

# Arreton Parish Council Newsletter

July 2022

It is definitely time for another newsletter, if only to wish you an enjoyable summer and, from a personal point-of-view, a hope that we do not have a repeat of the recent spell of extremely hot weather. Apologies to those of you who may have enjoyed it but perhaps we could compromise on something more usual for this time of year. By that, I don't mean pouring rain and any other delights of what used to be considered a typical British summer!



## **Parish Council news**

Over the winter, some of you may have noticed the sacking covering some of the graves in the Churchyard. These had been repaired by GJ Banks in the autumn and the mortar needed to set before being exposed to the elements. The coverings have now been removed and I am sure that you will agree that tombs look so much better. Thanks go to Banks for undertaking the work and to the members of St George's Parochial Church Council for helping to facilitate the work.



Whilst on the subject of cemeteries, the bench in Gore Cemetery has been replaced as it was getting very rickety. Admittedly the immediate surroundings are not quite so pretty but they will recover.



The Queen's Platinum Jubilee has been and gone. Events were organised by the Cricket Club, the Methodist Church, St George's Church and the Parish Council. The numbers attending were variable and generally lower than we hoped. However, those attending had a good time.

The members of the Parish Council are always looking at ways and means of organising and advertising events and it would be appreciated if you could let them know the sort of events you would like to see in the Parish and also any ideas for successful advertising. Please contact the Clerk if you have any thoughts on the subjects – [arretonpc@outlook.com](mailto:arretonpc@outlook.com)

The members of the Parish Council are currently considering the possibility of either updating the old Parish Plan or of producing a Neighbourhood Plan, which will require the support of local residents to help with the work. However, there is no point in proceeding until the IW Council has finished the *Island Strategy* and it has been signed-off at Government level and so the project is currently on hold.

## **Rights of Way**

The Ramblers Association works to maintain the extensive network of rights of way across the Island by having parish representatives who walk all footpaths and bridleways within their parish twice a year. They then report any problems, such as a broken stile, a missing sign or an overgrown path to the Public Rights of Way Service at IW Council for them to address. The current Ramblers representative is leaving the parish and so the Ramblers are looking for a replacement to start in the autumn.

Walking the paths takes you to some hidden corners of the Parish and to some magnificent views from the Downs. Many of the newish stiles across the parish result from defects being reported to the Council by the Ramblers. Because Arreton parish is so large it has in the past been split

into east and west, with two representatives covering it and this is a possibility for the future, if appropriate.

If you are, or know of anybody who may be, interested in taking on the role or would like more details as to what is involved, please contact David Yates on 07718 685936 or email your contact details to the Clerk at [arretonpc@outlook.com](mailto:arretonpc@outlook.com) for someone to get back to you.

Whilst on the subject of Rights of Way, the IW Council has recently issued this press release.

### **Significant investment agreed to improve public footpaths and bridleways**

Up to £200,000 will be spent on improving public footpaths and bridleways on the Island. The Isle of Wight Council said the investment marked a major step forward in maintaining, upgrading and sustaining the Island's important rights of way network. The plans include provision of a multi-use gravel surface on the rural section of the Red Squirrel Trail between Merstone and Godshell, which suffers from very wet and muddy conditions during the winter. Funding will also be used to complete the multi-use path connecting Niton and Whitwell (Ashnowle Lane), providing a welcome safe route away from traffic for walkers, cyclists and horse riders.



A new bridleway is also planned to connect the Thorness and Whitehouse areas to Mark's Corner and the northern entrances to Parkhurst Forest. The north of the Island is almost completely devoid of bridleways so this is much-needed and is happening with the cooperation of private landowners, Forestry Commission and a contribution from the Isle of Wight Bridleways Group.

The investment agreed by the council's Cabinet will also support:

- works to reopen the coastal path at Brighstone Holiday Centre;
- surfacing upgrades at strategic locations including Alum Bay, Binstead-Ryde, Arreton and Brading;
- general network improvements, such as footbridges, gates, steps and signs;
- a new rights of way database including their condition to help inform future works.

Councillor Jonathan Bacon, Cabinet member for environment, said: "Whether they're used for sport, relaxation, studying nature or simply getting from A to B, the Island's rights of way are an important part of our local heritage. They are also an incredibly valuable way of enhancing quality of life for our residents and visitors that come to enjoy the beautiful countryside and Biosphere.

They are also an important asset in terms of sustainable transport, health and wellbeing, social inclusion and tourism."

While still on the subject of walking the Autumn IW Walking Festival is coming up and the following request has been received from Sarah and Jo at Visit IW:

### **Isle of Wight Walking Festival 2022 Autumn event - 8-16 October**



On behalf of Visit Isle of Wight, we are managing the IW Walking Festival for 2022. We had a really successful walking festival in Spring, where we had 65 walks across the Island with over 1,500 walkers taking part.

We now have a second event for Autumn coming up in October (between 8-16) and are reaching out to see if any Councillors or businesses in your community would be interested in hosting a walk in your local area at some point across the ten days.

We would appreciate if you could help to share our sign-up form and those who would like to support can submit a walk or two: [IWWF22 AUTUMN SIGN UP FORM](#).

Kind regards,  
Sarah and Jo

Isle of Wight Walking Festival  
#MakeTimeToExplore  
Visit Isle of Wight Ltd

## Events



Talking of events leads neatly to the Tour of Britain, a major cycling race that will be visiting the Island for the final stage and overall finish on Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup>. The route is a convoluted figure-of-eight which begins in Ryde and ends at the Needles, covering most of the Island in-between those two points. The route will bring the riders along the top of the Downs to the *Hare and Hounds* and then down to Arreton Cross (hare and magpies), past Gore Cemetery and on to Rookley via Merstone. After a circuit of the West Wight, the convoy will then make its way back to Rookley (again) via Carisbrooke and Blackwater Shute before going on to the Sandown Bay area and eventually up the Military Road to Freshwater Bay and the Needles. That's the simplified version! An interactive map is available on the VisitIW website – <https://www.visitisleofwight.co.uk/whats-on/events/tour-of-britain> There will be a rolling programme of road closures about 15 minutes before the spectacle arrives so no one will be stuck in their house all day. The timings have now been published so you can plan round them if necessary.

The members of the Parish Council are looking to draw attention to the area as the Tour goes through and one idea is some hay bale art. If you have any other ideas or offers of help, please contact the Clerk – [arretonpc@outlook.com](mailto:arretonpc@outlook.com) or 07587 008183.

## Community Speedwatch

Some of you may remember a previous Speedwatch campaign in the village, the highlight being catching a double-decker bus exceeding 30mph on one occasion. A new campaign is under way and our Ward Councillor, Suzie Ellis, has sent the following message.



Dear All,

Following Inspector Gooding's visit to the 'other' three Parish Council meetings [Chillerton and Gatcombe, Godshill and Rookley] to speak about traffic concerns and discussions that have ensued around the possible formation of a community Speedwatch group, it seems sensible for the way forward to be a community Speedwatch group combined of volunteers from across the four parishes - the idea being that if all four parishes work together to form one group it will be more effective, and easier to resource.

A lady called Shona McMillan has kindly agreed to be the initial contact/co-ordinator and will be liaising with the police co-ordinator and taking this forward. Her contact details are: SHONA MCMILLAN - tel: 07921 628565 or e-mail [shona1\\_161@hotmail.com](mailto:shona1_161@hotmail.com). Shona will, I am sure, be in touch with further details but, in the meantime, perhaps you could let residents know and ask for those interested in finding out more to get in touch?

I appreciate that Arreton has not yet had the benefit of the conversation but we are keen to get this off the ground, and hopeful that Arreton residents will want to be involved, so forgive my 'jumping the gun' by sending this around before the September meeting!

Many thanks and very best wishes.

Suzie

Inspector Gooding will be attending the September meeting of Arreton Parish Council to talk about traffic matters in general and speeding in particular. The meeting will take place in the Community Hall starting at 7pm.

## Police

### **Scams**

Unfortunately, but as usual, there is the necessity of including an update on the latest scams from PCSO Justin Keefe.

“Trading Standards have a few scams to warn you about this week –

Covid scams haven't gone away and they probably won't for some considerable time so please be cautious if you receive an email or text purporting to be from the NHS. This recent scam states that you have been in contact with somebody who has tested positive for the new Omicron variant and instructs you to send for a FREE PCR test. If you click on the link, you will then be asked for your information and your bank details to pay for the 99p postage. Whilst this might seem a small amount you will have given the scammers all of your details and your card details which they can then use or sell on potentially taking all of your money. Remember – there is no longer any track and trace so nobody will know if you have been with anyone who has tested positive – NEVER click on links in text and emails.

- One resident received a call from a company stating that he was in the wrong tax band and the company could save him money and could backdate the refund to 1991 and he would get a full refund of over £7000! All he had to do was pay £195.00 over the phone using his card. Fortunately, the resident asked them to put it in writing which they obviously refused and he realised it was a scam. If you believe you are in the wrong tax band you can challenge it yourself – information can be found on the Government website [Challenge your Council Tax band: Overview - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/topics/council-tax/council-tax-challenge)
- The council is currently processing energy rebates and report that a customer has had a text advising her to click on the link to apply – this is a scam you do not need to apply the Council any rebates will be issued automatically – NEVER click on links in emails and texts
- The National Fraud Intelligence Bureau is warning the public about the continued increase in reports about scams where criminals pretend to be someone you know (usually your children) on WhatsApp. Criminals will usually begin the conversation with “Hello Mum” or “Hello Dad” and will say that they are texting from a new mobile number as their phone was lost or damaged. They will then ask for money to purchase a new one or claim that they need money urgently to pay a bill. The criminal will provide bank details for the payment to be made to, with some coming back with further demands for money.

### **How to protect yourself:**

- **STOP. THINK. CALL.** If a family member or friend makes an unusual request on WhatsApp, always call the person to confirm their identity.
- You can report spam messages or block a sender within WhatsApp. Press and hold on the message bubble, select ‘Report’ and then follow the instructions.
- **Never share your account's activation code (that's the 6-digit code you receive via SMS)**

Stay Safe

### PARISH COUNCIL CONTACT DETAILS

Chairman: Cllr Martin Kimber – [martinkimberapc@gmail.com](mailto:martinkimberapc@gmail.com)

Clerk: Mrs Sheila Caws - [arretonpc@outlook.com](mailto:arretonpc@outlook.com) 07587 008183



Photograph courtesy of Caroline Knox