



Honour to attend 75th Anniversary

TOWN MAYOR'S ADDRESS BY COUNCILLOR
JON GILBEY

I had the honour of representing the town at St Paul's church to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the World War II bombing raid on Shanklin that resulted in the death of 45 residents and fire personnel, and the destruction of several buildings and homes.



Many thanks to local artist Karl Stedman who drew the mural that now has its well deserved place on the wall at Shanklin RBL. Also to Rev Mark Williams for conducting the service; Anne Springman MBE; HM Lord Lieutenant of the Isle of Wight Major General Martin White CB CBE JP; Ben Rouse High Sheriff of the Isle of Wight; Rev Alan Swanborough and The Right Reverend Christopher Foster, Bishop of Portsmouth.

My thanks also to Darren Wood, Watch Manager and all the crew Shanklin Fire Station along with Steve Apter, former Chief Fire Officer for the IOW, Rev. Tony Richards and all of the many individuals that made this day the fitting tribute it was. But most importantly thank you to Richard Priest who did all the hard work in putting this poignant event together.

Work is underway to clear the cliff areas around Keats Green and Rylstone Gardens. The work is being done in partnership with the IW Council, so residents and visitors will be able to enjoy the sea views.

Several projects in the pipeline

This year is going to be busy as usual with a quite a few projects in the pipeline for the town. I will update you all on these a little more next month. So fingers crossed we have a nice Easter and hopefully you all remembered to put your clocks forward an hour.

Small increase in precept

We have set our Town Council Budget for 2018-19. This year we have made a very small increase of just 8p a week on the precept (total precept just under £60 per annum) as we feel we have managed our current financial position extremely well over the last year, and continue to give what I believe to be best value to you our residents.

When compared with other Town and Parish Councils ours is one of the lowest, yet we do the most. The two new toilet blocks continue to generate lots of positive feedback as well as a regular revenue stream to help maintain them into the future. We have no borrowing on these facilities as they have been paid for from previous years' savings and allocated funds agreed by the increase we made two years ago at the public meeting.

We currently as of March 1st, 2018 had 20,000 people use them, so this just shows how vital they are to a busy town. I would like us to develop the other sites we own as and when we can afford it, as this model is a proven success.

Keeping us on the move

Now to mention the awful weather that virtually brought the Island to a standstill. I hope you all escaped property damage or personal injury during this time, as I know it was bitterly cold and extremely dangerous under foot. I would like to thank Island Roads and all the partner agencies who worked round the clock to keep main roads open and things operational to the best of their ability. Although it amazes me what people do with all the bread and milk they must buy!

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