people took advantage of hour-long taster sessions, offering climbing instruction in a wooded part of the park.

Climbers were able to ascend into the

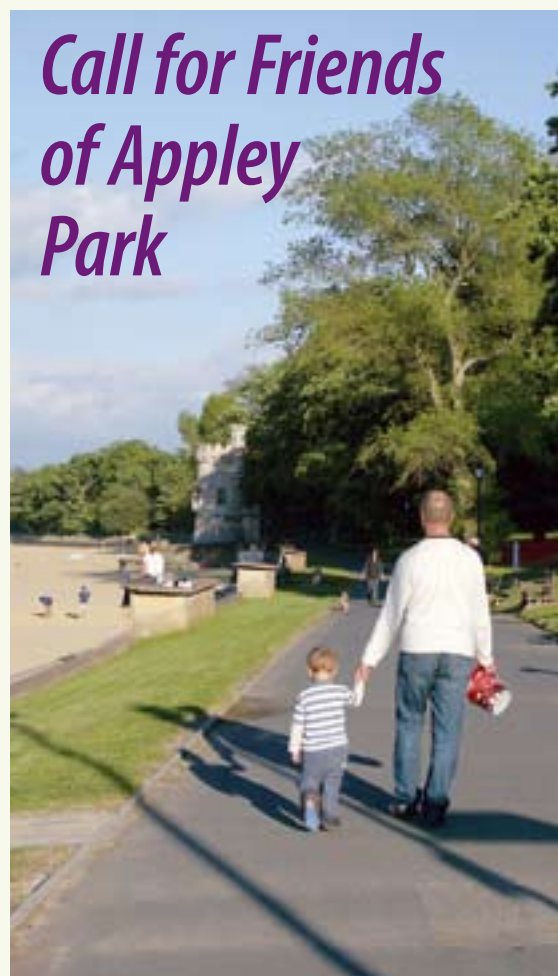
canopy and take in the views across Appley Beach and over the Solent, before abseiling back to the ground.

Now Goodleaf will be at Appley on Sunday 25 October, offering climbing from 11am to 3pm. Bookings must be made in advance by calling 07970 033209.

The Isle of Wight Council is the first council in the UK to offer recreational tree climbing in its parks, and Goodleaf hopes to offer climbers a similar experience next summer.



Call for Friends of Appley Park



Moves are afoot to set up a Friends of Appley Park group.

The park at Ryde, originally laid out in 1798 as part of the garden of a large private house, was awarded a Green Flag for the second year running in August this year.

The award is made by the Civic Trust and acknowledges high standards in access, maintenance, availability of amenities and promotion of open spaces.

To start the process of setting up a friends' group, the council's parks and countryside section is organising an open day on Wednesday 28 October (between 10am and 2pm).

The open day will include a guided tree walk, a lichen survey and a demonstration of planting the ornamental flowerbeds. Anyone interested in getting involved is invited to meet in the car park behind the café. For more details please call parks and countryside on 823893.

Seasonal guide to wildlife in your garden



When you are tidying the garden for winter, leave a pile of sticks and leaves in a corner to provide a place for insects to hibernate over the winter. You may even find that a hedgehog will take up residence.

You could also build a bug box (see picture) which make very good winter quarters for lacewings and ladybirds. These insects are very helpful to gardeners as they eat pests like aphids.

Instructions for bug box building can be found at www.wildonwight.co.uk

NATURE NOTES

Every season has its contrasts, but autumn seems to have more than its fair share. Squally winds and heavy rain are interspersed with calm, warm and sunny interludes when thistledown floats by and wasps buzz drowsily among ripe fruits.

Dusk falls earlier, and the harvest moon (the full moon nearest to the autumn equinox) is low in the sky soon after sunset. In former times, the light of this full moon allowed harvesting of crops late into the evening. Autumn is a time of gathering and storing food, but for plants it is a time of scattering – to spread seed as widely as possible into new places. Some fruits have hooks to hitch a ride on animals' fur; others are spread by the explosive bursting of the pod. Those with a juicy outer layer are attractive as food for animals and the seeds are later discarded in a different place.

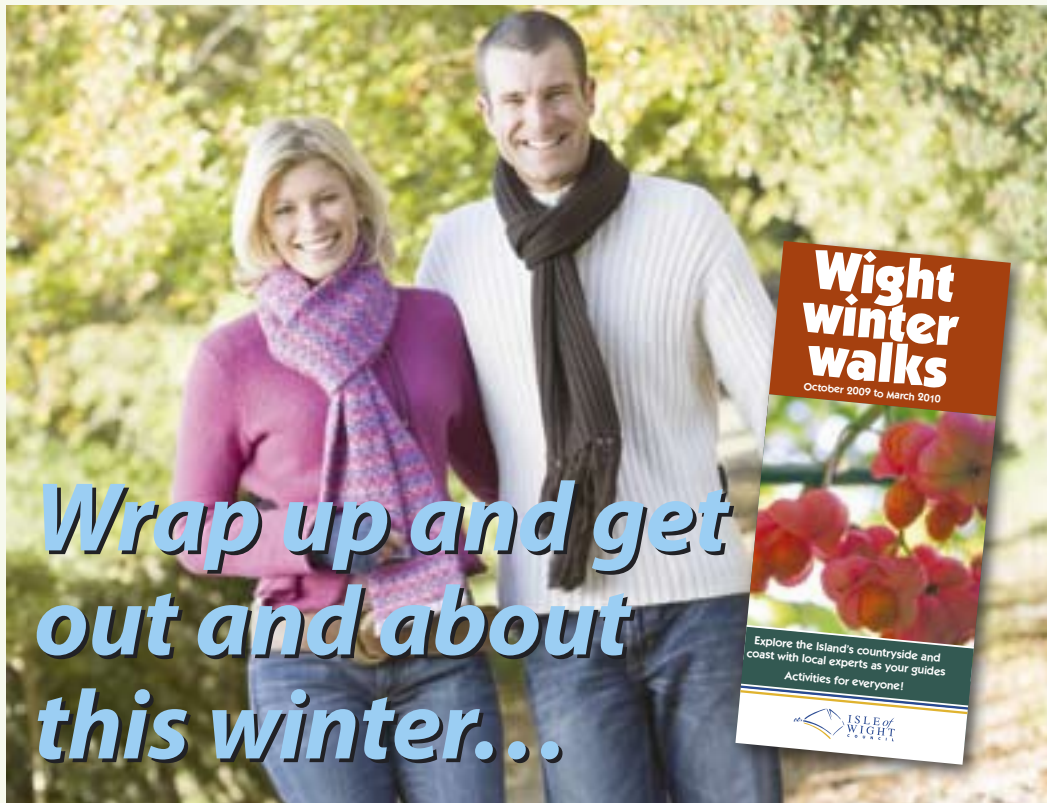
Many of these fruits are good for us to eat, but others are not. The family which includes tomatoes also has the hedgerow scrambling plant woody nightshade or 'bittersweet'. When the purple flowers have faded, small berries form; these change from a yellowish green through orange to scarlet as they ripen. They are potentially harmful to people but poisoning incidents are unlikely. They are so bitter anyone trying to eat them would spit them out immediately. Bittersweet is sometimes mistakenly called deadly nightshade, but



Pictured: Bittersweet (woody nightshade) berries

this name properly belongs to a different plant, with very toxic black fruits, which is very rare on the Island.

Anne Marston, assistant ecology officer



Look out for the new edition of Wight Winter Walks available from October.

As well as containing the usual countryside and coast events listings, it also celebrates the diversity of the Island's wildlife, with 'naturewatch' which helps you identify local and visiting species over the winter months.

Also, as part of the Darwin 200 anniversary

there are several themed events where you can learn more about the life and work of Charles Darwin and his connections to the Island.

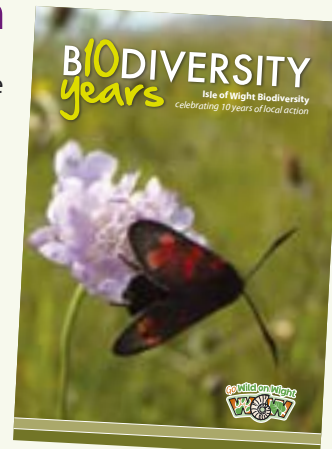
Wight Winter Walks is available at local libraries, tourist information centres and council help centres. There is also a downloadable version available from www.iwight.com/walks

Isle of Wight biodiversity - celebrating ten years of local action

This year sees the Isle of Wight Biodiversity Partnership celebrate its tenth birthday.

Ten years is a good time to take stock and reassess the status of the Island's unique habitats and species which live here. There have been many successes during this time, which have been recently highlighted in a special publication.

To find out more about the work of the partnership, projects benefiting biodiversity and the way ahead for the future, visit www.wildonwight.co.uk



ACTIVITIES

RNLI Curry Lunch (24 October)

Event in aid of Bembridge lifeboat appeal, at Royal Yacht Squadron, Cowes, lunch at 12 noon, AGM 2.30pm, contact Mrs D. Chilcott, tel: 281759.

Half-term Fun (24-31 October)

A programme of activities with the National Trust, Needles Old Battery, 10.30am to 3.30pm.

Autumn Family Fun Day (27 October)

A day of fun activities organised by the National Trust, Mottistone Manor Garden, 11am to 3pm.

Battle Drums (30 October)

Discover how drum commands were conveyed on a battle ground with a Victorian drummer, the Needles Old Battery, displays at 12 noon, 1pm, 2.30pm.

Huge Hospice Quiz (12 November)

Largest charity quiz on the Island, to raise money for the Earl

Mountbatten Hospice, Newport, taking place at Lower Hyde, Shanklin, 7pm, teams of four, £20, to register please call hospice fund raising office on 528989.

RNLI Cowes Guild French evening (19 November)

A supper of French food, Murray's Restaurant, Cowes, 7pm, contact Mrs Bracken at Murray's, tel: 296233.

EXHIBITIONS

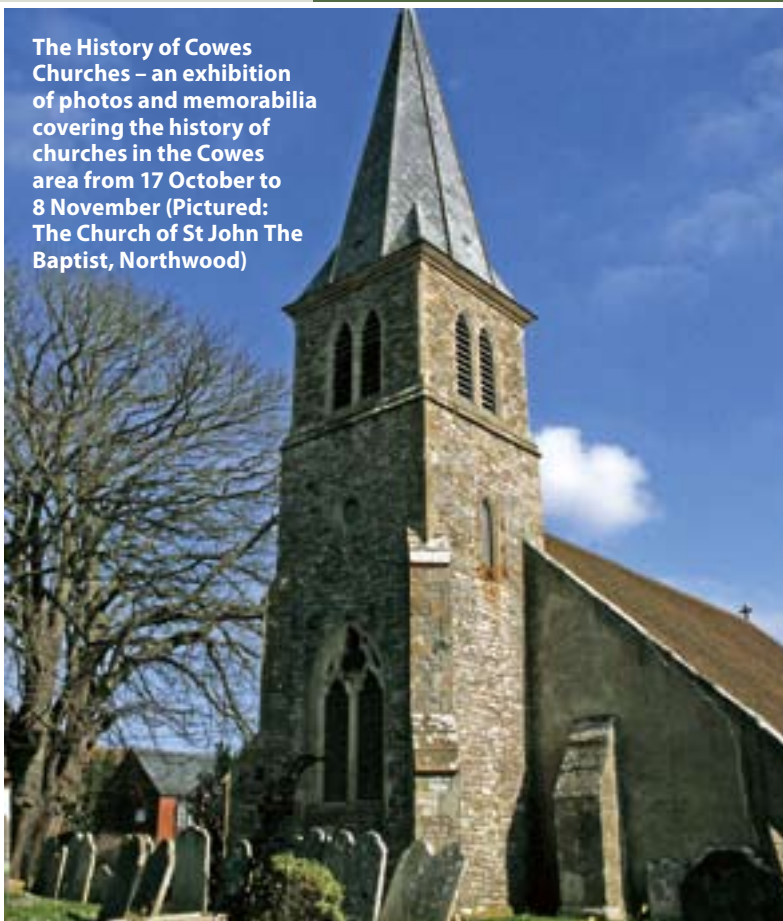
The Prehistoric Art of John Sibbick (20 July – 31 October)

The amazing dinosaur artwork and reconstructions of John Sibbick, images of prehistoric creatures and landscapes, at Dinosaur Isle, Sandown.

AONB Walking Festival Competition Winners (31 July – 1 November)

An exhibition with the winning images from the 2009 competition, Dimbola Lodge, Freshwater Bay, tel: 756814, website: www.dimbola.co.uk

The History of Cowes Churches – an exhibition of photos and memorabilia covering the history of churches in the Cowes area from 17 October to 8 November (Pictured: The Church of St John The Baptist, Northwood)



The History of Cowes Churches (17 October – 8 November)

An exhibition of photos and memorabilia covering the history

of churches, events, groups and individuals connected to the churches, Northwood House, Cowes, 10am to 4pm, entry free.

Shanklin's Autumn Festival of Art and Music (31 October)

Exhibition of paintings by Shanklin's Black Cat Art Group and evening concert by the Sandown and Shanklin Military Band, St Saviour's Church, Shanklin, 10am to 4pm (concert at 8pm).

MUSIC

Hakan Vramsmo and Andrew West (7 November)

West Wight Arts Association presents Hakan Vramsmo, baritone, and Andrew West, piano, performing Schubert, at Memorial Hall, Freshwater, 7.30pm, tickets available (within a fortnight of the event) from MacKenzie Arthur, Avenue Road, Freshwater, or tel: 752278.

Heath Quartet (5 December)

West Wight Arts Association presents the Heath Quartet (Oliver Heath, Rebecca Eves, violins, Gary Pomeroy, viola, Christopher Murray, cello) performing Beethoven, Tippett and Debussy, at Memorial Hall, Freshwater, 7.30pm, tickets available (within a fortnight of the event) from MacKenzie Arthur, Avenue Road, Freshwater, or tel: 752278.

FAIRS & SHOWS

Town Lane Craft and Gift Fayre (31 October, 21, 30 November, 21 December)

A large and varied selection of crafts and gifts for all the family, Town Lane, Hall, Newport, 10am to 3.30pm, refreshments available.

Book, Postcard and Ephemera Fair (7 November)

Indoors at the Echium Terrace, Ventnor Botanic Garden, 10am to 3.30pm.

TALKS

William the Conqueror's wife, Matilda (4 November)

A talk to the Isle of Wight branch of the Historical Association by Josephine Cole, Nodehill Middle School, Newport, 7.30pm, contact Terry Blunden, tel: 524410.

The work of the Wessex Film and Sound Archive (9 December)

A talk with special reference to the Isle of Wight, to the Isle of Wight branch of the Historical Association, by David Lee of the Wessex Film and Sound Archive at Winchester, at the Parish Centre, Town Lane, Newport, 7.30pm, contact Terry Blunden, tel: 524410.

THEATRE

Lady Windemere's Fan (22-24, 29-31 October)

Trinity Theatre, Cowes presents Oscar Wilde's play, 7.30pm, tickets (£5 and £6) from theatre box office, tel: 295229.

Black Comedy (29-31 October)

Curtain Up Dramatic Society presents a farce by Peter Shaffer, Totland Church Hall, 7.30pm, tickets £5, tel: 754654.

Cinderella (10-13 December)

Ventnor Theatre Group presents a traditional family pantomime, with music and comedy, the Winter Gardens, Ventnor, 7.30pm (10 and 11 December), 2.30pm (12 and 13 December), tickets £7.50 adults, £5 children, box office tel: 857581.

Scrooge, the Musical (16-19 December)

The New Strolling Players and Friends present the musical based on Dickens *A Christmas Carol*, music by Leslie Bricusse, Memorial Hall, Freshwater, 7.30pm, tickets £6 (adult) £3 (children), tel: 752956.

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

Please conform to the format shown. Entries are included at the editorial team's discretion. Next scheduled edition: January 2010.

Title of event/activity:

Date:

Brief description:

Venue:

Time:

Contact name:

Telephone:

Please return to:

Time & Place, One Island, Publications Unit, County Hall, Newport, Isle of Wight PO30 1UD
or email to oneisland@iow.gov.uk