



# VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

CLERK'S COLUMN

EDITION 110

MONDAY 30 MAY 2022

Welcome to edition 110 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.

## BEACH SAFETY TEAM

.Smartened up with new signage, the First Aid Hut is ready for this season's Beach Safety team. The Town Council has funded two new Beach Safety worker posts of 21 hours a week that together with its Manager, Brian Roberts, will be able to provide cover from 11am to 6pm starting this coming Wednesday until 30 September. The two new staff members of the team are Ventnor residents Bethany Whitehead and Lloyd Wheatley. All three team members have completed First Aid training and know the town's beach very well indeed.



## FREE SCHOOL MEALS IN HALF TERM

We learned on Tuesday of the Isle of Wight Council's decision not to provide food vouchers for pupils qualifying for free school meals for this week's half term. We knew that the Island Free School had 100 pupils that qualify for free school meals and St Francis 80 and we had enough funding left to provide £12 each of our vouchers, exchangeable at the town's Co-op. So we contacted the appropriate staff member at both schools to ask if they would be willing to distribute our vouchers to the parents of those pupils that they were more than willing to do.

## GAMES LAUNCHED ON SUNDAY AFTERNOON

The Paddling Pool area was packed with families enjoying the new children's games area. The snake, hopscotch and copy me games were officially launched with the help of the Junior Carnival Queen and her Princesses. Young musicians from the Chiltern music academy then entertained us with their wind and jazz band. The finale was a moving song with the musicians all standing on the Paddling Pool's Island.



## VENTNOR COMMUNITY PANTRY

Baby Box will open its Community Pantry this week with funding from the Isle of Wight Council's share of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight's allocation of the government's Housing Support Fund. Community Pantries have developed internationally as part of the response to growing numbers of people being unable to afford food. They differ from Food Banks in being membership organisations that in exchange for a small weekly fee (here £5) members can choose from a selection of fresh, frozen and tinned food to a higher value (here £15) weekly. There are already 18 in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight Council hoped for five. Three are now established on the Island: the one in East Cowes' Community Spirited opened on 26 April and the one in Ryde plans to open on 9 June in Oakfield Primary School. Baby Box, with Town Council support, appointed its Pantry Co-ordinator on Friday. Staff from Morisons have made an important contribution in getting Baby Box's Victoria Street premises ready for this extension of its work.

## PLATINUM JUBILEE EVENTS IN THE PARK

**Tree Planting:** the Town Council is planting a Jubilee Tree in Ventnor Park at 3pm on Friday with Rev Canon Hugh Wright and our Mayor, Steph Toogood. All are welcome to join this commemoration of the Queen's 70<sup>th</sup> year since her coronation.

**Afternoon Tea Party:** on the Putting Green afternoon tea will be served in bone China cups and saucers along with cream teas, savoury light bites, traditional Cucumber sandwiches and red, white, and blue cupcakes from 2pm Friday. Children's games and colourful entertainment will add to the enjoyment.

## SUSTAINABILITY & BIODIVERSITY GROUP

The group held its monthly meeting on Wednesday.

## VIA MY TWITTER FEED LAST WEEK

- A new report from the [Work Foundation](#) looks at insecure work, finding 'In 2021, an estimated 6.2 million workers (19.8% of the UK labour market) experienced severely insecure work.'
- The [High Pay Centre](#) reports today that 'Across the 69 companies that disclosed pay ratios in Q1 2022, the median CEO/median employee ratio was 63:1. This was nearly double the ratio for the same group of companies in 2021.'

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