

# Quarr Abbey

The community of monks at Quarr would like to thank the Fishbourne Parish Council and the residents of Fishbourne for their support over the recent months, particularly with regard to the various changes underway at the Abbey.

All residents are invited to attend the church services, and enjoy the peace and quiet of the Abbey grounds.

After an application for a 'Leader' grant for farm diversification was successfully approved, the Abbey's teashop is now being refurbished and extended. The new teashop will be open during April, and will be serving lunches and other island produce. Cakes and other foods will still be produced from the monastery kitchens. For the next few weeks, the teashop will operate from the art gallery which is immediately opposite the Abbey shop.

Ultimately, the teashop will also become a farm shop selling produce grown on the Abbey's land by charities and other appropriate organisations. These organisations are using plots of

Abbey land to grow vegetables and soft fruits. The resulting income from this produce will be shared between the Abbey charity and the organisation that has grown the crops. Currently, John's Club, from Ryde, and the Southern Housing Group are working plots of land. Other suitable organisations are invited to apply for similar plots. Please contact [financial.director@quarr.org](mailto:financial.director@quarr.org)

The Abbey's art gallery, 'Art at the Abbey', will be open again from April. The gallery has been fully booked by local artists throughout the forthcoming summer season, and island artists will be exhibiting work there on a weekly basis. Details of each exhibitor are on the Abbey website [www.quarrabbey.co.uk](http://www.quarrabbey.co.uk)

Finally, agreement has now been reached with the IOW Beekeeping Association to manage Quarr's stock of bees through to honey production. Quarr expects to be able to market its own honey at the end of this summer. The beekeepers will also be creating a training apiary within the Abbey grounds for new beekeepers.

Thank you again for your support.

## You are cordially invited to attend the Chairman's Annual Meeting

Thursday 24th March 2011 at the Royal Victoria Yacht Club starting at 7:30 pm

### Agenda

1. Guest speaker – Trevor Moyce, Protection and Prevention Officer, IOW Fire Service, who will talk on: **'Changes to the Fire Service on the Island and safety in the home'**.
2. Chairman's Report
3. Annual summary from local police
4. Annual summary from IOW Councillor
5. OPEN SESSION: Parishioners may raise any matter of their choice.

Refreshments will be available from 7pm.

# Fishbourne Parish

ISSUE NO 15 MARCH 2011

# Newsletter

## Village Design Statement

The Village Design Statement was put on hold late last year, while we waited to see what the Government's proposed Localism Bill would have to say. As you will see from the article in this Newsletter, the Bill will in fact strengthen and broaden the involvement of local communities in what happens in their areas, and this extends to the Village Design Statement. It is now even more

### People you may need to contact on the Parish Council

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Please note: the web address is [www.fishbourne.org.uk](http://www.fishbourne.org.uk)  
It may be accessed through the Isle of Wight website using the link [www.iwight.com/parishcouncils/](http://www.iwight.com/parishcouncils/)

important that we produce a good Village Design Statement for the Parish of Fishbourne. The Bill specifically talks about communities producing 'Neighbourhood Development Plans', and our Village Design Statement will fit this description. The Bill goes further and suggests that local communities may also be able to grant planning permission themselves, for certain forms of Development and this subject will be addressed in the Village Design Statement.

The Parish Council has therefore decided to re-start the process of producing a Village Design Statement/Neighbourhood Development Plan for the Parish. It will be an important document that will help to 'shape' the way that the Parish of Fishbourne develops and looks in the future, and what facilities it will provide for the local community. It is important that as many Parishioners as possible are involved in the process as public consultation and participation will be key to its success. We also need to strengthen our existing 'Steering Group' of people who will work on the Plan and produce the drafts of the



document for public consultation, and to finalise the draft in due course as the Parish's 'adopted' Plan. The Plan may address such matters as Quarr Abbey, future development of the ferry terminal, local housing development, our built environment, our coastline and the way houses are extended or altered etc.

Could anyone interested in being involved, in any capacity, please contact Mark Dickson (E-mail: [mark@dicksonsrics.co.uk](mailto:mark@dicksonsrics.co.uk) Telephone: 884413). It is hoped to re-establish the Steering Group and to start work again in April.

## Dates of Parish Council Meetings for 2011

Please note that ALL meetings will be held at the Royal Victoria Yacht Club as building work is taking place at Quarr Abbey.

Thurs 10th March

**Chairman's Annual Meeting**  
Thurs 24th March at 7.30pm

Thurs 14th April

**Parish Council Annual Meeting**  
and May meeting, Thurs 12th May

Thurs 9th June

Thurs 14th July

No August Meeting

Thurs 8th September

Thurs 13th October

Thurs 10th November

Thurs 8th December

All meetings will start at 7pm except the Chairman's Annual Meeting.

In addition, the Clerk and one or two Councillors attend a 'surgery' every Tuesday morning at 10am at the Royal Victoria Yacht Club when parishioners can discuss matters of concern.

## Wightlink

An important development is the cessation of the drop-trailer operation. This entailed Wightlink's tugmasters pulling unaccompanied trailers on and off the ferries causing considerable noise when they were hooked up and trailers shunted about the terminal, especially at night. Our protestations were supported by the IOW Council's Environmental Health Department. In December Wightlink told us that they were ending this procedure. By the end of March, the night-time noise will have been significantly reduced. To be fair, Wightlink had always said they were aiming to end the drop-trailer operation one day in order to free up space on the terminal and also because they were conscious of noise as well as health and safety issues. As a consequence, the planned extension to the acoustic fence has been cancelled. Wightlink have said that they will do some repairs to the existing fence (particularly to the top rail which is loose or has disappeared completely).

The Customer Information Board is being renewed and will be installed soon. The replacement will be welcomed because an effective Information Board giving Wightlink's customers up-to-date information about sailings, delays, etc., should

significantly reduce the need to use the terminal tannoy.

There remains another avoidable (we believe) noise which is the 'bang-bang' caused by ill-fitting prows not sitting flush with the linkspan. This results in vehicles making a double bang as the front and then the rear wheels pass over the prow and force it down. This is particularly irritating for those of us living near the terminal, again especially at night. Wightlink are looking into this once more and promise to send one of their engineers over to see if there is a solution.

Marine issues – Agreement has now been reached between Wightlink and Fishbourne Parish Council on the important issue of safety at sea in the approaches to Fishbourne. There had existed a certain degree of uncertainty but with the help of QHM there is now an agreed modus operandi for the ferries as they approach and leave the berth. An explanatory 'set of rules' has been drawn up, endorsed by us all, which will be published in the next RYYC's Newsletter. It is nothing revolutionary, more a re-statement of the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea.

Finally, part of the lower terminal is being repaired because heavy vehicles have caused a noticeable unevenness in the tarmac.

## Our new member of the Parish Council – Will Cowell

We are pleased to welcome Will Cowell to the Parish Council and look forward to working with him in the coming years.

Will was born and brought up in South Kent where his parents were arable farmers. He graduated in History and Geography at Roehampton Institute where he also worked for a year before deciding to join the prison service. His first appointment was at the notorious Pentonville prison where he worked for some seven years, reaching the rank of Senior Officer, before moving to a Juvenile establishment near Henley.

During his second year at Roehampton he met Sarah, who was from Ryde and training to be a primary school teacher. They married in 2003 and now have two children aged two and four. Their plan had always been to come to the

Island and in 2008 took the decision to move to rented property here with Will commuting to Henley but desperately trying to arrange a transfer to HMP Isle of Wight. His persistence paid off and within six months had secured an appointment at Albany and he and Sarah were able to buy a house in Fishbourne Lane which gave them much-needed room and a good-sized garden.

Sarah quickly established a circle of old school friends and Will has found working at Albany an easy transition with a friendly group of staff who work well together.

Will is our representative on the Local Action Group, an initiative set up by the police. He will report more fully in the next Newsletter.

# The Localism Bill

The Government published the Localism Bill on 13 December 2010. The Bill aims to shift power from central government back into the hands of individuals, communities and councils. This article gives a brief summary of the main points relating to the Parish. (A fuller synopsis can be obtained from the clerk)

## General Power of Competence

Local authorities, including local councils, can only do what the law says they can. The government are of the opinion that sometimes councils are wary of doing something new because they are not sure whether they are allowed to in law and are concerned about the possibility of being challenged in the courts and thinks that they need to turn this assumption upside down. Instead of being able to act only where the law says they can, local authorities should be free to do anything – provided they do not break other laws.

## Standards Board

The Government will abolish the Standards Board regime. Instead, it will become a criminal offence for councillors to deliberately withhold or misrepresent a personal interest. This means that councils will not be obliged to spend time and money investigating trivial complaints, while councillors involved in corruption and misconduct will face appropriately serious sanctions.

## Predetermination

In parallel with the abolition of the Standards Board, the Government

intends to use the Localism Bill to clarify the rules on 'predetermination.' These rules were developed to ensure that councillors came to council discussions – on, for example, planning applications – with an open mind. In practice, however, these rules have been interpreted in such a way as to reduce the quality of local debate and stifle valid discussion. In some cases councillors have been warned off doing such things as campaigning, talking with constituents, or publicly expressing views on local issues, for fear of being accused of bias or facing legal challenge.

The Localism Bill will make it clear that it is proper for councillors to play an active part in local discussions, and that they should not be liable to legal challenge as a result.

## Community Assets

Proposals in the Localism Bill will require local authorities to maintain a list of assets of community value. Communities will have the opportunity to nominate for possible inclusion the assets that are most important to them. When listed assets come up for sale or change of ownership, community groups will have time to develop a bid and raise the money to

raise money for the Breast cancer Care charity.

Another very successful evening was enjoyed by all, with excellent food and entertainment being put on by the Pub. Over £500 was raised for the charity.

Special thanks go to Simon and Jo Bartholomew, who gave their time to be 'Croupiers' for the evening and ran the Roulette and Blackjack tables, and also to Tim Healey and his Company 'Kids and Co.' of Ryde, who sponsored the evening, and of course to all those who attended and who gave so generously.

Another event is planned and details will be published on the new Parish Website.

Do you have links with a charity and need to raise funds?

buy the asset when it comes on the open market.

## Abolition of Regional Strategies

'Regional strategies' were first required by law in 2004 setting out where new development needs to take place in each part of the country. They include housing targets set by central government.

The Government thinks that this centrally-driven approach to development is bureaucratic and undemocratic. Rather than helping get new houses built, it has had the effect of making people feel put upon and less likely to welcome new development.

## Neighbourhood Development Plans

The Bill will introduce a new right for communities to draw up a 'neighbourhood development plan.' Neighbourhood planning will allow people to come together through a local parish council or neighbourhood forum and say where they think new houses, businesses and shops should go – and what they should look like. These neighbourhood development plans could be very simple, or go into considerable detail.

Local communities would also be able to grant full or outline planning permission in areas where they most want to see new homes and businesses, making it easier and quicker for development to go ahead. Provided a neighbourhood development plan is in line with national planning policy, with the strategic vision for the wider area set by the local authority, and with other legal requirements, local people will be able to safeguard the future of rural villages for future generations by providing the framework.

## Developer Community Consultations

To further strengthen the role of local communities in planning, the Bill will introduce a new requirement for developers to consult local communities before submitting planning applications for very large developments.

## Local Plan reform

The Government thinks it is important to give local planning authorities greater freedom to get on with this important job without undue interference from central government. The Localism Bill will limit the discretion of planning inspectors.

# Traffic Issues

## Residents' Parking in Fishbourne Lane

The December survey of residents support for the proposal was undertaken on behalf of the Isle of Wight Council who, for budget reasons, was unable to do it. The question paper was edited by the Isle of Wight Council and unfortunately included the definition of 'our road' in the questions. 100 question papers were delivered to each house in Fishbourne Lane, Quarr Lane and Ralagh Drive. 59 question papers were returned, two came from one house. There were 32 papers in favour of the proposed resident's parking, 22 papers against resident's parking in Fishbourne Lane, 2 returned papers with no preference, and 3 papers that did not object to resident's parking in Fishbourne Lane but objected to resident's parking in 'our road', namely Quarr Lane and Ralagh Drive. It was never the Parish Council's proposal or intention that the controlled parking areas should extend into Quarr Lane or Ralagh Drive. The questions referred solely to the parking areas opposite the Garage and on the Lower Green in Fishbourne Lane.

The much repeated comments were raised within the question papers as to why the parking areas at the Garage and the Lower Green should be treated the same. This is a directive from the Isle of Wight Council. The results and the papers have been returned to the Isle of Wight Council together with the Parish Council's recommendations that

the two parking areas should be treated differently.

## Gritting Roads

The snow in December caused the roads that were not included in the Isle of Wight Council's Priority Snow Clearance Scheme to be impassable for a few days. These were all roads other than the A3054 and Fishbourne Lane as far as the Ferry Terminal. Two particularly bad locations were Firestone Copse Road at the junction with Kite Hill and Fishbourne Lane below the junction with Quarr Lane. Firestone Copse Road was reported as being unsafe for pedestrians to cross the road at the junction. These conditions prevented many residents from reaching the cleared main roads and resuming their normal activities. Several residents suggested that the Parish Council could assist 'self help volunteers' in the provision of grit bins at these localities.

The Isle of Wight Council Highways Department have said that they are not prepared to supply salt for use on minor roads by residents. If grit bins were to be provided it would have to be at the cost to the Parish. The IWC has also stipulated that any grit used must be salt grit which has the disadvantages of a short shelf life.

Legal Guidance has been given by The Society of Local Council Clerks. This has stated that if Parish Councils intend to organise or assist in the organisation of snow clearance and gritting this

# Website

The Parish Council has been able to secure a grant from the Rural Community Council to have a web site professionally created and it is expected that this will be ready by the end of March. The new site will be used not only for Council business but will be available to local businesses and places of interest to give details of their services. It will also be used to advertise local events and activities. The clerk will be pleased to give you details of what is available in early April.

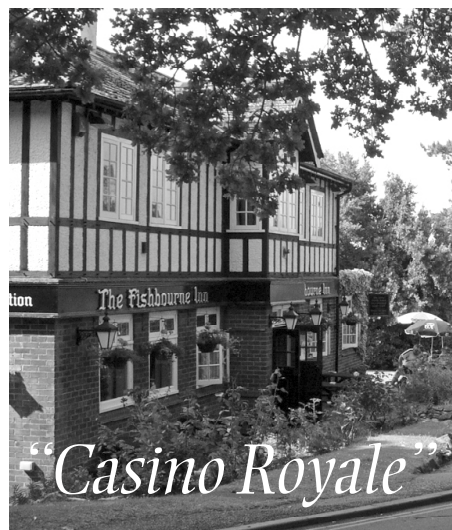
The address will be the same as that presently used  
[www.fishbourneiow.org.uk](http://www.fishbourneiow.org.uk)

work must be carried out by approved contractors trained in this work.

So unless bureaucracy relents in the restrictions applied it is unlikely to be feasible for Parish Councils to organise or assist in snow clearance operations. The question as to what happens and who will assist if an emergency vehicle cannot reach some locations remains unanswered.

## Vehicle actuated 30mph Speed Limit Sign in Fishbourne Lane

The sign disappeared. It has now been confirmed by the IWC that the sign has been stolen. What is worse the IWC claim that there is no budget for maintenance or its replacement. It was not insured!



On the 12th of February, Marcus and Lynn and the Fishbourne Inn hosted a Charity Casino evening at the Pub, to

# A Royal Wedding Party

('Fishbourne Style')

*For the parishioners of Fishbourne and members of the Royal Victoria Yacht Club*

On Friday 29th April 2011 there will be a 'Fishbourne Street Party', at the 'Fishbourne Green' (by the large Oak Tree), to celebrate the Royal Wedding of William and Kate.

The Party will start at 2pm, and there will be a Hog Roast, Live Music and Fun and Games. In addition to celebrating the Royal Wedding, the Party will aim to raise money for the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance. Donations to this Charity are welcome, on the day.

If you can help with the following,

please get in touch (see below):

- Decorations and Bunting (provision of and "putting up")
- "Gazebos" (provision of)
- Help on the day

Further information to follow and a more detailed flyer will be distributed in due course.

Please see the Parish council's Web Site ([www.fishbourneiow.org.uk](http://www.fishbourneiow.org.uk) – 'Local Events' page) for further information or contact Councillor Will Cowell (details on page 1).



*A similar event held last July raised £600 for the 'Children of Chernobyl'*