



Spring 2026

Mayor's Message

We have a busy year ahead of us this year with a full calendar of events including the 200th anniversary of Cowes Week.

In May, we will be going to the polls for the Isle of Wight Council elections, which were postponed from last year. We look forward to working with those Councillors elected to serve Cowes and our surrounding towns and villages.

Earlier this year, the Town Council agreed to set up a Working Group that will look to strengthen our existing links with Deauville in France, with whom we are already twinned. We aim to build on the connection we already have with our French counterparts to develop new ideas and open up new possibilities. Through this link, we hope to be able to connect young people on both sides of the English Channel.

Two new members of staff have joined the Town Council this year, our new Town Clerk, Patrick Jolin and our new Responsible Financial Officer, Richard Shaul. We welcome them both to the team.

Cowes Town Council has made the decision to keep the precept for the financial year 2026/27 largely the same as the previous year to reduce the burden on the taxpayer. A Band D property in Cowes will therefore see a small decrease of eighty-nine pence for 2026/27.

We are very fortunate here in Cowes to have the first pharmacy in the country to have two Collection

Points installed, enabling quicker access to medication. I was delighted to be invited along to the Day Lewis Pharmacy to cut the ribbon on the second Collection Point earlier this year.

The Collection Points allow patients to pick up their repeat prescriptions at their convenience for free and can be accessed securely inside the pharmacy (during opening hours) or outside the pharmacy 24/7.

Patients can sign up for free online or ask inside the pharmacy. More information is available online here: www.daylewis.co.uk/collection-point-4/

If you are thinking about volunteering, I have recently seen various roles advertised at the Alzheimer Cafe Isle of Wight, Cowes RNLI Lifeboat, Daisy Ring Bus, and Northwood House. Please do get in contact with them if you think you can help.

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



Pharmacy Manager Edward Lloyd and Cllr Stuart Ellis

Councillor Stuart Ellis

Working with our local policing team

We have been in discussions with our local policing team about issues such as vandalism to our public conveniences and electric scooters and bikes riding through the pedestrianised High Street. We were pleased to be able to provide the police with CCTV footage to enable them to identify the individual who damaged the two toilet doors at The Cut.

Support for Flood Resilience

The Town Council has recently been successful in an application to secure grant funding to help residents clean up following incidents of flooding. The funding has been secured from Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN) Distribution via its Powering Communities to Net Zero Fund and will be used to purchase clean up equipment and a storage unit. The Town Council is in the process of gaining the necessary permissions to locate the storage unit in the town.

Cowes Youth Voice

The Town Council is keen to connect with young people in Cowes to find out more about how the Town Council can support them and to gather their feedback on what provision they would like to see for young people in the town. Two 'Youth Voice' meetings have been held so far to gather feedback. The last meeting was attended by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor with 16 Cowes Enterprise College students, a youth representative of the IW Biosphere Group, the Youth Trust, Together for Mission Zero and representatives from the Cowes and Northwood Place Plan. There were various ideas put forward which the Town Council is now considering.

Daisy Ring Bus

Volunteer drivers for Daisy Ring Bus C.I.C. can now enjoy free parking in Cowes, thanks to the generous support of Northwood House Charitable Trust Co. Ltd.

The volunteers can now park in Park Road Car Park with a complimentary permit making their journey to Southampton easier as they begin their shifts transporting patients between the ferry and the hospital.

The Charitable Trust already offers a free parking scheme for NHS patients travelling to the mainland for appointments or treatment.

Cowes Town Council is pleased to play its part by administering the scheme on behalf of the Charitable Trust.

If you can spare just one day a week and would like to volunteer to drive the Daisy Ring Bus for this invaluable transport service for cancer patients and their carers, please contact Rex on 07399468854 or email rtgoldsmith@hotmail.co.uk



Chief Operating Officer at Northwood House Charitable Trust Co Ltd Darren Cool, Daisy Ring Bus Volunteer Driver Ady Heng, Mayor of Cowes Councillor Stuart Ellis, Daisy Ring Bus Volunteer Driver Simon Steele, Daisy Ring Bus Director and Chair Michele Le Quesne Newton, Daisy Ring Bus Volunteer Coordinator Rex Goldsmith and Daisy Ring Bus Director Chris Cornford.

More information about the Daisy Ring Bus can be found here: www.daisyringbus.org

More information about the NHS Parking Scheme at Northwood House can be found here: www.cowestowncouncil.org.uk/wp/nhs-parking-scheme

Consultation – Northwood Recreation Ground, Park Road

We are keen to hear your views about the future use of Northwood Recreation Ground in Park Road. We will shortly be undertaking a consultation asking for your views on the facilities you would like to see there in the future. Please check our Facebook page and our website for the consultation link!

Dog Owners

A reminder to all dog owners to please keep dogs on a lead on roads, adjacent pavements and verges and remember to clean up after them. Failure to do so could result in a Fixed Penalty Notice. Dogs are allowed on all Island beaches during the winter months, however, to ensure everyone is able to enjoy our coastline, there are restrictions in place between 1 May and 30 September on some beaches, including Cowes. Dogs are also not permitted inside fenced children's play areas such as the those in Brunswick Road and Park Road. Please help to keep our shared spaces clean and safe for all.

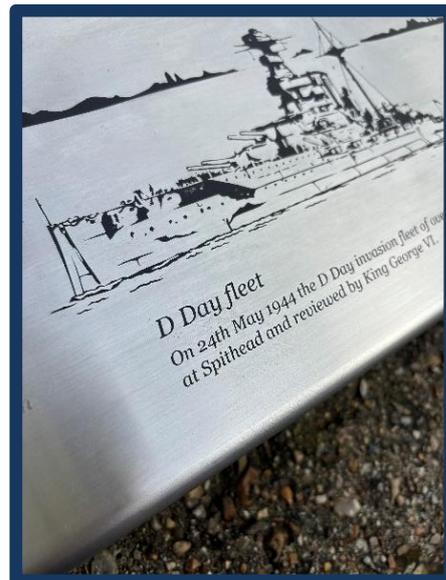
Horizon Plaque

At the end of last year, we commissioned some restoration work to the seafront plaque on The Parade.

Arctic Park Bin



We are really pleased to see the return of a litter bin to Arctic Park. A review of litter bin usage in Cowes by Island Roads, at our request, meant we were able to relocate an underused bin to the park. The move was funded by the Town Council, and the bin was installed last year by Island Roads. We hope that this will help to keep the park clean and tidy.



King Charles III England Coast Path

Work is well underway on the King Charles III England Coast Path - a new 2,700-mile National Trail around all of England's coast. The path runs through Cowes from the Chain Ferry to Gurnard Luck with this stretch being 2.83 miles (4.55km) long. This section was officially opened in September 2025 with new steps to the secret beach in Gurnard installed.

Horizon Plaque

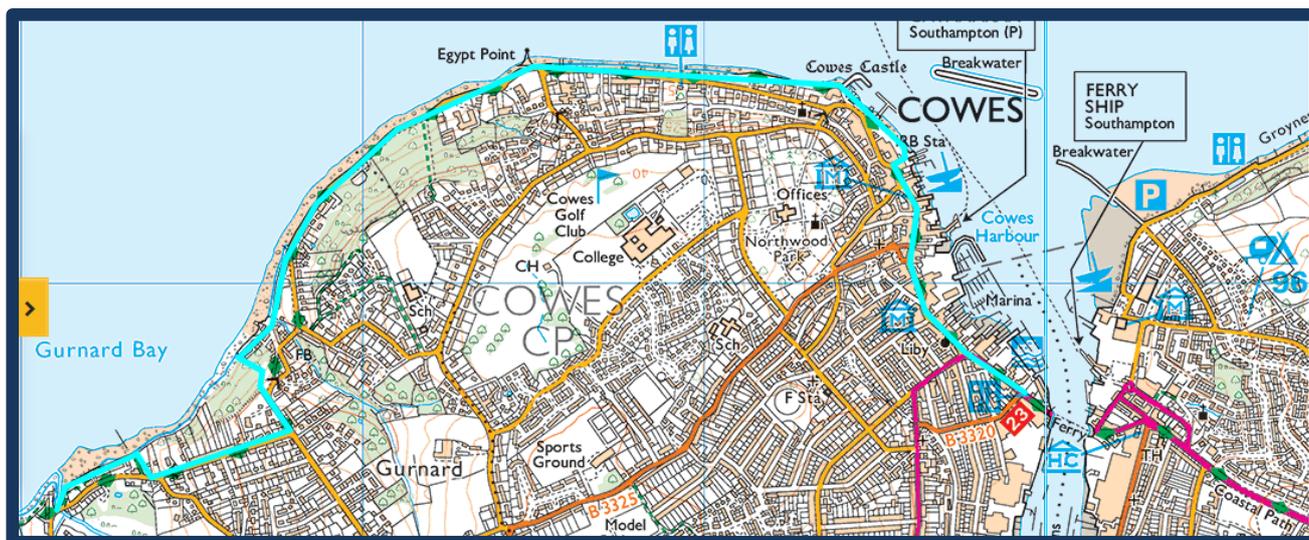


Image taken from National Trails Interactive Map

You can follow all the updates on each of the sections to be opened on the Isle of Wight here: www.gov.uk/government/collections/england-coast-path-isle-of-wight

Lionheart School

In January, a group of Councillors attended the Lionheart School in Cowes to meet Headteacher, Andrew Hatherley, and tour the school. They heard all about the great work Andrew and his team are doing to help improve the lives of young people across the Island. You can find out more about the Lionheart School here <https://lionheart.iow.sch.uk/>

Grant Funding

The Town Council welcomes grant applications from the local community and sets aside funds for this purpose each year in its budget. We support local voluntary, social and community organisations with small grants whose aim is to help improve the local Cowes community. Applications can be for full or part funding of an event, project, activity or item(s). We will also consider individuals or commercial businesses with non-profit initiatives that will deliver benefit to the community. Grants have recently been awarded to:

The Isle of Wight Community Club, Cowes Classics Day 2026, Cowes Men's Shed, Vectis Corps of Drums Marching Band, Isle of Wight Literary Festival, the Friends of Northwood Cemetery, the Supporters of Cowes Library, the Association of Sail Training Organisations (ASTO), Angel Radio Isle of Wight and Cowes Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society.

The grant application form can be found on our website: www.cowestowncouncil.org.uk

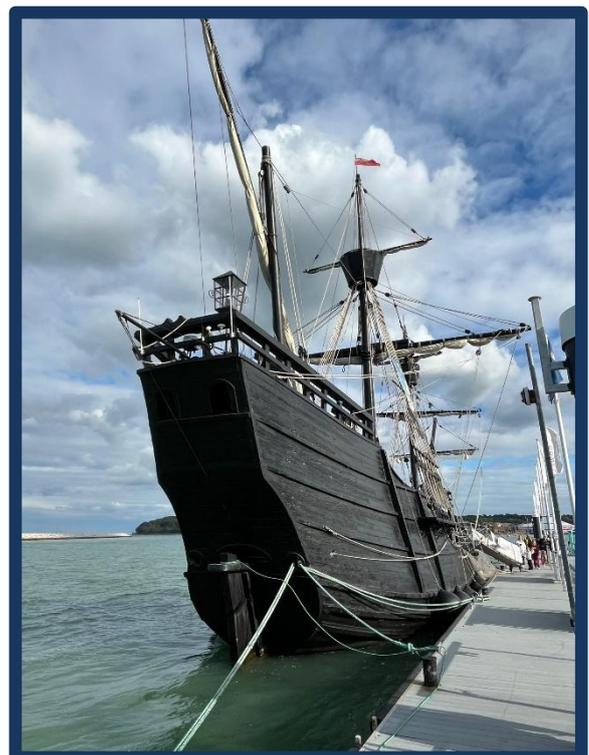
Nao Victoria

The Nao Victoria visited Cowes in September - a replica of the legendary Spanish ship that led the First Circumnavigation of the World.

Councillor John Nicholson went along to meet the ship's crew and provide them with gifts from Cowes.



Councillors Phil Sanders, Kay Marriott, Stuart Ellis, Paul Fuller, Headteacher Andrew Hatherley and Councillor David Walters



Tree Planting at Northwood Recreation Ground

New trees have been planted in Northwood Recreation Ground thanks to funding from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs through the Tree Council's Outside Woodland Fund.

The Isle of Wight Council, with the help of volunteers, will be planting 100 trees of mixed native species and 200m of nature friendly hedgerow across the Island. The sites have been chosen to connect wildlife corridors and provide canopy cover and shade in the future for the community.

Ten new trees have been planted at Northwood Recreation Ground. A mix of wild cherry, sweet gum, hornbeam, elm 'lutece', wild service trees and field maple.



Inclusive Community Play Park

The Isle of Wight Community Club is raising funds to build an inclusive community play park in Cowes. To help the cause, they have set up a fundraising link which can be accessed here:

<https://gofund.me/b9ea831bf>

Events

Cowes Christmas Celebration Day

Despite the rain, the Cowes Christmas Celebration Day was a big success with pubs, eateries and shops buzzing! There was live music, walkabout entertainment, Christmas markets, special offers, a window spotting competition, free parking and of course the Christmas lights switch on.

The Grinch was joined by a large group of children and families on a glow walk through the town. A big thank you to the town for getting involved.



Great British Beach Clean and Cigarette Butts

During our litter pick for the Great British Beach Clean we found around 150 cigarette butts along with cable ties, rope and lots of little pieces of plastic.

The Town Council is supporting a campaign led by Planet Aware to reduce coastal and marine pollution on the Isle of Wight, with one area of focus being on cigarette butt litter.

Cigarette butts are made of plastic and are not biodegradable. They can easily wash into the sea. You may see posters about the campaign popping up in Cowes. Please help to keep our town clean by using the waste bins provided and taking your litter home.

Thank you to all the Cowes businesses that have signed up to pocket ashtrays.





Councillors Lorraine White and Kay Marriott

Cowes Week 2026

Preparations are well underway for this year's regatta which we hope will attract many visitors to Cowes for the 200th anniversary of Cowes Week. We have passed on feedback from last year's regatta to the event organisers and asked that there be more provision made for young people and families.

We are working on our own plans to support the event.

The Town Council will, for the second-year running, have a gazebo on The Parade so please do come along and say hello and tell us how we can help you.

Remembrance Day

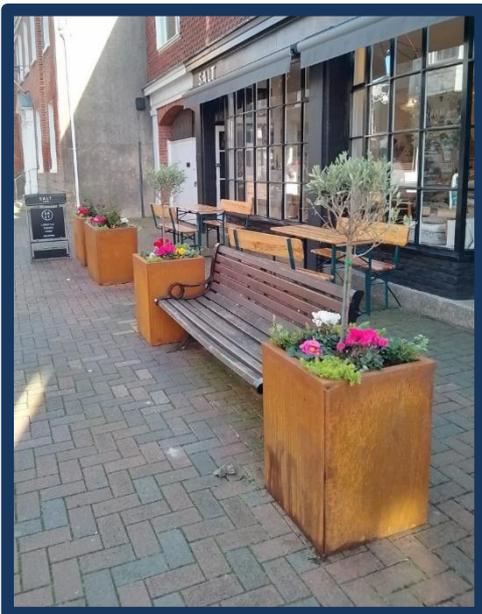
The annual Royal British Legion Remembrance Day Parade and Service took place on Sunday 9, November 2025.

The Parade departed from Northwood Park coach park, marched along Ward Avenue to the War Memorial in Northwood Park where a Memorial Service and wreath laying took place, followed by a Church Service in St Mary's Church.

The Parade then marched to The Parade and performed a March Past whereby the Mayor, supported by local dignitaries, took the salute and inspected the Parade.



Projects



High Street Improvements

The Town Council has been working in collaboration with the Isle of Wight Council's Regeneration Officer and the Cowes and Northwood Place Plan Group on an initiative to see future improvements to the High Street.

Following a process of meetings with local High Street traders and working with the University of Southampton's Future Towns Innovation Hub, the Town Council has embarked upon a series of improvements to form part of a long-term plan to bring improvements to the entire length of the High Street.

The new Corten Steel planters were sourced locally from ISM Solutions and filled with bright colours by Care in the Garden.

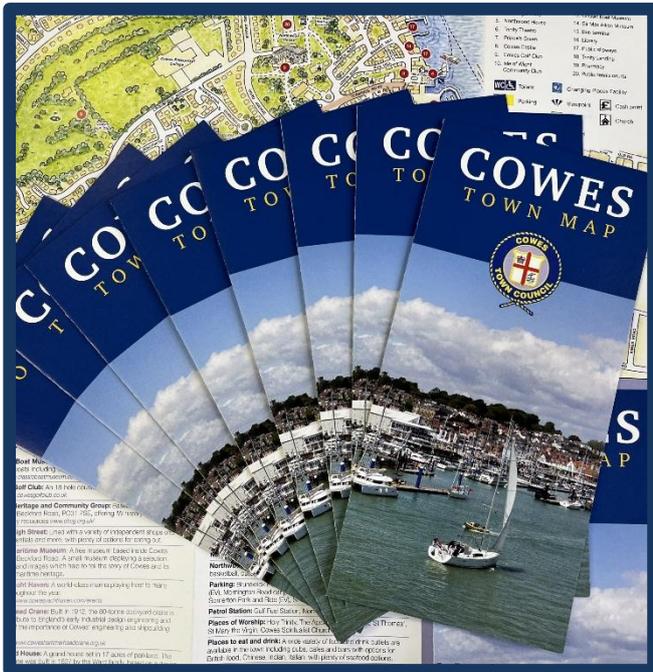
Plans are now being worked on to improve the area outside Sainsbury's. The old BT phone box has been removed, and new planters and seating will be installed.

The Parade Toilets Refurbishment

The Town Council is continuing with its programme of improvements to its public conveniences. The Medina Road toilets were refurbished in 2024, next on the list is The Parade toilets.

The Cut

The old mural wall has now been jet washed and is ready for painting which will be completed shortly, as the weather allows. Once the wall has been painted and a secure structure installed, we can install new planters, new seating and a rainwater harvesting system to collect water from the roof of the toilet block to drip feed the planters.



Town Leaflet

We have a brand-new town map with useful information about our town including things to see and do, places to eat and drink and local facilities. These handy leaflets will be distributed around the town to help guide visitors around. If you know of anywhere in Cowes wishing to stock some of these maps, please let us know.

New Website

The Town Council is investing in a new website to help improve accessibility and transparency. We will let you know when it is up and running.

Tackling Crime

Local businesses are being invited to join the fight against business crime as part of a new initiative funded by Police and Crime Commissioner Donna

Jones and delivered by UK Partners Against Crime (UKPAC).

The campaign offers 12 months of free access to the UKPAC Crime Hub - a secure online platform that helps businesses report crime, share intelligence, and stay informed about incidents affecting their area. The initiative brings together police, councils, BIDs, and community safety partners to help reduce shoplifting, antisocial behaviour and rural crime across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

The free membership is open to all sectors, including retail, hospitality, farming and small business owners. You can register now at: <https://uk-pac.com/freemembership/>

Dates for your diary

22-24 May	Cowes Fringe Festival	www.cowesfringe.com
4-7 June	Cowes Classics Regatta	https://cowesclassicsregatta.org
11 July	Round the Island Race	https://roundtheisland.org.uk
20-25 July	British Classic Week	www.britishclassicweek.co.uk
1-7 August	Cowes Week	www.cowesweek.co.uk
9 August	Round Britain & Ireland Race	www.roundbritainandireland.rorc.org
11-12 September	Little Britain Challenge Cup	https://littlebritain.co.uk

**Calling all
businesses in
Hampshire and
IOW!**

Take advantage of the exclusive offer for businesses in your area - 12 months free membership to UK Partners Against Crime and join the fight against business crime

Secure your exclusive membership offer here: uk-pac.com/freemembership

USEFUL NUMBERS

Name	Cowes Town Council Councillors - Tel No/Mobile/Email	Ward
Anni L Adams	07715 253558; anni.adams@outlook.com	North
Siobhan Barney	07711 184224; siobhan@onehundredknightsbridge.com	North
Alison Carter	07714 721885; alisoncarter474@gmail.com	West
Stuart Dodwell	07749 254076; gsi-co@hotmail.co.uk	Medina
Stuart Ellis (Town Mayor)	01983 246352; 07721 606934; cllr.stuartellis@outlook.com	Medina
Paul A Fuller (Town & IW Councillor)	01983 289595; 07935 090835; paulfulleriw@gmail.com	North
Richard E Hollis	01983 200986; 07375 221971; richardehollis@yahoo.co.uk	North
Kay Marriott	07790 397999; kay.marriott@gmail.com	West
John U A Nicholson (Town & IW Councillor)	07918 757843; cllr.john.nicholson@outlook.com	South
Lora J Peacey Wilcox (Deputy Town Mayor & IW Councillor)	07970 424214; lora08@sky.com	Medina
John "Jock" Rafferty	07860 929462; jockrafferty@gmail.com	Medina
Phillip Sanders	07796 772634; cllr.phil.sanders@outlook.com	South
Nina Swallow	07885 744550; cllrminaswallow@outlook.com	Medina
David Walters	01983 653194; 07525 774106; davidwalters572@gmail.com	North
Wendy Wardrop	01983 298687	North
Lorraine White	07739 515492; cllrlorrainewhite@gmail.com	Medina
Richard Quigley (IW Councillor only)	07966 076064; richard.quigley@iow.gov.uk	Cowes North
MP IW West Richard Quigley	01983 244 980; richard.quigley.mp@parliament.uk	

Town Clerk: Mr Patrick Jolin, Town Council Office, Northwood House, Ward Avenue, Cowes. PO31 8AZ
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 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	Lanesend Primary School	01983 293233
Cowes Medical Centre	01983 295251	Gurnard Primary School	01983 295713
Emergency Services (all)	999	Northwood Primary School	01983 293392
Police (non-emergency)	101	Cowes Enterprise College	01983 203103
Medical Advice (non-emergency)	111	Citizens Advice Bureau	0344 411 1444
Crimestoppers	0800 555 111	Cowes Library	01983 293341
Environment Agency	0800 807 060	Foodbank	01983 292040
Floodline	0345 988 118	Samaritans Isle of Wight	01983 521234
Gas Leaks	0800 111 999	The Footprint Trust	01983 822282
Electricity Emergency	0800 072 7282	Storeroom (Furniture project)	01983 298679
Southern Water	0330 303 0368	Parklands Dementia Resource Centre	01983 220200
Island Roads (24hrs.)	01983 822440	Homestart - Support for families with young children	01983 533357
Isle of Wight Council	01983 821000	Age UK (IW) (Advice on benefits/ grants and handyman service)	01983 525282
Social Services (Adult)	01983 814980	Pension Service (Pension Credit entitlement)	0800 99 1234
Social Services (Children)	0300 300 0117	Jigsaw Family Support – support for those affected by family separation www.jigsawfamilysupport.com	01983 639 793
Rail Enquiries	03457 484950		
Red Funnel Ferries	02380 019192		
Hants & IW Fire - Free home fire safety check community.firesafety@hantsfire.gov.uk	023 8064 4000		

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