



VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

THE CLERK'S COLUMN

EDITION 55

MONDAY 26 APRIL 2021

Welcome to edition 55 of our Clerk's Column circulated as usual to the 490 residents on our Residents' Forum email list and through the Chronicle's page 4.

LOCAL ELECTIONS: WHAT NEXT

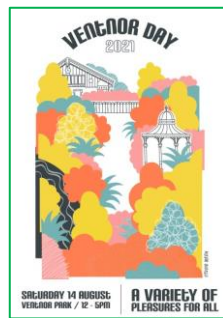
Following the publication of the nominations for the town's four Wards for Town Council elections, we now know that three of the present Council Members will be part of the new one that will take office on Monday 10 May: Brian Lucas (Bonchurch & Ventnor East), Stephen Cockett (St Lawrence and Colm Watling (Lowtherville all elected unopposed..

Another six will come from the election on 6 May from the 12 Candidates nominated (full list available by clicking this [link](#)).

That will leave us with two vacancies, one each in Bonchurch & Ventnor East and Lowtherville that the new Town Council will be able to fill by Co-option.

VENTNOR DAY 2021

To publicise the return of Ventnor Day – this time to be held in the Park – we commissioned a new Poster designed by our one-time Youth Worker Lauren Fry. Planning is underway so please join us from noon until 5pm on 14 August.



PADDLING POOL

For those wondering about the use of the Paddling Pool this season, we're planning to open it fully for use by residents and visitors from 17 May.

VENTNOR HAVEN GROUP

The new group of the Town Council, Cheetah Marine International Ltd and Ventnor Haven Fisheries had its first (virtual) meeting on Monday evening with an Agenda that included the Feasibility Study run by the Interreg France (channel) England partnership as part of its Intelligent Community Energy (ICE) project being delivered by the French Consultancy J B Wallaert. Other items were relationships with the Isle of Wight Council, the Island's MP and potential funding sources for the major works required.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

After much focus in this column on the Assets the Town Council is responsible for, seems time to cover another vital area of the Town Council's work. Our Community Development officer Tony McCarthy explains:

Over the last year we have helped establish an independent Community Foodbank run by 20 volunteers – the Foodbank has fed over 700 people since it was established in July until the end of March 2021.

Our Council provide free premises and support for Baby Box, a Charity that provides baby food, nappies, and clothing for families in need with young children from across the Isle of Wight.

The Town Council employs a co-ordinator to manage an Anxiety Café –to support people recovering from mental ill-health. This meets twice a week. We also employ co-ordinator to run Network – an independent Job Club which meets weekly at Ventnor Library.

Our Salisbury Gardens' Green Room offers free space to Citizens Advice and in the past has provided free space to the Alzheimer's Café, Action on Hearing Loss, Adult & Community Learning, POA Learning and other organisations. It is also the base for our Youth Club.

During the height of the pandemic the Town Council managed a team of 60 volunteers, collecting prescriptions, shopping, and befriending vulnerable residents..

The Town Council have been instrumental in setting up and providing premises for Ventnor Community Shed – a community workshop with over 50 members – which is now in its sixth year.

We have also established a weekly advice surgery – with Southern Housing, Citizens Advice and POA Learning in Upper Ventnor, an area of our town with high levels of deprivation.

VIA MY TWITTER FEED LAST WEEK

- The Institute for [Financial Studies](#) reports today that 'Total spending on adult education and apprenticeships has fallen by one third over the last 10 years.'
- An Assistant General Secretary of the Unite Union highlights inequality during a webinar with: 'The UK's wealthy elite grew their riches by £40,000,000,000 during the pandemic & all the while 1,000,000 emergency food parcels were handed out to children in England.'

MORE INFORMATION: is available from the Town Council's website and @ventnor clerk