



Winter Edition 2016 from Councillor David Jones – Cowes Town Mayor

This year looks as if it will be an interesting and challenging one for Town & Parish Councils. Those discretionary services that the Isle of Wight Council wish us to take over are detailed later. They represent a significant increase in responsibility for your local council. Since the Autumn Newsletter we have had two full council meetings as well as sub-committees, the minutes of all our meetings can be viewed at www.cowestowncouncil.org.uk

I make no apology for a preponderance of marine based articles in this newsletter, past, present & future Cowes is linked to the sea. Attracting international events, preserving our past & encouraging young people to get into boats is vital for our town's wellbeing & future as a world renowned sailing centre.

At the December meeting I was pleased to welcome a new Town Councillor, Vanessa Slade, both Vanessa and our other recently appointed councillor, Jean Bartrum are already making a positive contribution to council business.

Also at the December meeting councillors were delighted when the Town Council was congratulated by a resident on the wonderful lights in the High St, many favourable comments had been voiced. He also presented a cheque for £250 towards the cost kindly donated by a local lady who has had a lifelong interest in Cowes. Thanks to Russell Phillips, FW Marsh's contract manager and his team Tony Hough, Mike Fry, Luke Evemy & Gareth Stock who worked under difficult conditions and to a tight schedule to have the lights in place for the switch on. The festive lights are a joint Cowes Town Council / Cowes Business Association initiative.

During the main business of the December meeting concern was expressed regarding the crossing lights at the Mill Hill/Birmingham Rd junction. We have had reports of near misses as drivers fail to see the red stop light. It was felt that they are in the wrong place and are underused because of safety fears. The clerk was instructed to write to Island Roads to enquire whether these lights are legally placed. We have since heard that as no accidents have been recorded it is unlikely any action will be taken.

A large number of recommendations from the Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee were resolved. The following grants were approved: 2nd Cowes (St Mary's) Sea Scouts £4,481, Cowes Carnival £3,000, Isle of Wight Music, Dance & Drama Festival £100, Moorgreen Rd Allotment Society £1,479.85 Lanesend School £1,000, Isle of Wight Literary Festival £5,000. A request for funding a defibrillator from Cowes Amateur Operatic & Dramatic Society was put on hold pending a survey of publically available defibrillators in the town (next page). It was agreed to allocate £500 towards winter bedding plants at Prince's Green.



As part of the devolution of services from the Isle of Wight Council to Town & Parish Councils Cowes Town Council agreed to take over the upkeep of open spaces in the town, these are Park Rd Recreation ground, Arctic Park, Moorgreen Reservoir, St Marys Park, Mornington Green & the Park Rd rose bed. Having earlier reached an agreement with Northwood House Charitable Trust to contribute to maintenance of the park, a separate contract has been awarded for grounds maintenance in Northwood Park. Both contracts cover the year commencing April 1st 2016.

Facing the closure of all the public toilets in Cowes from April 1st this year Cowes Town Council have agreed to take on their running costs for the next financial year & will enter into discussions with the Isle of Wight Council about taking full ownership & management for the year 2017/18.

The town council have agreed to support the running costs of Cowes Library & have set up a small working party to liaise with the Supporters of Cowes Library as to its future.

At the February 4th full council meeting it was agreed to award Cowes Medina Bowling Club £750 towards to cost of refurbishment & improved disabled access.

Having already committed to taking on the cost of maintenance of public toilets in the town, your council has agreed to enter into a "Tenancy at Will" agreement with the Isle of Wight Council as from 1st



April 2016; this will allow time to negotiate for the transfer of the freehold of the toilets over the following 12 months. A condition survey showing potential future costs is one of the considerations prior to entering into any legal agreement. Many will recognise the clock tower, pictured left, above Mornington Green toilets, one of the toilets which could come under local ownership.

Projects to improve the town were considered at the February meeting. Plans to upgrade the Cut will shortly be subject to a planning application; once approved work can get underway.

Three sealed tenders were opened at the last Projects meeting for provision of a much needed shelter on the seafront. The least costly, which also best met our requirements, was chosen. As the cost was more than the sum ring fenced for the project it was agreed to move funds from those allocated for an outdoor gym, which at present has proved not feasible.

As part of a commitment to ensure defibrillators are readily available throughout the town it was agreed that the town council will obtain a defibrillator to be located at Northwood House for community use, when installed it will be added to the list below.

Community Defibrillator Scheme

When a person is in cardiac arrest the quick use of an Automated External Defibrillator (AED)



in conjunction with Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) can increase their chance of survival from 5% to as much as 74% (statistics supplied by the Isle of Wight Ambulance Service).

If an emergency occurs, please telephone 999 for an ambulance and follow the instructions from the ambulance service, then if a second person is available, locate the nearest community defibrillator to provide a rapid response whilst awaiting professional assistance. Lives can be saved.

Cowes Town Council is pleased to announce that, in conjunction with the First Responders, a list has been compiled identifying defibrillators that are located within Cowes and available for community use.

Community Defibrillators are available from:

Cowes Enterprise College, Crossfield Avenue– telephone 01983 203103. Opening hours Monday to Thursday 8am – 5.00pm, Friday 8am to 3.30pm.

Island Sailing Club, High Street – telephone 01983 249430. Restricted opening hours in the winter -6.am to – 5pm Monday to Friday with evening opening Tuesday to Friday inclusive, Saturday 10am to 11pm, Sunday 10am to 6.00pm

Isle of Wight Community Club, Park Road – telephone 01983 292238. Opening hours 9am to 11pm each day.

Lanesend Primary School, Love Lane – telephone 01983 293233. Opening hours 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday.

Red Funnel, Red Jet Terminal, High Street – telephone 02380 724650. Opening hours Monday to Thursday 0545 – 2330, Friday 0545 – 0030, Saturday 0615 – 0030, Sunday 0645 – 2330.

Straininstall, Mariners Way – telephone 01983 203600. Opening hours Monday to Thursday 8am to 5.15pm, Fridays 8am to 1.00pm

UKSA, Arctic Road – telephone 01983 294941

Also at the February meeting Councillors voted in favour of seeking full responsibility of the bollards in the High St. further agreeing to consider replacing 5 of the existing bollards & adding a new one outside Henri Lloyd's. Having expressed the desire to control traffic through the pedestrian precinct with bollards, it was further agreed to contact Isle of Wight Highways Dept. with a formal request to take ownership or if required have a licence to operate the bollards.

Following a recommendation from a working party whose remit was to consider the use of social media it was agreed to set up a Cowes Town Council Facebook page. This will be up & running shortly.

An exciting event planned for Cowes

This year, 2016, the Queen will reach the age of ninety. She is already, of course, our longest reigning monarch, and it is proposed that her birthday be marked by a large street luncheon in the Mall for all the organisations of which she is patron – some 600 in number. The date fixed is Sunday 12th June, the day after the Trooping of the Colour, which is of course the Queen's official birthday parade. At the meeting in London to launch the event last October, the event chairman Peter Phillips stressed that he did not want the celebration to be restricted to the Mall. He urged patron organisations to arrange simultaneous events in their communities. Cowes is uniquely placed to do this, with three of its yacht clubs, the RNLi and a number of other voluntary organisations in the town having the Queen as patron. Accordingly, it is now proposed to hold a street party in Cowes to coincide with the event in London. As it happens, four patron organisations are on the Parade – the Royal Yacht Squadron, the Royal Ocean Racing Club, the Royal National Lifeboat Institution and the Island Sailing Club. The Royal London Yacht Club, whilst it does not have the Queen as a patron, is also situated on the Parade and has close links with the Royal family. These bodies have got together, and are planning a series of events for 12th June and have been joined on the planning committee by Cowes Town Council, Cowes Business Association, Northwood House Charitable Trust, the Lord Lieutenant's office, Cowes Corinthian Yacht Club, Reverend Andrew Poppe and the Isle of Wight Council.

The outline plan is that we have a marching band leave the Cowes Corinthian Yacht Club at 1000, progressing through the town to the Parade. At 1100 there will be a service to be conducted by the Reverend Andrew Poppe from the balcony of the Royal London Yacht Club. We have invited the Lord Lieutenant to be present at this service, to represent the Queen. At 1140 the marching band will progress towards Northwood House, via Ward Avenue. At 1200 celebrations will start in the grounds of Northwood House. Members of the public will be able to bring picnics, and food will be available to buy from stalls run by the patron organisations and other Cowes-based groups and businesses. There will be a stage with a host, and live music and other attractions. Teas, coffees and alcoholic refreshments will be provided by Northwood House.

Organisations will be able to have tented stands in the grounds both for selling food, and for demonstrating their activities. Those present that are charities will be allowed to raise money for their own funds, but donations and a share of the profits earned by the other organisations will be given to the Patron's Lunch Charity. Funds raised by the latter will be distributed back to the patron's charities later in the year.

Planning for this is in a very early stage, and some of the above may have to change. However there is a great deal of goodwill towards this event, and it seems certain that we can arrange some sort of public event that will allow the patron's organisations and the people of Cowes as a whole to demonstrate their appreciation of the unique contribution that the Queen has made to our national life throughout her long reign.



There is a website, www.thepatronsclub.com, giving more information about the national event.

Photo: Queen's visit to Cowes 2012. Courtesy of Michael Dunkason.photos.

The Isle of Wight Community Club

The Isle of Wight Community Club is a members Club and has been in existence for over 30 years on a 12 acre site in Park Road, Cowes which is leased from the IOW Council. During that time the Club has invested over £550k to improve and extend the facilities. The Club is a Sports & Social Club with over 1000 members from all over the Island. Its facilities include a Lounge and a Sports bar, a 4 Rink Indoor Bowls Facility, 2 Outdoor Bowls Greens, a 4 Rink Petanque Terrain and a Football and Cricket pitch along with pool and darts teams. The Sports Bar has both Sky & B.T. Sports TV. Other activities which take place each week include a Tea Dance, Line Dancing, Bingo, Crib and Bridge. There is an Evergreens Club who meet once a week and play bingo and have regular trips to various different locations. In addition to an annual Pantomime the Section performs Murder Mystery evenings. There are other entertainment evenings throughout the year including various local bands, quizzes, race nights etc. The Club has an Open Day on August Bank Holiday Monday with lots of different activities taking place on the day. This includes a band, magician, bouncy castle, games for the kids and various stalls. There is also an annual firework display which attracts several hundred people each year.

The Club supports Disability Groups such as the Island Special Olympics Bowls Teams and John's Club social events by providing facilities free of charge, as it does for other Registered Charities. During the last two years the IOW Marathon has started and finished at the Club. The Club caterer, John Newton, formerly of Northwood House, is open on Wednesday lunchtime (12-2pm) and also provides Sunday lunches at a very reasonable price. The Club is available for hire and the Club Caterer is able to offer an affordable service ranging from a Finger Buffet to a Banquet for those special occasions.

The Club is situated opposite the Skate Board Park in Park Road, Cowes and has ample car parking on site.

Club Annual Membership Fees are Family £31, Single £21 and Retired £14.

For enquiries and further information please contact the Club Secretary

Keiron, Tel. 01983 292238 or E-Mail entertainmentsmanger@iw-communityclub.co.uk

The Solitaire Bompard – Le Figaro is coming to Cowes

The world's leading annual solo sailing race, the Solitaire Bompard – Le Figaro (formerly called Solitaire du Figaro) is coming to the Isle of Wight between the 22nd and 26th June, bringing an exciting five-day public event to Cowes as part of the Island's colourful 'Festival of the Sea' celebrations.

A world-class sporting event with an international following, the 2016 Solitaire Bompard – Le Figaro spans 1525 miles between four European Host Venues – Deauville (France), Isle of Wight, Cowes (UK), Paimpol (France) and La Rochelle (France). Considered to be the world championships of solo offshore racing, the Solitaire takes a month to complete and pushes competitors to the edge of human limitation.

An international event, the Solitaire Bompard – Le Figaro will bring not only a professional sailing race to the pontoons of Cowes Yacht Haven, but a bustling race village to Cowes Town. FREE and open from 22nd to 26th June, the Race Village will be fun for all the family – whether messing about on the water is your thing or not.

Mark McNeill, Deputy Mayor of Cowes and Chairman of 'Destination Cowes' – a key organisation



behind the event – explained why hosting the Solitaire is an important step forward for Cowes: *“Portsmouth has had the America’s Cup, Southampton has had the Volvo Ocean Race – this is our chance to put Cowes back on the map as the UK and Europe’s sailing capital. A real spectacle of the sea and a showcase of top level sailing, the Solitaire will attract crowds from both the Island and mainland to the town of Cowes.”*

The Solitaire Bompard – Le Figaro will offer five days of fun family entertainment in Cowes, including food markets, a drinks bar, live music in the Race Village and try ‘sailing for all’ on the

Solent – courtesy of the official event charity UKSA. Alongside the live entertainment, there will be a host of interactive stands and activities to entertain the public. For the local community there will be the opportunity to showcase in the Race Village, add to the entertainment schedule and for local children, a successful education program focused on coastal conservation and the environment.

Alongside the Island’s main tourism body, the businesses and organisations forming the aforementioned ‘Destination Cowes’ are also key stakeholders in the event – Cowes Town Council, Cowes Business Association, Cowes Harbour Commission, Cowes Yacht Haven and Red Funnel. Her Majesty’s Lord-Lieutenant of the Isle of Wight, Major General Martin White will act as the Patron for the event, and looks forward to welcoming the weary Solitaire skippers to Cowes next June.

Following the success of the last UK stopover in Torbay, the Isle of Wight would hope to see 20,000 visitors pass through the Solitaire Bompard – Le Figaro race village over five days. The Solitaire Bompard – Le Figaro had a hugely positive economic impact on Torbay in 2015, injecting roughly 1.8 million pounds into the seaside town.

Cowes Sea Cadets

Cowes Sea Cadets are based at a new fantastic purpose built HQ in Cowes, called TS Osborne. Thanks to a very generous grant from Cowes Town Council we have been able to purchase vital safety equipment to ensure our Cadets undertake activities in a safe and secure environment. Come and visit us on our **Open Day** on Saturday **February 27th 2016** between 10.00am and 2.00pm to see some of the things we do and learn more about the Sea Cadets.

Cowes Sea Cadets are aged from 10 to 18 years and take part in exciting, challenging events either locally, on the mainland or even internationally. They are always learning new skills, having fun and making new friends whilst often helping with community projects or competing against other Sea Cadet Units in sporting events.



One of our cadets successfully applied to visit Bermuda on an International Exchange Programme, spending some weeks there learning paddle boarding in the sunshine - just one of the amazing opportunities offered to Sea Cadets. Other special occasions included parading in Trafalgar Square in London with the Massed Bands of the Sea Cadets for the National Trafalgar Day Parade – a memory never to be forgotten!



with training, administration and fundraising so if you have a skill to share and time to spare, come on down!

**Contact details: Cowes Sea Cadets, Whitegates, Arctic Road, Cowes, PO31 7PG.
Tel: 01983 289880 & email: tsosbornescc@yahoo.co.uk**

We meet twice a week all throughout the year, with boating activities starting in the spring. Other opportunities include learning new skills in First Aid, Kayaking, Cooking, Communications, Seamanship, Music, Drill and Piping, Offshore Sailing and much, much more. We even have real 'mascot ponies' complete with their own uniform!

We welcome all young people to come and find out what makes Sea Cadets so special! Adult volunteers are also needed to help us

2nd Cowes (St Mary's) Sea Scouts

2nd Cowes (St Mary's) Sea Scouts, based in Smithards Lane, Cowes, provides Scouting for approximately 120 young people (boys and girls) between 6 to 18 years old. One of only one hundred Royal Navy Recognised Sea Scout Groups in the UK that reach certain standards regarding seamanship, programme, badge work and drill and at present, 2nd Cowes is the only RN Recognised Group on the Island.

Although a Sea Scout Group, the young people follow the usual Scout programme, 2nd Cowes has a nautical bias and boating is the main activity on summer meeting nights, tide and weather permitting! 2nd Cowes owns a variety of craft giving young people a chance to master rowing (both individually and as part of a boat's crew),

power and sailing. The Group regularly sends Scouts to the annual RN Sea Scout Camp at HMS Bristol in Portsmouth for water based activities.



Split in to 4 Sections - Beaver Colony, Cub Pack, Scout Troop and Explorer Unit, they all follow a balanced programme suitable for the relevant ages. Some of the Explorers are also [Young Leaders](#) and assist with the 3 younger sections as part of their development. A lot of activities for members of the Group, especially camping, hiking and outings take place at weekends. The group can often be seen supporting local activities such as the Cowes Carnival and litter picking along the cycle track. Members of 2nd Cowes wear a royal blue scarf with the Group Badge on the back. This badge is based upon the Cowes Town Crest, with the approval of the Town Council. In 2012, 2nd Cowes began to raise money towards the refurbishment of their HQ building. A 49 mile row around the Isle of Wight was completed by over 40 young people raising over £10,000 in sponsorship. Further works are still needed and 2nd Cowes would like to thank Cowes Town Council who have recently awarded them £4481 to complete renovations to the boys' toilets and shower area.

Classic Boat Museum

Moving house is recognised as one of life's most stressful events, which many of us know from experience. Moving a museum must come a close second to that. The Classic Boat Museum first opened its doors on Newport Quay 20 years ago, in 1996, thanks to a welcoming Isle of Wight Council. Since then, the gallery and archive part of the collection moved into environmentally good premises in East Cowes in 2006 and was followed by the boats only three short years ago. Now we are on the road again, just a short distance across the river this time, hopefully to a permanent berth, to be part of the development of the Medina Yard.

In those twenty years the Museum's collection has grown and expanded to the extent that the most frequent comment from our visitors is "It's amazing, we had no idea you had so much, we have to come back for another look." And they do. We get people from far and wide, home and abroad, the sailors and the landlocked and, these days, via the power of the Internet, enquirers for information from all round the world. Recent cries for help came from an air-sea rescue specialist in Sydney, from a German yard which is holding an exhibition of Royal yachts, from an optimist hoping to build a whole new fleet of Uffa Fox's Flying 10's, and from a lady in the other Newport (the US one) who is researching the place of women in the America's Cup – requests as varied as our boats themselves. And one of our strengths has always been the support of all those local people who have such deep and skilled family connections with the history of boats in Cowes and around the Solent, both in building and sailing them, and who have found in the Museum a place where those memories are secure and treasured.

Now this new move gives us an opportunity to look afresh at how we present our displays of some 50 boats and how we can increase our involvement with the town, and present the superb two hundred



years of maritime heritage that makes Cowes, east and west, a household name in the sailing world. To do this successfully we need lots of extra help and support. Help from more volunteers, help both physical and financial, short or long term, professional or amateur, super-skilled, semi-skilled, or just a willing coffee maker. Support with a one-off donation or a longer commitment, in cash or in kind, the loan of a lorry or a pot of paint. Our aim has always been to collect, conserve and display – so this is what we do, in the belief that Cowes deserves a maritime museum that covers all its astonishing history.

First, of course, we have to get there, and this winter and early spring will be hard work both to move the boats and their trailers, and the long task of preparing the new area for all that we hope to achieve. We are, and always have been, run entirely by volunteers and have the loyal backing of our great group of Friends of the Museum. Come and join us.

News from Cowes Deauville Twinning Association



It was 1968 when a young, fresh faced, twelve year old boy made his first trip to France. That young, football mad, skinny lad was me and a love of France and everything French began and continues to this day.

Arriving at Cherbourg after a less than smooth crossing on the Townsend Thoresen Viking 1 I marvelled at the fact that everyone could drive on the wrong side of the road without colliding. I spent most of that day travelling to the north coast of Brittany, opened my mouth at all the new

and exciting sites that greeted me. The holiday took in many parts of Brittany and Normandy and if my memory serves me right the sun shone every day. The route back to Cherbourg was punctuated with a stop-off at Omaha beach, to take in the history of the Normandy coastline and its part in World War 2. This was the history lesson I needed to make my parents feel justified in taking me out of school for the holiday.

The memories of that holiday stuck with me through my school years. It was soon after starting my first job that I met my wife Sue, who, it turned out, shared my travel ambitions. It was not long before we started to plan holidays. Many evenings spent with a giant map on the lounge floor trying to decide where to visit next. It was no surprise that we nearly always agreed on a region of France. Marriage and the arrival of two daughters came along. Very soon the two girls grew to

love the country as well now, as parents themselves, they frequently join us on trips over the channel.

Our natural fascination for the country took another turn a couple of years ago. We learned that there was a planned 50th anniversary celebration for the Cowes/Deauville Twinning Association and was keen to get involved. We were warmly welcomed at a get together with the Cowes half of the group, feeling at home immediately. They were part way through organising events for a forthcoming visit by their French counterparts to celebrate the anniversary where we were included in all the discussions and quickly decided that we would like to be a host family and offer accommodation to a French couple for the forthcoming visit. We met our visitors off the ferry and had a fantastic weekend with our new found friends, most of which was organised by the association. Our visitor's language skills were very competent and our lack of French did not hold us back at all. Everything can be overcome with some pointing and hand signals and the odd reference to a bi-lingual dictionary.

We have made some great friends over the past couple of years, from both sides of the channel, which would not have been possible had we not have joined. So if you would like to find out more about the Cowes/Deauville Twinning Association and future events please contact us on the e-mail address or phone number below.

andy.waters1955@btinternet.com ☎ 01983 297694

batesbarry@onwight.com ☎ 01983 296303

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
Vanessa Slade		Cowes North	297791
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, Hammond, Nicholson, Slade and Wardrop.

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

Projects: Chairman Cllr Nicholson, Cllrs Banks, Bartrum, Brown, Corby, Jones, McNeill 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 notice board at least a week prior to the meeting.

CONTACTING YOUR WARD TOWN COUNCILLOR

Any written communications to councillors to be sent via the Cowes Town Council offices and any email communications to councillors to be copy emailed to Cowes Town Council offices please for record purposes.

Email addresses of councillors can be found on the Town Council website, www.cowestowncouncil.org.uk.

MEETINGS

Our next full council meetings are at 7pm on Thursday 3rd March & Thursday 7th April. 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 Hurst's shop 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.

