

RYDE  
MAGAZINE  
FEBRUARY



***The Essex - Perfect for Valentines Day***

***'For Your Valentine' Feature***

***Community Survey - Have Your Say***

***The Green Pages - Alternative Energy***

***An Artists's View of the Island in the 1790s***

*All That's Good About the Island*

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**Date** Tuesday 20 February 2007

**Time** 9.30am - 12 noon (lunch provided)

**Venue** Quay Arts Centre, Newport

**Organisers** Kathy Marriott, Children's Trust development officer, voluntary and community sector  
Carol Walker, senior officer, workforce development, Children's Services



There is no charge for this workshop. It is funded via a Children's Workforce Development Council grant. Book your place **now** by phoning Laura Seward on 529790 or writing to Laura at the Education Centre, Thompson House, Sandy Lane, Newport, IW PO30 3NA

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# EDITOR'S WORD

BY JOHN MEDLAND

FEBRUARY 2007 ISSUE: 62

Welcome to the February edition of the Beacon. We have important news of further public and private investment being planned over the next few years. This month we urge our readers to complete the enclosed questionnaire on their opinions of the future of Ryde. The findings of this questionnaire will feed into the community plan which will act as an action blueprint for the new Ryde Town Council due to be created in 2008. The greater the response, the greater the political power of the survey. If the response is large, it can enable new sources of funding to be accessed in addition to the local tax, which is currently mostly spent by County Hall. This is all money to be spent on the continued regeneration of our unique town. Use the prepaid envelope to explain what the town's priorities need to be.

We are now starting to get an idea of the sports and cultural events of the forthcoming year. This year's Skandia Cowes Week will coincide with the bi-annual Fastnet Race which is being developed this year with a complementary round-Island and cross Channel "Super Zero" races. In other places the Extreme Sports is moving into August, a new Folk and Blues Festival will take place in September, an all year programme is growing around the April Jazz Festival, and the IW Festival and Bestival are continuing to develop the Island's role as a centre of 21st century musical culture.

I think of February as the quietest time of the year but here we are busy planning our seventh Beacon title which will eventually extend our deliveries to Ventnor, Bonchruch, St Laurence, Niton, Chale, Whitwell, Godshill, Rookley and Wroxall. This will take the Beacon to 97% door to door coverage of the households of the Island.

However big our coverage, what makes the Beacons special is the fact that they are local, with local news, dates and information. To keep that news and information fresh we rely on our readers in each area to keep us up to speed. We are always keen to find new volunteer reporters as well as new deliverers to ensure our free quality community magazine is delivered, as promised, to every home and business, every month. If you can help then please give us a ring.



# ISLE OF WIGHT BEACON LIMITED

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NEWS AND ADVERTISING DEADLINE FOR  
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## GETTING YOUR MESSAGE ACROSS

The Beacon magazine is the best way to reach the Island's public. We have the largest circulation of any news publication on the Island, with 62,000 copies being delivered door to door or left in public places. In a 2006 survey we found that the average number of people reading each Beacon magazine has risen to 2.3.

The survey which was analysed by Island consultants "Jigsaw" also found that 55% of readers keep it for a full month and 80% keep it for two weeks. This makes the Beacon the most widely read and used newspaper or magazine on the Island and the most effective media for communicating with all Islanders, whatever their background.

website:

[iwbeacon.com](http://iwbeacon.com)

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**Cover Photo:** Holly Greenhill (courtesy of Fit2Relax, Newport) at The Essex, Godshill. Taken by Mandy Meadows, Wight Studios: 611873.

# RYDE TOWNSCAPE HERITAGE INITIATIVE

Despite the effects of two World Wars and many years of economic hardship, Ryde provides one of the best examples of Regency (1800-1820) urban architecture on the Island, and is one of the best preserved Georgian-Victorian towns on the south coast of England.

In recognition of this special interest, and building on previous regeneration schemes in Ryde, the IW Council and Ryde Development Trust joined forces to secure partnership funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund for the Ryde Townscape Heritage Initiative.

Between now and 2010 this scheme will further Ryde's regeneration by contributing to a distinctive high quality town centre environment which is better for residents and more appealing to tourists who bring vital money into the Island's economy. It will do so by providing grants to help repair and bring back into use significant buildings which give the town its distinctive character and by improving tired looking public areas.

The recent St Thomas's Square enhancements provide a good example of how a public area can be revitalised using traditional methods and materials creating a better space for people which is in keeping with 21st century living but in keeping with Ryde's rich heritage.

Allied to this, the churchyard of neighbouring St Thomas's, a listed building, will be enhanced by a future project, creating a pleasant and safe environment for people to retreat to from the busy town centre. Also in the pipeline is the repair and re-use of Vectis Hall, in Melville Street. This will ensure that this currently decaying two-hundred year old building (the first free school in Ryde) is brought back into use and contributes to the character and appearance of this part of Ryde's conservation area.

The Ryde Townscape Heritage Initiative scheme also recognises the shortfall in the craft skills which will be required to carry out these specialist refurbishments. To address this, Ryde Townscape Heritage Initiative is working in partnership with the Isle of Wight Training Group and Island Build, enabling traditional craft skill training schemes to take place using lime mortars, render and plasters. The benefits of this training will be felt Island wide as the skills gained are put to use in the repair of historic buildings.

For further information about the scheme please contact Ryde Townscape Heritage Initiative Project Officer Lee Byrne at Ryde Development Trust on: 616362.



*St Thomas's Square before and after enhancements.*



## TELL US WHAT YOU THINK OF RYDE

Enclosed in this copy of the Beacon, you will find a survey form and Freepost envelope from Ryde Town Management Committee (RTMC). The committee was set up last April to prepare the recreation of a town council. Once Ryde Town Council is established, hopefully in April 2008, external funding could mean up to a million pounds extra would be available to be spent annually in Ryde, based on the current precept of £25.50 for a Band D property.

The RTMC, consisting of the town's elected councillors and co-opted individuals would like every household and business in Ryde to take part in the survey, so that they can find out the likes and dislikes of residents, and get their thoughts on how to make Ryde a better place in which to live and work. The results will be compiled into a Community Plan.

Brian Harris, chairman of the RTMC Community Plan working group, explained: "Ryde is the largest town on the island, and we need to know that its residents are proud of, and care about, the area they live in, and what they want to happen. The anonymity of the survey allows people to

be completely candid with their thoughts, so please, tell us what you really think!"

"By doing the survey, we are following Government guidelines on public consultation, and it will help in our aim to become a Quality Council" said Wayne Whittle, Chairman of Ryde Town Management Committee. "That will enable us to unlock extra money from the Government that would not otherwise be available. Whatever you may think of councils in general, we want to know how you feel about Ryde, and to reflect your wishes as far as possible. The town hall question, for instance, could come up with answers we hadn't thought of."

The clerk, Tony Gordon, said that the community survey is an essential part of Ryde becoming a Quality Council. "Other Quality Councils, such as Brading, have been very successful in getting extra funding for their projects. The amounts can be three or four times the amount raised by the local precept, so it's really important that we get a good response to this survey from residents of Ryde."

As an incentive for people to return the form, Ryde Business Association, which represents many of the shops and small businesses in Ryde, is offering a voucher to be won in a draw. Although the survey itself is anonymous, with just the name of the resident's street required for analysis purposes, there is space for a first name and contact number for entry into the draw. This part of the form will be detached on receipt at Ryde Help Centre, before the answers are looked at.

Please complete the form and return in the Freepost envelope to Ryde Help Centre by 14th February. The thoughts and wishes of respondents, and the winner of the draw, will be published in a future edition of the Beacon.



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## BAGEL WRAP COFFEE HOUSE



The Bagel Wrap Coffee House, situated in the High Street, Ryde opened its doors on the 18th December 2006. Owners Nigel and Jenny Smith have created a trendy place which aims to serve the best bagels and wraps in town. They have an extensive menu full of delicious fillings

which can be used in bagels, wraps and sandwiches and can be eaten in or taken away. There has already been a lot of demand for their salt beef bagels. Home made soup is available daily. Their choice of coffees, teas and hot chocolates will have you coming back time and time again.

Take advantage of their loyalty card service which gives you your eighth drink free. Whether you want an Americano coffee to kick start your day or to pop in lunchtime for a bagel, wrap and hot drink or afternoon tea with a sumptuous cake, you will always be given a warm and friendly welcome. To celebrate their recent opening they are offering any regular size coffee for just £1 on production of their advert in the Beacon.

Bagel Wrap Coffee House, 168 High Street, Ryde Tel: 617332.



168 HIGH STREET, RYDE TEL: 617 332



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## MOBILE PHONE RECYCLING FOR CHARITY

Vodafone is asking for Islander residents to donate unused handsets. The mobile phone company will give between £10 and £20 to charity for each phone handed in at its stores. Any handsets that are in a good enough condition will be recycled and sent to Fonebank which sends reconditioned mobiles to poorer countries. You can find a Vodafone shop at 53 High Street, Newport.

## BIG RESPONSE FOR ISLAND WASTE SERVICES

Many thanks to all residents who took the time to complete and return Island Waste Services' questionnaire featured in the September 2006 issue of the Beacon, which sought your views on the services provided by Island Waste Services on behalf of the IW Council.

By the end of October Island Waste Services had received 645 responses and questionnaires are still arriving in the post. All of the responses have been placed on a database. The results will be in Island Waste Services next Annual Report, due to be published within the next few months. The £50 gift voucher went to Mrs Hilsum of Wroxall.

Many respondents added extra comments or questions on recycling, collection or street cleansing to their questionnaire. These have received replies either from the Isle of Wight Council or Island Waste Services. If you are not participating in the recycling services and would like to order a kerbside box or kitchen bucket please use the contact details below. Island Waste Services: 821234 [www.islandwaste.co.uk](http://www.islandwaste.co.uk) IW Council: 821000 [www.iwight.gov.uk](http://www.iwight.gov.uk)

## REDEVELOPMENT PLANS FOR RYDE ARENA

Major plans to demolish and rebuild Ryde Arena are being revealed. Plans feature a full-size ice pad with modern facilities, apartments, a number of bars, plus a hotel. Ryde Arena's owners Planet Ice say they will finance plans themselves and they hope to submit a planning application by March with a view to getting full permission by September. If given the green light to go ahead, it is hoped that construction work would start by 2009.

It may mean the Wightlink Raiders ice hockey team would have to temporarily relocate to Gosport's ice rink for a short time while construction work is completed, but the end result would mean the team would have a top-class facility to play in.

## FASHION AT AFFORDABLE PRICES



Their love of clothes and fashion gave Charlotte and Louise the inspiration to open their own business on the 13th January 2007. *Lilly Finnegan's*, is situated in busy Union Street, Ryde, (formerly Dress 2 Impress) and is

dedicated to designer clothing for guys and girls, but at clearance prices.

Their main designer line is Diesel complimented with names such as *Fenchuch*, *Addict* and *Boxfresh*. They have a great selection of jeans, jackets, shirts, tops, trousers, skirts and accessories. Whatever you are looking for, *Lilly Finnegan's* have a selection that will suit all budgets and needs. Visit *Lilly Finnegan's* at 63 Union Street, Ryde or call: 566585.



## LOOKING FOR QUALITY CHILDCARE DURING FEBRUARY HALF TERM?

The hugely successful YMCA Playscheme, based at Winchester House in Shanklin, returns for 2007!

The popular scheme offers 4 - 14 year olds the opportunity to get involved in a range of fun activities, including papier mâché, junk modelling and games, which ensures days of excitement filled with laughter, in a safe and friendly environment.

The Ofsted registered scheme runs between 0800 and 1800 daily during every half term and offers parents flexibility and choice. Full and Half Day options are available, with tasty Breakfast and Lunch menus offered as an optional extra. Parents benefit further from the easily accessible transport links Winchester House enjoys, with buses stopping outside the House and Lake Train Station only a 10 minute walk away.

Competitively priced at only £8 for a half day and £16 for a fully day the YMCA Playscheme offers great value for money.

Bookings are now being taken for February Half Term on: 01489 772215. (All YMCA staff are CRB checked and trained extensively in providing quality childcare in a safe environment.)

## RYDE INSHORE RESCUE NEED YOUR HELP!

### CRISIS AS OLD BOAT NOW UNRELIABLE AFTER ENGINE BLOWS!

The regular boat "Ryde Lions" suffered severe damage in a recent incident. She will hopefully be back on station in a bandaged condition very shortly. Sadly, she won't see another season through, thus there is a crisis as we need to replace the boat in order to provide the full cover to the North East waters of the Island. It is vitally important that if we have good "cover" on one of the main Islands coastal pleasure resorts next season and the only way we can achieve this is by YOU the public digging deep and helping as fast as possible.

Over the next few weeks the fund raising committee being named "Thunderbird 4" will be going into operation. Its main aim will be to find organisations, businesses and volunteers to assist in the fund raising activities - as Ryde Inshore Rescue is in need of some fast and furious fund raising. RIR receive NO help from the RNLI, very little from the local councils, so all monies have to be raised from voluntary contributions. RIR is aware that they are looking to raise a great deal of money in a very short space of time and are therefore keen for people to set up their own sponsorship events and raise as much as possible on their own accord. If you have any ideas or can help please get in touch and liaise with one of the committee organisers so that we can assist you where possible.

Can you help us by organising an event or give a donation? Visit the website: [www.rydeinshorerescue.co.uk](http://www.rydeinshorerescue.co.uk)

Donations can be made now by credit card on the website's web donation page. Volunteers for fund raising can call: 01983 812178. Organisations and business can call: 01983 617872

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With over thirty years of trading, *ITS Tools* remains the Islands leading Independent Power Tool and Equipment specialist. With an extensive hire fleet and a huge range of products for sale there really is no better place to

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## OVERFLOWING WITH ENERGY!

BY BRIAN HOWARD



Anyone who knows Mark Sayers will tell you he has the physical, practical and mental capacity to produce unlimited energy! Strangely enough that is exactly what he does in life running *C.H.A.P.S (Central Heating And Plumbing Services)*. Most people refer to him as a "loveable rogue" loveable yes, rogue never, but should you meet him you will know what they mean, he always has wry sense of humour and a believable story to back it up.

Mark has a passion for life and work and thinks nothing of climbing up the sides of "mountains" dangling by a thread, shouting "come on up the views great"! He's the equivalent of an open furnace, ready to devour whatever is thrown in - not just food - but that which gives food for thought, always helpful, ready to explain in the smallest detail (if you let him) the features and benefits of his "solar charged energy saving thermal stores" or other energy confusions such as why his Ying is out of balance with his Yang!

Corgi registered, Mark is one of the few individuals in the UK who are fully trained and qualified to supply and install the very latest technology in solar solutions and heating. His passion for renewable energy and energy conservation solutions pricks the conscience of all who meet him, as we all know; we should all be doing more to help the environment, for us and for the sake of our children.

I think people would agree, quite a local character, likeable, well thought of and always there when you need him, making light of many situations that we "normal folk" consider life threatening, such as the sound of unseen running water! In fact, a very, very nice C.H.A.P!! Tel: 243000.

## STUDIO 9 AND JACK GREEN

Jack Green has had an amazing career in music spanning nearly forty years. At sixteen he was signed to a London music publisher, writing hit songs in Holland and Germany. He appeared in West End musicals and formed a band (*Sunshine*) from the cast of *Hair*, releasing an album on the Warner Brothers label. At twenty-two he joined *T-Rex*, and from twenty-three he joined the *Pretty Things* and toured the world constantly for four years. Other achievements include recording with Rainbow, a solo recording contract, and writing for artists such as Roger Daltry. After twelve years in Spain Jack set up home on the Island and formed "The Jack Green Band" becoming a popular attraction along the South coast. After meeting some surviving members of *T-Rex*, "T-Rex the Band" was formed and toured the world for the next two years.

In 2000 Jack became Senior Video Editor with a corporate company on the Island, before setting up his own company, "Studio 9 Video Production". *Studio 9* makes all types of films, from corporate videos to music videos and documentaries. Last summer *Studio 9* produced the winning film for the Island Games Association, which incorporated an interview with Lord Sebastian Coe. Shown in Rhodes, it secured the NatWest International Island Games being staged on the Isle of Wight. Contact Jack on: 812418 for further information.

# Governors

The Isle of Wight College is seeking to recruit new members for its governing body (Corporation). The positions are for an initial period of two years with the possibility of an extension. The Corporation meet on a monthly basis.

The Corporation is the most senior element of the College's organisation and its key tasks are:

- Setting high-level strategies for the College
- Determination of the educational character of the College
- Point of accountability for the Principal and the management team
- Oversight of College activities
- Ensuring effective and efficient use of College resources.

Applicants must have the skills and experience to contribute at strategic levels. The Corporation wishes to ensure its membership reflects the diversity of the Island community and, for this reason, encourages applications from women, members of ethnic groups and people with a disability. There is also particular interest in those with experience in construction, tourism and the voluntary sector. This is a voluntary role but reasonable travel expenses will be reimbursed.

Further details are available at [www.iwcollege.ac.uk](http://www.iwcollege.ac.uk) or by telephoning the Principal's office on **01983 535200**.

Applications are required by Friday, **23 February 2007** and should be sent to the Clerk to the Corporation at the College - Medina Way, Newport, IW PO30 5TA



We welcome applications from all sections of the community.





# The Beacon Eating & Drinking Guide

## MRS BEACON'S RECIPE OF THE MONTH: HONEY-GLAZED GAMMON

- Ingredients:**
- |                                  |                                       |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 60g/2¼oz butter                  | 2 tsp piccalilli                      |
| 2 tbsp olive oil                 | 1 tsp honey                           |
| 4 gammon steaks                  | 4 sage leaves                         |
| 1 clove garlic, chopped          | 1 tsp Dijon mustard                   |
| 1 onion, finely chopped          | salt and ground black pepper          |
| 1 apple, peeled, cored and diced | ½ lemon, juice only                   |
| 30g/1¼oz flour                   | 150ml/5¼fl oz meat or vegetable stock |
| 500ml oz dry cider               |                                       |

### Method:

- Place a large casserole dish on a low heat and melt the butter with the olive oil.
- Add the gammon steaks and fry until golden on both sides which will take about ten minutes. Remove the gammon and place to one side.
- Add the garlic, onion and apple to the casserole and cook until the onion is translucent. Add the flour and cook for one minute.
- Add the cider, bring to boil and reduce by half. Add the piccalilli, honey, sage leaves and mustard, then cook for five minutes.
- Put the gammon steaks back into the casserole, squeeze in the lemon juice and pour in the stock. Add another pinch of salt and pepper, cover and simmer for a further twenty to thirty minutes.



## THE COPPER KETTLE

*The Copper Kettle* will be re-opening for the season on the 9th February and will be offering freshly prepared home-made food. New to the Island is their range of Numi Flowering Tea - premium white tea leaves with flowers hand sewn into bundles, designed to "bloom" when steeped in hot water, which are served in beautiful glass teapots to tantalise the eyes and satisfy the pallet. The tea room is now fully licensed and customers can enjoy a glass of wine whilst relaxing and enjoying the selection of mouthwatering food. Back by popular demand is the traditional Sunday Roast and they will still be offering a selection of teas and coffee including Numi organic teas, light lunches, cakes, baguettes, speciality cream teas and cooked breakfasts at the weekend. *The Copper Kettle* Traditional Tea Room, High Street, Seaview. Tel: 612230



## *The Copper Kettle*

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Lobster Thermidor

SHELLFISH

Mussels, Scallops, Winkles

FRESH FISH

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2 Rumps, 2 Sirloins or 2 Fillets  
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**A VALENTINE'S DAY FINE DINING EXPERIENCE**



*The Essex* in the picturesque village of Godshell combines a superb location, award winning cuisine and the relaxing Spanish guitar of Paul Martinez to create a memorable Valentine's Day fine dining experience, to show that special someone just how much you care.

At this double AA rosette awarded restaurant, chef Steve Harris has created a very special Valentine's Evening Menu. Following Champagne and canapés on arrival you can enjoy six courses using the best of fresh local and organic produce including Carpaccio of beef fillet, artichoke shaving and parmesan salad plus Pan fried breast of duck, boulangère potatoes, red cabbage, juniper



jus and to complete a memorable meal; passion fruit tart with pineapple sorbet plus coffee and petits fours.

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# WHAT'S ON IN FEBRUARY

## PLATFORM ONE METAL NIGHT AT RYDE THEATRE FRIDAY FEBRUARY 9TH

Platform One presents a night of music, featuring local metal bands; *Multi Purpose Chemical*, *Silent Screams* and *Sentence to Rebirth*. Doors will open at 7.30pm, and the bands will be on stage from 8-11pm. A DJ playing rock music will follow on until midnight. All tickets can be purchased on the door at £4 each. The gig is open to all ages but under 16s must be accompanied by an adult.

For more information on the bands see their websites: *Multi Purpose Chemical*: [www.rockthisbitch.com](http://www.rockthisbitch.com) *Silent Screams*: [www.myspace.com/silentscreamsmum](http://www.myspace.com/silentscreamsmum) *Sentence to Rebirth*: [www.myspace.com/sentencetorebirth](http://www.myspace.com/sentencetorebirth)



*Multi Purpose Chemical*

## TOP ISLAND BANDS AT CHARITY GIG FEBRUARY 10TH

The successful Island band, *Kody*, have organised a charity gig at *Chapter One*, 7 Palmerston Road, Shanklin on February 10th. The evening will include four of the Island's top bands and DJs.

The show is in aid of the Sandown and Shanklin Inshore Lifeboat. Several companies from all over the Island have donated to a raffle to help raise even more money on the night. The cost on the door will only be £3 with all money going to the cause.



*Kody* have also just completed two music videos with a London film company, a single with *Cure* producer Dave Allen and are about to embark on another few months of touring. For more details on the band visit their website: [www.kody.co.uk](http://www.kody.co.uk)

## NEW JAZZ SEASON BEGINS

February sees great live jazz events on the Island. It starts with the first appearance on the island by Don Weller, widely seen as the finest tenor sax player of his generation and a founding father of UK jazz/funk/fusion.



*Don Weller*

Don Weller and his all star quartet has been chosen to open the new monthly "Jazz At The Towers" which will take place on the first Friday of every month starting on 2nd February 2007. The Ventnor Towers Hotel now has a larger stage, a new sound system and a new stage piano.

Jazz at the Boathouse will present the hard-bopping funk fusion of *Hard Lines*, a quintet of excellent jazz performers

at the peak of their form, in a welcome return to the Island.

Jazz At The Fat Cat in Freshwater Bay takes place on the last Friday of each month starting on Friday 23rd February with a gig by the Island's hottest new Jazz collective, *Caldera*. Gary Plumley features on sax and flute alongside keyboard player Bob Plimer and the father and son team of Ken and Alex Black on drums and bass.

All tickets are £15 for the jazz at each venue with discounts for Friends of IW Jazz. Dining arrangements are available at all three venues. For more information please visit the Jazz Office at 6 Pier St. Ventnor or call Geri Ward on: 856206 or see.

## BREAST CANCER CARE FUND RAISER

A barn dance is being held on Saturday 17th February at Wootton Community Centre, 7.30pm. There will be a licensed bar available. Tickets for adults cost £6 and children £3. Tickets are available from the Edinburgh Woollen Mill, High Street, Ryde, Caffe Society, High Street, Newport, or Tel: 568681/613457.

## RYDE MEAD TENNIS CLUB CENTENARY



Located in Church Lane, just behind busy Union street is Ryde Mead Tennis Club that will this year be celebrating it's Centenary. The club has been producing tennis players that compete on the Island and mainland over the last hundred years. The club has five all weather courts, three of which are floodlit. The club also has it's own Level 2 LTA Coach and a thriving Junior section playing mini-tennis. Members range from 4-64 years old.

The Centenary celebration weekend will be May 19th and 20th. An Open Mixed Doubles Tournament will be held over the two days, with a veteran competition for pairs that can boast at least fifty years each. Finals will be played on Sunday at 1pm followed by the presentation of the trophies. At 3pm there will be a BBQ and fun tennis. A hundred balloons will be released at the end of the weekend entitling the finder to a free membership of the club for one year. There will also be a collection of club memorabilia on display.

We would love to hear from anyone who has been a member of Ryde Mead Club and who would like to share in our celebration. We also welcome anyone new wishing to find out more. For further details please contact: Colin Hoath, 5 Willow Tree Drive, Seaview, Isle of Wight.

## WALK THE WIGHT 2007

Sunday 13th May has been officially announced the date for the 2007 Walk the Wight. Founded by Bill Bradley and Frank Stevens, Walk the Wight 2007 will be the 17th walk.

Walk the Wight 2006 was a tremendous success last year with well over 5000 people walking. There were also 622 school children doing the Schools Walk the Wight which was a new event in 2006.

To download an application form go to: [www.walkthewight.org.uk/registration.htm](http://www.walkthewight.org.uk/registration.htm)

More information on Walk the Wight can be obtained from: Earl Mountbatten Hospice Fundraising Dept, The Lodge, Halberry Lane, Newport, IW PO30 2ER. Tel: 528989 or email: [info@emhfunding.com](mailto:info@emhfunding.com)



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For further information with a view to selling through Bonhams please call May Rootes on 01983 282 228 [may.rootes@bonhams.com](mailto:may.rootes@bonhams.com) [www.bonhams.com](http://www.bonhams.com)

## WHAT'S ON AT THE VENUE IN FEBRUARY

**3rd: The Blues Room - Ian Siegal Band plus the Amen Boogie Blues Band.** Tickets £10 in advance, £12 on door. A new regular event for lovers of Blues Music. Undoubtedly the most talented musician to emerge from Britain onto the European blues scene in years. "One of the most inventive blues recordings ever made by a British Artist" Mojo\*\*\*\*



**9th: Metal Night,** Platform One students are back with some raucous and talented bands. Featuring *Multi Purpose Chemical*, *Silent Screams* and *Sentence to Rebirth*. Doors 7.30pm, bands on 8-11pm followed by a rock DJ until midnight. All tickets £4 on door. Tel: 537550 email: [info@platformone.org](mailto:info@platformone.org) for more details. This is a 16+ event (under 16s to be accompanied by a parent or guardian).

**10th: Hipshaker,** 60's, funk, jazz and Motown 9pm-2am at The Venue, Ryde Theatre. Resident djs plus Tim Bogaloo from *Dig* as the guest dj. 18+ only. £5 in advance, £6 on door.

**17th: The Jamm,** The Jamm tribute 10th anniversary tour. 7.30pm. £10 advance, £12 on door.

**25th: A Night of Latin Music & Dance,** 7.30pm-1am. Salsa and smooth latin lessons and demos by top dance instructors Matt Kellett and Flavio Debritos. £10 advance, £12 on door.

Box Office: 568099 [www.rydetheatre.co.uk](http://www.rydetheatre.co.uk)

## COURSES FOR ADULTS FOR SPRING & SUMMER

New courses are on offer on the Island from the WEA the Workers Education Authority, the world's largest voluntary organisation offering education and learning.

Starting on February 5th there will be a four week course on Island History through handwritten records. This is presented by Richard Smout at the County Record Office in Newport. Early booking is advised as there is a restriction on numbers attending. Fee £26.10.

On March 3rd at 2pm at the Riverside Centre, Newport, there will be a course titled "How we used to live in the 18th/19th Century" presented by Sarah Lang. This three week course will cost £26.10.

Two courses will be held in East Cowes both taught by Gail Wright. Both with ten, three hour sessions. Beginning on April 24th "Getting Started" art classes will run at East Cowes Town Hall, costing £40.

"Art Start" will begin April 27th, at East Cowes Methodist Church Hall. Fee £40. Some fee concessions are available on request.

For further details contact the WEA- Margaret Rylands on: 529589 or for East Cowes courses Gail Wright on: 884409.



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## Regulars

**Calling all Buffs** - Just moved to the Island? Can't find a lodge or want to rejoin after some years? Contact John Marshall ROH: 07772 464707 or 562879 for details.

**Bridge** - Everyday except Sundays at The Ryde Bridge Club, 5 Spencer Road, Ryde. Times vary. For further info contact Ingrid Gaches: 564830.

**Friendship Force International** - travel with a group from the IW to the UK & abroad staying in club members homes. Programme of social events at home & abroad. Ideal if you enjoy travel & meeting people. For more details Tel: 523456.

**RaW Swaps** - at The Store, 127 Pyle Street, Newport. Come along and get back into reading & text your own review to BBC RaW Swaps with a chance to win an MP3 player (1 winner each month). Bring along a book that you have found enjoyable or informative & SWAP it for another. Perhaps you have not read any books for sometime, this will help you get back into reading for leisure again. Drop-in between 9am-3pm Mon-Fri.

**Women's Refuge** - 24 hour helpline: 01983 825981.

**Island Yoga** Monthly Yoga workshops [www.islandyoga.org.uk](http://www.islandyoga.org.uk)

**Mondays - Parent & Toddler Group**, Wootton Bridge Community Centre 12.30-2.30pm. All welcome. Tel Sue: 565813.

**Under 25's Young Mums Drop-In support session** supported by Family Link worker 1-2.30pm at SureStart Ryde Children's Centre.

**2nd Ryde Sea Scouts, Beavers**, Scout HQ, Somerset Road, Ryde. 5-6.30pm Tel: 566399.

**Ryde Judo Club**, 6-6.45pm Kano class for under 8yrs. 6.45-8pm Junior class for 8-14yrs (£2) & 8-9.30pm for 14yrs+ (£3). Some classes have a waiting list so please Tel Martin Holt: 564649 [martin.holt@btinternet.com](mailto:martin.holt@btinternet.com)

**Bingo**, 7pm at The London, Well Street, Ryde. Tel: 811864.

**Brownies**, for girls 7-10yrs in Ryde area. Tel Mrs. King: 079100 29517.

**Civil Service Motoring Association**, at St. Pauls Parish Centre, School Lane, Staplers, Newport. Tel Phil Nelson: 293363.

**IW County Table Tennis Association**, Fridays & Monday eve. Smallbrook Stadium. £1.50 per person. Newcomers welcome, bats available. Tel: 562747.

**2nd Monday of Month: Association of Wrens IW Branch**, All Saints Church Hall, Ryde. All ex-wrens welcome. Tel: 564438.

**3rd Monday of Month: The Federation of Royal Mail & BT Pensioners**, Telecom Club, 63 Park Rd, Ryde. Tel Mr. A.W. Murdoch: 564453.

### Ryde Help Centre,

188 Ryde High Street Tel: 812678

**Mondays: Council Tax**, 9am-5pm.

**1st & 2nd Monday of month: Sound Advice**, 10am-12pm.

**Tuesdays: Income Tax Advice**, 9am-4pm.

**Wednesdays: Council Tax**, Housing Benefit Enquiries, 9am-5pm.

**Thursdays: Income Tax Advice**, & Housing Benefit 9am-4pm.

**Fridays: Citizens Advice Bureau**, 9.30am-12.30pm. Appointment only. Tel: 812678

**4th Monday of Month: Cuckoo's Nest Writers Circle**, Tel: 615905 or 611463 between 6-9pm for details. No fees, no age restrictions.

**Tuesdays: Short Mat Bowls**, Wootton Bridge Community Centre, 10-1pm. Tel: 884820.

**Stay & Play Session**, Binstead Community Centre, Coniston Avenue 9.30-11.30am.

**Island Professionals Singles Club**, Tel: 521456.

**Coffee Mornings**, The London, Well Street, Ryde 10am. Tel: 811864.

**Ryde Health Walks**, 10.30am outside LA Bowl. Tel Louise Gray: 823812.

**Haylands Intermediate Walks**, every 4th Tuesday, 10.30am. Meet at Play Street Lane Rec car park. Tel Louise Gray: 823812 for next date.

**W.R.V.S. Luncheon Club**, at Methodist Church, Garfield Road, Ryde. 12-1.30pm

**St. Michael's Fellowship**, St. Michael's Hall, St. Michael's Avenue, Swanmore. 2.30pm. Tel: 562984.

**Ryde Sea/Marine Cadets**, At the Sea Cadet HQ, the old fire station (next to the Police Station), Station Street, Ryde. 6.45-9.15pm. Boys & girls 12yrs+. Tel: 296810.

**2nd Ryde Sea Scouts**, Cubs, Scout HQ, Somerset Road, Ryde. 6.30-8pm Tel: 566399.

**Ryde Tai Chi Club**, 7.15-8.45pm at St Johns Annex, Ryde. Proceeds to charity. Tel Laurence: 407716.

**Bell Ringing Practice**, All Saints Church Belfry, Queens Road, Ryde. 7.30-9pm. Prospective learners & experienced ringers welcome.

**Oakfield Football Supporters Club Bingo**, Doors open 7pm, eyes down 7.45pm. At Oakfield Club, Slade Road, Oakfield, Ryde. For info Tel: 566755 after 7pm.

**Friendly Singles Social Club**, Tel: 521456.

**Scottish Country Dancing**, 7.30pm, St

Georges School Hall, Watergate Rd, Carisbrooke. Starts September 12th, all welcome. Tel: 563483.

**Ryde Harriers Running Club**, runs of between 5km & 8 miles plus training runs. Groups also meet on the weekend for longer training runs on road & over footpaths. All abilities welcome, we can provide a runner to accompany you on a club run. Meet at Clubhouse 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start at 31 High Street, Oakfield, Ryde, PO33 1EJ. For further details Tel Chris Lewis: 857339.

**1st Tuesday of Month: St. John's WI**, 2-4pm, The Park Centre, St Johns Church. Tel: 562047.

**RAF Association Meeting**, 7.30pm, Newport Social Club. Tel R Tiley: 526181.

**IW Healthcare NHS Trust & the Alzheimer's Society IW Support Group**, Carers Support Group for Carers looking after someone with memory problems. 6-8pm at The Adelaide, Adelaide Place Ryde. Tel Andrew Cole: 525244 or Mick Hallissey: 612043 for more details.

### The George Street Centre,

George Street, Ryde

**Mondays: Scrabble**, 7.15pm. All welcome. Tel: 565484.

**Art Classes**. oils & acrylics 10am-2pm. Tel: 812774.

**Tuesdays: Slimming World**, 9.30am-11am. Tel Tina: 521501.

**Wednesdays: Hopscotch Toddler Group**, 9.30-11.30am. **Girls' Brigade** 6pm.

**Island Bridge Club**, 3 times weekly. Tel Mr. Bud: 616786.

**Cafe** open Mon-Fri 10am-12pm.

**2nd Tuesday of Month: Coffee Morning**, Society for the Blind at the George Street Centre, Ryde.

**Ryde Carnival Committee meeting**, Ryde Development Trust, Union Road, 7.30pm. All welcome. Tel Malcolm Ross: 615347.

**Ryde Lions Club**, meet in Yelfs Hotel Ryde, at 8pm. For info about becoming a Lion, or if the club can help you, or your organisation Tel John Way: 883961.

**4th Tuesday of Month: Coffee Morning**, Society for the Blind at the Windmill Hotel, Bembridge. Tel: 522205.

**Wednesdays: Rhythm Time**, quality music class for under 5's. Singing, instruments, dance & fun! Tel: 07950 501763 for details.

**Loft Poets-Ryde Creative Writing Group**, at the Royal Esplanade Hotel, 10.30-11.30am. Tel Ed: 611463 or Frances: 567820.

**Rhythm Time**, quality music classes

for babies & toddlers. For more details Tel Vicky: 528785.

**Musicstart**, music with babies (0-3yrs) St. John's Hall, Oakfield. 1.30-2.30 Tel: 534438.

**Sounds Fun Singers**, Ryde's All Saints Church Hall, 1.30-3.30pm.

**Royal British Legion**, Newport & Carisbrooke Branch, 7.30pm at Royal British Legion Club, Orchard Street, Newport. Tel R Tiley for dates: 526181.

### Ryde Library, February

**Gallery: Clive Dencer-Brown, site specific digitally manipulated photographs.**

**Mondays: Toy Library** 9.30-11am.  
**Rhyme Time**, for babies & toddlers, 10-10.30am.

**Saturdays: Storytime**, for younger children, 11-11.30am.

**Half-term: Stories, games & crafts** for 5-9yrs, ask at library for further details.

**Displays: Back pain, cats.**

**Saturday 24th February: Roots!** Find out how to dig up yours at the Local and Family History Day, 10am-4pm.

**Little John's Stay & Play Session**, Park Centre, High Park Road 9.30am-1.30pm run by SureStart Ryde Children's Centre.

**Carnival Club**, Ryde High School (term time only), 2.45-4pm. Open to middle & high school pupils & their families. Tel Steve Hines: 567331.

**Girl's Venture Corps Air Cadets**, 7-9pm. ATC Building, Marlborough Road, Ryde. For girls 11-18yrs. Tel: 565683.

**The Green Gym**, conservation group. 10-1pm. Tel Simon: 822282.

'Little Johns', For children 0-4 years at St. John's Church Hall, High Park Road, Ryde. Tel: 568972.

'Drop-in' morning, St. Michael's Hall, St. Michael's Avenue, Swanmore. 10.30am-12pm. Refreshments available. Children welcome. Tel: 616983.

**Senior Circle**, Elim Church, Albert St, 2.30-4pm. Free. Senior citizens welcome. Tea/coffee & friendship. Tel: 565265.

**3rd Ryde Girls' Brigade**, during school term at Ryde Baptist Church, George Street, Ryde, 6pm. Explorers 4-8yrs, Juniors 8-11yrs, Seniors 11-14yrs & Brigaders 14yrs+. For details Tel Betty McComb: 615720.

Tango with Flavio, Argentinian Tango Classes. Ryde School junior gym 7-8pm for beginners. 8-9pm for beginners/intermediates. 9-10pm practice. £6 entry. Contact Flavio for details: 07729 487444 [www.tangowithflavio.co.uk](http://www.tangowithflavio.co.uk)

**Focus - Ryde Imaging Group**, photographic/digital photography talk

& competitions. 2nd & 4th Wednesday of month, 7.30pm, Binstead Community Centre, Coniston Way, Binstead. Tel: 615130.

**Alternate Wednesdays: Families Against Bullying**, Sure Start, Community Room, Ryde Business Park, Nicholson Road, Ryde. Tel: 07709 850499 for information.

**1st Wednesday of Month: Haylands WI**, Wessex Room, United Reformed Church, Upton Road, Ryde, 2.15pm. For details, Tel Mrs Harris: 526383.

**The Royal Naval Association**, IW Branch. Sea Cadet HQ, T.S. Royal George, Station Street, Ryde at 7.30pm. Contact the Secretary, S/M Mike North, 1 Tredegar Court, Dover Street, Ryde. Tel: 812184.

**Parent Pride**, support group for parents of lesbians, gays & bisexuals. For more info contact Lorraine or Teresa: 07804 509865 or 0845 6520336 (calls charged at local rate) email: [parentpride@aol.com](mailto:parentpride@aol.com)

**Wootton Bridge WI**, at Church Close Social Club, Wootton at 2.30pm. Visitors & new members welcome. Tel: 882000.

**2nd & 4th Wednesday of Month: October Club**, (until mid May) Wootton Bridge Community Centre. 10am. With weekly short walks in summer. New members welcome. Tel: 882247.

**2nd Wednesday of Month: Binstead WI Monthly Meeting**, 2.30pm Binstead Church Hall, Chapel Rd. Tel Jan Reaney: 613149.

**The Island Flower Club**, Wootton Bridge Community Centre, 2pm. Tel Kate Newcombe: 564369.

**Art Group**, 1.30-4.30pm St. Helens Community Centre. Tel: 854975.

**Thursdays: Trinity Tots**, parent & toddler group. Term time only in the youth rooms, Holy Trinity Church, Dover Street, Ryde 9.30-11.30am. Tel Sarah: 568048.

'Stay & Play' sessions, at Sure Start, Ryde Business Park, Nicholson Road, Ryde 10am-12pm. For children 0-3 yrs. Tel: 568972.

**Children's Centre Stay & Play Session**, 10am-12pm, SureStart Ryde Children's Centre, George Street.

**Breast Mates**, breast feeding support group 10am-12pm at George Street Centre. Supported by SureStart Ryde Children's Centre Midwife.

**Music for Babies & Toddlers**, in the George Street Centre. 1pm-Babies, 1.45pm-Toddlers. Contact SureStart Ryde Children's Centre: 617617 booking essential.

**Ryde Women's Bowling Club**, 2pm on Ryde Esplanade. Tel Pauline: 883248 or Beryl: 565128 for more information.

**Ryde District Trefoil Guild**, from 2.30-4.30pm. Ex-guides & guiders warmly welcomed. Tel: 883377 for venue.

**Ladies Bright Hour**, with speaker, tea & good fellowship, Zion Chapel, William Street, Swanmore, 2.30pm.

**Sequence Dancing**, Wootton Bridge Community Centre, 7.30-10.30pm. Tel: 884820.

### Pilates Classes,

**Wednesdays:** 6.45pm Beginners/Intermediates class in Newport.

**Thursdays:** 5.45pm Beginners/Intermediates class in Cowes. More classes available. Call Linda Groves: 07966 968050 for info & to book.

**St John Badgers (5-10yrs)** 6.15-7.15pm. St John Cadets (10-18yrs) 7.15-8.30pm, Binstead Community Centre, Coniston Ave, Binstead. Tel Mrs Lake: 822794.

**2nd Ryde Sea Scouts**, Scout HQ, Somerset Road, Ryde. 7-8.30pm Tel: 566399.

St John Badgers (5-10yrs) 6.15-7.30pm. St John Adults (16yrs +) 8-10.30pm. Barnsley Farm, Barnsley Lane, Ryde. Tel Michael Hine: 822794.

**TaeKwon-Do**, 6.45-8.15pm Swanmore Middle School, Bettsworth Road. Learn Korean self defence for confidence, fun & fitness. Tel Trevor Barnes: 752411 or Peter Scotcher: 452249.

**Creekside WI**, 7.30pm St. Marks Church Annexe, Station Road, Wootton. Tel May Lashmar: 883668.

**Wight Satin Ladies Barbershop Chorus**, new singers welcome. St Mark's Church Hall, Station Road, Wootton. 7.30-10pm. Ability to read music not essential. Tel Eileen Dunford: 840265.

**Ryde Chorus**, term time only, Dover Park School, 7.30-9pm. New members (SATB) welcome. Tel Judy Valvona: 565070.

**Ryde Kings Badminton Club**, Ryde Sports Centre, Pell Lane. 8-10pm. Tel: 882901.

**RAOB Lion Lodge 4612**, meet at The Ryde Harriers Club, Oakfield. 8pm. Tel David Rudge: 566848.

**2nd Thursday of Month: Appley WI**, St. John's Church Hall, High Park Road, 7.30-9.30pm.

**Ryde Afternoon Women's Club**, 2.30pm at All Saints Church Hall. Tel Mrs. Renwick: 564266.

**4th Thursday of the Month: The Royal British Legion** (Newport & Carisbrooke Branch) monthly meeting, 7.30pm Royal British Legion Club, Orchard St Newport. Tel Roy Tiley: 526181.

**3rd Thursday of Month: Parkinson's Lunch Support Group**, Meet at 12pm, venues across the Island. Tel Rosemary Smith: 755624 for details.

**IW Gateway Club**, (18+) social & leisure club for adults with special needs. 6.30-8.30pm, Ryde Youth Centre. Tel: 864891 or 07702 340193.

**Ryde Sea/Marine Cadets**, at the Sea Cadet HQ, old fire station, Station Street, Ryde. 6.45-9.15pm. Boys & girls 12+. Tel: 296810.

**Bingo**, 7pm The London, Well Street, Ryde. Tel: 811864.

**IW Jazz Society**, Yelf's Hotel, Union Street, Ryde. 7.30pm. Tel Derek Ashford: 562874.

**Lacemakers of the Wight**, 7.30-9.30pm, Riverside Centre, Newport. Tel Julie: 527996.

**Fridays: Smoking Cessation Drop in Support Session** 9am-12pm at Sure Start Ryde Children's Centre.

**Songbirds Pre-School Singing Group**, St. Peter's Church Hall, Seaview. 10-11.30am Tel: 565453.

**Sunbeams Stay & Play Session**, Methodist Hall Garfield Road 10am-12pm. Run by Children's Centre Play Worker/Special Needs Co-ordinator.

**Citizen's Advice Bureau**, at Ryde Help Centre, High Street. 10am-3.45pm appointment only. Tel: 812678.

**Dads Drop in Session**, SureSteps Family Centre, Pell Lane, Ryde. 11am-1pm. Run by the Creche Manager for SureStart Ryde Children's Centre.

**Short Mat Bowls**, Wootton Bridge Community Centre, 2-5pm. Tel: 884820.

**Newchurch Male Voice Choir**, 7.30-9.30pm Newchurch Village Hall. New singers welcome. Not essential to read music. Tel Roy Bevan: 865249.

**1st & 3rd Friday of Month: U3A Folk Dance Group**, 9.45-11.45 am, St Mary's Church Hall, High Street, Ryde. Parking behind church. New members welcome. Tel Margaret Lyndley: 854975.

**Saturdays: IW Gateway Club**, social & leisure club for children with special needs. 11am-3pm, Ryde Youth Centre. Tel: 864891 or 07702 340193.

**3rd Saturday of Month: Bingo**, St Michael's Hall, St Michael's Avenue, Swanmore, 7.30pm. Entry £1.50, including refreshments.

**4th Saturday of Month: Sign The Wight Deaf Club**, Riverside Centre, The Quay, Newport, 6.30-9.30pm. Tel: 522642 or 405657 (voice or type talk) Minicom: 525424 or Fax: 533349 or 07773 242360 (voice or text).

**Coffee Morning**, St. Michael's Hall, St. Michael's Avenue, Swanmore, 10.30am-12pm. Tel: Marion Bennett: 616983.

**Sundays: Eucharist**, Holy Trinity Church Dover Street, Ryde. 9.15am. 11am Mass at St. Michaels Church of England Church, St. Michaels Avenue, Swanmore, Ryde.

**IW Gateway Club**, social & leisure club for adults with special needs. 6.30-8.30pm Ryde Youth Centre. Tel: 864891 or 07702 340193.

**Bingo**, Wootton Bridge Community Centre, 8-10.30pm.

**Prayer Book Evensong**, Zion Chapel, William Street, Ryde. St. Barnabas Mission 4pm. Tel Andrew Pellow: 612796.

## February

**Throughout Feb: Textile Art Exhibition**, including treasures from travels, George Street Centre, Ryde. Mon-Fri 10am-2pm Sat 10am-12pm. Free entry.

**3rd: The Blues Room - Ian Siegal Band plus the Amen Boogie Blues Band**, at The Venue, Ryde Theatre. Tickets £10 in advance, £12 on door. Box Office: 568099. [www.rydetheatre.co.uk](http://www.rydetheatre.co.uk)

**7th: Ryde Horticultural Society**, 7.15pm in the Wessex Room, United Reform Church, Haylands. The Speaker will be Mr Reeder on the history of Post Boxes. Visitors Welcome.

**7th: Haylands WI**, "Move Over Keats", by Mrs Ralph. 2.15pm, Wessex Room, United Reformed Church, Haylands. Tel: 526383.

**8th: IW Fuschia Society AGM**, 7.30pm in Brading Town Hall. With an American supper. Visitors welcome.

**9th & 23rd: Whist Drives**, in aid of British Red Cross, Church Close Club, Wootton, 7.30pm.

**9th: Metal Night**, at The Venue, Ryde Theatre. Doors 7.30pm, bands on 8-11pm followed by a rock DJ until midnight. Tickets £4 on door. Tel: 537550 email: [info@platformone.org](mailto:info@platformone.org)

**10th: Table Top Sale**, Parish Hall, Victoria Road, Freshwater. 10am-12pm. Range of items & refreshments. Tel: 752911.

**10th: Charity Gig**, with Kody & top Island bands & DJs at *Chapter One*, 7 Palmerston Road, Shanklin. In aid of Sandown & Shanklin Inshore Lifeboat. Entry £3 to the cause.

**10th: IW Industrial Archaeology Society Meeting**, Exploring the seabed of Solent & Wight: Marine Archaeology & Aggregates. Riverside Centre, Newport 7.30pm. Entry £1. Tel: 853612.

**10th: West Wight Arts Association**, 7.30pm, Memorial Hall, Freshwater. Featuring Libor Novacek on Piano. Tickets £10, available from Mackenzie Arthur, Avenue Rd, fortnight before the event. Tel: 752278.

**10th: Hipshaker**, 9pm-2am at The Venue, Ryde Theatre. Resident djs plus Tim Bogaloo from *Dig* as the

guest dj. 18+ only. £5 in adv or £6 on door. Tel: 568099 [www.rydetheatre.co.uk](http://www.rydetheatre.co.uk)

**10th, 11th & 17th: Jack & the Beanstalk**, Wight Strollers family panto at Medina Theatre. Adults £6 Child £5. Proceeds for local charity. Box office: 527020.

**12th: Concert**, at St Peter's Church, Havenstreet, 7.45pm. Featuring Cowes Concert Band. Tickets £5 (Adults) £2.50 (children) from Diane Seago Tel: 882836 or Hilary Spurgeon: 615551

**15th: Vectis Decorative & Fine Arts Society presents Liverpools Heritage**, Medina Theatre, 8pm. Guests £5.50. Tel: 299377.

**17th: The Jamm**, at The Venue, Ryde Theatre 7.30pm. The Jamm tribute 10th anniversary tour. £10 adv or £12 door. Tel: 568099 [www.rydetheatre.co.uk](http://www.rydetheatre.co.uk)

**17th: Barn Dance**, in aid of breast cancer care at Wootton Community Centre, 7.30pm. Licensed bar. Adults £6, children £3. Tickets from The Edinburgh Woollen Mill, High St Ryde, Caffé Society, High St Newport, Tel: 568681/613457.

**18th: Quiz Night**, at the Seaview Hotel, raising money for the Hospice. 7.30pm start, up to 5 per team, £2pp. Jackpot of £10, auction at end of night.

**20th: Vectis Philatelic Society News**, *World Voyages of Capt James Cook*, by Derek Rouse. Newport Con Club, Lower Pyle Street, Newport 7.30pm. Annual sub £3 Juniors £1. Tel: 293964.

**21st: Creative Computing**, 3 week course at Ryde Youth Centre 12-2pm. £3 per session or £6 advance payment. Tel: 527529 to book.

**25th: A Night of Latin Music & Dance**, at Ryde Theatre 7.30pm-1am. Salsa & smooth latin lessons & demos by top instructors Matt Kellett & Flavio Debritos. £10 adv or £12 on door. Tel: 568099 [www.rydetheatre.co.uk](http://www.rydetheatre.co.uk)

**26th: Charity Concert**, by Newchurch Male Voice Choir, 7.30pm Bonchurch Village Hall. Raffle & refreshments. Tel: 865249.

**2nd March: Women's World Day of Prayer Annual Service**, 'United Under God's Tent'. 2.30pm St Mary's RC Church. Ryde High Street All welcome.

**31st March: Orpheus Sorpheus Singers with the Consort of 12**, All Saints' Church, Ryde, 7pm. Music for Holy Week, also Gloria in D by Vivaldi. Tickets: £8, students: £3.

**Please call Nicola or Debbie on: 522123 to get your entries into the diary**

Entries £10 per insert in advance or free to non-profit making organisations.

# Happy Valentines Day

*The 14th February will have many of us pacing the floors waiting for the postman to confirm that we are somebody's Valentine and that we are appreciated, loved and life just would not be complete without us.*

*Do you have that special somebody in your life who makes you feel complete, who is your Valentine and best friend? Do you forget to tell them how much you care and how much you appreciate all the little things they do for you? Valentine's Day is the day to say all those words and what better way to say it then with a gorgeous gift from our Valentine range.*

*Diamonds are a girls best friend, and Hobbs Jewellers has a selection of diamond jewellery that is perfect for your Valentine. Whatever you say this Valentine's Day, ensure you say it with a diamond from Hobbs.*

*My House have a large range of Valentine gifts including everlasting felt roses and vase, picture frames, jewellery, cushions, bags and many more items. Get your Valentine a gift they will really appreciate and use time and time again from their unique, inspirational homewares range.*

*Crockshop and Ralph's Health Food Shop have a variety of gifts for Valentine's Day. How about a photo and a message on a mug, so your Valentine can always enjoy coffee with you. They have a good selection of toiletries, china and gifts and for those of you who have a healthy Valentine, check out the range of health foods, vitamins and minerals.*

*Origin IOW can help you to find that unique Valentine gift for that special person. Their range of gifts originate from the Island and include natural and beautifully scented soy candles, with fragrances of rose and sandalwood, wild poppy and narcissus and ginseng. They also have a choice of handmade chocolates and cards which make beautiful gifts.*

*Every Valentine deserves a necklace from Jazz. They have a great range of designs and colours, at very reasonable prices. They have recently had a new delivery of stock from Egypt - a unique Valentine gift.*

**Will you be my..?**  
 Whatever you ask this Valentines Day  
 ask it with a diamond from Hobbs  
**HOBBS JEWELLERS** 165 High Street, Ryde Tel: 562001

**MY HOUSE**  
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 Newport Tel: 527129  
**Treats for your valentine**  
 Plus unique and inspirational Homewares

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**JAZZ**  
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**Jazz up your jewellery!**  
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# Happy Valentines Day...

Zabre has a beautiful range of quality handbags to suit all occasions that every Valentine would love to receive. They also have a range of jewellery wraps, gloves, scarves, key rings, umbrellas and belts.

For the special person in your life this Valentine's Day a visit to **Flirt Lingerie** is a must. They have sizes to cater for all body shapes from petite to curvaceous and the fuller figure. They have an extensive selection including bodies, camisoles, corsets, bras, knickers, stockings and suspenders which are all simply beautiful or you may wish to choose from their exquisitely provocative range. **Flirt Lingerie** are now stocking Agent Provocateur's seductive signature perfume and beauty products along with the new flirtatious and sexy fragrance "Maitresse". Come and join **Flirt** for an evening of 20th century fashion icons at the Hospice's annual fashion show at Medina Theatre 1st March. Tickets available from the Sunflower shop and Medina Theatre £6 per ticket.

Its all from the Heart at **Mellish's**, who have everything you need to make the perfect Valentine gesture. Show how much you love them with a helium balloon or a cuddly toy from the Elliot range and don't forget to choose your special Valentine card from their large selection.

**Essence** is all about pampering the body and soul and feeling your best. Treat your Valentine to gift vouchers for either a body or facial treatment. They have a wide range of products available which would make lovely gifts or be really daring and treat your Valentine to hair extensions.

## ZABRE

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For the slim, curvy or the more voluptuous ladies

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from the heart

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## ESSENCE

### Hair & Beauty Therapies Beauty Salon

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**Wake Me Up Facial** Prescription facial designed for your skins needs with facial, shoulder & scalp massage **£14**

**Luxury Massage Treatments with Essential Oils**  
Back, neck & shoulder massage **£15**

Half body massage **£20** Full body massage **£30**

**De-stressing Back, Shoulder & Scalp Massage**  
De-stressing & relaxing massage using essential oils of marigold & green tea **£22**

**Skin De-toxifying Body Scrub**  
salts, minerals & clay from the Dead Sea whipped together with vegetable glycerin to create the ultimate spa exfoliation treatment **£14**

**Relief for Tattered Tooties**

Lemongrass massage treatment for tired feet & legs **£16**

**Massage Treatments with Intensive Moisturisers**

Back, neck & shoulder massage **£14**

Back, neck, shoulders & legs **£18**

Full body massage **£25**

Full body massage & body scrub **£30**

**Manicure** A soy & sugar manicure experience **£16**

**Spa Pedicure** A luxurious Lemongrass pedicure **£22**

**Shape & Polish** Toes or fingers **£12**

### Hairdressing

**Hair Extensions Offers -**

Phone for details: 611168

**Cut & Blow Dry** £15

on Tuesdays with Gemma until 28th Feb

**10% Off Hairdressing**

with Laura on Mondays & Wednesdays

**Gift Vouchers Available for your Valentine**

6 Union Street, Ryde  
For beauty & hairdressing booking  
Tel: 611168





# The Beacon Health & Wellbeing Pages

## THE BENEFITS OF EATING FIBRE

Foods containing fibre provides us with many vitamins and minerals that have positive health benefits. The recommended daily intake of fibre is 30 gms per day. Many people in the UK do not manage to achieve this. Children under two years should not be encouraged to have too high a fibre intake, as high fibre foods replace those that provide energy for growth. It is unlikely that you can consume too much fibre but studies have shown that in individuals who have excess raw wheat bran, absorption of certain minerals is prevented.

How to eat more: Aim for at least five portions of fruit and vegetables per day. Try a wholegrain breakfast cereal - add fresh or dried fruit to this to further increase the fibre content. Eat wholemeal or granary bread or rolls instead of white. Use brown or wholegrain/pasta rice instead of white. Add lentils, beans or pulses to stews, soups and casseroles.

Increase the amount of fibre in your diet slowly otherwise you could suffer from abdominal discomfort. Also ensure you are having an adequate fluid intake.

Evidence over the last thirty years has also led us to believe that dietary fibre also has a protective effect against colorectal cancer.

## Bella Rose

Partlands Lodge, Partlands Avenue, Ryde  
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www.bella-rose.co.uk

### Valentine Special

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# ILLUSIONS & TONE 'N' TRIM

**IT'S BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!**

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TRY OUR IN HOUSE TREATMENTS  
EVERYDAY THIS MONTH  
FOR £10 INCLUSIVE**

Toning Beds, Facial Toning & Hand Wax  
Pre-booking essential



**ARE YOU ELDERLY OR DISABLED &  
HAVE TROUBLE GETTING ABOUT?**

We offer a free courtesy car with a door to door service so that you too can enjoy the many treatments we have to offer.  
Available each Tuesday 10am-3pm.



### SPECIAL EVENT DAYS

**6th FEB** Aqua Detox £10 **20th FEB** Aqua Detox £10

**26th FEB** 10% off all treatments including  
block bookings (excludes special offers)  
Indian Head Massage £5



### TONING BED PRICES

1st Session	£4.95
Per Session	£5.45
Block of 10 Sessions	£49.00
Monthly Unlimited Use	£50.00
Annual Unlimited Use	£390.00

**VALENTINES DAY SPECIAL 14th FEB**

### PICK 'N' PAMPER

Choose any two in-house treatments for £8  
Make your day that extra bit special!  
Gift vouchers available (excludes special offers)

**ILLUSIONS & TONE 'N' TRIM**

110 High Street, Ryde Tel: 615577  
www.freewebs.com/tonentrim-illusions

## GFS PLATFORM - WORKING WITH YOUNG WOMEN

The Girls' Friendly Society in England and Wales (campaign name GFS Platform) has worked with girls and women nationally and internationally since 1875.



GFS Platform is a community based project that works with young women aged 14-25 who are usually pregnant or have small children. The women may be vulnerable, need support or access to education in non-formal surroundings. Most of the attendees are from the Sandown/Shanklin area, but we can provide support Islandwide. Young women can visit GFS Platform at Winchester House, Sandown Road, Shanklin, or register with our outreach project and receive support at home.

GFS Platform offers a range of educational courses, cooking on a budget, carnival courses, help and advice on health, free creche for young mums, keep-fit classes and chill-out time. GFS have recently received a certificate of merit and £250 in the annual Community Action Awards, for all of their hard work within the community. For more information phone: 868838 or visit GFS at Winchester House, Sandown Road, Shanklin.

### Our work aims include:

- Reducing the risk of long term exclusion
- Supporting teenage parents into education, training and employment
- Ensuring access to adequate housing
- Promoting health and healthy lifestyles
- Positive citizenship
- Constructive leisure activities
- Independent living

## SUPPORT JESS IN THE LONDON MARATHON!



The London Marathon was always an adventure that Islander Jessica Hinton has always wanted to achieve, and now in 2007 she will be taking up the challenge. Jessica has chosen to raise money for Sports Aid - the charity enables talented young athletes to follow their dreams and achieve the very best in their sports. She competes at national level at trampolining so understands how hard it is to reach the top of your sport without financial support.

Please help Jess raise her target of £3000 to enable more talented young athletes to succeed. You can donate online at: [www.justgiving.com/jessicahinton](http://www.justgiving.com/jessicahinton) **18th Feb: Quiz Night, The Castle Inn, Newport at 7.30pm. Entry £5 per team or a donation to Sports Aid charity. [www.justgiving.com/jessicahinton](http://www.justgiving.com/jessicahinton)**

## THE EXPERT PATIENTS PROGRAMME

The NHS Expert Patients Programme is free to anyone with a long term illness (like arthritis, heart trouble, asthma or depression) who wants to find out ways to manage their symptoms, get the best out of appointments with their health care team or generally get more out of life. A course has been running in Wootton, on Mondays 1-1.30pm, since 15th January and ends 19th February. To find out more about the programme or become a tutor, ring Helen on: 534007 or Bev on: 023 8029 6005.

**F2R FIT2RELAX** THE SMALL FRIENDLY GYM IN NEWPORT  
 Want to join the gym but find the thought a little daunting?  
 \* Welcoming atmosphere  
 \* Independently run  
 \* Max of 6 people at any one time  
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 Fit2Relax also offers:  
 Aromatherapy/Swedish Massage & Reflexology at affordable prices  
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**NEW! Exercise classes & Gym Ball Pilates**  
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**Isle of Wight NHS Primary Care Trust**  
 The Island's new unique NHS organisation  
**ISLAND QUITTERS**  
**Nicotine Replacement Therapy is now available at support sessions**  
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 For help to quit smoking call the Isle of Wight Stop Smoking Service on **01983 814280**

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 Your smile says it All!  
**Beautiful smiles for lovers of all ages!**  
 Call Avenue Road Dental Practice, Avenue Road, Freshwater  
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# NEW SALON IS SIMPLY PARADISE



*Paradise Salon* was officially opened by the mayor of Shanklin, Graham Nichols on the 2nd January 2007. Owners of Paradise, Sarah and Simon Pointer, have been working flat out to get this new venture up and running. Thankfully the building and decoration work was in good hands as Simon and Sarah also own *W.P.M.*

The salon is bright, airy, trendy and has a minimalist yet warming ambience making it the ideal place to relax and have your hair done.

Knowing that children hate to get their hair cut, they decided to create a special child friendly area. It has a special child's seat, brightly coloured gowns, pretty pictures on the wall and sweets which will keep them happy, quiet and the tears and tantrums a thing of the past.

The salon is unisex and the Manager, Sam, is a qualified barber. The staff have been hand picked and are all friendly, helpful and approachable, which immediately puts you at ease. The experienced stylists are very professional and offer an extensive range of services including cutting, perms, colours and highlights. They stock the popular GHD range of products that

are thermodynamic, therefore protecting the hair throughout the blow drying and straightening process. Their fantastic range of skincare products from SAAF, which contain cold pressed organic ingredients like brightening rosehip oil, anti-oxidant pomegranate seed and shea butter, will leave your skin looking and feeling fresh and with a glowing complexion.

Discounts are available to bona fides students and senior citizens. The salon has late night opening on Wednesdays until 8pm and if you are looking for a complete restyle and would like to discuss the matter first, the staff are happy to offer consultations.

Left to right: Laura Smith, Sam Grant, Jade Oatley  
Centre front: Sarah Pointer



Shanklin's Mayor, Graham Nichols and Paradise owner Simon Pointer

## Do you have 46 seconds to tan?

UV-free tanning is the fastest, easiest and safest way to get a beautiful tan. Finally, every skin type can have a beautiful tan. The VersaSpa spray tanning booth is state of the art sunless tanning. The MagicTan tanning solution is the industry's finest. It couldn't be easier. Use a shower cap if you wish, apply barrier cream to areas like nails, hands and feet. Step into the VersaSpa spray tanning booth, press the flashing green button and the spray will automatically begin. In 46 seconds the session is over. It's the most beautiful tan under the sun, without sun!



11 Regent Street, Shanklin  
Phone: 866435  
email:  
reception@paradise-iow.com

## Don't forget Valentines Day February Specials



Course of 6  
MagicTans  
£80

MagicTan  
vouchers £16  
New customers  
buy 1 get 1 free

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**Everyone can  
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We are a unisex  
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In touch with  
the latest trends,  
discover the  
hidden you.**

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**Next Month...  
Waste &  
Recycling**

# The Green Pages Alternative Energy



It's clear we are now experiencing climate change, but the jury is out as to whether it's our doing. Yet there's no doubt that the burning of fossil fuels can't go on much longer - these are strictly limited finite resources.

"The closer we get to exhaustion of coal, oil and gas, the more rapidly their prices will rise" says Laurie Tennant of *Engenius*. "Unless we have alternative sources of energy we are all facing the same choice: What are we prepared to give up? The car? A warm home? Just about every modern convenience?"

Luckily, there is a simple alternative: the sun bathes us continuously in more energy than we can imagine, and all we have to do is divert a bit of it for our use. Solar energy arrives as radiation, and is available to us as sunlight, groundheat, wind and waves. We already have various technologies to use them all.

Solar panels can convert sunlight into hot water or directly into electricity, both easily used in the home. Wind and wave systems are more usually installed on a larger scale. Pipes in the ground can transfer heat from just under the surface to the home. The Island has companies ready to fit your alternatives."

For more information on all Alternative Energy sources see the adverts on this page.

If you cannot afford to replace we can all reduce fossil energy use. Make sure you switch off your TV/computer at the mains, making a saving of £50 per year per appliance. Use the money you save to buy and install long-lasting energy saving bulbs.

Service your boilers regularly, this could save a third of your heating bill. Insulate the walls and loft, an expense that can pay for itself in two winters. For more information on energy saving contact The Footprint Trust on: 822282 [www.footprinttrust.co.uk](http://www.footprinttrust.co.uk)

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Ryde  
Tel: 612010

**PERFECT PRESENTS AND  
CUTE COLLECTABLES**

*Lavender Blue*, situated in busy Union Street are receiving new stock daily to compliment their already growing range. The film *Mrs Potter* was recently released, and *Lavender Blue* have extended their Beatrix Potter range due to popular demand. They have gifts available for all the family from their ever growing range of Betty Boop bags and purses through to family favourites like Snoopy and Paddington. Their collection of Flower Fairies is continually growing and make ideal presents, whatever the age of the recipient. Valentine's and Mother's Day are just around the corner and there is a range of gifts that will suit both these occasions.



Visit *Lavender Blue*, 11 Union Street, Ryde or call: 612010.

**WHERE HAVE THE  
BEADS GONE?**



*Harvest Moon* the Island Bead Centre have been selling beads in Yarmouth since 1994 and due to customer demand, moved in the New Year to Newport High Street, a more central location. Everything in the shop is geared towards jewellery making, with a huge stock of beads, pendants, threads and findings that include clasps and pins, but customer can also use these for other crafts.

If you have ever wanted to make your own key rings, earrings, necklaces handbag charms or bracelets, *Harvest Moon* will have everything to create your own unique designs as well as the tools to make them. If you are new to jewellery making, then you can either pick up a book to guide and inspire you, or put your name down for the workshops that will be run in the shop in the coming months. Wholesale, retail and mail order are all offered by *Harvest Moon* and their catalogue is generously being offered for free for the month of February, so you can choose from the amazing range of stock even when the shops are closed!

So, if you're a bead fan, come and visit the new shop at 71 High Street, Newport or call: 559300.

**NEW LIFESTYLE STORE -  
SWITCH 45**

*Switch 45* is a brand new 'lifestyle' store in Newport, bringing with it an innovative blend of modern lifestyle products and services. These include a variety of unusual, high quality items - including clothing, CDs, records and other funky gifts and novelties - previously unavailable on the Isle of Wight. In the near future, they will be offering the facility to download music and get expert advice on the digital music world. Perhaps most importantly, they will be providing opportunities to showcase selected Island produced art, clothing and music, alongside the acclaimed designers and artists already in store.

Clothing brands currently available at *Switch 45* include *Carhartt*, *Dickies*, *Atticus*, *Spunky*, *Depfect*, *Howies* and Island label *Wight Trash*. Alongside a broad range of music there is a specialised selection of Dance, Funk, Hiphop, Punk and Metal. Art and prints come from artists such as Gorillaz creator Jamie Hewlett, Banksy, Eelus and Brighton based Modern Toss.

*Harvest Moon*  
The Island Bead Centre

**WE HAVE MOVED!**  
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IOW, 01983 822243.**

**switch 45**



# Financial & Legal News

ELDRIDGE'S LEGAL EDITORIAL -

## DOES YOUR PROPERTY HAVE REGISTERED TITLE?

BY SANDIE GUBBINS

**Did you buy your property before the 1st April 1986? Did you inherit your property or was it given to you before 1st April 1998? If so in all likelihood your property has unregistered title.**

The Land Registry has stated their intention that title to all property in England and Wales will be registered within the next few years. At the moment it is only when there are dealings with the property that title has to be registered. The Land Registry has said that in 2012 a system of compulsory registration will be put in place.

In June 2007 new regulations are due to come into force with regard to the sale of properties which means that sellers will, by law, have to provide a Home Information Pack when putting the property up for sale. Part of that Home Information Pack will consist of evidence of a seller's right of ownership. If your property already enjoys registered title, then it will be considerably simpler and faster to put together the Pack.

To encourage homeowners to register titles that are currently unregistered, the Land Registry offers a 25% discount on the registration fee, which is based upon the value of the property.

The advantages of registering your title include:

- \* Clarification as to the boundaries of your property. This is particularly important if you own a large area of land such as farmland or woodland.
- \* You will have the benefit of the discounted fee for voluntary registration.
- \* It will be easier and quicker to prepare the Home Information Pack if you are selling your property.

We strongly recommend that you find out whether your property has registered or unregistered title. If it turns out that your property still has unregistered title, we would be happy to advise and assist if you decide that it would be to your advantage to register title to your property now, rather than wait until compulsory registration is introduced or until you decide to sell your property.

Sandie Gubbins is a solicitor at Eldridges Newport Office, 36 St. James Street, Newport, Isle of Wight PO30 1LF. Tel: 01983 524741 Fax: 01983 521421.

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# MORTGAGE MONTHLY

BY MARGARET JONES



**What is going to happen to interest rates? This is the question I am hearing most especially since the surprise rise in rates last month. And, like everyone else, it came unexpectedly and caused a lot of nervousness in the mortgage markets.**

It is always hard to predict the future of interest rates. Although they have raised the Bank of England base rate to 5.25% compared to the not so distant future when the rate was much higher, this is

still a fairly low rate overall. However, this is not much comfort to those who, because of the high house prices currently, have had to take their maximum mortgage borrowing in order to buy their property and are now struggling with another increase in their monthly outgoings.

If you are on a tracker or variable rate mortgage and have a penalty period still ongoing with your existing lender, you may well have to grit your teeth and ride out the higher monthly payments until that period ends. If, however, you have no penalties or very low penalties left on your variable mortgage, then it might be a good time to consider a re-mortgage to a fixed rate instead.

Most new mortgage customers are opting for fixed rates due to the uncertainty of where interest rates are likely to be in a year or two's time. The fixed rate option gives you peace of mind that you can budget over a set period for your monthly mortgage payment without concern if the rate changes during that period. Yes, you will miss out if rates fall, and I heard on the business grapevine just yesterday that they may indeed fall again shortly, but you

do have stability, which, for many of us is more important.

The housing market is still buoyant in spite of interest rate hikes, which still means that most people are having to borrow to their maximum allowable and therefore it is sensible to choose the fixed rate option.

Whatever your mortgage needs, do give me a call for independent advice.

For further information about any of these mortgages or insurance products or to arrange a no obligation meeting to discuss your mortgage requirements, please call me on: 616560 or 07717 216044 to arrange an appointment.



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# Business News

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## FREE HELP TO BOOST BUSINESS



Each month Steve Reading, Small Business Manager with Business Link on the island, provides some useful tips for local businesses.

By now, with the new year well under way and the frenzied activity of the festive season a fast-fading memory, business is no doubt back to normal. However, is 'normal' good enough? Do you aspire to do more? What are your business hopes and expectations for 2007? Would you like some free, expert impartial help to make your business run a little smoother or to inject some added zing?

If you employ more than five people why not start with a review of your business – it's absolutely free from Business Link! We have nine staff based on the Island, two of whom – business advisers Graham White and Hilary Morgan – can visit your premises, assess your needs and then work with you to produce an action plan designed to improve your business. They will then help you to implement this action plan with input from external service providers. Whatever your needs – anything from wanting to grow your business through to developing procedures for staff – these business experts can help.

Or perhaps one of your New Year resolutions was to start your own business? If so, give us a call on the number below to see how we can help you get started.

Last year our free 1-2-1 business advice clinics proved very popular and continue to be in great demand. They help provide a reality check for your business and are a very worthwhile investment of an hour of your time. In addition, our Business Clubs provide excellent peer group learning, fine company and good food. Call the number below for details of the next Club meeting nearest you. Membership is free but booking is essential.

For further information and practical help call our Customer Connections Team on: 0845 600 9 006 or log onto [www.businesslinkhampshireiow.co.uk](http://www.businesslinkhampshireiow.co.uk), your route to free, impartial advice.

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# Homes & Gardens



## GARDENING IN RYDE BY MIKE SANTER

It is not too late to plant garlic! Last September as part of the IW Food Festival I visited the Garlic Farm at Newchurch. A very interesting day was spent learning about the types, history and cultivation of garlic and a chance to taste the different varieties. One particular variety of garlic was said to do best if planted in spring, up to mid March, as opposed to the usual autumn planting. The variety is Solent Wight,

a soft-necked type which has better keeping qualities. Garlic will grow on most soil types except acid and will also grow well in pots. Break bulb into individual cloves taking care not to damage them, plant six inches apart and deep enough so that there is one inch of soil above the top of the clove. Keep well watered until three weeks before harvest. Garlic is also recommended for keeping pests away from roses, plant individual cloves around the base of your rose and the smell will deter those irritating little beasts. If you have a heated greenhouse or a warm windowsill you can sow tomato seeds now in trays. Cover with a polythene bag until the seedlings are visible and three or four weeks later transfer to three inch individual pots. Plant into borders or growbags in May.

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# THE BEACON PROPERTY PAGE

## WHEN TO SELL YOUR PROPERTY

BY CHRISTOPHER SCOTT PROPERTY CONSULTANTS AND ESTATE AGENTS

At this time of year we are frequently asked to give homeowners, who are considering a sale, advice on how best to market their property. Beyond issues such as value and production of appropriate marketing material, timing is an aspect on which vendors frequently seek our advice.

Whilst some people need to get on with a sale whatever the time of year (due to a job move, or seeing the house of their dreams appear on the market) others have the choice of when to put their house on the market. The typical dilemma at this time of year evolves around whether to proceed with marketing now or whether to wait until gardens and the surrounding countryside become more attractive.

The answer depends upon both the individual characteristics of the property and other wider factors such as economic and market conditions. The advantages of selling earlier in the year is that there is generally less property on the market to act as competition. In recent years we have seen strong activity in the market early in the Spring, which has resulted in many good sales.

If a vendor waits for the garden to come into bloom, the chances are more properties will be appearing onto the market. There is no doubt that the volume of viewings in those areas of the Island that are popular with mainland purchasers do increase, but this does not always equate to a better chance of achieving a good sale.

As for 2007, we are so far seeing evidence of a good degree of activity as well as confidence amongst purchasers despite interest rate rises and poor weather conditions. The introduction of Home Information Packs on 1st June 2007 may well result in more properties coming onto the market in the first half of the year. In summary if the pricing and marketing are right the prospects for a sale look good for now.

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*Quay St, Yarmouth by Thomas Rowlandson, reproduced with the kind permission of the IW Council*

## ISLAND STORY

# An Artist's View of the Wight in the 1790s

BY JOHN MEDLAND

In 1791 four artists made a perilous crossing to the Island to undertake a memorable holiday, seeking inspiration and pleasure amidst bucolic beauty and spectacular coastal landscape. In their drawing and painting they pictured both a lost pre-industrial world and the very beginnings of the tourist revolution that has defined the Island ever since. An exhibition of seventeen watercolours by Thomas Rowlandson (1756-1827) is now on display at the Guildhall, Newport and a limited edition of reproductions now available.

In the summer of 1791 Thomas Rowlandson boarded a ferry at Lymington bound for Yarmouth. With him were three friends and fellow artists, Henry Wigstead (1760-1832), with whom he had made an earlier painting tour of the Island in 1784, his brother-in-law Samuel Howitt (1756-1822) and possibly John Bannister.

Rowlandson was a well known London satirical artist, 35 years old, a lean bachelor with a taste for the pleasures of life. He had travelled widely in Britain and Europe. His incisive artwork makes him a kind of photojournalist of Georgian Britain.

In the 1790s the Tourist Revolution which defines modernity and industrialisation of the Isle of Wight had already begun. "Parties of Pleasure were frequently made to it" wrote J. Hassell in *A Tour of the Isle of Wight* published in 1790. The visitors enjoyed the ivy covered ruins of Carisbrooke Castle and the wild spectacular coastline. Pictures of both subjects appear in the collection of 112 pictures by Rowlandson, Howitt and others made on different painting trips of the 1790s from which this exhibition is drawn.

Tourism was still in its infancy and still dangerous. Some of Rowlandson's pictures show the kind of vessel their ferry was, a small open decked sailing ship which was now blown off course by "very tempestuous" weather. *Landed at Shalfleet* shows Rowlandson and his three companions disembarking and looking worse for wear. The next picture [right] shows them relaxing in the happier surroundings of the New Inn, with drinks and smiling countenances, Rowlandson sketching.

In the next picture the travellers resume their broken journey in *Conveyance to Yarmouth*. If modern ferries are one advantage of modern tourism, roads are another. The rough cart in which the gentlemen are travelling is seen negotiating a track over a stream. For their dignity they have each been seated on a dining room chair on the back of the cart.

Yarmouth was the Island's second official town but had shrunk in importance since the Middle Ages. It had a population of 350, about half that of the parishes of Shalfleet or Calbourne. However unlike the "rotten borough" of Newtown, tiny Yarmouth was still a real town. There were inns and tradesmen, a small garrison in the castle, fishermen and a market. Yarmouth was a natural point for the new tourists to hire trips to visit the spectacular western coast. Rowlandson's view of Quay Street, (above) like that of the New Inn, despite the obvious differences is comfortingly familiar over two centuries on.

Upriver of Yarmouth lay the tiny hamlets of Freshwater and the scattered farms of Totland. Under 600 people lived west of the Yar. Rowlandson's party painted marine and landscape views, the church, and the Cabin Inn at Freshwater Bay, a drinking haunt of



*"The Public-house at Shalfleet" by Thomas Rowlandson. Reproduced with the kind permission of the IW Council*

Rowlandson's friend, the artist George Morland.

Southeast of Freshwater and south of the roadless "ridge of mountains running through the middle of the Island" the 'Back of the Wight' was even more remote and the only part of the Island not to be recorded in the collection. About 1,500 people lived in the five parishes between Brook and Chale, making a living from mixed farming, wreck salvage and smuggling.

**From Yarmouth our intrepid travellers made the journey to Newport on tracks over a succession of fields, stopping to open and close over fifty gates.**

Newport was the Island's capital and focus of the Island's population. Almost 6,000 of about 22,000 Islanders lived in the town and the parish of Carisbrooke. Newport had already developed a role we are familiar with today. In 1794 Henry Wyndham described it as "handsome and well built... the shops are numerous and as superbly stocked as they are in most of the English cities". But Newport was much more, a thriving tidal port, with a dozen watermills, workshops and bustling markets. One of these is shown (right) in Rowlandson's view of the Old Town Hall from St Thomas' with the traders' stalls where the museum is now and soldiers from Parkhurst barracks chatting up local women in the square.

**If Newport had one serious rival it was its "suburb" of Cowes and East Cowes.** Newport's town corporation controlled the harbour but on land the twin towns of the Medina estuary were rapidly developing. The parishes of Northwood and Whippingham which included the new settlements had a population of 3,800 by the 1790s. Hassell describes the narrow crowded streets as "indifferently built", but its inhabitants as "genteel and polite without being troublesomely ceremonious"



*The Vine Inn at East Cowes by Thomas Rowlandson. Reproduced with the kind permission of the IW Council.*

The new twin towns of Cowes made the easiest landing point on the Island from Southampton and one of the pictures (above) shows passengers landing at the Vine Inn at Cowes. Two of Howitt's pictures in the collection but not in this exhibition show infant Cowes already grappling with its future identity. In one picture are bathing machines reflecting the town becoming a fashionable resort. Another shows a shipbuilding yard where J.S. Whites would later develop.

The whole north-east coast of the Wight could not help but be affected by the development of Portsmouth and the Spithead as the greatest naval port and anchorage in the world offering shelter to all vessels using the Channel, the greatest trading highway of the world. The Island supplied food, drink and ships' spares and naval officers built gothic villas on the Island's coast. By the end of the century 1,500 people lived in **Brading and St Helens** and another 2,000 in the parish of Newchurch which included the villages of **Lower and Upper Ryde**. Rowlandson's painting of Brading is one the earliest known and Howitt's paintings of Lower Ryde capture the wooden beginnings of the modern town.



*Newport Market Place by Thomas Rowlandson. Reproduced with the kind permission of the IW Council*

Rowlandson and his companions also travelled south, probably now on horseback, through the rich agrarian parishes of **Arreton and Godshill** which mustered 2,500 parishioners. Beyond the sheep runs on the surrounding chalk downs the spectacular eastern and southern coastline was almost totally deserted. There were barely 600 people living between Culver Cliff and St Catherines.

Where now stand the three towns of **Sandown, Shanklin and Ventnor**, there was just a fort, a smattering of longshoremen's cottages and the tiny village of Shanklin, "lost to the sight in a perfect wilderness" its church standing in the middle of the yard of Mr Jolliffe's Shanklin Farm, serenaded by "an uncommon number of singing birds".

Throughout this picturesque idyll the party rode from inn to substantial inn, showing that the tourist trade was already well established. Shanklin Chine had steps and a stone arch. The fisherman's cottage was so often used for the purpose that it became known as "Honeymoon Cottage".

Sometime between 1830 and 1837, 22 pictures by Howitt, 53 by Rowlandson and 23 by their companions were bound by William IV's bookbinder into two volumes which became the property of the Marquess of Bath. In 2002 they were purchased by the IW Council with help from the Heritage Lottery and Art funds. In 2004 details of some of the pictures were shown at Shanklin Chine Heritage Centre.

The current exhibition of 17 of Rowlandson's watercolours lasts to March 24th. The IW Council has also authorised specialists Maritime Prints and Originals to make a limited edition of just 350 of each of the pictures on show. Faithfully reproduced and beautifully mounted they are now available [see advertisement below or [thomasrowlandson.com](http://thomasrowlandson.com)].

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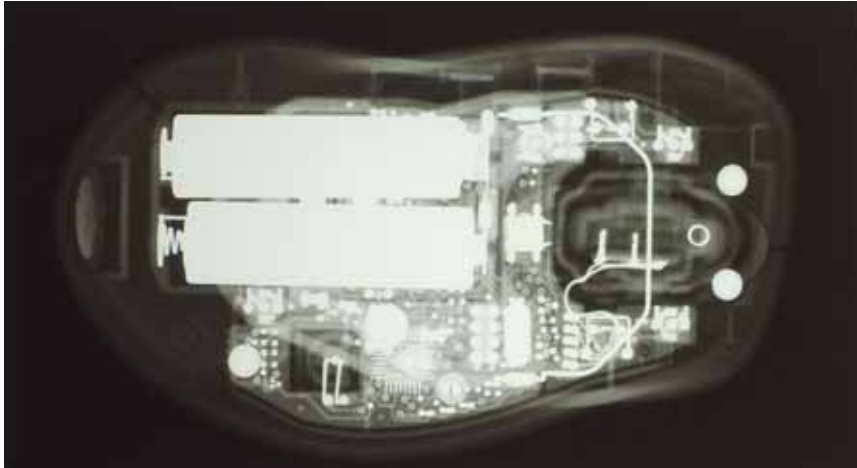
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# Competition Page

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Two tickets to *Spring Blues 2007* at the Ventnor Wintergardens, on Saturday 17th March. The gig features Eugene "Hideaway" Bridges, The Dance Preachers, plus the Amen Boogie Blues Band.

Fill in our on-line survey at: [www.iwbeacon.com/survey.php](http://www.iwbeacon.com/survey.php) to win book vouchers worth £20. Competition closes 28th February.



Two tickets to *All in Good Time*, at the Apollo Theatre, Newport. Performances take place from Weds 28th March to Sat 31st March and Weds 4th to Sat 7th April 2007.



Two tickets to the West Wight Arts Association concert, Saturday 10th March 7.30pm, at the Memorial Hall, Freshwater., Thomas Carroll will be playing the Cello and Lly Williams on Piano.

I think the x-rayed image is: .....

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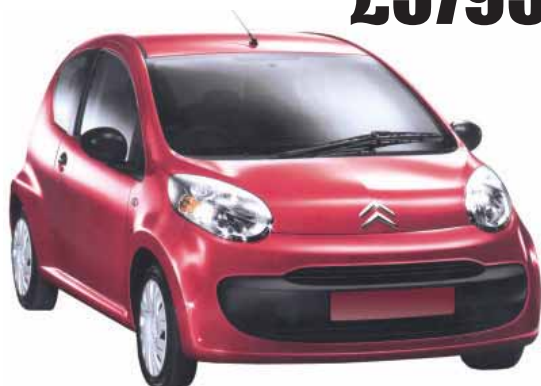
email: ..... Prize preference: .....

Send your entries to: IW Beacon Competition, 25 Daish Way, Dodnor Industrial Estate, Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 5XJ by 28th February 2007. Terms and conditions of entry for competitions and draws are available on request. Prizes must be redeemed within 30 days of draw date.

\*Hamper image for illustration purposes only, actual hamper and contents may vary

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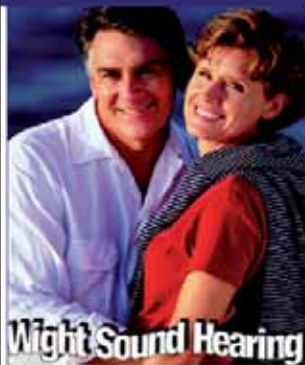
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