

Shanklin Town Council news



Town Mayor's address by Councillor Jon Gilbey

I cannot believe summers gone and Christmas is around the corner. I was privileged to attend a plaque and picture unveiling of David Wright, who was the long standing Chairman of Abbeyfield, Shanklin. His commitment and dedication is something that will be sadly missed by everyone, especially his wife Hilary. I will do my best to follow in his footsteps and continue to support Hilary and all the staff and residents at the home to the best of my ability.

Isle of Wight Day saw many organisations and groups hold tea parties or events to celebrate how lucky we are to live in such a lovely and unspoilt place, surrounded by wonderful island produced products. I attended Shanklin Age Concern, and as the ladies make such amazing cakes it would have been hard to refuse the invite. Well done to everyone who puts so much time and effort into supporting our community.



I attended Shanklin Rowing Club's annual end of season get-together, an event that highlights how many young and active members they have representing the island at events across the UK. Well done to everyone on such a fantastic season of events on and off the Island.

I would like to thank Green Town volunteers who will be taking on responsibility for the walled flowerbed

in Tower Cottage Gardens. This will take some developing, but once underway it will complement the investment made in the new toilet block, which has already had over 5,000 uses since opening.

Tower Cottage has also been identified as a possible location of a Centenary Field, commemorating local residents who made the ultimate sacrifice in World War One. This will form part of the 100th Commemorative plans for the memorial, which also involves local school children planting bulbs in honour of the fallen.

This year's Remembrance Day service will take place on Sunday November 12th at 11.00am in the Old Village, with Shanklin Town Brass Band playing a programme dedicated to those that made the ultimate sacrifice.

Congratulations to CAMRA and the Brewery History Society for the recent Beer & Buses weekend, and the production of a special History Walk and Guide for Shanklin (thanks to Richard Priest for his help in putting this together) helping promote local businesses and accommodation providers, and highlighting the heritage the town is fortunate to have and cherish.



The new Falcon Cross Toilet Block is now open, providing easy accessible facilities for mothers and their babies as well as many wheelchair users, residents and visitors to the Town. This location together with Tower Cottage in the Old Village is linked into a 24/7 CCTV system, protecting the location and its users.

We now provide two of the very best public facilities on the Island, a commitment I made along with colleagues last year.



Shanklin secured the Silver Award (and best Seaside Town under 12,000 people) in South East England in Bloom, and this was further celebrated in Shanklin In Bloom. Thanks to the Royal British Legion for hosting the event, and the voluntary organisers that make this event possible. Congratulations to Shirley Hughes whose Victoria Avenue front garden won the award for the third time in four years, the Legion for the standard of its community garden, and all of the 40 entrants who continue to demonstrate the care and pride residents have in the appearance of the Town.

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