



# VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

CLERK'S COLUMN

EDITION 131

MONDAY 24 OCTOBER 2022

Welcome to edition 131 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.

## WELLBEING CAFÉ'S LATEST TRIP

Organised by its Co-ordinator Terri, the Wellbeing Café members had a wonderful day out at the Isle of Wight Steam Railway at Havenstreet last Saturday. Members dodged the initial rain



showers to enjoy rides on the steam train, explore The Train Story – an undercover, interactive experience and exhibition of over 150 years of railway history, including Victorian and Edwardian carriages – and finally to watch flying displays of the Haven Falconry's birds of prey. Thanks go to Dave Forrester and team who privately-own the open-top bus and kindly provided this transport for the day, driven by volunteer John Killick.

## FUNDING OUR COMMUNITY PANTRY

The Community Pantry's initial funding through the government's Housing Support Fund's first half year



was for 6 months. The second half year funding has now been announced and in addition to excluding support for staffing there is a requirement that the food allocation of £10,000 is only available through a company called Bidfood, owned by the South African-based £5 billion pa turnover international trading company Bidvest.

That's a serious issue because we understand prices at Bid Food are considerably higher than purchasing items locally eg a kilo of mince is £14.00 at Bidfood compared to £4.00 at our local Co-op. Other examples: smallest block of cheese is 2.5 kg and worth about £23.00, there is no small tins of fruits, soups, squash or any other essentials required to stock our pantry and all fresh fruits and vegetables are well over any local shop value.

The threat is all the greater because the Pantry is so successful with 200 Members paying £5 weekly for £15 of food and staffing is essential.

## CLIMATE CHANGE & BIODIVERSITY LOSS

The Town Council's Sustainability & Biodiversity Group are hosting a series of local consultation meetings with residents. They're intended to provide information on both crises, link with local expertise on them, share ideas, assist residents' networking and discuss meaningful actions that are possible. Arrangements for a meeting in each area of the town are:



*St Lawrence*, 17 November from 6pm to 8pm in the Village Hall.

*Town Centre*, 26 November from 2pm to 4pm in the Baptist Church, Pier Street.

*Lowtherville*, 3 December from 2pm to 4 pm in St Margaret's Hall.

*Bonchurch*, 13 December from 6pm to 8pm in St Wilfred's Church, Trinity Road.

## MACNAUGHTON-HOWE FESTIVAL 2022

The community inspired arts and crafts, horticultural, and performing arts festival for all ages is in action this coming weekend at St Catherine's Church. Opening times are Friday 1pm to 5pm and Saturday 10am to 4pm.

The Festival has its roots in a bequest of £2,000 for cultural activities in the town by Mrs D A MacNaughton following her death in 1956; she was a daughter of local ironmonger Alfred Scott, based in the shop now occupied by Hursts today. Rene Howe was a volunteer from the earliest days of the Festival and, on her death in 2001, left another substantial donation to support it. Do fate time for a visit to contribute to its continuation.

## NEW ROAD CLOSURES

*Zig Zag Road*: 7pm on Monday 24 October until 5pm on Wednesday 26 October between its junctions with Bellevue Road and Castle Road.

*Clarence Road*: 9.30am and 3.30 for one shift, between Monday 24 October 2022 and Wednesday 26 October 2022 no driving or waiting on its length.

## FROM MY TWITTER FEED THIS WEEK

- The [Food Foundation](#)'s latest survey finds 'one in four households with children (25.8%) have experienced food poverty in the last month affecting an estimated 4 million children in the UK.' New research by the [Economic & Social Research Institute](#) shows 'reductions in UK to EU goods trade by 16% and trade from the EU to UK by 20% relative to the scenario in which Brexit had not occurred.'