



Autumn Edition 2016 from Councillor David Jones – Cowes Town Mayor

Welcome to this autumn update on the activities of Cowes Town Council plus reports about local events and organisations.

I was honoured to represent the town when HRH Prince Philip visited Northwood House on the 12th August. This was one of several official duties for him that day. The time spent talking to nearly everyone present and the interest he showed is testament to both his stamina and dedication. An enjoyable event and justified recognition of the hard work of volunteers at Northwood House. The Duke also spoke to Duke of Edinburgh Award winners and visited the Classic Boat Museum exhibition elsewhere in Northwood House.



Picture courtesy of Debs Allen

Northwood House.

Yet again here is an example of how a few volunteers can achieve something a Unitary Authority failed to do. The House and Park are looking great again this year and be it a wedding or a car boot sale something is always happening. Entering the House via the Rotunda it is instantly clear that a dedicated team are at work; the whole House sparkles and the decor has an authentic feel. The hard working Park volunteers have produced a fine floral display and cleared an overgrown area opening up new vistas. Cowes Town Council is happy to assist with the cost of grounds maintenance in the Park and continues to work closely with the Trustees. This is a local asset which has to be maintained for the benefit of all. The House's website is well worth a visit for an update on a programme of events.

Cowes Town Council Meetings.

At the meeting held on 2nd June Mr Daniel Groves, Science Resource Centre Manager at Cowes Enterprise College, gave a presentation on the Noel Turner Physics Festival – 'Physics Matters – Ignite the Spark' which was hosted by Cowes Enterprise College (CEC) on 5 July 2016. Noel Turner was one of the first 6th form students who attended Cowes High School before going on to study physics at Oxford University. This was an initiative to address the shortage of physicists locally and nationally and it is hoped the event will inspire an interest for boys and girls in the subject of physics and to show young people that there are plenty of opportunities on the Island for budding scientists and engineers.

Councillors agreed to adopt the Local Government Transparency Code 2015 which is designed to meet the Government's desire to place more power into citizens' hands and to increase democratic accountability. The only noticeable changes will be that details of expenditure including grants and donations will be published on the website, as will background papers for any Town Council or Committees prior to the meetings.

At the 21st July meeting P C Adam Dollery informed the meeting during the Safer Neighbourhood Team report that once the Birmingham Rd premises is sold they are moving to the Fire Station in Victoria Road, to share their premises. Crime statistics shows that Cowes continues to be a safe place to live.

It was resolved that a grant of £5,000 be made to Cowes Week Limited Fireworks Committee. That a grant be made to the Isle of Wight Literary Festival in the sum of £6,300. That, subject to the final agreement being signed off by all stakeholders, Cowes Town Council will pay the agreed contribution of £5,000 from the 2016 / 2017 budget to Destination Cowes.

As Red Funnel has kindly agreed to donate a Christmas tree outside the Vectis Tavern it was agreed that the Town Council provides a second tree in either Francki Place or The Cut.

Faced with the prospect of no school crossing patrol in Park Rd it was resolved that Cowes Town Council supports the school crossing patrol service in Park Road for one full academic year from September 2016. At the meeting held on September 1st Councillors received details of two vacancies, both in Cowes West ward. As the resignation of two former Councillors did not coincide, the process to find replacements has been dealt with separately. Following due process 10 electors requested an election for the first vacancy; unfortunately no one put their name forward meaning the election will have to be re-advertised and a date in November will be set for an election. As there was no request for an election to fill the second vacancy a process of co-option will be set in motion; an opportunity for anyone who feels they have something to bring to Cowes Town Council to apply.

Recommendations from the Projects Committee included the issuing of tenders for the long awaited upgrade of The Cut. Good news regarding Benzie's clock means that Cowes Town Council will write to the owner, saying that they are very happy that he will repair the clock and that Cowes Town Council looks forward to seeing it working again. It was confirmed that Cowes Town Council will replace the Francki Place plaque at an expected cost of £600 and that both plaques at Francki Place will be added to the Asset Register and maintained thereafter by Cowes Town Council.

The Town Clerk reported that the Lights of Love Carol Concert will take place at 6.30pm on Thursday 8th December at Cowes Methodist Church, Birmingham Road. It was agreed that Cowes Town Council will make a donation to the Earl Mountbatten Hospice and there will also be a collection on the night.

We continue to look for places for defibrillators in the town; Shepards Wharf, the Fire Station and the New Holmwood are possible sites pinpointed. Shops have agreed to display directions to the nearest one.

Cowes Week.

Cowes Week as usual was central to the town's annual sailing and shore side events; excellent for sailing as this Paul Wyeth picture testifies. Talking to local businesses, many had a good trading week; others were less



positive. Judging by the Northwood House Car Park, managed as usual so helpfully by Cowes Carnival, there were a good many visitors. I have heard some negative reports regarding unacceptable behaviour during the evenings, in particular Fireworks Night. Criminal damage such as the destruction of the weeping beech tree, planted to replace the iconic ash tree, has left a sour taste. A good deal of time and money has been spent to provide a great social event for everyone to enjoy; it is sad that a few can spoil it. Cowes Week has to evolve to provide enjoyment for all to enjoy the atmosphere on shore as well as a celebration of sailing; discussions on the future of Cowes Week should provide some interesting ideas.

If you have ideas or concerns about Cowes Week and any other issues please contact me or the town clerk (contact details can be found at the end of this newsletter). It is a vital that local people have a say, ideally we would like to hear comments before the end of September. As your local council we are well placed to raise issues with the organisers and involved authorities. Regarding the destroyed tree, the Isle of Wight Council are replacing the tree and will remove the frame that supported the ash that was a feature for so many years.

Red Jet 6 Launch.

What a great advert for Cowes & East Cowes this was. Built in East Cowes and joining the fleet offering a hi-



speed service to the mainland, Red Jet 6 was officially named by HRH Princess Anne on 4th July. A great event and as the photo shows an exciting day away from the classroom for children from Cowes Primary School. They were given pride of place with a chance to wave flags and talk to Princess Anne. As Mayor I was honoured to be presented to Her Royal Highness and afterwards enjoy a trip on the spacious craft. Those involved in making this fine vessel had a grandstand view from the Royal London Yacht Club. Thank you Red Funnel for your continued support for the town.

Patron's Lunch.

This was a huge success and a rare chance for the whole community to join in celebrating Her Majesty's 90th birthday. The organisers deserve thanks for organising the day. Support for local charities was central to the event resulting in the presentation of cheques to the chosen charities: the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, Ellen MacArthur Cancer Trust, Holy Trinity Church, Cowes Carnival and Cowes Sea Cadets. Pictured are some of those enjoying the picnic on the Northwood House lawn.



Picture from Island Sailing Club Facebook page.

New Plaques at the Bandstand.

When visiting the Parade it is well worth looking at two new plaques on the Bandstand wall.



The first unveiled on 26th June, this picture shows local members of Cowes - Deauville Twinning Association and French friends in front of the newly installed plaque on the Parade celebrating 50 years 1964/2014 of cross Channel friendship. The visitors were entertained at the Island Sailing Club as well as visits to Island attractions. Cowes Town Council is happy to have provided financial assistance for the plaque and I thank the Island Sailing Club for their hospitality.

The second plaque is a commemorative plaque remembering the Merchant Navy and Fishing Fleet Personnel, including those from the Isle of Wight who lost their lives in the Second World War and subsequent conflicts. The simple plaque was unveiled on Merchant Navy Day, 3rd September by the Lord Lieutenant Major General Martin White CB CBE JP in the presence of the High Sherriff Robin Courage MBE, the Island MP, Civic dignitaries, members of the Merchant Mariners of Wight and invited guests. The Reverend Amanda Collinson led the prayers while a band comprising of members of Cowes, Ryde and Southampton Sea Cadet Units provided excellent musical accompaniment. A small and long overdue recognition of what we owe the gallant sailors that kept a vital lifeline open to our Island nation during the dark days of World War II.



The Isle of Wight Literary Festival.

Cowes Town Council is supporting this prestigious literary festival. This year there are some interesting speakers and it is well worth spending a few minutes browsing their website www.isleofwightliteraryfestival.com Cowes Town Council considers our contribution to the Literary Festival Schools Programme as money well spent.

SO WHO'S GOING TO SELL OUT FIRST?

TICKETS NOW ON SALE



The programme brings exceptional writers and performers into local primary schools and colleges. The organisers want local young people to be a part of this unique literary event that gives the very special opportunity to talk about books with real live authors and to enjoy and take part in performance workshops. The aim is to involve children in creative writing and to raise interest in reading for pleasure. There is also much to capture the imagination of older folk. Speakers include Alan Titchmarsh, Michael Portillo, A N Wilson, Sarah Dunant and Rosamund Lupton. This year to commemorate the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death, there will be a strong focus on drama.

A Date for your Diary.

The UK's leading social celebratory event of its type.

Isle of Wight Classic Beer, Buses & Walks Weekend: October 15th/16th.

Conceived over a casual pint between some Real Ale and Classic Bus enthusiasts, settled in an Isle of Wight pub, and now in its third consecutive year, the Isle of Wight Classic Beer, Buses & Walks Weekend has already broken all UK records for any event of its type.

An All Island Experience

For those who have not yet experienced the occasion, it brings a throng of happy people together to freely enjoy the classic experience of transport from times past, travelling on routes spread right across the Island, where the bus stops are situated at or near a Real Ale pub. There are no fares to pay, as it is an enthusiast's event. If you buy a programme, available at participating pubs, or from the website

<http://iwbeerandbuses.co.uk/>, for your £6 investment, there are £30 worth of discounts on production of the programme.

The many walks available from the many locations are free too, of course.

Cowes has a unique place in this year's event, in that it is the only major town on the Island where almost all the pubs have signed up as active participants, and that includes Northwood and Gurnard as well. So Cowes area has become a major venue for the event, and there will be trails and special features put on by each venue to attract and hold people's interest. So don't miss out, even in your home town. Regular Buses leave from Westhill Rd and the Parade. Enjoy!



Cowes Heritage.

A reminder that Cowes Heritage are staging their annual exhibition. This year there is a change of venue, moving to the Cowes Yacht Haven Media Centre, the old Fastnet Restaurant, opposite what was once Woolworth's and is now M & Co. Opening on October 22nd until November 13th, 10am to 4pm daily, admission free. The exhibition concentrates on Somerton Airport principally, a history of the development of radar on the site by companies from Decca to Plessey, and now BAE Systems. A look at those who worked there adds lots of human interest. Available for sale at the exhibition will be a new book looking at Cowes & District using old postcards and photos and Cowes & the Great War - a DVD produced thanks to a Heritage Lottery Fund grant.

Floral Cowes.

I take this opportunity to thank the volunteers who planted the troughs and planters around the town. I feel they were particularly colourful this year. After Cowes Week we have requested the planters on the Parade remain in situ, the Town Council taking on responsibility for watering and removal.

Moorgreen Allotment.



Continuing in horticultural vein I was again honoured to be asked to judge the produce grown by allotment holders at the Moorgreen Rd Allotment Society's Annual Show. For me this is a real treat. There were some top quality produce on show; winner of "Best in Show" was Jayne Gladdis pictured left receiving her certificate and prize.



Northwood Cemetery.

Those of you who pass the Cemetery on your travels will see that there's much activity now that the underpinning of the two Victorian Chapels is underway.

The Contractors started work in May and the entrance now resembles a building site - and will do for much of the rest of 2016. 70 piles (35 pairs) are now inserted inside and outside the chapels; some of these are 15 metres long (ie: deep!). These will support beams on which the Chapel structures will sit to bring long-term stability to these vulnerable buildings - which were subsiding. Work will then start on fitting out the West Chapel as a Heritage Centre for the local community.

Elsewhere the volunteer working parties on Saturday and Wednesday mornings are fighting the dense foliage that has engulfed the Cemetery over many decades. Dozens of headstones have been freed of brambles and are now visible for families to see. This activity has created much 'brash' and the recently acquired diesel driven chipper has been put to good use producing wood chippings. These have been used to cover some of the pathways where winter conditions had made them unusable.

The **Friends of Northwood Cemetery**, the leaders of the Project funded by the **Heritage Lottery Fund** to restore the Chapels, is still seeking to bolster its volunteer numbers; there is so much to do. It's not just the physical work in the Cemetery – there are also desk-bound jobs (such as Publicity and Press Relations) that



remain unfilled. Is there anyone out there who might be interested in such a role? If so, it goes without saying that we'd love to hear from you!

If you have never ventured inside the main gates (and it seems most residents have not) then take a walk through this haven of wildlife; Mother Nature has determined that it's not only a cemetery but also a place brimming with natural history and ideal for quiet reflection (away from the building site anyway!).

Jon Matthews

Telephone: 07802 401365

Chairman, Friends of Northwood Cemetery Email: jon@friendsofnorthwoodcemetery.org.uk

Cowes Primary School.

I was privileged to be invited to two lovely events organised by the school. Firstly the Street Party celebrating HM The Queen's 90th birthday. Children and families enjoyed a picnic around the tree in the front playground. The Rev Andrew Poppe and I were guests. The picture, right, showing pupils plus crowns they had made for the day.

The second event is unique to this school, being the only school Horticultural Show on the Island. On the day a fete and a falconry display added to what was a great family event. The school also entered an exhibit of their produce at Chale Show.



Pupils are encouraged to understand where

the food we eat comes from. As part of the Soil Association Food for Life Programme, the school has gained Bronze and Silver Awards and are currently working towards achieving their Gold Award. A sensory garden, chickens and growing tunnels all add extra life experience for the children.

As Mayor I have been privileged to be invited to both Cowes

Primary and Lanesend schools. Each visit only increases my view that education of the children in Cowes is in safe hands; there is a genuinely happy atmosphere at both schools. My admiration for teachers, teaching assistants and all helpers has been increased by every visit.



Cowes Library; a report from the Librarian.

The Library is still thriving with regular activities for both adults and children. The fortnightly Cards & Games Club for Adults which takes places on Mondays 10am - 12pm is becoming popular. The next dates are 12th September onwards. A monthly Knitting Korner for adults of all ages is on the last Tuesday of every month 1.30pm - 3.30pm for those who can, or want to learn, to knit or crochet. The Library is also looking to start a Colouring Club for adults and various craft workshops in the near future. Cowes Library also hosts a regular Philo Cafe on the 4th Thursday of the month. The next one will be on 22nd September 7pm - 9pm. This is sponsored by the Furtherance of Critical Philosophy (<http://www.sfcg.org.uk>) and is open to anyone who wants to take part in philosophical discussion that matters in our lives, but in a casual way. Taking part does not need any knowledge of academic philosophy. The Library also has a weekly dance and fitness session suitable for all abilities with Lily's Dance on Wednesday evenings. Regular children's activities include Games Club on the 1st Saturday of the month 10am to 12pm, and Lego for the over 5s is on the 4th Saturday of every month 10.30am - 12.30pm. Children's magic shows or workshops with Huxley the Magic Man take place throughout the year. It also offers a weekly Rhymetime for babies and toddlers and a storytime for 4 - 8 year olds.

On the evening of Monday 19th September the Island Storytellers are at Cowes Library with 'Harvest Stories'. The Library is involved in the Isle of Wight Literary Festival Schools Programme this year on the 21st and 22nd September, with invited local school classes being entertained by mainland entertainer/musician Jake Rodriguez. They will also be hosting a special Cowes Library event on Saturday 8th October 7pm - 9pm, in co-operation with the Isle of Wight Literary Festival, which will be a panel of local authors and writers who will be discussing 'How to make Characters Come Alive!' and 'Different Ways to tell a Story'. On Wednesday 12th October a 'Poetry and Spoken-word' evening can also be enjoyed. Another two highlights will be celebrating IOW Day on Saturday 24th September with fun for adults and children, and then a special tea party for Celebrating Age Week being held on Saturday 1st October, promoting services and activities for older people. The month will be rounded off with a donated book sale!



Pictured above are Joyce, the librarian, and onlookers being mystified by the strange behaviour of lengths of rope during an evening of magic allowing friends to remember Bernard Taylor who sadly recently passed away.

I hope you have found this newsletter interesting, if so hopefully it might have generated the thought “I could be a Town Councillor”. There is no financial remuneration but personally I find the chance to make a difference in the town where I, and several of my family live, rewarding. There are two vacancies to be filled so if you feel you have something to offer please contact the council office for details.

And finally: we need your help.

Below are details of how you can help decide the future of Northwood Recreation Ground. Please take time to either find the survey form online or contact the town council office. Your views are important.



WE NEED YOUR HELP

Cowes Town Council is conducting a survey of how Northwood Recreation Ground is used and maintained and how it could be used in the future.

HAVE YOUR SAY

Please complete the on-line survey which can be obtained from the Town Council website from 1st October: www.cowestowncouncil.org.uk
Alternatively, hard copies can be obtained from the Town Council office
– please telephone on 01983 209022 in the mornings or email to assistanttownclerk@cowestowncouncil.org.uk



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
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
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: Councillors Banks, Brown, Corby, Nicholson, Slade & Wardrop.

Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing: Councillors Banks, Bartrum, Brown, Corby, Ellis & Slade.

Projects: Councillors Banks, Bartrum, Brown, Nicholson, Spalding & Wardrop.

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 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 meeting is at 7pm on Thursday 6th October. 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 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 townclerk@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.