



NEWSLETTER

Autumn Edition 2015 from Councillor David Jones – Cowes Town Mayor

The bustle of summer is now just a memory with the shorter days we now look forward to Christmas. Cowes is certainly a town of contrasts; Cowes Week crowds in August, a near deserted High St in November. This autumn Cowes Town Council and Cowes Business Association are working together with the aim of making the High St a little brighter (details on page 2.)

The picture (right) was taken on 3rd October. Planters on the Parade, left from Cowes Week, were still very colourful. Thanks to Taylor Events, who manage the Cowes Week Parade Village, for agreeing to leave them in situ. Your Town Council agreed to water them; meaning that the Parade looked colourful for an extra seven weeks.



While on the Parade enjoying the early morning sunshine I could not resist taking the picture (below) of Cowes Castle covered in Virginia Creeper in all its autumn glory. I am constantly reminded, in



many ways, that I am extremely lucky to live in a great town on a beautiful Island. To be Mayor of Cowes is indeed a great honour.

Now just a memory; I was honoured to represent the town during Cowes Week. As well as sailing related events, including the Mariners' Service at Holy Trinity, a highlight was bowling the first wood and presenting the prizes at the Open Bowls Tournament. Watching my dismal effort rapidly disappearing into the ditch seemed somehow appropriate.

This is your town, town councillors are your representatives, so if you have any concerns, ideas or just wish to comment please contact your local council; contact details are on the last page. Town and Parish Councillors are all unpaid volunteers, we might not always get it right and are constantly frustrated by not being able to achieve everything we would like, but with local support we can aim to make Cowes an even better place to live.

YOUR COUNCIL

I am very pleased to announce that a new town councillor, Jean Bartrum, has been chosen for the Medina Ward vacancy; she attended her first meeting on Thursday 5th November. Applications for the vacancy in the North Ward closed on 4th November, there was just one applicant. Co-option is not ideal however until there is an election called it is down to a panel of existing councillors to choose the best candidate.

Since the Summer Newsletter Cowes Town Council has met in Full Council three times, there has also been Finance, Projects & Planning sub-committee meetings. At the September meeting it was agreed that we contact the Isle of Wight Council suggesting that by only collecting tickets on one side of the river, significant savings could be made as well as speeding up the operation of the Floating Bridge. The response indicated that this suggestion will not be accepted. Your local councils both sides of the river will continue to monitor management of this vital link.

The Planning Sub-Committee, which has delegated powers, having already objected to the proposed Costa coffee outlet also contacted the IW Council Planning Dept. requesting that the Bailey's store application is heard by the Isle of Wight Council Planning Committee rather than the decision being made by a planning officer under delegated powers. Despite there being well over 300 objections registered it was decided that there were not enough valid planning reasons to send it to committee or refuse the application and it was approved by a planning officer.

Having already budgeted for Festive Lights to be erected in the High St it was resolved that Cowes Town Council will purchase the lights on behalf of Cowes Business Association who will repay the costs over the next three years. Delivered during the first week in November they are being erected as I write and the switch on should be on 14th November (fingers crossed). Your council is very pleased to be able to work with local organisations in order to brighten up the town and boost business. This picture gives a feel of how the High St might look shortly. It was also agreed that this year there will just one Christmas tree, outside the Vectis Tavern. Feedback on what you think of both the lights and tree will be welcome



Having paid for local maps it was rather disappointing to find that they were not on show. It was agreed that stands be purchased and provided to Red Funnel and Aqua Marine, where the Tourist Information Point is currently situated. It was also agreed to replace a broken finger post close to the Vectis Tavern with directions to the Tourist point.

At the October council meeting a recommendation from the Finance Committee to grant Cowes T S Osborne Sea Cadets a grant of £3,250 towards the cost of fire & safety equipment was accepted. It was also agreed to provide winter bedding plants for the flower beds on Prince's Green, quotations for planting and maintenance will be sought with a budget of £600.

A group of Town Councillors recently met with Trustees of Northwood House Charitable Trust; a very productive meeting with both sides showing a desire to work together to ensure the House and Park continue to flourish. A Town Councillor has joined their Park Sub-committee. The Trust recently celebrated their 5th birthday. Thinking back to the task facing them at the time the condition of both House and Park today is testament to what a small group of dedicated hard working volunteers can achieve. Well done to all those, past and present and on behalf of the Town, thank you.

At the monthly Town Council meeting held on 5th November Margaret Ankers, Chairman of the Isle of Wight Literary Festival thanked Cowes Town Council for their support of this event. In return Councillors congratulated and thanked Margaret and her team for arranging such a prestigious event. The Literary Festival has grown over the years and is now a major event which has put Cowes firmly on the literary map.

Also at this meeting the condition of roads and in particular how utilities seem to be able to dig up newly surfaced roads with impunity was discussed. Several other highway issues were also considered and it was agreed that we contact the Isle of Wight Council and Island Roads asking that they urgently address these issues. Some are long outstanding, such as reducing the hours when traffic is allowed through the High St and bollards to prevent illegal traffic. Something Cowes Town Council is willing to consider managing.

Early discussions regarding enhancing the Gateway to Cowes (the Red Funnel, Fountain Yard, the Harbour Commission Office and Nat West Bank area) was reported. Cowes Town Council will continue to be involved in any decisions on this important area.

A group of councillors are again meeting IW Council officers to find the best solution to proposed budget cuts to the Library service. We are also working with the Supporters of Cowes Library; hopefully between us we can find a satisfactory outcome.

A consultation document regarding the Medina Valley Area Action Plan is now available for consultation, this is an important document which will impact on where and the number of new dwellings in the area, employment sites, infrastructure, green gaps between communities and more. This is a chance to have a voice concerning the future of where we live.

POST OFFICE

On December 1st a new temporary Post Office will open in a Portakabin in Cowes Yacht Haven **PLEASE NOTE** access will be only via The Fountain Yard, Harbour Commission entrance **NOT** through the Yacht Haven. The latest information is that Marks & Spencer's have allowed the Post Office to remain in their car park for another month, thus allowing a seamless transfer. Cowes Town Council, in particular Cllr McNeill, has worked hard to ensure that the Post office stays in Cowes.

Thanks are due to Marks & Spencer's for giving up a large area in their car park for much longer than was originally planned.

MOORGREEN ALLOTMENT

Moorgreen Road Allotments are a remarkable community asset that has been putting fresh fruit and veg on the tables of Cowes households for more than 120 years. The site covers an area of about 4 acres and almost completely encircles the former Moorgreen Reservoir which is now managed as a public green space.

Looking after the allotments is a genuine community effort. In 1999 the Isle of Wight Council handed responsibility for management and maintenance of the site to the Moorgreen Road Allotment Society. This body represents each of the site's 45 plot holders and is coordinated by a Committee of volunteers who draw up work plans, organise social events and manage relationships with external bodies.

It is not the fruit and veg alone for which the allotments are valued by plot holders. The healthy benefits of working a plot are well understood and are ably demonstrated by some of our more elderly members. In equal measure the allotments provide a friendly and supportive environment with an added bonus for those wanting to enjoy some quiet contemplation with a wonderful view. The woodland area on the boundary of the site is home to families of both foxes and badgers, which have been captured by our wildlife camera as they patrol the site at night. Whilst there is little doubt these residents help keep down pests on the site, some plot holders report that they also have a taste for some of their crops! With its many compost heaps the site also provides good habitat for slowworms some of which can live to up to 30 years.

We recently held our first horticultural show for many years which was a resounding success. The weather was wonderful, the produce of a very high standard and Mayor David Jones officiated in the judging. All who came enjoyed the day and are now looking forward to next years.

The Society always welcomes new members.

There is usually a short waiting list for those wishing to become plot holders, but we hope this

won't deter budding allotmenters who can contact us on mgrallotments@gmail.com.



I thank the Allotment Society for this article and would just like to add my admiration for the work they are doing. The chance to meet them and judge their top class produce was one of the highlights of my year. The picture above shows the colourful entries in the "Trug of Vegetables" at their horticultural show.

COWES HARBOUR ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Cowes Harbour Advisory Committee (CHAC) exists to look after the interests of all harbour users and is well placed to play an important role in the local community. Cowes Harbour Commission (CHC) is obliged to consult the Advisory Committee on all matters substantially affecting the management, maintenance, improvement, conservation, protection, or regulation of the harbour and its navigation.

Ben Willows, Chairman of the Advisory Committee, said: “We work very hard to understand the current needs and issues of the community, and as a committee we feed that information to CHC. In addition, the Advisory Committee performs an essential role by distributing information back to the community so that stakeholders can ask questions and have their views represented to the Commission.”

“Projects that the Advisory Committee has recently been involved with include; advising on the new Cowes Breakwater, Harbour General Directions, and working together on the Estuaries Project, water quality, speed and wash control, installing new signage on the river, and harbour safety.”

The Advisory Committee is made up of 14 members from key stakeholder groups as follows:

Nominated Body	CHAC Member
Commercial Ship and Wharf Operators	Ian Baylis
Cowes Business Association	Jeremy Pocock
Cowes Clubs and Classes Association	Rodney Barton and Bob Milner
Cowes Town Council	Cllr John Corby
Cowes Combined Clubs and CWL	Peter Dickson
East Cowes Town Council	Cllr Morris Barton
Medina Combined Clubs	Adrian Wilkins (Vice Chairman) and Ray Redrup
Red Funnel Group	Mark Slawson
Newport Harbour Authority and IW Council	Alex Minns
Dean and Reddyhoff	Mike Townshend
Cowes Town Waterfront Trust and BMF	Jon Pridham
Sailing and Training Schools	Ben Willows (Chairman)

CHAC representatives are independent and selected by Committee members and their stakeholder groups. The Committee meets at least four times a year; the minutes from these meetings are published on the CHC website (cowesharbourcommission.co.uk) and Committee members also circulate the minutes through their stakeholder groups.

Ben added: “Anyone who has an interest in the river and harbour, and would like to know more about the work of the Advisory Committee, is welcome to contact us. We are more than happy to respond and advise people on the best course of action to take or where to find out further information.”

You can contact the Advisory Committee by letter to: Cowes Harbour Commission, Harbour Office, Town Quay, Cowes, PO31 7AS, or by email to chac@cowes.co.uk.



COWES LIBRARY

The Supporters of Cowes Library Group was formed in 2011 to support the library staff, and help sustain the library service. The group consists of volunteers from all backgrounds who share an interest in keeping the Library open. The group raises funds at various events and activities, some of which are listed below. The money raised so far has been spent on enhancements to the Library and its services, such as a notice board in the town, new shelving, new furniture for the children's library, paying for a monthly magic workshop in the library, board games and lego, toys for rhyme time and craft materials for various children's activities

At the moment, there is a very strong core of frequent helpers who are able to run craft events, assist with children's activities, prepare for book sales, provide and serve refreshments etc. There are a few volunteers who assist in the day to day running of the Library and new volunteers are being encouraged. However, the Supporters Group do not want to see fewer experienced staff being replaced with volunteers. Cowes Library has become a community hub and apart from helping and assisting all types of people and providing all sorts of services, the Supporters and staff have come to work together extremely well.



Some of the events that have taken place are:
Donated Book sales, a regular fund raising event
Christmas Arts and Crafts Fairs
Ladies Evening
Games Club
Lego Club
Huxley's Magic Hub
Music evenings
Author talks and poetry evenings
Monthly Philo Café
Reading Agency promotions (Star Wars, Harry Potter etc.....)
National Libraries Day and World Book Day/Night
Summer Reading Challenge
Festival of the Sea events

If anyone would like to join the Supporters of Cowes Library Group, please contact Cowes Library on Tel: 293341
Supporters of Cowes Library Group

VISIT BY THE GRANDSON OF CAPTAIN WOJCIECH FRANCKI.

On Wednesday 23rd September I was privileged to meet Dr Michael Francki the grandson of Captain Wojciech Francki at FRANCKI PLACE. Captain Francki was the commander of ORP Blyskawica crucial to the defence of Cowes in May 1942. Michael and his wife who live in Australia, were in England staying with friends during their time here they visited his aunt, Janina Doroszkowska, Capt. Francki's daughter as well as visiting this town which his grandfather must have often spoken about.

Michael expressed gratitude to the people of Cowes who have honoured his grandfather. It was fascinating to hear his memories of a remarkable person; his grandfather. I was pleased to tell Michael that his grandfather Captain Francki and the Cowes built ship he commanded, ORP Blyskawica, will always have a special place in both Cowes and East Cowes.



A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

The Lights of Love Carol Concert in aid of Earl Mountbatten Hospice will take place at Birmingham Rd Methodist Church on Thursday 10th December at 6.30pm. This is a great chance to open your lungs singing some well known carols. Cowes Town Council has agreed to make a donation of £400 and there will also be a collection box available. Candles can be lit in memory of a loved one.



VOLUNTEER EXTRAORDINAIRE



A member of Moorgreen Allotment Society octogenarian Bill Rogers is seen here planting wallflowers at the bottom of Market Hill. Not only planting but growing the plants as well. The wallflowers were donated by Bill who grew them on his allotment plot. He also helped plant them; many thanks to this active volunteer. Bill was one of the volunteers who planted the troughs and planters through the town this spring. Bill's green fingers were in evidence when he won several prizes at the Moorgreen allotment horticultural show. His plate of giant onions was testament to his green fingers.

ABCD

Having listened with interest to Cllr John Nicholson's enthusiastic explanation of ABDC I asked him for a brief summary for this newsletter. I have also included extracts from John's thoughts on mental health; I trust you find them food for thought. I'm sure John will be happy to talk to anyone affected by these issues. His contact details are at the end of the newsletter.

ABCD (Asset Based Community Development) is live and anyone and everyone can partake; it is not difficult. In fact, it can be fun, and could be seen as a step backwards to go forward. By that I mean to pick up on the best of old fashioned values of community (not the ones that didn't work, but the one's that worked well) and apply them to building strong community again in our modern environment, and this can be instigated by a few simple questions:

- *What do you care about enough to do something about?*
- *What skills, knowledge, expertise, resources or time do you have to put towards this?*
- *Are you prepared to offer this as a gift to your community?*
- *Would you be prepared to meet others in your community who share the same aim and ambition?*
- *What assets in your community would you recommend to others?*

Go on, give it a go, just ask yourself, your family and friends, and people in your neighbourhood, don't make assumptions and see where it takes you – let me know how you get on!

As Ruby Wax is publically stating, mental states are the cause behind the cause of many physical illnesses, stress related diseases, depression, anxiety, intolerance, violence, addictions, failure to learn. IW Police have run a programme called Serenity, where, instead of continually putting repeat offenders through the criminal justice system, they combined with a local NHS support team and looked into the emotional issues that these people face, whose ages range from teens into retirement. They found that the top eight all shared a common emotional issue that stemmed from their childhoods. When that emotional issue was identified and addressed, with support, they stopped offending. These issues are not resolved by drugs, medicine, prosecution or by being ignored. We have, for too long and at too much cost (social, economic, personal) been focused on attacking the symptoms, ignoring the underlying cause because it is too ethereal; what distresses one, others ride; we are intent on punishment rather than help, ignoring that it is not pleasant to behave in that way. We need to see the person behind the presenting behaviour and deal with the cause, it makes sense socially, economically and at a personal level.

COWES HERITAGE EXHIBITION

From 17th October to 8th November visitors to Regatta House, Bath Rd were able to enjoy a “Celebration”. Cowes Heritage, now in their 11th year highlighted reasons to Celebrate.

The many occasions in the past when people of Cowes, Gurnard and Northwood had good cause to be in high spirits are depicted in ‘Celebrations’. The event includes past memorable milestones of the four local Women’s Institutes in the area. As this is the centenary year of the very first WI in the country, the official opening was performed at a preview evening by Sue Biss, Vice Chairman of the Island’s Federation of Women’s Institutes. Sue Biss told fellow guests she was fascinated by the variety of subjects covered. “So much hard work has gone into this, and I hope everybody who comes enjoys the experience as much as I have.” Other subjects covered in the displays include special events involving the Royal Yacht Squadron, street parties, royal visits, football triumphs, Northwood Primary and Solent Middle schools and boat launchings.



Sue Biss, centre, with Maureen & John Groves.

FRIENDS OF NORTHWOOD CEMETERY LAUNCH EVENT

On Saturday 7th November the Friends held their first open day since being awarded a



Heritage Lottery Fund grant. The event held at Northwood House attracted a significant number of visitors who heard Richard Smout give a very interesting talk “Remembering the Past, Preserving the Future” and FoNC Chairman Jon Matthews summarised how the group reached this exciting position since its formation in 2008. Stands featured the proposed Woodland Burial Ground, plans of the restored buildings, interesting monuments, people buried there, and the rich fauna and flora helped explain to those present the “good news” story of £1.68 million HLF grant to save the twin chapels and enhance this precious green lung. If you

have not visited the Cemetery can I suggest next spring will be a great time to do so.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 8TH NOVEMBER

This year’s Remembrance Sunday event was attended by a large crowd. Following the two minutes silence and the laying of wreaths Reverend Poppe read the names of the 39 men from Cowes who were killed in action between August 4th 1914 and the 8th November 1915; 100 years ago.

PRO PATRIA

IN PROUD AND LOVING MEMORY OF THE MEN BELONGING TO THIS TOWN WHO LAID DOWN THEIR LIVES IN THE FIRST YEAR OF THE GREAT WAR 1914 – 1915.

It seems as if every year there are more people paying their respects by the War Memorial and St Mary’s Church was packed. It is one of the pleasant duties of the Mayor to take the salute on the Parade. There is always a good turn out of young people; this year I was struck by just how young some of them were. Thank you all, young and old, involved in this special day of Remembrance.



TOWN COUNCILLORS ELECTED TO COWES TOWN COUNCIL and COMMITTEES

David Jones (Town Mayor)	Cowes Medina	298445
Mark McNeill (Deputy Town Mayor)	Cowes North	0779 0777101
Geoff Banks	Cowes West	295425
Jean Bartrum	Cowes Medina	717210
Linda Brown	Cowes South	295222
John Corby	Cowes North	07798753962
Veronica Cowan	Cowes West	200415
Stuart Ellis	Cowes Medina	246352
Paul Fuller*	Cowes North	289595
Lynn Hammond	Cowes Medina	282308
John Nicholson*	Cowes South	619130
Lora Peacey-Wilcox*	Cowes Medina	247177
Bob Robinson	Cowes West	294234
Jacqui Spalding	Cowes South	291877
Wendy Wardrop	Cowes North	298687

*** Also Isle of Wight Councillors**

Sub-committee members:

Planning and Licensing: Chairman Cllr Jones, Cllrs Banks, Brown, Cowan, Nicholson, and Wardrop.

Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing: Chairman Cllr McNeill, Cllrs Banks, Brown, Corby, Ellis and Hammond.

Projects: Chairman Cllr Nicholson, Cllrs Banks, Brown, Corby, Nicholson and Spalding.

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor are members of all sub-committees.

Details of when these committees meet are on the Town Council website and are posted on the noticeboard at least a week prior to the meeting.

CONTACTING YOUR WARD TOWN COUNCILLOR

Any written communications to councillors can be sent via the Cowes Town Council offices and any email communications to councillors should be copied to the Cowes Town Council offices for record purposes. Email addresses of councillors can be found on the Town Council website, www.cowestowncouncil.org.uk.

MEETINGS

Our next full council meeting is at 7pm on Thursday 17th December. Meetings are in the Library at Northwood House. All are most welcome to attend.

The Notice of these Meetings and Agendas are posted on the notice board outside of W H Hurst and can be viewed in the Cowes Public Library and are available on the Council's website as given below.

Office & Communications –Ms Debbie Faulkner, Town Clerk, Cowes Town Council, Northwood House, Ward Avenue, Cowes PO31 8AZ.

Tel. 209022, email town.clerk@cowestowncouncil.org.uk.

Opening hours generally Mon. – Fri 9.30 to 12.00 (except Bank Holidays).

Why not visit our website at www.cowestowncouncil.org.uk for updated news, minutes of meetings and an introduction to your Town Council.

