



## Autumn 2025

### Mayor's Message

Welcome to my first newsletter as the Mayor of Cowes.

It is an honour to be serving as Mayor, and I do this with a great deal of pride for Cowes. I am pleased to be serving the town alongside Deputy Mayor, Councillor Lora Peacey Wilcox, who brings to the role many years of experience serving as a Councillor. Lora is passionate about delivering improvements in our town so I know we will work well together.

Cowes is my home. I have lived here for the past forty years, and I am passionate about ensuring our town continues to be a great place to live, work and visit.

I aim to bring the Town and the Council together and look forward to working with many partners to achieve this.

I will strive to make our town a safe community for residents and businesses.

We welcome our two new co-opted members to the Town Council; Councillor Nina Swallow and Councillor Kay Marriott and I look forward to working with them both.

I had the pleasure of hosting this year's Cowes Week Mayor's Reception at Northwood House. It was a great opportunity to connect with people in the town and hear their thoughts about how we can work together to improve Cowes for the benefit of all who live and work here.

We have reinstated the Cowes Week Bicentenary Working Group and are pressing ahead with plans for Cowes Week next year, which will mark the 200-year anniversary of the regatta.



*Councillor Stuart Ellis*



*"It is an honour to be serving as Mayor, and I do this with a great deal of pride for Cowes."*

*Cowes Mayor Councillor Stuart Ellis and Deputy Mayor Councillor Lora Peacey Wilcox*

We have also reinstated the Place Plan Working Group so that we can get to grips with how we make our Place Plan for Cowes and Northwood into meaningful projects that really deliver for the residents of Cowes.

We have been busy over the summer months making sure the town looks great for events with flags and bunting and refreshed flower beds, and we are working on plans to upgrade to The Parade toilets and enhance The Cut area. If you see anything that does not look quite right in the town, please do report it to us.

We have a new Facilities and Town Manager in place, David Gordon. We welcome David to the team, and I would encourage all those who own or run a business in Cowes to introduce yourselves to David. I know many of you have met him already, but please do make yourselves known to him, I know he would love to hear from you. Drop him an email to [facilitiesmanager@cowestowncouncil.org.uk](mailto:facilitiesmanager@cowestowncouncil.org.uk) or give him a call on 07502 444883.

We welcome the Cowes Youth Takeover to Cowes. This brand-new FREE workshop set up in June in Cowes Family Centre in Love Lane. It is run by Aspire on Mondays and is aimed at young people aged 5-16 years. Activities include arts & crafts, games, music and a tuckshop. For more information, please email [claire@aspireryde.org.uk](mailto:claire@aspireryde.org.uk) or call 01983 716020.

June saw the Round the Island race take place and July saw the Biosphere Festival running events in the town and Island-wide. We also received the good news that Cowes Library has reopened!

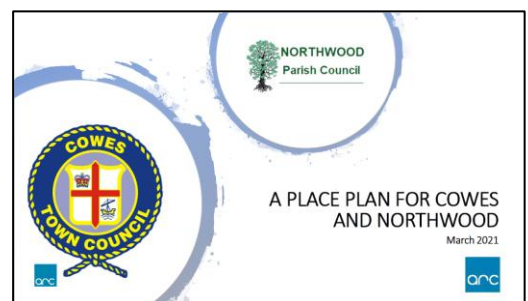
If you have anything you wish to raise with me, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

*Councillor Stuart Ellis*

### Cowes Town Council Taking a Lead in Joined Up Thinking

Through the Cowes and Northwood Place Plan one of the essential priorities identified was to write a Local Area Planning Strategy that sat inside the Isle of Wight Plan Core Strategy and also the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and addressed local issues and other standards and initiatives that are conducive to our needs in addressing health and wellbeing issues and enhancing our prosperity.

An essential standard is PAS 184, the Place Making standard, but also to use the Healthy Streets and Safer Streets initiatives, including the Link and Place model for categorising streets according to their connectivity value and environmental setting, and the Cowes, Gurnard and Northwood LCWIP (Local Cycling, Walking Infrastructure Plan), which is approved and adopted by the Isle of Wight Council.



Other considerations that we would want to include are addressing the health inequalities outlined in Public Health's JSNA (Joint Strategic Needs Assessment), promoting local industry and innovation, particularly our valuable marine industry, but also our high tech industry and service industries, protecting the valuable and essential clear airspace that BAE systems depend on for their business to be in Cowes, enhancing our unique history and heritage.

A Local Area Planning Strategy is a good opportunity to address needs and short-comings in infrastructure that enable and enhance our aspirations in status and development, including more and better hotel accommodation, a conference centre, leisure centre, and encouraging the use of sustainable materials such as natural slate and clay tiles in preference to the synthetic alternatives that degrade so quickly and look ugly as they age.

#### Official Notice

In accordance with Regulation 16(2), Michael Newton was granted a permit to collect for Mountbatten Isle of Wight in Cowes on the 5th and 7<sup>th</sup> August 2025, the amount collected was £487.77 and no expenses or payments were incurred.

### Mobile Banking/ATMs

The NatWest mobile banking service is available at the IW Community Club, Park Road, PO31 7NP on Mondays between 10.00 am – 11.30 am.

ATMs (cash points) can also be found in the High Street (Sainsburys), Fountain Yard (Red Jet terminal), and The Co-op (Mill Hill Road).

### Defibrillators

We have many Public Access Defibrillators in the town, and we have recently updated our website with their locations [www.cowestowncouncil.org.uk/wp/defibrillators](http://www.cowestowncouncil.org.uk/wp/defibrillators)

If you are a local organisation or business with a defibrillator, please let us know the location of it, the times it is accessible and please also ensure it is registered on The Circuit [www.TheCircuit.uk](http://www.TheCircuit.uk) so it can be located and deployed in an emergency.

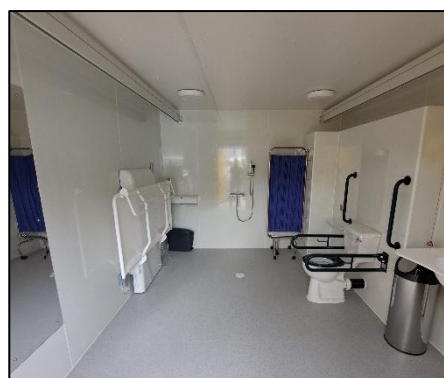
Registering your defibrillator helps improve access and reduce delays to life saving treatment.

### Vandalism at our Public Conveniences

We were disappointed to have to report an incident of antisocial behaviour in the Changing Places toilet at The Cut earlier in the year.

Following the incident, we provided CCTV footage to the Police who were able to identify all the youths seen in the footage. Consequently, the Police issued anti-social behaviour warning letters and visited the parents of the young people.

A new CCTV camera has since been installed in the area to cover the entrance to the Changing Places toilet.



These facilities are vital to those who require them so it is important that they are always functioning and accessible.



We had further incidents of vandalism in our facilities during the school holidays, this time at Mornington Road and The Parade and at the toilets in Northwood Park which are managed by Northwood House Charitable Trust Co. Ltd.

It is disappointing to have to use our resources on addressing vandalism in the town. We would rather be spending Town Council resources on bringing forward new projects that bring about improvements to the town.

If you witness anti-social behaviour or vandalism in the town, please do report it to the Police straight away.

### Cowes Youth Voice

Councillors are keen to connect with young people in the town to hear their views, so were pleased to support the first 'Cowes Youth Voice' meeting in June. This forum is a wonderful opportunity for the Town Council to receive feedback from young people living in Cowes to find out what the Council can do for them. The Town Council will also be exploring options for feedback from other groups.

***There's lots going on at The Isle of Wight Community Club for families so why not check out their website and Facebook page: [www.iowcc.com](http://www.iowcc.com) [www.facebook.com/isleofwightcommunityclub](https://www.facebook.com/isleofwightcommunityclub)***



## Events

### Community Members Recognised Through Mayor's Awards

Five members of the Cowes community have been given special awards in recognition of their extraordinary dedication to the town at an event held at Northwood House.

The Mayor's Awards were issued by Cowes Mayor, Councillor Stuart Ellis, on Monday 4 August at his Cowes Week Reception.

Each of the award winners were presented with a glass award and a certificate in recognition of their contribution.

The awards went to:

- Paul Armfield, Manager of Medina Bookshop in Cowes, to recognise that Medina Bookshop had been named 'Independent Bookshop of the Year for the Southeast' as part of the 35th Bookseller Awards. The title celebrated the shop's contribution to the local literary scene and its role in promoting independent bookshops.
- Michael Paler for continuing to support Cowes Town Council and for providing excellent photography at town events.
- Major Crane for all her work with the Cowes Combined Cadet Force who she has supported for around 20 years.
- Ali Burt for all her work in Scouting on the Island.
- Ian Scragg for all his work behind the scenes supporting Cowes Town Council.

Photos: Michael Paler



### FREE Community Events - Picnic in the Park and Cowes Classics Day

On 1 June, the Town Council supported two free community events in Cowes.

The first was Picnic in the Park set in the grounds of Northwood Park and the second was Cowes Classics Day on The Parade.

Both events were well attended. Well done to the organisers!



*Councillors Phil Sanders, Stuart Ellis and Lora Peacey Wilcox*

## Commonwealth Day

On Monday 10 March, Councillors gathered at Francki Place to celebrate Commonwealth Day, an annual celebration observed by millions across the Commonwealth in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean and Americas, the Pacific and Europe.

## Litter Pick



In March we organised a litter pick as part of Keep Britain Tidy's Great British Spring Clean.

Eight bags of rubbish were collected from Arctic Park, Arctic Road, Newport Road and Bernard Road.



*Councillors John Nicholson, David Walters and Stuart Ellis*

## 83<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of the Defence of Cowes

Thank you to everyone who came along to the events in Cowes on Sunday, 4 May to mark the 83rd Anniversary of the Defence of Cowes by Polish destroyer ORP Blyskawica.

A short service took place at Francki Place at noon.

A Remembrance Ceremony for ORP Blyskawica and its sister ship ORP Grom, took place at The Bandstand at 2pm. The Act of Commemoration was led by Father Jonathan Redvers Harris and



Father Ryan Cook. Following the blessing, wreaths were laid by dignitaries including the High Sheriff, the Chairman of the Isle of Wight Council, the respective Mayors of Cowes and East Cowes, among many others.

Thanks to the Friends of the ORP Blyskawica Society for organising the events and to Medina Marching Band for their performance.

Photos: Michael Paler

## Santa Maria

The Nao Santa María visited Cowes over the second May Bank Holiday weekend. This is a replica of the ship sailed by Christopher Columbus.

Cowes Mayor, Councillor Stuart Ellis, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Lora Peacey Wilcox, and outgoing Mayor, Councillor John Nicholson, boarded the vessel to welcome the Captain and his crew to Cowes.





## VE Day/VJ Day

On Thursday 8 May 2025, Cowes Town Council hosted a special event to celebrate 80 years since World War II officially ended in Europe. The celebrations began with a parade of local cadets and scouts through the town, led by the Vectis Corps of Drums marching band.

On The Parade, local veterans were treated to a tea party on The Bandstand with entertainment from Vectis Corps of Drums and singing duo Double Take. Veterans were served with the official Women's Institute VE Day 2025 Orange and Ginger Cake, made by Cowes WI.

At 9.30pm, Deputy Lord-Lieutenant, Colonel Snagge OBE, lit the beacon of peace on The Parade, before reading the Nation's Tribute. All those present joined in to sing 'I Vow To Thee My Country.'

On VJ Day on Friday 15 August, a short service was led by Rev. Emma Taylor in Northwood Park where the Mayor laid a wreath in remembrance of all those who fought and died in Japan.

Photos: Michael Paler



## Fastnet Race

Her Royal Highness Princess Anne visited Cowes on Saturday, 26 July. The Princess Royal watched the start of the Rolex Fastnet Race from the Royal Yacht Squadron and was treated to a flypast from the Red Arrows before heading inside the Royal Ocean Racing Club to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the club and to tour the newly refurbished clubhouse.

Photos: Michael Paler



## Cowes Week 2025

This year, we had a stand on The Parade during Cowes Week so that we could find out what residents want to see in Cowes.

The ideas were written on paper and turned into origami boats which we collected up and are now in the process of reviewing.

Some of the ideas included introducing a pump track, improved public conveniences, a swimming pool, more planting around the town and more things for young people to do.

Our Place Plan Working Group will be reviewing all the ideas at their next meeting.



## Projects

### New planters

The Town Council is working with the IW Council's Regeneration Officer to install new planters in the High Street to give the area a fresh look and feel. Phase one will see new planters in the wide area of the High Street between Fountain Yard and Sun Hill, enhancing the existing seating and planters.

### The Cut

The mural wall has been looking tired for a while now, so we are working on installing a 'Living Wall' which involves cleaning up and painting the wall ready to grow plants in front of it.

We will also be making other improvements to The Cut area by installing new planters, new seating and a rainwater harvesting system to collect water from the roof of the toilet block to drip feed the planters.

Thank you to Care in the Garden for assisting us with the start of the planting.



### Town Clock

The town clock, sited at the top of Shooters Hill, provides a useful timepiece for passers-by, while adding to the traditional appearance of the town. The clock is currently not working, and the Town Council is looking at options for repair and refurbishment.



### Town Maps

The large Town Map display boards situated between the Floating Bridge and The Parade needed updating; the new maps were fitted in August.



### Community Orchard

Our community orchard at Northwood Recreation Ground is doing well. The trees were planted in April 2022 to provide free fruit to residents. They continue to be monitored by our Tree Wardens. They are inspected regularly and watered in dry weather. The young trees are flourishing and this year we have seen some fruit on them. We look forward to watching them continue to grow.





## USEFUL NUMBERS

Name	Cowes Town Council Councillors - Tel No/Mobile/Email	Ward
Anni L Adams	07715 253558; <a href="mailto:anni.adams@outlook.com">anni.adams@outlook.com</a>	North
Siobhan Barney	07711 184224; <a href="mailto:siobhan@onehundredknightsbridge.com">siobhan@onehundredknightsbridge.com</a>	North
Alison Carter	07714 721885; <a href="mailto:alisoncarter474@gmail.com">alisoncarter474@gmail.com</a>	West
Stuart Dodwell	07749 254076; <a href="mailto:gsi-co@hotmail.co.uk">gsi-co@hotmail.co.uk</a>	Medina
Stuart Ellis (Town Mayor)	01983 246352; 07721 606934; <a href="mailto:cllr.stuartellis@outlook.com">cllr.stuartellis@outlook.com</a>	Medina
Paul A Fuller (Town & IW Councillor)	01983 289595; 07935 090835; <a href="mailto:paulfulleriw@gmail.com">paulfulleriw@gmail.com</a>	North
Richard E Hollis	01983 200986; 07375 221971; <a href="mailto:richardehollis@yahoo.co.uk">richardehollis@yahoo.co.uk</a>	North
Kay Marriott	07790 397999; <a href="mailto:kay.marriott@gmail.com">kay.marriott@gmail.com</a>	West
John U A Nicholson (Town & IW Councillor)	07918 757843; <a href="mailto:cllr.john.nicholson@outlook.com">cllr.john.nicholson@outlook.com</a>	South
Lora J Peacey Wilcox (Deputy Town Mayor & IW Councillor)	01983 645765; <a href="mailto:lora08@sky.com">lora08@sky.com</a>	Medina
John "Jock" Rafferty	07860 929462; <a href="mailto:jockrafferty@gmail.com">jockrafferty@gmail.com</a>	Medina
Phillip Sanders	07796 772634; <a href="mailto:cllr.phil.sanders@outlook.com">cllr.phil.sanders@outlook.com</a>	South
Nina Swallow	07885 744550; <a href="mailto:cllminaswallow@outlook.com">cllminaswallow@outlook.com</a>	Medina
David Walters	01983 653194; 07525 774106; <a href="mailto:davidwalters572@gmail.com">davidwalters572@gmail.com</a>	North
Wendy Wardrop	01983 298687	North
Lorraine White	07739 515492; <a href="mailto:cllrloirrainewhite@gmail.com">cllrloirrainewhite@gmail.com</a>	Medina
Richard Quigley (IW Councillor only)	07966 076064; <a href="mailto:richard.quigley@iow.gov.uk">richard.quigley@iow.gov.uk</a>	Cowes
MP IW West Richard Quigley	01983 244 980; <a href="mailto:richard.quigley.mp@parliament.uk">richard.quigley.mp@parliament.uk</a>	North

**Town Clerk:** Ms Debbie Faulkner, Town Council Office, Northwood House, Ward Avenue, Cowes. PO31 8AZ  
[townclerk@cowestowncouncil.org.uk](mailto:townclerk@cowestowncouncil.org.uk) Tel: 01983 209022.

**Facilities and Town Manager:** David Gordon, Town Council Office, Northwood House, Ward Avenue, Cowes PO31 8AZ  
[facilitiesmanager@cowestowncouncil.org.uk](mailto:facilitiesmanager@cowestowncouncil.org.uk) Tel: 01983 209022.

**Cowes Town Council Emergency Out of Hours Number:** 07502 444883

**Website:** <https://www.cowestowncouncil.org.uk/>

Useful Numbers	Tel. Number	Useful Numbers	Tel. Number
St Mary's Hospital	01983 822099	Isle of Wight Council	01983 821000
Cowes Medical Centre	01983 295251	Age UK (IW) (Advice on benefits/ grants and handyman service)	01983 525282
Emergency Services (all)	999	Citizens Advice Bureau	0344 411 1444
Police (non-emergency)	101	Cowes Library	01983 293341
Medical Advice (non-emergency)	111	<b>Schools:</b>	
Crimestoppers	0800 555 111	Lanesend Primary School	01983 293233
Environment Agency	0800 807 060	Gurnard Primary School	01983 295713
Floodline	0345 988 118	Northwood Primary School	01983 293392
Gas Leaks	0800 111 999	Cowes Enterprise College	01983 203103
Electricity Emergency	0800 072 7282	Rail Enquiries	03457 484950
Southern Water	0330 303 0368	Foodbank	01983 292040
Island Roads (24hrs.)	01983 822440	Red Funnel Ferries	02380 019192
Homestart - Support for families with young children	01983 533357	Samaritans Isle of Wight	01983 521234
Hants & IW Fire - Free home fire safety check	023 8064 4000	Social Services (Adult)	01983 814980
<a href="mailto:community.firesafety@hantsfire.gov.uk">community.firesafety@hantsfire.gov.uk</a>		Social Services (Children)	0300 300 0117
Jigsaw Family Support – support for those affected by family separation <a href="http://www.jigsawfamilysupport.com">www.jigsawfamilysupport.com</a>	01983 639 793	Storeroom (Furniture project)	01983 298679
Pension Service (Pension Credit entitlement check)	0800 99 1234	The Footprint Trust	01983 822282

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