



VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

CLERK'S COLUMN

EDITION 138

MONDAY 12 DECEMBER 2022

Welcome to edition 138 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.

PANTRY FUNDING MAKES PRIVATE EYE

The decision of the Isle of Wight Council to provide the second six-months funding of our Community Pantry only through a contract with Bidfood is covered in this week's *Private Eye* magazine: the full story is available

But their latest allocations must apparently be spent with the profit-seeking Bidfood, a subsidiary of Bidcore Group, listed in South Africa. It recorded record profits last year of 7.6bn rand (£370m) – boosted no doubt by numerous government and local authority contracts for provision to hospitals, schools and the army.

Pantry volunteers are dismayed and angry because as the Covid-19 food boxes illustrated, they could buy double the amount of food if left to "forage" locally for the best daily deals. For

[here](#). First covered locally in Clerk's Column 131 that reported Bidfood is owned by the South African-based £5 billion

pa turnover international trading company Bidvest and 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 ...there are 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.

VENTNOR'S NOVEMBER WEATHER

Chris Watts' daily readings from our Weather Centre summarised as: A stormy month. Frequent gale force gusts of wind, and record breaking rainfall. Also very mild.

Rainfall (mm):		Date
Total amount	213.9	
% of average	241	
No. of dry days	8	
Highest	39.6	2nd
Temperatures (deg C):		
Mean	11.7	
Difference from average	+2.6	
Highest	18.0	12th
Lowest	4.6	29th
Coldest day	8.6	29th

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP

Tony McCarthy's report opened Thursday's meeting of the Group. He told us of the success of the Island-wide Food Waste and Food Poverty Conference attended by over 80 people involved in the related work and updated us on the progress of the Living Well project in which the Town Council is a partner. His successful application for funding to run a once weekly parent and toddler group in the Family Centre was welcomed as was his news that Southampton University are conducting some research with the assistance of our Wellbeing Café. Other Agenda items were the Community Support Fund, Warm Spaces and the monthly meeting with our County Councillors.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT FUND IS OPEN...

The Fund is to support our local organisations meeting the needs of local residents in the same position as those in our documentary *Family*

Voice that can be viewed [here](#).

I'VE GOT FAITH IN THE COMMUNITY

frame from family voice

It's urgent as the demand faced by our Food Bank, Baby Box and Community Pantry is increasing as Christmas and Winter arrive.

Donations, marked CSF, can be made by:

- **Bank Transfer:** to Ventnor Town Council, Sort Code 40-45-09, A/c No. 41366998
- **Card:** phone 01983 853775 or at our office, Salisbury Gardens, Dudley Road
- **Cheque:** post or deliver to our office.

CHRISTMAS IN VENTNOR

The town celebrated its Christmas with a wide range of activities and events including live music from noon at Spring Hill Gardens, a Christmas Market at the Winter Gardens and Craft and Christmas Fayres at St Catherine's and Baptist churches and a Lantern Parade as well as a collection of characters...



... including (bottom right) Carnival Committee Chairperson Teresa Preston expressing surprise at Crave Ice Cream's lovely distribution to children of free Vouchers for use at their High Street shop.

FROM MY TWITTER FEED THIS WEEK

- Figures from the Warm [this](#) Winter campaign reveal '64% of pre-payment meter customers are vulnerable, with 51% having health conditions or disabilities. Over one in ten (13%) PPM customers have already self-disconnected'.