

Arreton Parish Council Newsletter

Spring Edition - March 2026

PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE

After a dry but chilly festive season the rain has well and truly set in over the first few months of 2026. It is not very inviting weather to go out and about in but there is plenty going on in the Parish if you don't feel like venturing further afield. Please do check out what is happening at the community Hall – the new Pilates class is proving very popular!

Since the last newsletter in early December the Parish Council has continued to meet monthly. As well as all the usual business several policies have been approved including those relating to employment, complaints and freedom of information. At the December meeting a grant of £100 was given to island charity Ability Dogs 4 Young People to help towards their Education Package Programme.

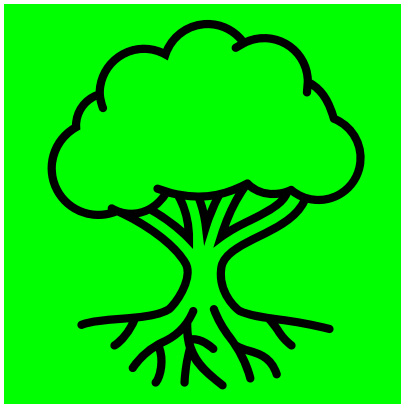
There is no increase in the precept for 2026-27 which has been set at £19,500.

Minutes from the meetings can be found on the website if you would like to know more.



Snow drops at Gore Cemetery

Tree Warden



Our Volunteer Tree Warden Steve Davis has been keeping busy over the last few months despite the weather. He has created a 1:10,000 scale map of the Parish so that he can start to log (no pun intended!) the location of trees in different categories such as heritage trees and those with Tree Protection Orders. So far Steve has identified one ancient tree (dating from 1660 or earlier). This is a horse chestnut tree and can be found near the entrance to Arreton Manor.

Steve had been out walking our footpaths and Rights of Way. A few changes have been noted and enquiries made relating to some fencing along the boundary near Stickworth Hall and an area near the boundary with Godshill Parish where a number of willow trees have been removed.

It is hoped the The Tree Council training for volunteers will be taking place in the near future.

Dates for your Diary

Monday 16th March 10am-12noon – Community First Aid Training Session with St John Ambulance will take place at the Community Hall.

**A FREE TRAINING WORKSHOP
WITH
ST JOHN'S AMBULANCE**



HOW TO USE A
DEFIBRILLATOR

HOW TO
ADMINISTER
CPR



HOW TO
DEAL WITH
TRIPS & FALLS

WHERE: Arreton Community Centre, Main Road, Arreton, PO30 3AD

WHEN: Monday March 16th

TIME: 10AM – 12PM

Tea & Coffee available

To register your interest please email: simondodson24@gmail.com

**Borrow a
physical activity
smart watch
FREE!**



Track your movement and wellbeing - borrow an Amazfit Bip 6 for up to six weeks from your local library - completely free!

Why borrow a smart watch?

Moving more everyday boosts your health, energy and mood. It helps maintain strength, balance, and energy, making everyday tasks easier, more enjoyable and supports living in good health. Every bit of movement counts, and simple changes can make a big difference, such as, taking short walking breaks, standing while making phone calls, using the stairs instead of lifts, or doing gentle stretches while watching TV.

How it works:

Who can get one: **Library members aged 16 and over**

Where can you get one: **Cowes, Freshwater, Newport, Ryde, Sandown, and Ventnor libraries**

What You Need: **A valid library membership and photo ID**

For more info, visit www.iow.gov.uk/smartwatchloan



Empower your health **Overcome barriers** **Get moving!**

Isle of Wight Council



Making the Most of Your Village Pub!

From mid-March in addition to the usual pub meals, special events and popular afternoon teas The White Lion will be offering a pantry service. Customers will be able to place a regular order or pop in and see what is available during the Pantry opening hours:

Monday to Saturday 8am-5pm, Sundays 10am-4pm

Call the team on 01983 722305 to place an order 😊



Arreton Community Hall



Arreton Community Hall Social Club Licensed Bar – serving alcoholic and soft drinks, tea and coffee. Social seating area, two snooker tables, bar billiards, dart board and playing cards. Free Wifi in the building. Bar open currently every **Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 7:30pm to 11:00pm.**

The Community Hall provides a great venue for groups, celebrations and family gatherings – just £11 per hour to hire. Contact Simon Dodson on 07973 323560 or go to the Arreton Parish Council website for more information



For details of What's On from the monthly Community Lunch to all manner of dance classes and clubs please follow this link to the Community Hall Diary:

<https://www.brownbearsw.com/cal/arreton>

Arreton Community Lunch



HIGHLY RECOMMENDED!



Did you know that a community lunch takes place at the **Community Hall in Arreton on the 3rd Thursday of the month**? A lovely team come up with the menu each time and provide a hot meal, a choice of delicious deserts and tea or coffee to follow. The February menu was fish pie (or an alternative if you are not a fish eater!) and green beans followed by apple and quince crumble and custard, home cooked rice pudding, fruit strudel, meringue with berries and cream, jelly and ice cream or cheese and biscuits.

You can take your own drinks – wine, beer, soft drinks or whatever takes your fancy. Excellent value (suggested donation of £7.50 per head) and no washing up to do either!! A friendly welcoming bunch attend and you do not have to live in the parish to attend.

If you would like to go along please contact Simon Dodson 07973 323560 or Mary Filer 07407 226896 to book in. If you provide an email address they will send you the menu.



St Georges Churchyard

The Parish Council has completed a project at St Georges Churchyard in partnership with the Ministry of Justice Community Payback Team. Over 2 full days in January a team of 5 operatives and 2 supervisors removed a huge quantity of ivy and other overgrown vegetation from gravestones and tombs of overgrown vegetation. The Coach House Facilities were made available to the Team whilst on site.



13 large bags of green waste were generated by the clearance. The Parish Council contacted IWC Waste Services and permission was given to dispose of the waste free of charge on this occasion so the only cost to the project was £75.00 to have the waste moved. As can be seen from the photographs above several tombs that were completely covered with ivy have been revealed. One of the three Gibbs Family Grade II listed tombs is in a very poor state. Listed Building Consent and a Church of England Faculty will be needed to approve the repairs.

If anyone is descended from the family or has any knowledge about them please contact the Clerk. The family members commemorated are Rev Robert Gibbs (died 28.01.1975 aged 63) and his wife Jenny (died 19.03.1807 aged 68), their son Robert (died 02.03.1842 aged 75) and his wife Frances (died 09.04.1813 aged 49), Robert's sisters Ann (died 28.06.1775 aged 5) and Ann (died 10.10.1871 aged 76). Robert's children were Robert (died 22.05.1883 aged 84), George (died 09.11.1879 aged 79), Margaret (died 07.10.1898 aged 94) and Richard (died 18.07.1864 aged 61).

Gore Cemetery

The tablets in the walled enclosure known as God's Garden in Gore Cemetery have been cleaned enabling an assessment to be made of the condition of the lettering, some further work will be needed to restore the tablets to their former condition. The Wyld Trust has funds set aside specifically for the maintenance of the plaques and these funds will be used to pay for the work.



If you do visit Gore Cemetery please remember to close the gate, we think the rabbits may be back!!

Winter Wassail at Merstone Station

On Saturday 31st January a Wassail took place at the old Merstone Station. This is an ancient English folk tradition inviting good health for the year ahead. The occasion was marked with singing and dancing. You may have spotted the cider-soaked toast in the trees if you passed this way.



Isle of Wight Walking Festival

Walk this way! The Isle of Wight Walking Festival, [sponsored by Outdooractive](#), is a multi-award-winning Festival. As one of the UK's longest-running walking festivals, it celebrated its 25th year in 2024.

Following the successful Spring and Autumn festivals in 2025, we're excited to remind everyone to save the dates for the 2026 festival!

- May festival: 9 to 17 May 2026
- October Festival: 3 to 11 October 2026

An event for keen hikers, relaxed wanderers, and curious explorers alike, the festival is a friendly coming together in the great outdoors for all ages, offering a chance to meet new people, learn and discover the many wonders of the Wight.

With a plethora of routes on offer to suit all abilities, the Isle of Wight Walking Festival is an inclusive event providing a guided tour through the Island's varied landscape, thriving wildlife and rich heritage.

This friendly festival hosts a variety of walks led by knowledgeable volunteer walk leaders. You'll easily find a walk that suits you – whether you're looking for a shorter stroll or a day long hike across the Island. There will be themed walks too.

Planning Enforcement

Concerns have been raised recently about two locations in the Parish. The first is the Distribution Depot at **New Barn Industrial Park**, Newport Road, Merstone where a huge expansion of the parking area is taking place and the second is the former **Blackwater Mill Care Home** where hedging has been removed and a glass atrium has appeared.

IWC has noted these concerns and will keep the Parish updated.



**Carers IW are based at
Parklands Dementia Resource Centre
Monday - Thursday
10am - 3pm**

**Pop in and meet our peer support worker at
Parklands Dementia Resource Centre in Cowes**

Who are Carers IW?

We are a charity commissioned by the local authority to offer a range of support, training, and advice to unpaid carers over the age of 18 caring for someone over 18 years of age, on the Island.

You can self-refer, be referred by a professional, call 533173, email us at info@carersiw.org.uk, come to the Carers Centre or Parklands Dementia Resource Centre, or look at our website www.carersiw.org.uk

For more information, contact Carers IW on 01983 533173 | info@carersiw.org.uk
or Parklands Dementia Resource Centre 01983 220200
parklands@alzheimercafeiow.org.uk



Isle of Wight Age UK



Come to Parklands for our weekly Isle of Wight Age UK Dementia Care Navigators Drop-in Sessions!

Isle of Wight Age UK Dementia Care Navigators offer advice and support if you or someone you know is experiencing memory problems.
No need to book!

Every Friday from 11AM -1PM
@ Parklands Community Café
Parklands Park Road Cowes
For any enquires call 01983 220200

**Parklands, Park Road, Cowes,
PO31 7LZ**



Parklands Dementia Information Drop-In Sessions

Are you supporting someone who has a dementia?

Are you worried about your memory or know someone who is?

Do you know where to get dementia information or access help and support?

**Can't make a café during the day?
Come and talk to us one evening instead!**

Drop-ins from 7pm–9pm one Thursday a month

29th Jan	30th Apr	30th Jul	29th Oct
19th Feb	28th May	27th Aug	26th Nov
26th Mar	25th Jun	24th Sep	-----



SCAN ME

**Parklands Dementia Resource Centre
Park Road, Cowes, PO31 7LZ**

Tel: 01983 220200
Email: info@alzheimercafeiow.org.uk
Website: www.alzheimercafeiow.org.uk



Rural Families Need Your Support - Can You Help?

Home-Start Isle of Wight is a local charity supporting families with young children who are going through challenging times. With the help of our trained volunteers, we provide emotional and practical support to parents facing isolation, low confidence, poor mental health, financial pressures, or simply the everyday demands of raising young children.

Across the UK, mental health charities are warning of a growing “silent mental health pandemic”, as more families experience stress, anxiety, and loneliness. Recent figures show a sharp rise in mental health service use, with over a million children and young people now needing support. Behind those statistics are parents who may feel overwhelmed, exhausted, or alone. Alongside these pressures, many parents are also finding school readiness increasingly difficult with some receiving long checklists of expected skills that can leave them feeling as though they’ve failed.

We are currently making an island-wide appeal for new volunteers, particularly to support families in our rural communities. Families living in quieter villages and remote areas can face additional challenges, limited transport, fewer local services, and reduced social networks. Over time, this can affect parents’ wellbeing and confidence. For a family feeling stretched or isolated, just a small amount of time each week from a caring volunteer can make a lasting difference. If you are a good listener, enjoy spending time with families, or would like to give something back to your community, we would love to hear from you. Full training is provided, and volunteers are supported every step of the way.

If you’re a parent or carer who feels you could benefit from a little extra support, you are very welcome to contact us directly. Families can self-refer, and our support is free, confidential, and shaped around your individual needs, whether that’s someone to listen, help you feel more connected, or simply lighten the load during a difficult period.

For more information, please visit <https://homestartisleofwight.org.uk/> or email us at admin@homestartiow.org.

The Home-Start Isle of Wight Team

Isorropia Taster Session

Join us for a fully funded taster session to learn more about the Isorropia Foundation and how we support islanders to improve their mental wellbeing.

This supportive session gives you the opportunity to explore how Isorropia can help you or others, ask questions, and learn about the support available.

Open to everyone — whether you're attending for yourself, a loved one, or in a professional role.

Wellbeing Coaches will be available after the session for pre-enrolment and further information.



Medina Valley Centre,
Dodnor Lane, Newport,
PO30 5TE



Thurs 12th March 2026



13:00 - 14:00 PM



Mountbatten Isle of Wight

Join thousands on Sunday 10 May 2026 for the Island's most iconic event – Walk the Wight with Mountbatten! Entry is just **£15**, including your event pack, walker number, progress card, fundraising tools, and a **commemorative medal** at the finish. Sign up now and get access to exclusive 2026 merchandise.

Every step you take helps fund **24/7 compassionate care** for Island families. Lace up, bring your friends and family, and be part of something extraordinary!

Here is a link for more detail: [Walk the Wight 2026 Sign-up](#)

Stay stronger for longer to keep doing the things you love

Join our new strength and balance classes for older adults!

Improve balance

Improve confidence

Have fun while staying active

Stay independent and mobile

**NEW
CLASS**

- All equipment provided
- Take-home exercises for extra practice
- Adaptable exercises, seated or standing
- One-hour, expert-led classes tailored to your needs
- Stay for a cup of tea and a chat after the class to connect with others




Try your
first
class for
free!

FRESHWATER


 Mondays, 3 to 4pm
and Fridays, 2 to 3pm

 £7.90 per session

 01983 752168


 West Wight Sports
and Community Centre
Moa Place, Freshwater
PO40 9XH

NEWPORT

 Tuesdays, 1 to 2pm

 £8 per session

 01983 823881

 1 Leisure Medina
Studio 2, Fairlee Road,
Newport PO30 2EW

Volunteer Community Organiser – Be the Change Where You Live

Want to make a real difference in your community? We're looking for passionate, local people to become Volunteer Community Organisers – bringing residents together to listen, connect, and take action on the issues that matter most.

What you'll do:

- Chat with people 1-to-1 and really listen
- Spot shared challenges and opportunities
- Help spark local campaigns, events or new initiatives
- Build community power and lead change

What you'll gain:

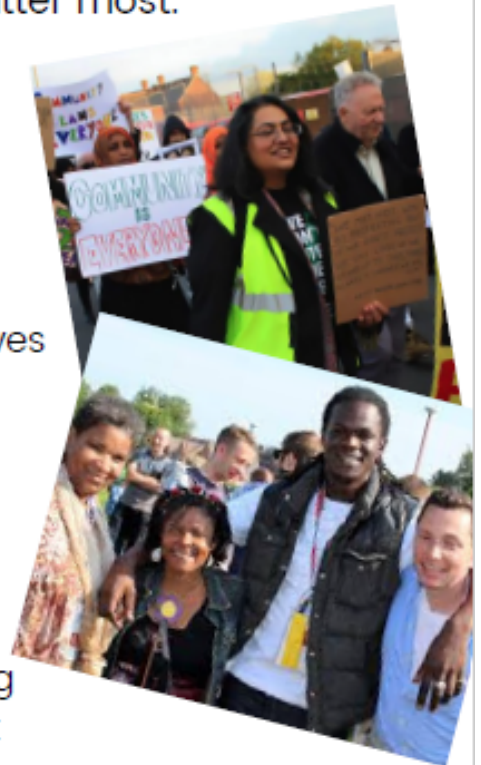
- Accredited training (4 core modules)
- Ongoing support and development
- Skills in leadership, communication, and organising
- Stronger community connections and real impact

You don't need experience – just empathy, curiosity, and commitment. We're looking for great listeners who care about fairness, inclusion, and making things happen.

Time commitment: Flexible, approx. 2-4 hours a week.

This is an unpaid voluntary role, but it could open the door to future opportunities and be a powerful first step into community leadership, social impact work, or public service.

Ready to lead change from the ground up?
Become a Community Organiser. Start something amazing.



“youth trust”

SNACK & CHAT

For Young People Ages 11-15
Fortnightly Thursdays
15:00- 17:00

9th April

23rd April

7th May

21st May

4th June

2nd July

16th July

30th July



Join us for a fun hang out with snacks, games and a chance to make new friends! This social hangout is perfect for young adults looking to build new connections.

This activity is funded by



Snacks provided by





Thursday 2nd April

SEACLOSE PARK

FAIRLEE ROAD

NEWPORT

PO30 2QS

EASTER EGG HUNT WITH A TWIST

Ages 8-10 11:00am- 12:30pm

Parent attendance is required

Ages 11-15 13:00pm-14:15pm

eventbrite

PLEASE SIGN UP USING THE QR CODE

eventbrite

SCAN ME



WE WILL MEET BY THE CAR PARK NEXT TO

THE SKATE PARK

SCAN ME



8-10yrs sign up

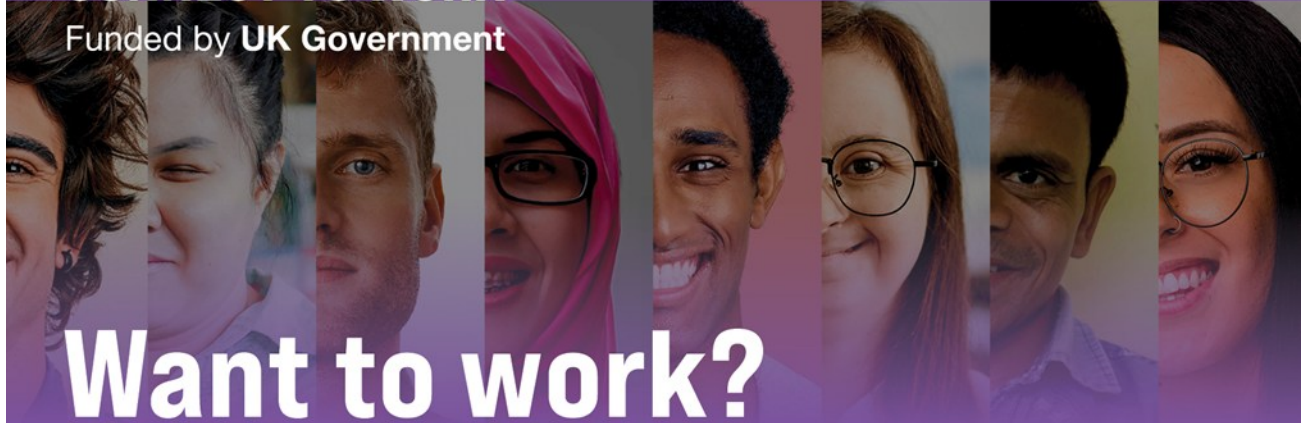
11-15yrs sign up

This activity is weather dependant and we will contact you if cancelled



CONNECT TO WORK

Funded by UK Government



Want to work? Let's Begin Together

Connect to Work is a programme of **free support** for people with disabilities and long-term health conditions to gain and maintain paid employment.

We can help you:



Find jobs that match your skills and goals



Get support with applications, confidence building, and workplace adjustments



Stay in work by helping you manage and thrive long-term

This could be for you if you are:

- Out of work, or
- At risk of losing your job, and
- Finding it hard to start or stay in work due to health, disability, or other barriers

Get in touch today for personalised advice



Email: islandalliance.ctw@thepalladiumgroup.com

Phone: 0800 6522155

employability.thepalladiumgroup.com

CONNECT TO WORK
Funded by UK Government



1leisure
Water Wellness
 at 1Leisure Medina

Helping individuals with arthritis, rheumatic diseases, or musculoskeletal conditions enjoy a more active lifestyle in a welcoming, supportive, and fun environment.

Important Note - Swimming ability not required

with Steph Toogood

NEW!

What is Water Wellness Exercise Therapy?

Aquatic Exercise Therapy combines aquatic exercise and physical therapy in a comprehensive programme designed to aid rehabilitation and improve overall health. Supervised by level 3 Aquatic Activity for health staff, each session is designed to meet individuals needs.

Benefits

The programmes are designed to encourage participants to enjoy an active lifestyle and improve health in a welcoming, supportive, fun environment while enjoying sociable interaction.



Improve mobility and flexibility
 Restore or maintain joint range of motion.



Reduce pain and stiffness
 Water minimizes the effects of gravity on the body.



Boost strength and endurance
 Maintain or increase muscle strength and decrease fatigue.



Enjoy safe and effective exercise
 Enjoy an active lifestyle in a welcoming, supportive, fun environment.

Who can attend?

A water class can accommodate all fitness levels including students with orthopedic conditions both pre and post surgery. MS and Parkinson's conditions also benefit from the buoyant environment of water.

There is no requirement to have swimming skills and any equipment will be provided.

Cost £10 per 40 minute class

Book up to 7 days in advance
Call: 01983 823 882

Book Online: <https://bookings.1leisure.co.uk/stellary/stellary/#/>

When are the sessions?

Beginners - Level 1 10.15am to 10.45am
(Poolside consultation at 10.05am)

Intermediate - Level 2 11.00am to 11.30am
(Poolside consultation at 10.50am)

Please arrive swim ready for the sessions.
 Bring water for hydration.
 Please be prepared to share any health condition or medication that may affect your ability to exercise with your qualified instructor.



NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING TEAM

Wight Rural South Neighbourhood Team

Your Designated Neighbourhood Policing Team

PC Liz Clapp
 Work Mobile: 07974049899
 Email: liz.clapp@hampshire.police.uk

PCSO Justin Keefe
 Work Mobile: 07901102302
 Email: justin.keefe@hampshire.police.uk

We are happy to chat to you about any concerns.

However please report all incidents via 999 in an emergency, otherwise use 101 or online for non-emergency.

www.hampshire.police.uk
 Dial 999 for non-emergency text
 07781 480999
 For crime and community information
www.hampshirealert.co.uk

HAMPSHIRE ALERT

101

SAFER

Parish Council Meeting Dates 2026

7pm in the Community Hall

- Monday 9th March
- Monday 13th April
- Monday 11th May
- Monday 8th June
- Monday 13th July
- NO MEETING IN AUGUST**
- Monday 14th September
- Monday 12th October
- Monday 9th November
- Monday 14th December

Contact Us Arreton Parish Council

Clerk and Burial Registrar: Claire Gale
 Email: clerk@arreton-pc.gov.uk
 Phone: 07587 008183

Chairman: Cllr Nicholas Gurney-Champion
 Email: chairman@arreton-pc.gov.uk

Website: www.arreton-pc.gov.uk