



Here's edition 142 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.

VENTNOR HAVEN

With the annual cost of removing the seaweed from the Haven rising to £103,155 this year the Isle of Wight Council put its management out to open tender on 24



August. Two tenders were received, for £264,320 from Cheetah Marine and £78,500 from the newly formed company Ventnor Haven Management Limited with Geoffrey, Cheryl and Edward Blake as its three Directors. Their tender has been accepted and will come into effect on 1 April.

The Town Council has always kept in touch with both companies because of the threat to the town posed by the hydrogen sulphide produced by the seaweed if left to rot. The change will see a new way of removing it – by an electric pump – with the boat that has protected the town since 2012 laid to rest. Cheetah Marine's MD Sean Strevens kindly provided the image of it and told us *Cheetah Marine will fully support Geoff and Ed during the change of contracts, the handover of the dredging and where we may be needed in the future. Geoff and ED are very capable of making this a success*



SUSTAINABILITY & BIODIVERSITY GROUP

This Working Group held its latest meeting on Tuesday evening. It progressed its plan for a draught proofing scheme for local homes, considered arrangements for the care of the Town Council's wild flower areas and this year's Wild Gardens competition. The needs of the dedicated butterfly area on the revetment towards Bonchurch were discussed as well as Food Waste and signage to prompt the awareness of residents and visitors of the threat to the future of the planet.

NEW ROAD CLOSURE

Belgrave Road: from 7am Monday 23 January until 3.30pm on Friday 27 January, or when the works has been completed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed along Belgrave Road between its junctions with Esplanade Road and Bath Road.

VENTNOR OUR SPACE: THIS THURSDAY

This new Town Council initiative offers drop-in



chat and support sessions for anyone of any age and in any circumstance. We offer safe environments to

access support and advice or simply to chat over a cuppa or a hot lunch. Organisations attending include Veterans Outreach, Barnardo's, Ventnor Community Shed, Baby Box Isle of Wight, Ventnor Community Pantry, People Matter IoW, Living Well & Early Help, Citizen's Advice, Wessex Cancer Trust and Ventnor Community Foodbank.

A hot lunch will be served at the event and every Thursday at this venue as part of Ventnor's Warm Space initiative.

It's at St Catherine's Church, 10.30-1.30 Thursday

YOUTH ACTIVITY

Ventnor Youth Club got their hands messy and covered in lard, making super-easy-DIY birdfeeders. The children used pine-cones, string, lard & bird seed, to create a hanging feeder for their gardens or, grandparents' gardens! The children care about our British Countryside & especially the animals – they were saddened to hear that UK bird populations have been declining e.g. (but not limited too); Tree sparrow 98%, Starling 71%, Turtle Dove 71%



COMMUNITY SUPPORT FUND

This fund is providing vital support for local residents no longer able to meet the costs of all of their food, heat, light and rent.

Donations, marked CSF, can be made by:

- **Bank Transfer:** 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.

Donations can be anonymous and details of the Fund's organisation are available on request.

FROM MY TWITTER FEED THIS WEEK

- An [Oxfam](#) Report today finds that 'The richest 1% have pocketed \$26 trillion (£21 trillion) in new wealth since 2020, nearly twice as much as the other 99 per cent of the world's population.'
- [Nuffield Trust](#) research into the effect of Brexit on health in the UK finds, among other things 'In social care, the number of vacancies has actually increased to an estimated 165,000 full-time equivalent roles in England.'