

JULY | AUGUST 2024

# Island Business

features | interviews | articles | news

includes Isle of Wight Chamber member news and events

## **SPECIAL ISSUE – IW CHAMBER BUSINESS AWARDS 2024** WITH WIGHTFIBRE ALL THE WINNERS, NOMINEES AND PHOTOGRAPHS FROM THE NIGHT

Plus:

WightFibre's Curia report

Expo 2024 Preview

Hovertravel

Sarah Matthews Flowers & Design

Mission Zero

The Garlic Farm

IW Lottery

Go For Growth

BCC's Election Manifesto







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# Editor's FOREWORD

## WELCOME TO ANOTHER PACKED EDITION OF ISLAND BUSINESS!

This month we're bigger than ever – with more pages and more features celebrating the best in business on the Isle of Wight. This issue unapologetically focuses on the recent IW Chamber Business Awards, held at Cowes Yacht Haven in May, sponsored by WightFibre.

It was an incredible night, with a cast of brilliant winners and nominees. The energy in the room was palpable and hopefully that comes across in our extended feature article, with all of our winners and their success stories.

Elsewhere in this issue we preview the Chamber's Business Expo, at Ryde School on Wednesday 10th July. See our double page feature for a list of confirmed exhibitors and plenty of reasons for you to attend.

In this edition you can read more about WightFibre's contribution to the Island's economy, as evidenced in a newly commissioned report. There are features on Sarah Matthews Flowers and Styling, Hovertravel, The Garlic Farm, The Isle of Wight Lottery and the Go For Growth programme.

We also congratulate the recent recipients of the Kings Award for Enterprise on the Island, another amazing achievement.

Plenty to celebrate – and plenty to read too. Enjoy your magazine. 🍷

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## IW CHAMBER'S VISION

To bring the Island business community together. Helping organisations of all sizes achieve more than they could alone.

# NEWS

## Katy Taylor joins Wightlink as Chief Executive

Katy Taylor will become Wightlink Chief Executive Officer in August, following the retirement of Keith Greenfield after nine years at the helm. Katy joins from Southern Water, where she has been Chief Customer Officer since 2021. Previously, she was Chief Customer and Strategy Officer at international bus and train operator Go-Ahead Group, which includes Isle of Wight bus company Southern Vectis.

"Having visited the Isle of Wight in my previous roles over the past 12 years, I am looking forward to spending more time on the Island, both for business and pleasure," says Katy. "I am delighted to be joining the Solent's leading ferry operator as it transforms its business to meet future challenges, including decarbonising its ships and shore facilities to meet Net Zero Targets and building greater links with the local communities."

Outgoing CEO Keith Greenfield comments: "It has been a privilege to lead the Wightlink team and I have enjoyed every minute. The company is in good shape for the future, and it is the right time for me to hand over to Katy to achieve even more in the years to come."



## Van Mossel is the new name for Esplanade



The well-known Isle of Wight car dealership Esplanade will now be known as Van Mossel Esplanade, aligning the brand with its new owners, marking a new chapter for the dealership. With the change in name comes a renewed commitment to exceptional service, an expanded range of offerings, and significant investment from the new owners.

"We are thrilled to unveil our new identity as Van Mossel Esplanade," said Brendan Cole, Head of Business at Van Mossel Esplanade. "This new name represents our dedication to providing the best automotive experience for our customers while also reflecting the strong values that have always defined our dealership."

Alongside their new name, Van Mossel Esplanade is proud to introduce two new state-of-the-art showrooms dedicated to the latest brands in its line-up: Škoda, CUPRA and SEAT. These new showrooms at their Cowes premises provide a modern and inviting space for customers wishing to explore these exciting additions to their offerings. In July last year Esplanade made a commitment to Mountbatten that it would donate money for every car sold, also asking if customers would like to match the donation. So far an impressive £19,000 has been donated.

## New bid for Island Digital Radio licence

Wight Digital Radio CIC is bidding for the new DAB radio multiplex licence covering the Isle of Wight. The new collaborative community interest company is formed by established commercial station Isle of Wight Radio and community broadcaster Vectis Radio. The CIC will bid for the licence which is currently being advertised by Ofcom, with any new services likely to be on-air in 2025.

Wight Digital Radio says "We have the perfect ingredients to run a successful radio multiplex for the Isle of Wight: the local knowledge, deep rooted community connections, a strong commercial track record and considerable knowledge and experience of digital radio technology. Our proposed service will have the capacity to bring more than twenty new and existing radio stations to DAB

delivering a choice of creative content to vibrant and loyal radio audience on the Island. If you have, or are thinking of launching, a commercial or community radio service on the Isle of Wight, support our bid by registering your interest now, we'd be happy to talk you through the process."

Contact [wightdigitalradio.co.uk](https://wightdigitalradio.co.uk)



## Brightbulb wins UK Company Culture Award

Design and development studio Brightbulb has triumphed at the UK Company Culture Awards, recognised for the Mince Pie Marathon charity initiative. The award celebrates excellence in fostering outstanding workplace environments and community involvement.

The Mince Pie Marathon, a festive event created by Brightbulb, involved the entire company in selling, and distributing mince pies across the local community to raise thousands of pounds for local charity The Wight Brainsy Bunch. The initiative not only brought festive cheer but also significantly contributed to the charity, demonstrating the company's commitment to giving back to the community. The award recognises Brightbulb's efforts in creating a workplace that goes beyond the conventional to genuinely serve and uplift the community.

"This recognition highlights our team's dedication and hard work in not just excelling at what we do, but also ensuring we make a positive impact on our community," says Matt Jeffery, Managing Director of Brightbulb. "The Mince Pie Marathon is a reflection of our core values and commitment to integrating social responsibility into our business ethos." 🍷



## Red Squirrel acquires Abiggerfish lettings



Island estate agent Red Squirrel Property Shop has acquired Abiggerfish, a prominent player in the Island lettings market.

"The decision to acquire Abiggerfish was made after careful consideration of its sterling reputation in the local community and the impeccable track record of its Managing Partner, Lyn Pryke," explains Red Squirrel's CEO Charlie Panayi. "The acquisition marks a significant milestone in the ongoing journey of Red Squirrel and reinforces its commitment to expansion and excellence in service delivery. We have been actively seeking opportunities to expand our portfolio and acquire reputable companies in the industry. Abiggerfish, under Lyn's leadership, exemplifies the level of excellence we strive for. We are thrilled to welcome both Lyn and the landlords from Abiggerfish into our squirrel family."

Abiggerfish's Lyn Pryke and co-owner Sarah Fish added "We are delighted that Red Squirrel Property Shop has acquired our portfolio. Their extensive knowledge of the lettings market and commitment to providing a professional and personalised service mirror our own values." 🍷

## Hovertravel secures gold standard for green tourism

Hovertravel has been awarded gold in both the Visit Portsmouth and Visit Isle of Wight Green Tourism Awards; securing the highest possible level of accreditation for operating sustainably and responsibly on both sides of, as well as across, the Solent.

Neil Chapman, Managing Director of Hovertravel, explains: "We are committed to being respectful to the environment and managing a sustainable operation with these phrases embedded in our mission and value statements. Our HoverGreen brand has been a highly successful way of engaging our staff and stakeholders to continually improve our environmental performance. We recognise that we have more work to do and both these awards, alongside our ISO 14001 accreditation, are demonstrable proof that we are headed in the right direction. We are proud to be the first Isle of Wight ferry company to achieve these awards."

Alongside the repurposing of used rubber from the hovercraft into a unique souvenir range and into secondary uses in equestrian and horticultural environments, HoverGreen has also maintained an awareness of the impact the operation has on the environment; particularly those areas of operation which are environmentally protected and looked to reduce the consumption of resources and improve the efficient and sustainable use of those resources. 🍷



## UKSA celebrates a decade of Test The Water programme

Cowes national maritime charity UKSA is celebrating 10 years of its Test the Water Programme this summer. Launched in August 2014, UKSA's Test the Water programme enables all Year 6 Island children to participate in a free half-day watersports session each year. Since 2014, 10,479 Year 6 students have taken part in the Test the Water programme from 51 Island primary schools and this year UKSA is expecting over 1400 children to take part in a half-day session.

Sailing is often viewed as an elitist sport and UKSA wants to change any preconceptions locally by supporting all young islanders to gain water-confidence alongside introducing them to sailing.

Elisha Hooper, Head of Fundraising at UKSA said: "The Test the Water programme was developed to make a real, tangible difference to Island children and thanks to the generous support of local donors and Island businesses, we are able to offer this programme to every year six class. At UKSA, local children are funded to experience the thrill of sailing and watersports whilst also learning about the importance of water safety. 32 percent of children on the Isle of Wight live in poverty and it's only through the support of our local community that we can enable children and young people of all abilities and backgrounds to access vital outdoor learning experiences." ■



## Rescued bears at Wildheart Sanctuary



The Wildheart Animal Sanctuary is embarking on another ambitious animal rescue. European Brown Bears named Benji and Balu have sadly spent their life illegally imprisoned in a cage on the side of a restaurant in from Azerbaijan. These 'restaurant bears' were found malnourished, starving, and underweight, with severe damage to their teeth from stress-induced bar-biting to cope with their everyday nightmare.

The Sanctuary has put together a plan to rescue Benji and Balu and bring them to their forever home on the Isle of Wight, including building a new 3,500 square metre habitat. To make this dream a reality the Sanctuary needs to raise £150,000 to build the new enclosure.

Head of Fundraising at the Sanctuary, Christine Harty says "We know this is going to be a monumental undertaking; however, we believe with the help of our amazing community on the Isle of Wight and across the UK, we can smash our fundraising goal and ensure Benji and Balu get the second chance in life they deserve."

**See our events listings on p46 for a member exclusive tour ■**

## Rouse Limited announces MND headline charity

The Isle of Wight Branch of the Motor Neurone Disease (MND) Association has been named by Rouse Limited as their headline charity for 2024-2026. As well as fundraising for the charity, the community-spirited financial planning firm is committing to donating £10,000 each year for the next three years to ensure their efforts raise a significant amount of money that will benefit local people diagnosed with MND.

Lisa Butler of Rouse Limited said: "We have chosen the Isle of Wight Branch, rather than the national charity itself because, as well as being a charity that's close to our hearts, we want to help

make a material difference to people in our local community. The charity is run entirely by volunteers and relies on donations, so fundraising and raising awareness are paramount. It exists with the sole aim of supporting all those on the Isle of Wight who are affected by MND, including their carers and families.

"Please help us raise as much money as possible, on top of the £10,000 each year, for this worthy and necessary charity that desperately needs support. Visit the Rouse Limited JustGiving page to donate." ■



## New partners and treatments at BeCalmed in Cowes

Jo Hunter and Kristy Barnes have joined BeCalmed founder Caroline Hurley as partners at the Cowes beauty therapy centre. The new team will bring in medical aesthetic treatments and reintroduce the MediSpa to BeCalmed.

"We know that the addition of our two new business partners will add a welcome and much needed extra dimension to BeCalmed," Caroline says. "Over the next few months, there will be more updates and further secrets to reveal. Jo and Kristy are very excited to become a part of the BeCalmed family and cannot wait to bring a variety of new aesthetic treatments to the clinic. They are passionate about enhancing your natural beauty by using the most innovative techniques and the best non-surgical treatments to deliver safe and effective results."

Jo Hunter RN BSc (Hons), Independent Nurse Prescriber, Aesthetic Nurse Practitioner has over 30 years' experience as a Registered Nurse in the NHS and abroad with a wealth of experience in a variety of health care settings. Kristy Barnes RN MSc, BSc (Hons), Aesthetic Nurse Practitioner has a vast knowledge base and skill set from a variety of roles within different healthcare settings including child health, intensive care, surgical wards, community nursing and endoscopy. ■



## Mew The Movers raises the 'BAR' for removals



Mew The Movers, a family-run business with a rich local history spanning almost a century, has been accredited by the British Association of Removals (BAR), solidifying its commitment to excellence in the industry.

"We are honoured to receive accreditation from the British Association of Removals," said John Atkins, partner at Mew The Movers. "This recognition underscores our enduring commitment to delivering exceptional service and reliability to our cherished clientele both here on the Isle of Wight and the mainland. As we proudly display the BAR badge, our customers can trust us to provide seamless and stress-free moving experiences."

Founded by Albert Mew in the 1920's, the business has been in the ownership of Norma and John Atkins family for 21 years, alongside their son Luke and daughter-in-law, Harriet. Originally established in Ventnor, the company has expanded its operations over time and relocated to larger premises at Chapel Lane, Merstone, offering secure storage solutions alongside its renowned moving services. ■

## Milestone for Netwalking initiative from Truckel Creative

The innovative Netwalking Group on the Isle of Wight set up by Chamber Member Sara Truckel, founder of Truckel Creative is coming up for its second anniversary. Netwalking combines the benefits of networking with the refreshing experience of walking in nature. This unique initiative aims to foster connections among local businesses and artists in a relaxed and inspiring setting.

Sara Truckel, Founder of Truckel Creative, commented, "Netwalking is a fantastic way to blend the benefits of outdoor exercise with the power of professional networking. We believe that walking in nature not only boosts creativity but also makes it easier for people to connect on a deeper level. As small business

owners and creatives we spend a lot of time on our own in our offices and studios, the netwalking also provides a great excuse to get out and speak to other like minded people without the anxiety of more traditional forms of networking."

The group meets every second Friday of the month for a 3-4 mile walk at various locations around the Island, creating an ideal environment for participants to open up and engage more freely. The event is free of charge, but attendees are encouraged to make a donation to support Sara Truckel's chosen charities: Hillside Animal Sanctuary in the UK and Ugolok in Ukraine. ■





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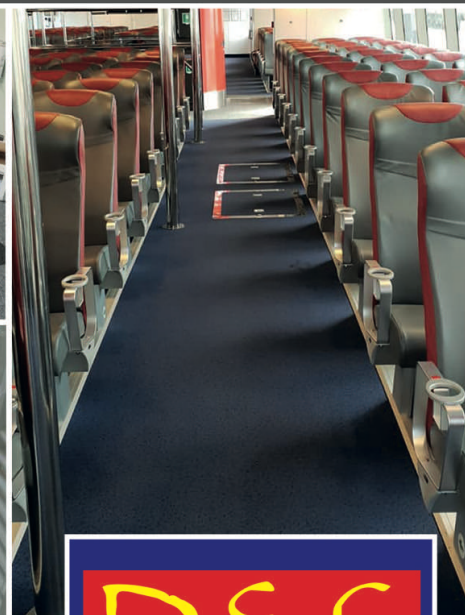
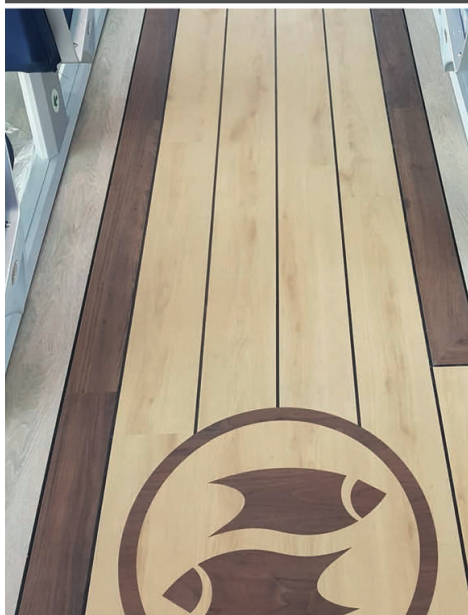
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## ISLAND BUSINESSES HONoured WITH PRESTIGIOUS UK TRADE AWARDS



**AJ Wells and Stainless Games have been honoured with the highly prestigious King's Award for Enterprise for International Trade. The businesses are two of the 252 organisations nationally to be recognised for excellence in International Trade.**



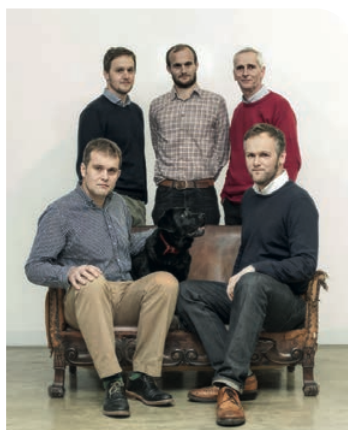
**Stainless Games** was founded in 1994 and is a videogame developer of international renown. Stainless has always been based in the Newport area, employing over 50 people on the Island and around 30 elsewhere. Over the last 30 years, Stainless has made games for some of the biggest companies in the world, including Apple, Amazon, Microsoft and Hasbro, with best-selling titles including Carmageddon, Risk: Factions, Magic: The Gathering – Duels of the

Planeswalkers and Scrabble. Another Stainless title, Red Baron, can be played at the Isle of Wight Aviation Museum at Sandown Airport.

Patrick Buckland, Stainless founder and CEO, said: "We created Stainless back in 1994 with the intention of bringing high-tech employment to the Isle of Wight by doing what we love: making video games. We started with eight staff and have since grown to over 80, and have made games for most of the biggest companies in the world as well as selling our own products globally. In doing so, we bring tens of millions into the UK economy whilst providing enjoyment to people the world over. This is our thirtieth year in business and we're very proud to mark the occasion with this King's Award."

**A.J Wells & Sons Ltd** is a privately owned, family run British engineering company that specialises in the manufacture and installation of signage, cladding and vitreous enamel products. Founded in 1972, the company also designs and manufactures wood burning stoves and accessories and is run by second and third generations of the family.

"The award is a recognition of the amazing efforts of everyone here at AJ Wells



and Sons and also our wider Charnwood family which includes you, our customers. Thank you for all the support you have given us over the years! Like most businesses, we have faced many challenges and uncertainties over the last few years and as we highlighted in our application it has been our faith in Jesus which has proved to be our rock. This King's Award for Enterprise is a tremendous honour and a humbling recognition of the incredible dedication and hard work put in by our entire AJ Wells & Sons family. We're incredibly grateful to our team, our partners, and our loyal customers around the world. Here's to many more years of crafting exceptional products, building strong and meaningful relationships, and making a positive difference!"

**Spinlock** received the King's Award for Enterprise, Innovation last year and the Cowes based manufacturer has now been officially presented with the award. The leading marine equipment specialist received the award from The Duke of Edinburgh in May. The Duke presented the prestigious award to Spinlock's Chief Executive Chris Hill and Chief Operations Officer Caroline Senior, in recognition of the ALTO, a waist-worn lifesaving device.

"As previous proud recipients of a Queen's Award for Enterprise, Innovation, plus an Enterprise, Export Award, Spinlock is aware of the influence and respect that accompanies this accolade," said Chris Hill. "It is an honour that His Majesty The King has given his name to these prestigious awards to continue the recognition of enterprising achievements and commercial success."

The King's Awards for Enterprise, previously known as The Queen's Awards for Enterprise, were renamed last year to reflect His Majesty The King's desire to continue the legacy of HM Queen Elizabeth II's by recognising outstanding UK businesses. The Award programme, now in its 58th year, is the most prestigious business award in the country, with successful businesses able to use the esteemed King's Awards Emblem for the next five years.

For more information, visit:

[www.gov.uk/kings-awards-for-enterprise](http://www.gov.uk/kings-awards-for-enterprise). ■

Above left: Patrick Buckland. Below left: A.J Wells. Below: Spinlock





IW CHAMBER  
EXPO 2024  
WITH WIGHTFIBRE

## EXPO IS BACK... AT RYDE SCHOOL ON WEDNESDAY 10TH JULY. BE THERE!

If you're in business on the Island, you'll want to be at Expo 2024. It's the biggest day for business-to-business networking on the Isle of Wight and an essential part of the calendar for the business community.

"I would urge every Island business to make sure that Expo is in the diary for July 10th," says the Chamber's CEO Steven Holbrook. "It's free to attend, open to everyone and you don't have to be a Chamber member to join us as an attendee on the day. Make sure you come along and benefit from the amazing networking opportunities on offer.

"Bringing together hundreds of like-minded business people to chat with and engage with informally would be an impossible task for one single business to achieve. IW Chamber makes it happen; join us and the Island's business community for an amazing, high-value day.

"Moving Expo to Ryde School was a huge success and we're excited to be doing it all again this year. We had strong footfall across the day, helped by our new location in Ryde town. This year we'll have extra parking on-site too. Ryde School have been brilliant hosts and I know that the excellent exhibitor breakfast and lunch menus went down a storm last year!

Find out more about Expo 2024 at  
[www.iwchamber.co.uk/expo](http://www.iwchamber.co.uk/expo)







# IWChamber BUSINESS EXPO2024

Supported by



"WightFibre is thrilled to once again sponsor the Chamber's Expo, which provides a unique platform on the Island for businesses to connect, collaborate, and explore new opportunities. By sponsoring this event, we hope to foster meaningful relationships within our Island community. Together, we can build a stronger Island business ecosystem."

*John Irvine, WightFibre*



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Wildheart Trust  
Working Towards Wellbeing  
WRS Systems

## "A clear plan for sustainable growth": BCC outlines a five-point plan for immediate action by the new government

By Shevaun Haviland, Director General of the British Chambers of Commerce

**At the BCC Global Annual Conference in June 2023, I announced the Future of the Economy Initiative, a programme of work to ensure that the business community's voice would be at the forefront of the debate for the new government and their plans for our country.**

We want to build an economy that has the green transition at its core, with a workforce fit for the future, living in thriving local places and powered by businesses that are globally facing and digitally enabled.

Working with the Chamber Network, our Business Council, and other industry experts, we have produced five reports with clear recommendations for whichever political party forms the next government. These reports have allowed us to build incredible insight and strong, clear recommendations, so that we are ready to help the new government get back to long-term sustainable economic growth.

We want UK plc to be the best place to start and grow and invest in a business.

Over the last few years businesses have battled through some of the most challenging circumstances, from Brexit to a once in a lifetime pandemic; increased energy prices; stubbornly high inflation and interest rates discouraging businesses from investing.

As a result, the economy has been choppy at best. Despite this, as I travel across the country, the businesses I meet tell me they remain buoyant and optimistic and have ambitious plans for their firms; built together with their employees and customers.

The can-do, solution orientated, entrepreneurial attitude of business in the UK is one we must harness and turbo charge.

The start of a new government, regardless of party or whatever coalition takes form, is a good moment for a reset. It's an opportunity to look forward and action the plan the country voted on. We have set out five priorities for immediate action to put in place the right policies and structures that will turn the fly wheel of the economy, so that business can step up and make the best of these opportunities.

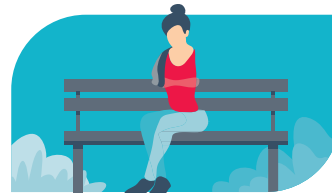
We need to work in partnership with the new government to create the right environment for all.

This manifesto sets out a five-point plan for immediate action:



### 1. Green Innovation: Industrial Strategy with green innovation at its heart

The creativity is there, but businesses need a stepping stone to give it their best. A much-needed Industrial Strategy should put green innovation at the centre of any new government's plan. A clear sense of direction and frameworks will drive investment in the infrastructure we need for the new, green economy.



### 2. People and Work: Plan Better for Skills

The labour market is heading in the right direction, as the number of vacancies continues to fall, but businesses are constantly telling us the skills they need aren't there. We need to 'Plan Better for Skills' aligning our ambition and investment to prepare young people and job seekers for great jobs. We also need to train and reskill those already in work, for the challenges and opportunities of a changing workplace. A workforce fit for the future.







Shevaun Haviland



Shevaun talks with IW Chamber members during her recent visit to the Island



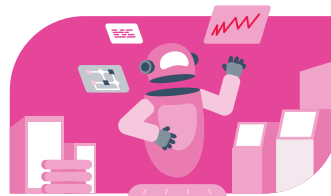
### 3. Local Economy of the Future: Business Rates Reform

The early days of starting any business are the toughest, and the costs involved are many entrepreneurs' biggest worry. But business rates hit them from the off. We need to reform the system to be more responsive to local conditions, and to the growth stage of a business.



### 4. Global Britain: Improve EU relations to cut costs for business

The EU is the UK's biggest market, accounting for 42% of all our exports. Leaving the EU has made it more expensive and bureaucratic to sell our goods and services across the Channel. But better trading terms are possible if the UK government and the EU reach agreement in areas of mutual benefit for business in both markets.



### 5. Digital Revolution: Government to appoint an AI champion for SMEs

Advances in AI present us with the opportunity to level the playing field for many SMEs, through improved efficiency and productivity. But many SMEs don't understand how to make the most of these fast-changing opportunities and feel vulnerable to new threats such as cyber-attacks. A new government must provide the right support to businesses to make the most of these radical advancements and no small business should feel left behind. An AI Champion, introduced by a new government, will ensure that is not the case.

At the British Chambers of Commerce, we work with businesses of all sizes, across all sectors, and hear about their incredible ambitions to innovate and grow, which helps communities up and down the country to thrive. But to truly meet their ambitions, they want to work in partnership with government to create the right conditions for success. We believe our five-point plan offers an immediate pathway for a new government to do just that – and propel our businesses and our country to shared prosperity. ■



# IW CHAMBER BUSINESS AWARDS 2024

## with WightFibre

The success of the Island's business community was celebrated in style on Friday 10th May, at the Isle of Wight Chamber Business Awards with WightFibre. Double Olympic Gold medallist and TV presenter Shirley Robertson handed out the trophies at Cowes Yacht Haven, hosting the Island's most prestigious event for the first time.

Shirley  
Robertson

"What a night! So many inspirational stories of Island businesses innovating and raising the bar. These awards mean a lot and I could see that in the faces of our winners. It was a thrill to see them receive their award in front of the Island's business community and a privilege for me to share that moment with them."

**Shirley Robertson OBE,**  
IW Chamber Awards host

IOW Group was named Business of the Year, also winning the Technology & Innovation and Manufacturing & Export categories.

The President's Award for Outstanding Contribution was presented to Rachael Randall, the founder of HTP Apprenticeship College, recognising her business success as well as her support for the wider economy as part of the Solent LEP, Visit Isle of Wight and Solent Partners.

Nosy Agency won the Environment & Sustainability award, as well as being named Member of the Year by the Chamber, recognising Nosy Agency's support to the Chamber team.

Quay Arts won the newly introduced Creative Impact award. Other winners were Wight Coaches, Acorn Interiors, W Hurst & Sons, Datum Electronics, UKSA, BeCalmed, Luccombe Hall Hotel, JR Zone, PC Consultants, Nettlecombe Farm, MedTec Design and Island Holiday Company.

In all, 42 Island businesses were nominated at this year's event, which was once again supported by WightFibre as headline sponsor.

It was a winning night for WightAID too, with the charitable foundation raising more than £7,000 on the night in a charity auction and through sales of scratchcards.

As ever, the Chamber's awards event was a spectacular affair, from the red carpet arrival to the excellent food, stunning visuals and some unexpected entertainment too from String Mania. The four-piece electric classical performers were the "surprise act" of the evening, taking to the stage before the awards ceremony and receiving a rapturous response from the capacity crowd.

#### Thanks to:

WightFibre  
Cowes Yacht Haven  
Critical Stages  
Vectis Hire  
TVMI  
Sarah Matthews Flowers  
All Things Printed  
Robin Crossley

The Isle of Wight Chamber  
Business Awards is  
produced by Tom Stroud,  
Kathryn Morey and  
Steven Holbrook



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**Business  
Awards** 2024

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Event host Tom Stroud



IW Chamber President Jonathan Thornton



IW Chamber CEO Steven Holbrook

String Mania



"It's been another incredible night for the Island's business community. Congratulations to all of our winners and to all of our nominees too. My thanks as always to all of our sponsors and supporters for helping us to make this event happen. A word of thanks to our judging panel too – they are completely impartial and they work independently of each other. Most of them are mainland based, some internationally, and they devote a massive amount of time to this event. You don't see them, but their contribution to the value of this event is crucial."

*Steven Holbrook, IW Chamber Chief Executive*

The IW Chamber team

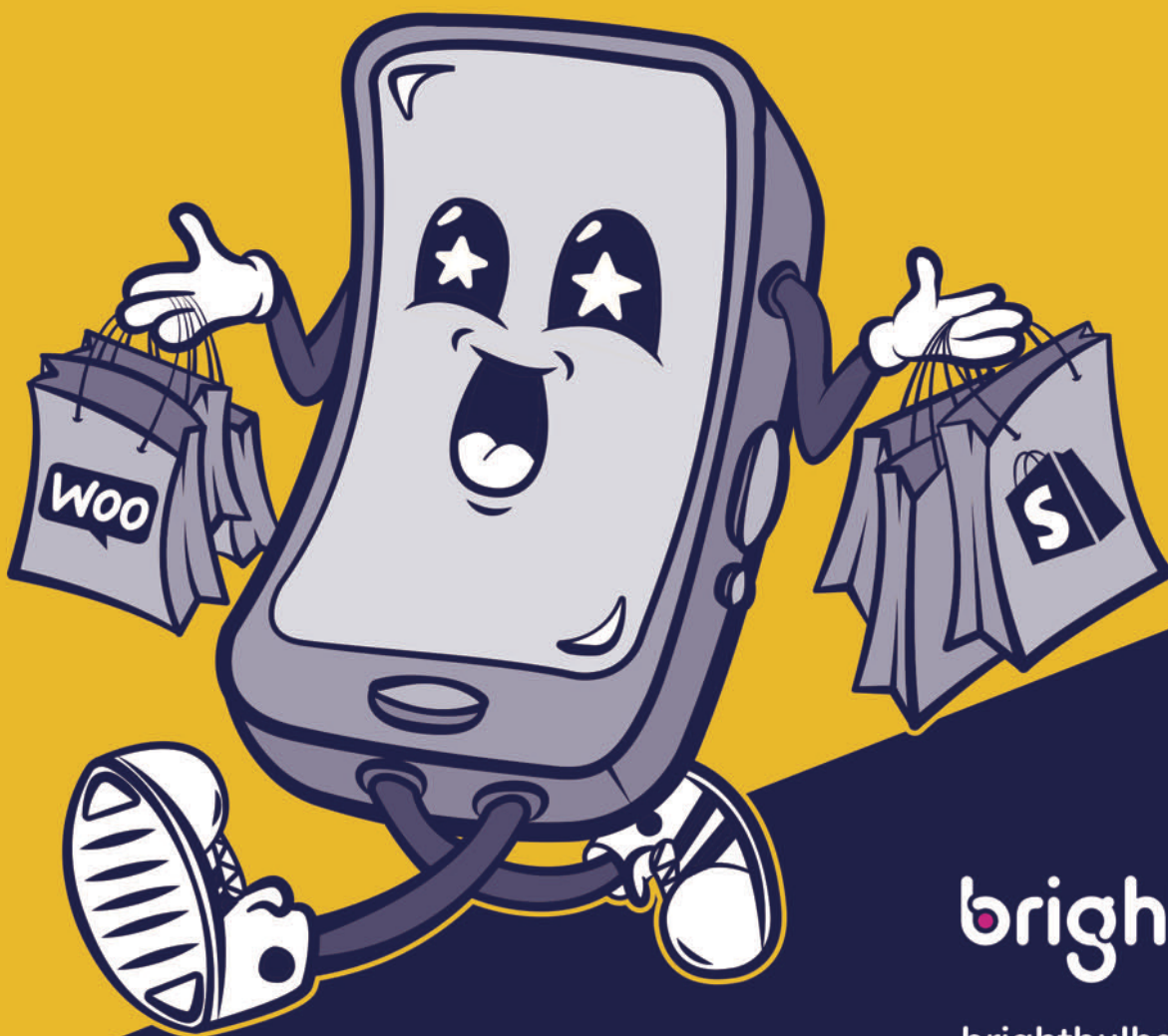




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# SNAPPED!

Red carpet arrivals and  
Photo Booth fun at the  
IW Chamber Awards





## Business of the Year

**WINNER:**  
**IOW Group**

## Manufacturing and Export Business of the Year

Sponsored by  
GKN Aerospace Cowes

**WINNER:**  
**IOW Group**

**NOMINATED:**  
IOW Group  
MedTec Design

## Technology and Innovation Award

Sponsored by  
Lifeline Alarms

**WINNER:**  
**IOW Group**

**NOMINATED:**  
Abundance Movement  
Innovative Physics  
IOW Group  
XRD Nano



"Being nominated for prestigious awards such as Innovation & Technology and Manufacturing & Export Business of the Year was an honour. But to win both categories along with the Business of the Year title is truly remarkable. This achievement is testament to the dedication and hard work of the team. Behind the scenes, we're continuously innovating and developing our products to enhance filtration solutions across multiple industries and cater to the everchanging needs of businesses worldwide. Congratulations to all other nominees and award winners. I'd like to extend our gratitude to the IW Chamber for organizing such a fantastic event, celebrating the excellent and vibrant business community on the Island, of which we are proud to be a part of."

**Brett Nicholls, IOW Group**







## IOW GROUP: A GLOBAL PROVIDER OF OIL FILTRATION SOLUTIONS

A local company at the forefront of innovation, IOW Group is revolutionising oil filtration with cutting-edge technology that's driving efficiency and sustainability worldwide.

**IOW Group has operated in Ryde since being founded in 2016. Since then, the company has seen consistent year-on-year annual growth, driven by a mission to enhance operational efficiency and reduce environmental impact across various industries.**

### Diverse customer base

IOW Group cater to a global customer base, providing essential maintenance solutions for large industrial engines used in sectors such as marine, chemical, power, transport, mining, and oil production. Effective filtration of lubrication oil is paramount to engine maintenance, ensuring optimal performance and productivity, which is where IOW Group excels.

### Revolutionising oil filtration technology

Traditional oil filters, while commonplace, often fall short by allowing tiny abrasive particles to slip through, gradually wearing down critical engine components and diminishing performance. Although centrifugal oil filters have been available, the technology has remained largely unchanged since the 1950s, failing to adapt to contemporary demands.

Recognising this gap, IOW Group has positioned innovation at the heart of its operations with their team of engineers developing cutting-edge Centrifugal Oil

Filters that outperform existing market leaders by 150%. These advanced filters incorporate patented technologies that significantly enhance separation capabilities, ensuring superior engine performance. Moreover, the improved filtration aligns with stringent emission standards, supporting global initiatives to curb carbon emissions.

### Commitment to quality manufacturing

To maintain the highest quality standards, IOW Group manufacture and assemble their products onsite. The company has integrated collaborative robots (cobots) to augment production capacity, allowing for continuous manufacturing operations, even outside regular business hours. Additionally, investment in Computer Numerical Control (CNC) machines ensures precision with tight tolerances when manufacturing parts, improving overall quality and efficiency. This meticulous approach streamlines lead times, reduces costs, and minimises waste.

### Future outlook

In an era where sustainability and efficiency are paramount, IOW Group stands at the forefront, transforming oil filtration and making a substantial difference in the industrial landscape. IOW Group's commitment to innovation and quality continues to drive their success and set new standards within the industry.

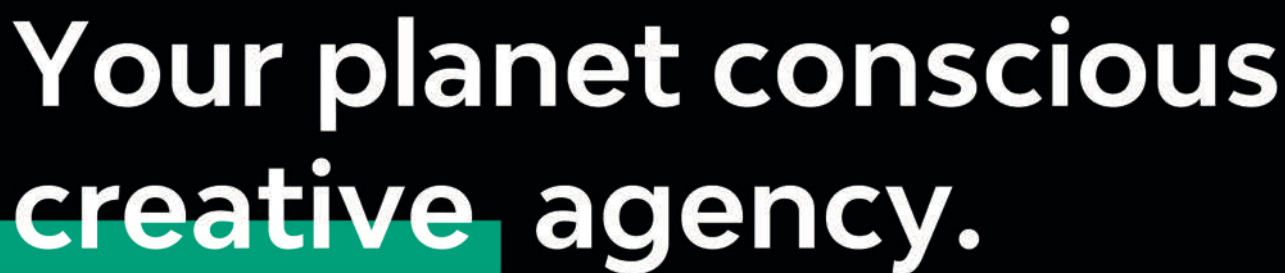
"We're passionate about providing innovative separation and filtration solutions to businesses worldwide," Brett Nicholls, Managing Director says. "Recently we've been expanding our partner program, extending our reach across Europe, North America, South America, the Middle East, Asia and Australia. Certified partners can now offer our products to their customer base, significantly broadening our scope."

"In addition to our expansion efforts, we are developing new products like the eQlyps, which provides customers with a complete oil filtration solution – something previously unavailable. It's an exciting time for everyone at IOW Group and I look forward to seeing how the company continues to grow and innovate."

### About IOW Group

Founded in 2016, IOW Group is an international company based in Ryde who are passionate about providing innovative separation and filtration solutions for businesses worldwide, with over 100 years of combined experience in the lubrication and separation industry. From concept to product, engineers at IOW Group have redesigned and manufactured the next generation of pressure driven centrifuges to revolutionise a product previously not updated since the 1950s.

IOW Group also manufactures a full range of positive displacement triple screw pumps that exceed the qualities of market-leading products. ■



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## IW Chamber Member of the Year

**WINNER:**  
**Nosy Agency**

## Environment and Sustainability Award

Sponsored by IFPL

**WINNER:**  
**Nosy Agency**

**HIGHLY COMMENDED:**  
**Carisbrooke Shipping Ltd**

### **NOMINATED:**

Carisbrooke Shipping Ltd  
GKN Aerospace Cowes  
Nosy Agency

## Start Up Business of the Year

Sponsored by PC Consultants

**WINNER:**  
**Wight Coaches**

**HIGHLY COMMENDED:**  
**Wight Vets**

### **NOMINATED:**

Cherry Godfrey  
Wight Coaches  
Wight Vets

*Wight Coaches were unable to attend the event and will be presented with their award at a later date*



"When our team stepped onto that stage, I felt a bit overwhelmed and emotional, because I see these people work hard every day, progressing professionally and personally. It was a proud moment for all of us. We finished the night with the Environment and Sustainability Award, and the Member of the Year Award. Considering the environment in all our decisions is business as usual for us now and we will continue to challenge ourselves to improve. We will also continue to support the Chamber, which has supported us since the business started nearly six years ago. Congratulations to all winners and nominees. For anyone considering entering the awards next year, I'd encourage you to do so. The application was a valuable reflection of our strengths and weaknesses. I've already implemented various learnings into our strategy for this year."

**Matt Greg, Founder, NOSY**



"Nosy is our Chamber member of the year in recognition of their massive support for me and my team during the last year. They have been very generous with their time and supplied some great insight and strategic ideas, as well as going above and beyond when delivering projects. They have been strong supporters of our Expo, Island Business magazine and our Chamber ethos."

**Steven Holbrook, IW Chamber CEO**





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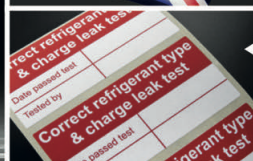
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## INJECTION MOULDING

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## Customer Service Award

Sponsored by Red Funnel

**WINNER:**  
**W Hurst & Son**

### NOMINATED:

Grace's Bakery  
Preziosa Dachshunds  
Southern Vectis  
W Hurst & Son  
Wed & Prosper

## Community Award

Sponsored by Moore (South) LLP

**WINNER:**  
**UKSA**

### NOMINATED:

Mountbatten  
Tidal Family Support  
UKSA  
Vectis Radio  
Wessex Cancer Support



"W Hurst & Son are extremely proud to fly the flag as an established retail business and win this award. In 2024 we maintain traditional values at our core and continue to serve six high street communities across the Island, deliver to any address Island wide, continue to sell nuts, bolts, screws etc individually, offer the cheapest key cutting service on the Island, maintain one of the most vast and diverse product ranges per retail square foot of any UK retailer and continue to offer a personal and direct phone service.

Our colleagues make all the difference and always offer genuine, helpful and experienced advice, often problem solving to repair an item or to assist a DIY project and in some cases our customers return to share photos and the results of their handy work.

Our customers have supported us for many years by shopping locally and in fact, it was our customers who voted us the UK's Favourite Local Business 2022 and we enjoyed celebrating this



accolade with them by hosting our very first 'Celebration Day' last year. We are incredibly humbled by our customers loyalty and the impact our business has had on the people of the Isle of Wight over the last 165 years and this anniversary is the reason we will be hosting our second consecutive annual 'Celebration Day 2024'.

We continue to evolve with the customer at the heart of our strategy which values and considers the genuine desire our colleagues have to help and play their part within the community.

I would like to thank our customers and colleagues for all of their support in winning this award and we look forward to serving the unique Isle of Wight community for many years to come."

"It might surprise our customers to know that we fulfil more orders through our website to mainland UK customers than we do Island residents on a daily basis."

**Jevon Kennedy, W Hurst & Son**



"There are many wonderful charities on the Island, so the team at UKSA were both humbled and extremely proud to win the Business in the Community Award. In 2023 we welcomed over 10,500 young people of whom 30% received funding and over 2,000 were Island residents. To be acknowledged for our support of the next generation means so much to us. Thank you IW Chamber of Commerce for this wonderful recognition of our work."

**Julia Hutchison,**  
**Strategy, Impact and**  
**Youth Partnerships Officer**







# Breathtaking Location The Island's Hidden Gem



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**Summer Garden Parties**  
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**Leisure Day Passes**  
**Daycations**

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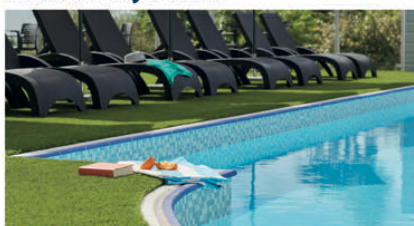
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## Training and Development Award

Sponsored by JR Zone

**WINNER:**  
**BeCalmed**

**NOMINATED:**  
BeCalmed  
Top Mops  
Vestas Blades UK

"We are thrilled that we won the Isle of Wight Chamber Award for Training and Development.

We were nominated alongside some incredible businesses and were thrilled to hear our name announced. Helping to improve our client's health and wellbeing is a very personal service. It is essential that our therapists feel skilled and confident in what they do, which is why consistent training and development of our team has always been central to our business.

Receiving this award and being recognised by the Island business community showed us that with hard work and determination even a small business can achieve great things.

Training and developing our team, helping them fulfil their true potential will continue to be a priority. We look forward to sharing our skills and knowledge with our valued customers."

**Caroline Hurley, BeCalmed**



## Hospitality Business of the Year

Sponsored by Cherry Godfrey

**WINNER:**  
**Luccombe Hall Hotel**

**HIGHLY COMMENDED:**  
**Island Holiday Company**

**NOMINATED:**  
The Blacksmiths  
Island Holiday Company  
Luccombe Hall Hotel

"We're absolutely thrilled to have been awarded Hospitality Business of the Year. It's just wonderful to be given such recognition. We are committed to continual investment in our businesses, not just in creating great facilities and services but also in the highest quality media and promotions that help attract more visitors to our beautiful island."

**Clare Farrelly, Luccombe Hotels**





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WINNER  
START UP BUSINESS OF THE YEAR



WINNER  
SMALL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR



HIGHLY COMMENDED  
HOSPITALITY BUSINESS OF THE YEAR



NOMINATED  
CONSUMER CHAMPION AWARD



## Micro Business of the Year

Sponsored by Gurit

**WINNER:**  
**MedTec Design**

**HIGHLY COMMENDED:**  
**Nosy Agency**

**NOMINATED:**

JR Zone

MedTec Design

Nosy Agency



"Winning the Micro Business of the year award means a great deal to both the MedTec team and me. It's an amazing recognition of the hard work, creativity, and dedication we've all invested in this past year.

This kind of recognition not only boosts our morale but also reassures us that we're on the right path. It elevates MedTec's profile within the engineering industry potentially providing new clients and attracting new opportunities, we may even catch the eye of talented individuals who want to be part of this innovation and progressive business.

Even being nominated for the awards gave us a chance to come together and celebrate a shared success, which strengthens our bonds and builds a sense of pride in what we can achieve together as a team.

We will continue to maintain our high standards whilst pushing the boundaries of what we can achieve. For MedTec, it's not just about the recognition—it's about the confirmation that we're making a difference and the motivation to keep excelling and providing engineering support to our clients from concept to creation."

**Daniel Carley, MedTec Design**

## Small Business of the Year

Sponsored by Wightlink

**WINNER:**  
**Island Holiday Company**

**NOMINATED:**

Acorn Interiors

Island Holiday Company

Richardsons Yacht Services

Seaview Hotel



"We are thrilled to win the Small Business of the Year award and receiving a Highly Commended Recognition for Hospitality Business of the Year on the Isle of Wight. These honours are a testament to the dedication and hard work of our entire team.

I extend my deepest gratitude to my team, whose commitment and passion have been instrumental in our success. Their unwavering dedication to excellence is what propels the business forward every day.

We also want to express our heartfelt appreciation to our owners and guests. Your support, loyalty, and encouragement have been invaluable in helping us reach this milestone. We are truly grateful for the trust you have placed in us and for being an integral part of our journey.

Congratulations to all the nominees for these prestigious awards. Your contributions to the business community on the Isle of Wight are commendable."

**Emma Kelman, The Island Holiday Company Ltd**



## Growth Business of the Year

Sponsored by WRS Systems

**WINNER:**  
**Datum Electronics**

**HIGHLY COMMENDED:**  
**PC Consultants**

**HIGHLY COMMENDED:**  
**Wight Coaches**

**NOMINATED:**  
Datum Electronics  
PC Consultants  
Wight Coaches



"Over the past few years, Datum Electronics has experienced remarkable growth, driven by our passion for delivering high-quality products to the Maritime and Industrial markets. Our success is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our talented team, the loyalty of our valued customers, and the strong support from our business partners and the local community.

We are immensely proud of this achievement and are motivated to continue our journey of growth and innovation. This award not only acknowledges our past accomplishments but also inspires us to strive for even greater success in the future. We remain committed to creating job opportunities, fostering local talent, and contributing to the economic prosperity of the Isle of Wight.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the Isle of Wight Chamber of Commerce for this honour and to everyone who has supported us along the way. As we look forward to the future, we are excited to continue making a positive impact on our community and beyond."

**Michael Irons, Datum Electronics**

## Entrepreneurship Award

Sponsored by Liz Earle

**WINNER:**  
**Acorn Interiors**

**NOMINATED:**  
Acorn Interiors  
Julia Tanner Art  
Wed & Prosper



It was surreal! My first time at the IW Chamber Business Awards and I had a brilliant time. I'm currently working on the Woodland Resort and Spa in Yarmouth, so I'm working very hard at the moment on a new way of offering eco-tourism.

It was great to win this award and to be appreciated as an entrepreneur. It puts a lot of pressure on your family, because I'm a very dedicated person. I always feel that "there's never a no". If you feel that you've got a really good idea, there's always a way.

**Alan Short, Acorn Interiors**



## Tourism and Leisure Business of the Year

Sponsored by Visit Isle of Wight

**WINNER:**  
**JR Zone**

**NOMINATED:**  
Blackgang Chine  
JR Zone  
The Terrace Rooms & Wine



"Receiving this award is a testament to our commitment to providing exceptional entertainment and leisure experiences for families and visitors on the island. We take great pride in being a place where children can explore, play, and create unforgettable memories in a safe and engaging environment.

This recognition would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of our incredible team. Their passion for creating a fun and welcoming atmosphere is the heart of JRZone, and this award is a reflection of their unwavering efforts.

We also extend our deepest gratitude to the Isle of Wight Chamber of Commerce for recognising our contributions to the local leisure and tourism sector. This accolade inspires us to continue enhancing our facilities and services, ensuring that JRZone remains a beloved destination for families and tourists alike."

**Sandra Knowles, JR Zone**

## Creative Impact Award

Sponsored by Medina Publishing

**WINNER:**  
**Quay Arts**

**NOMINATED:**  
Monkton Arts  
Quay Arts  
Visit Isle of Wight



"Winning the first Creative Impact award is such a thrill and an honour. It is testament to the incredible work of the amazing team at Quay Arts who strive tirelessly to bring an exciting and diverse mix of visual and performing arts to the people of the Isle of Wight."

**Del Seymour, Quay Arts**





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## Employer of the Year

Sponsored by Diametric Technical Ltd

### WINNER:

PC Consultants

### NOMINATED:

Datum Electronics

PC Consultants

Vestas Blades UK



"We're all about the team at PC Consultants. To be recognised as an employer that invests in the team was a great moment for us and it means so much, to win the award and also to be presented with it in front of our customers and other Island businesses. We're an IT company and the DNA of PC Consultants is all about giving people opportunities to get into a career in IT. I started out in the workshop at PC Consultants and I was given a chance. That journey has been replicated by so many of our team and it's a thrill to win this award."

**Jonathan Thornton, PC Consultants**

## Business Social Impact Award

Sponsored by WightFibre

### WINNER:

Nettlecombe Farm

### NOMINATED:

Nettlecombe Farm

RenoDrain

Right At Home

W Hurst & Son



"We are thrilled to be acknowledged for our efforts with schools and educational groups. Through our animal feeding tours, students not only gain knowledge about the environment and farming but also witness improvements in mental health. Offering free visits has broadened opportunities for island children, ensuring hands-on animal experiences for many who wouldn't have had access otherwise. Focusing on children with special educational needs (SEN) has been transformative, fostering enhanced confidence, tolerance, patience, and perseverance. We're committed to providing work experience opportunities and long-term placements for SEN students, striving to make a profound difference in countless young lives across the Island."

**Tallulah Shepherdly, Educational Co-Ordinator & Animal Keeper**



# WHAT A LINE-UP!

- HOVERTRAVEL • VESTAS • NEEDLES LANDMARK ATTRACTION •
- WIGHTFIBRE • ISLE OF WIGHT NHS TRUST • WIGHTLINK • LIZ EARLE •
- ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCIL • A.J WELLS+SONS • HOSE RHODES DICKSON •
- ISLE OF WIGHT TOMATOES • THE GARLIC FARM • THE ROYAL HOTEL •
- ISLAND HEALTHCARE • ELLEN MACARTHUR FOUNDATION •
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## IW Chamber President's Award OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION

WINNER:

**Rachael Randall,**  
founder of HTP  
Apprenticeship College



**Every year the IW Chamber's President makes a special award, to an individual who has made an Outstanding Contribution to the Island's economy and our business community. This year Rachael Randall was announced as the recipient, to a standing ovation from the audience, and as a complete surprise to her.**

"Starting your own business is never easy – and HTP Apprenticeship College has flourished, for more than 20 years. It works with Island employers to deliver Apprenticeships as well as provide education for Island school leavers. HTP is also a brilliant example of a business that reaches the South and the UK as well as the Island."

**IW Chamber President  
Jonathan Thornton**

"Rachael is a major player. She's devoted her time to Visit Isle of Wight, the Solent LEP and Solent Partners. She's a big supporter of WightAID and works hard for the Island."

**IW Chamber Chief Executive  
Steven Holbrook**

"This award means a huge amount to me. To be recognised for the work that you do is an amazing feeling. I'm shocked to win this award tonight. It's usually me that surprises other people! This is a great testament to all the hard work that we do at HTP."

I believe in the Isle of Wight. I do everything I can to support and promote the Isle of Wight, whether that's sitting on the board of Visit Isle of Wight or as

chair of Solent Partners, it's all so that I can get our name out there and promote our businesses.

The main reason I do it all is because I believe in our young people. I'm evangelical about apprenticeships. I can see a lot of people here tonight who have been our Apprentices and some of you have worked with us since, and a lot of you have our Apprentices currently. It's very important that you continue that good work and support our young people. There are jobs on the Island, we know that. We're a thriving economy and we can get better. Investing in apprentices and developing your own staff is really important, and that's what drives me to keep doing the work we do at HTP."

**Rachael Randall** ■





## SARAH MATTHEWS FLOWERS & STYLING

Sarah Matthews and Jodie Spiers are co-owners of Sarah Matthews Flowers and Styling. Based at their studio in Rectory Mansion in Brading, they provide bespoke luxury flowers for functions and businesses of all sizes. With clients like Liz Earle, The Royal Hotel and The Courtyard Aesthetic Clinic, they're adding value to businesses and using flowers to enhance the look and feel of a premises. They work at events too, including providing the table floral displays at the recent IW Chamber Business Awards. And if you're taking things really seriously, Sarah and Jodie can even provide and maintain your office or building plants, an all year round service, which users of Building 41 in Cowes rate highly.

*Jodie Spiers (left) and Sarah Matthews at their studio in Brading*

## FLOWERING BUSINESS:

Corporate success shows that Sarah Matthews Flowers and Styling in Brading is about more than just weddings

"It's easy to think that a floristry provider like ourselves would mostly be serving weddings and celebrations," Sarah says. "We do promote that aspect of our business, but we're also keen to show businesses how much difference flowers and plants can bring to your work environment or events. Around 50% of our business comes from corporate clients and we've recently joined the Isle of Wight Chamber and we're really enjoying making new connections with like-minded businesses."

Sarah and Jodie teamed up when Sarah provided the flowers for Jodie's wedding. They recognised in each other a shared passion for floristry, events and offering a bespoke service.

"Working with businesses is really exciting," Jodie says. "Often we will be approached by a client who wants to improve their working environment, whether that's the front-of-house at a restaurant or hotel, or an office setting. Flowers and plants make a huge difference in the way businesses present themselves, to their clients or their staff. Working with a business to provide something bespoke is brilliant and we can reflect their brand and approach in the plants and flowers we provide. We respond to their aesthetic and work with them to make a real statement."





"It's proven that plants make a workplace better. They look great but they also make people feel good and work more effectively. They oxygenate the air and boost wellbeing. Building 41 in Cowes, where we maintain all the plants, is a great example of where all the greenery adds to the happy, relaxed working environment, which was proven by a recent survey of the users there. It's part of the USP and definitely influences our choice as consumers about where we want to spend time and money."

Sarah and Jodie provide a wide range of options, from supplying and maintaining plants and flowers across the year, to fresh bouquets or even faux flowers.

"We concentrate on high quality faux flowers which are a great option for businesses looking for a sustainable, low maintenance approach," Sarah says. "We know that business owners are busy people and don't want to worry about watering plants or making sure they have enough light. But we love that! So we can tailor a display, or hire and maintain solutions for any setting."

Business is brisk for Jodie and Sarah, with April to October's diary packed with weddings. A recent addition to their schedule has been networking events with IW Chamber, which they attend when time allows.

"We joined the Chamber to reach other businesses and we've already made some fantastic new connections," Sarah says. "The networking breakfast at Liz Earle was brilliant for us and we came away with some new clients as well as some amazing hand cream! Working with like-minded people makes things much easier and we have definitely picked up orders through our membership. Providing the table flowers at the Chamber's Business Awards was fantastic for us, knowing that our work was being showcased at such a prestigious event."

"Working at events is second nature for us," Jodie adds. "It's always so exciting to deliver what is often the final touch. Because fresh flowers go in last, we can see how our displays transform a place setting, a marquee or a venue. We're working in partnership with other teams and it's a really emotional thing for us, being able to make a real difference to the look and feel of a prestigious, important event."

Sarah founded the business in 2011 and together with Jodie they have almost 35 years experience of providing luxury, bespoke, creative services to clients.

"We have a real passion for our work," Sarah says. "It's hard work at times, but we're genuinely excited by what we do and how we can offer the best service. We're growing our business and we're really excited by the future." 🍷



## Sarah Matthews Flowers & Styling – The Brading Florist

Luxury Flowers | Venue Styling | Event Hire  
Flowers for all occasions | Wedding & Event Specialist  
RMW Recommended

Rectory Mansion 46-48 High Street, Brading,  
Sandown, Isle of Wight, PO36 0DQ  
[www.sarahmatthewsflowers-styling.co.uk](http://www.sarahmatthewsflowers-styling.co.uk)  
Instagram: @sarahmatthewsflowers-styling



## HOW A TEN MINUTE JOURNEY KEEPS THE ISLAND CONNECTED

As Hovertravel approaches its sixtieth anniversary in 2025, we are looking at how the business has evolved to meet the challenges of operating a hovercraft business in today's world.

With humble beginnings as a seasonal operation in 1965, transporting day trippers to the sandy beaches of the Isle of Wight from the Portsmouth coast, Hovertravel transformed very quickly into a year-round business which now flies people, patients and parcels up to 60 times per day.

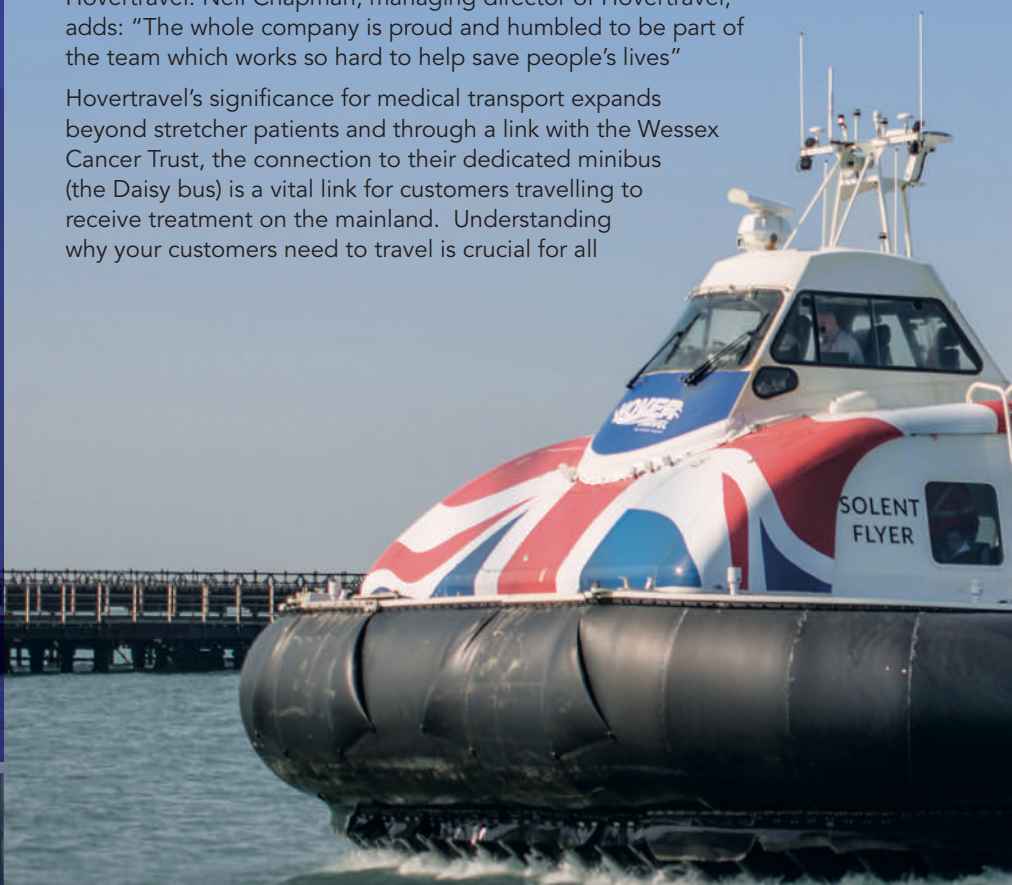
The coming together of an amphibious craft and the extensive tidal sands pointed towards Ryde as an ideal location to bring tourists to the Isle of Wight. The town worked well as a destination in itself and offered a gateway to and from the island; which it continues to do today with excellent connections offered by Island Line and Southern Vectis.

Operating throughout the pandemic cemented Hovertravel's position as a lifeline for the island's population; firstly helping to keep keyworkers and essential supplies moving to where they were needed most and secondly through the development of the Island Rescue rapid transfer for emergency stretcher patients. This innovation has evolved to include not just in-hospital patients but also those straight from scene and returns the ambulance crew and their vehicle back on duty quicker than any other method.

This is an immense source of pride for the 85 employees who work at Hovertravel. Neil Chapman, managing director of Hovertravel, adds: "The whole company is proud and humbled to be part of the team which works so hard to help save people's lives"

Hovertravel's significance for medical transport expands beyond stretcher patients and through a link with the Wessex Cancer Trust, the connection to their dedicated minibus (the Daisy bus) is a vital link for customers travelling to receive treatment on the mainland. Understanding why your customers need to travel is crucial for all

*The fastest cross-Solent freight operator.*



- Operated continuously since 1965
- Shortest Isle of Wight ferry crossing – under ten minutes
- Fastest cross-Solent freight operator



businesses and Hovertravel's sub-ten-minute crossing appeals to commuters, school children, students, teachers as well as leisure travellers. Neil again: "We appreciate that for some customers we are part of their daily lives and for others we are a once in a lifetime experience." To ensure that regular customer needs are met, Hovertravel introduced a Hovertravel Users Group (HUG) over a decade ago to collect feedback about the operation and disseminate essential information.

Being headquartered at Ryde, Hovertravel is an important Island employer and takes its responsibilities in the areas of education and employment seriously. As a long-time fan of apprentices, Hovertravel looks to engage with the community to encourage work experience, apprenticeships and visits to local schools to talk about employment at Hovertravel. Alongside the standard departments of commercial, marketing, finance there are very specific skills required for engineering, operation and, of course, the pilots of the hovercraft themselves.

It was the uniqueness of some of these abilities which encouraged Hovertravel to partner with their sister company, Griffon Hoverwork to create The Hovercraft Centre of Excellence facility at Hovertravel's Ryde terminal. The centre is regularly used for training operational crew, hovercraft engineers and hovercraft pilots, with clients visiting from Canada, Turkey, and Japan in the last year. Designed to be used for training, meetings and events, this facility includes Solent Views, a multi-functional event space, available for hire, which overlooks the Ryde hover pad and has been used by a wide variety of organisations including local councils, local schools, local attractions and local charities.

In the past ten years Hovertravel has launched two initiatives as part of its responsible business approach. Embedded within the company's mission and values is the commitment to offer a sustainable hovercraft service for all and this in turn created the HoverCare and HoverGreen initiatives.

"We appreciate that for some customers we are part of their daily lives and for others we are a once in a lifetime experience."

Neil Chapman MD



HoverCare was launched in 2016 to enhance accessibility and has been recognised by several award schemes including the government's own Inclusive Transport Leaders Scheme (twice) at the highest level. HoverGreen focuses on the environmental impact of Hovertravel's business and the company has just become the first Isle of Wight ferry to achieve the gold standard for both Visit Portsmouth and Visit Isle of Wight's Green Tourism awards.

Neil adds again: "The success of our accessibility and environmental programmes can in part be attributed to the fact that these initiatives are locked into our quality management system and that we engage our stakeholders, most importantly our customers and staff, on these issues."

This echoes with the feedback that Hovertravel receives from its customers which shows that while many customers choose the hovercraft for its market-leading crossing time (the next quickest ferry takes twice as long), all customers appreciate the friendly and helpful interaction they have with the staff. Whether travelling across the Solent for some shopping at Gunwharf Quays or picking up an urgently needed car windscreen, Hovertravel knows their customer wants the best service. ■



#### DID YOU KNOW?

Hovertravel has carried pigeons, parrots and a penguin

#### DID YOU KNOW?

The hovercraft regularly travel at up to 35 knots

#### DID YOU KNOW?

There is a minimum of two crew plus one pilot on every flight

- Government accredited accessibility transport leader
- Environmentally conscious with ISO 14001
- Over 1000 off-island stretcher patient transfers



WIGHTFIBRE

John Irvine  
WightFibre's  
CEO



WightFibre has provided phone, broadband, and TV service to the Isle of Wight since 2001. WightFibre's company purpose is to help make the Isle of Wight a better and more sustainable place to live, work, and play for all – with a vision “to make the Isle of Wight one of the best-connected places on the planet”.

## Connecting the Isle of Wight

WightFibre's new Curia report demonstrates the value of improved connectivity

Funded by Infracapital Partners, with support from the Government's Digital Infrastructure Investment Fund and Building Digital UK voucher funding, WightFibre has already spent over £80M (Dec 2023) deploying full-fibre broadband technology to 77 per cent of the island (Dec 2023). This will be available to 86 per cent of the island by the end of 2024 and 99 per cent by 2027.

Keen to demonstrate and quantify the significance of this investment, WightFibre has commissioned consultants Curia UK to produce a 24 page report outlining the impact that the Gigabit Island project will have on service levels, jobs, inward investment and well-being. Curia is described as the UK's first “do tank”, an independent, cross-party and not-for-profit policy institute that turns policy into practice.

“Our infrastructure investment is a good thing for the Island,” says WightFibre's CEO John Irvine. “It is on a par, for example, with investment in railways in the 1800s, and is the single largest private sector investment the Island has seen in generations. It is setting the Island apart from other similar rural areas in the UK and is allowing the Island to lead the way in the deployment of new technologies and ways of working that depend on reliable and fast broadband connections.

“WightFibre has commissioned Curia to help us quantify the social, environmental, and economic value of full-fibre infrastructure. The data is benchmarked against nationally recognised data and is informed by a thorough review of all pre-existing evidence. This research offers an opportunity to identify effective solutions to digital exclusion and how to incentivise further investment from a range of sectors in the Isle of Wight economy.

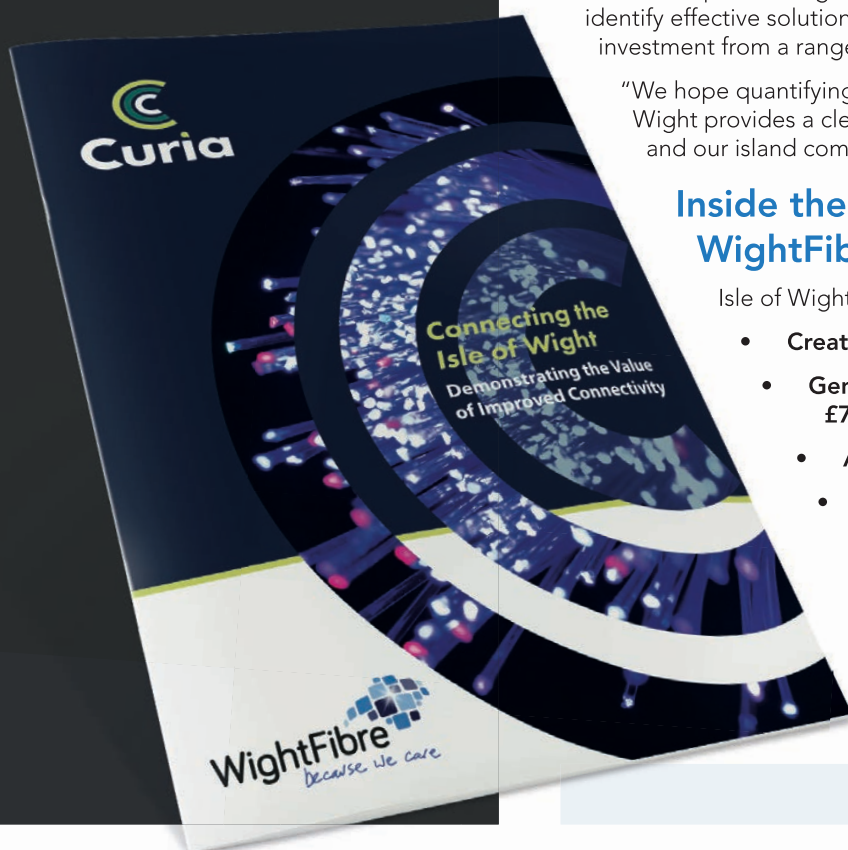
“We hope quantifying the value WightFibre is delivering to the Isle of Wight provides a clear demonstration of our commitment to the Island and our island community.”

### Inside the report: WightFibre in numbers

Isle of Wight full-fibre broadband will, by 2030:

- Create 1,800 new jobs and safeguard 450 existing jobs
- Generate £328M of new business and £73M of existing business safeguarded
- Achieve Public sector savings of over £2M
- Have a social wellbeing, digital inclusion, upskilling and employment impact of £50.2M

WightFibre has owned and operated its own telecommunications infrastructure entirely independently of BT Openreach. WightFibre provides phone, TV, and broadband services to homes and businesses on the Isle of







Wight. Only WightFibre has committed to building a full-fibre broadband network across the whole island. The WightFibre Gigabit Island Project will see full-fibre broadband deployed to over 74,000 homes and businesses across the island by 2024 and is already available to 67,000 households. The project will see over 80,000 homes and businesses connected to the network by 2027. WightFibre is part of the fabric of the island, with currently over 100 full-time employees living and working on the island. Local engineering contractors, suppliers, and resources are also being indirectly employed to support the infrastructure and services.

Curia's report explores the economic, social, and environmental benefits of current and future full-fibre broadband services across the Isle of Wight. WightFibre was one of the first broadband providers in the UK to invest substantially in full-fibre infrastructure as part of the Gigabit Island launch in 2017. As a result, these benefits are already being realised and will accelerate significantly as take-up by businesses and consumers enables digital transformation.

"We are already seeing the benefits first-hand," John Irvine explains. "The investment in a 1,000-seat call centre by Ascensos was made possible by WightFibre's rapid deployment of a full-fibre connection to the call centre. The adjacent Building 41 innovation centre with multi-gigabit connectivity was made possible by full-fibre technology from WightFibre. Branstone Farm – a £13.6M sustainable development of social and affordable housing alongside a business park – was also made possible by multi-gigabit connectivity from WightFibre.

"I hope this report will complement the Isle of Wight Council's 2017 Digital Strategy. It is designed to inform an update to that strategy and, hopefully, assist our island community in exploiting this improved full-fibre infrastructure. This will, in turn, drive greater social inclusion and economic growth on the Island, 'because we care'."

## WightFibre, Isle of Wight Council and the Digital Island Vision

The Digital Island Vision published by the Isle of Wight Council in 2017 is "to be the world's smartest, most connected island". That vision is based on core principles and objectives, shaped by local stakeholders, and driven by the environment and the economy, which characterise the unique nature of the Isle of Wight. The island has been embarking on an ambitious transformational programme of regeneration to address some of the structural, economic, and financial challenges it is facing. Digital technologies are contributing to and impacting every single aspect of these challenges and opportunities. All of this has improved the digital infrastructure and connectivity at the heart of the Island, enabling business growth, social wellbeing, and environmental change. In combination, digital connectivity and digital technologies are crucial to the island's economic and social development. This future prosperity relies on everything from economic growth to the transformation of public services, from overcoming the separation from the mainland to educating the Island's young people, attracting inward investment, and retaining talented Islanders.





## Setting the standard: the Gigabit Island bucks the national trend

As of Dec 2023, 77% of the Island can receive full-fibre broadband against a national average of 60% placing the island ahead of the mainland and well ahead of equivalent rural areas elsewhere in the UK. WightFibre's full-fibre broadband is already available to nearly 70,000 homes and businesses (82,000 by 2027) and BT Openreach have promised full-fibre broadband to 45,000 homes and businesses by 2026. This new full-fibre technology will have significant benefits to the island. This report quantifies these benefits in £ values.

The report shows the value of full-fibre broadband to the Isle of Wight is:

- **£328M of new business gross value added (GVA) and £73M business GVA safeguarded by 2030. This figure would reach £86M of new business GVA added per annum by 2030**
- **c£2M of cashable public sector network savings by 2030**
- **Over £3.5M savings per annum across the public sector, from 2024, with a new integrated plan for remote digital healthcare, if completed in conjunction with an integrated plan for digital inclusion and upskilling**
- **£110M of local investment will have been made by WightFibre**

**by 2030, a local, independent broadband provider with the most significant full-fibre broadband presence on the Isle of Wight. There are over 100 fulltime employees based on the island. Local engineering contractors, suppliers, and resources are also being indirectly employed to support the infrastructure and services on the island**

- **A social wellbeing, digital inclusion, upskilling, and employment impact of £50.2M by 2030**
- **Over £62.6M of equivalent carbon taxation savings by 2030 (including over £12M per annum by 2030).**

## Future proof: the potential of the Gigabit Island

The case for full-fibre broadband is essential and has been accelerated by the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, with home working, video communications, remote services, online banking, and direct retail operations creating significant, unprecedented demand. In a business environment, especially for small to medium-sized organisations, the availability of high-bandwidth, resilient, and affordable communications services is essential and helps underpin turnover growth, productivity, new jobs, and investment. In recent years, other studies have highlighted the social and environmental benefits of improved infrastructure,

including digital inclusion, education and skills, health and wellbeing, and decarbonisation towards achieving Net Zero targets.

There is also significant new potential for inward investment, remote working, business start-ups, scale-ups, and higher-value jobs for the island. Post-pandemic, the changes in remote working and the rethinking of office spaces and locations have presented a significant new opportunity for GVA growth, diversification, and productivity. There are also benefits in terms of developing the digital economy with IT and software companies, and businesses that rely on fast, reliable infrastructure to grow and enable their staff to benefit from flexible working. Mobile networks, including 5G and beyond, require full-fibre broadband – especially in rural or semi-rural areas – to maximise their coverage and ensure mobile broadband traffic can cope with increased customers and usage. Maximum coverage of 5G (with future 6G capability) mobile data and voice services are essential for a modern, sustainable, and productive economy and improved public services.

To read more and see the full conclusions from the independent report produced by Curia go to:

[www.wightfibre.com/](http://www.wightfibre.com/)

[wightfibre-curia-report-2024](#)







## Skills4Work | Isle of Wight Employment and Skills Programme

### Not in work but want to start a new career?

- Receive free 1:1 support and coaching
- Develop your job search, CV and interview skills
- Get access to IT equipment and get online
- Complete online and face-to-face training
- Develop your English, mathematics and IT skills
- Get self-employment and business start-up support

Skills 4 Work is a completely free, 1:1 employment support and coaching programme, which is open to anyone living on the Isle of Wight, who is aged 16 and over, not in any paid work and has the right to work in the UK.

Our Employment and Skills Coaches have been working to support our customers with a range of services, such as accessing both online and face to face training opportunities, digital support, help with gaining employment and much more.

Skills4Work have supported:

- 301 local people onto the programme.
- 111 people into work.
- 82 people into training.

With another exciting year ahead, on top of our current support, we are pleased to share our lineup of face-to-face training which begins in July:

- An Introduction to the role of becoming a Teaching Assistant ■ paired with accredited First Aid Training
- Level 2 Door Supervisor Course
- Samba Drumming

Visit [www.sovereign.org.uk/s4wiow](http://www.sovereign.org.uk/s4wiow) for more details!  
Talk with us: 0300 5000 926  
Email: [skills4work@sovereign.org.uk](mailto:skills4work@sovereign.org.uk)

SOVEREIGN   ISLE of WIGHT COUNCIL  LEVELLING UP  SOUTHERN HOUSING

Sovereign Network Group is the trading name of Sovereign Housing Association Limited, which is charitable



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ISLAND'S ECONOMY SINCE  
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FREE LOANS TO  
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**MISSION ZERO  
BUSINESS HUB**  
Isle of Wight

## MISSION ZERO BUSINESS HUB – CASE STUDY: GARLIC FARM'S MISSION ZERO JOURNEY

By **Matt Greg**, Chair of the Mission Zero Business Hub

The Garlic Farm is a family business owned and operated by the Boswell family, who have spent many years enjoying, exploring, and mastering all things garlic on the Isle of Wight. They have crafted a diverse range of garlic-infused products, from mayonnaise and chutneys to garlic beer and even ice cream!

Whether you've visited the farm, its shop, or restaurant, stayed in a cottage or yurt, or perhaps left a Chamber networking breakfast (desperately) seeking mints, there's no denying The Garlic Farm's significance. It is an integral part of our community.

What you may not know is that The Garlic Farm is dedicated to generating a 'net positive' impact for both people and the planet. Their ethos was recently recognised with the achievement of B-Corp certification, a journey that began in 2018. Here's what it involved...



Certified



Corporation

### Reducing Waste

With a goal to reduce landfill waste to no more than 50%, The Garlic Farm has implemented several effective measures. These include regular waste monitoring, clear signage and separated bins for customers, as well as improved communication with their waste removal company.

They have also invested in a Ridan food composter to cut raw food waste by 50%, with the aim of achieving zero waste in the restaurant over the next three years. Looking ahead, the Farm plans to record food waste regularly to inform menu changes and reduce both plate and prep waste in the restaurant.

### Resource Efficiency

To reduce energy consumption, the Farm has invested in LED lighting, electric vehicles, and increased the use of renewable energy sources like solar and biomass. Additionally,





they have enhanced communication about resource efficiency with both the team and guests.

Water efficiency measures include fixing leaks, implementing water-saving techniques in toilets, optimising dishwasher use, and improving plumbing fittings to reduce outflow.

## Environment and Ecology

The Garlic Farm calculates its carbon footprint across Scope 1, 2, and 3 emissions and is actively working to reduce these emissions daily. But there's more.

In October 2022, they achieved Organic status with the Soil Association. Embracing regenerative farming practices, they are committed to improving soil health and are currently exploring a wastewater wetland system to treat all wastewater from their shop, restaurant, and accommodation site. The Farm is also Pasture for Life certified, verifying that the animals supplying their food have been wholly fed on pasture, their natural diet.

Additionally, they embrace agroforestry and beekeeping. The Farm has integrated trees with their livestock and crops, successfully planting several thousand trees over the years. They are also expanding their knowledge of beekeeping and have added their own hives.

## Considered Purchasing

Engaging with suppliers is a core part of the Farm's ethos. They have hosted several 'Supplier Celebration Events' to support and align their supply chain across social and environmental goals. They have also introduced a 'Supplier Code of Conduct' and work with local suppliers whenever possible.

## Financial Security

As a 'Living Wage Foundation' employer, The Garlic Farm ensures that all team members over 18 receive a real living wage - which is higher than the national minimum. Additionally, they provide personal accident insurance and offer one-on-one financial health checks with an independent adviser to further support the financial security of their team.

## Wellness & Safety

Annual team satisfaction surveys help the Farm identify areas for improvement, such as financial security, training, and managing stress at work. Updated risk assessments and a dedicated welfare budget further enhance their team's wellbeing. Recently, they issued a Menopause Policy and have plans for a Wellbeing Day.

## Customers & Community

Customer satisfaction is a crucial aspect of sustainability. To maintain high standards, The Garlic Farm set a target of achieving a minimum of 4.5 stars across all customer feedback channels.



They provide comprehensive customer service training and consistently monitor results to ensure this goal is met.

The Farm is also actively involved in supporting local causes through donations, fundraising events, and active participation. The largest donations are made to WightAID, an organisation that ensures contributions are distributed to the most in-need charities and causes on the Island.

## Training & Development

Another key aspect of sustainability is team involvement. The Garlic Farm ensures this by offering annual all-team training sessions, customer service training, and updates on essential areas such as first aid, fire marshalling and safety.

Matt Greg, Chair of the Mission Zero Business Hub



## Share Your Sustainable Stories

This article is part of Mission Zero Hub's case study series, showcasing the journeys of local businesses towards greater environmental and social responsibility. If your business has made significant strides in this area, we'd love to hear from you: [info@missionzerohub.co.uk](mailto:info@missionzerohub.co.uk)





# Go for Growth

**Go for Growth is a programme designed to support Island business owners through the provision of business advice, expertise, and training.**

Throughout July, registered businesses on the programme will have free access to four one-day training sessions across a range of topics:

## **2nd July: PEOPLE**

Led by **Alison Colley**

## **16th July: TECHNOLOGY**

Led by **Alistair Dickinson**

## **17th July: MARKETING AND COMMUNICATION**

Led by **Ross Findon**

## **18th July: FINANCE**

Led by **Sally Casterton**

## **LOCAL EXPERTS TO DELIVER BUSINESS TRAINING IN JULY**

We spoke to these experts to learn more about their approach and backgrounds.

If you are part of the Go for Growth programme and interested in joining, please note that spaces are limited.

To secure your spot, scan the QR code or visit: [bit.ly/gfg-training](https://bit.ly/gfg-training)



*Alison Colley*

Alison Colley is a solicitor who specialises in providing advice on all aspects of employment law and HR, including mediation and workplace dispute resolution.

She is passionate about offering affordable advice and assistance that not only addresses legal aspects but also tackles the mental and emotional strains that come with workplace issues.

Alison's approach focuses on the individual. Supported by technology, her business (Real Employment Law Advice) provides services to customers throughout the UK. She also shares valuable free content, advice, and information through her website and podcast.

Her speciality lies in putting clients at ease during stressful times. She understands the factors outside of the legal framework that influence decision-making and appreciates what matters beyond the black-and-white perspective of law.

Alison lives on the Isle of Wight and, as an adrenaline junkie, she loves seeking out theme parks and roller coasters across the UK. Her two young children keep her busy with adventures at the beach, in the woods, or at favourite local spots like Blackgang Chine.

**Alison will be leading a one-day training session on 2nd July on the subject of People.**



Alistair Dickinson runs several ventures, including MyCRM and Mapsimise. MyCRM offers CRM applications for workforce, customer, and supply management, as well as marketing and sales force automation software. Mapsimise provides data mapping and location intelligence solutions.

At 16, Alistair wanted to be a guitarist in a rock band and a stuntman. After a near-death experience in his youth, he shifted his focus. Now, he is passionate about helping business owners get the best out of technology and build strong customer relationships.

He also handles research, fact-checking, information production, and hosts a weekly podcast called 'The Geekly Upload'.

**Alistair will be leading a one-day training session on 16th July on the subject of Technology.**



Alistair Dickinson



Ross Findon

Based in Cowes, Ross Findon is a communications specialist focusing on strategy, campaigns, and content for brands and non-profits. Passionate about climate change, he is always eager to work with organisations dedicated to making a positive impact.

Ross excels at cutting through the noise to tell stories people care about. He has worked with some of the world's largest purpose-driven brands, inspiring innovators, and solutions-focused NGOs, and uses his extensive experience to support those just getting started.

He collaborates with brands, individuals, and organisations to solve challenges by creating effective communication strategies and delivering campaigns that convey the right messages to the right people in the right way. His work spans investor decks, industry reports, keynotes, presentations, social media, thought leadership, and editorial content.

**Ross will be leading a one-day training session on 17th July on the subject of Marketing and Communications.**

Sally Casterton is a people-focused advisor with a strong background in finance and financial planning. In 2015, she founded Garner Financial Solutions to offer small business owners the benefits of an outsourced Finance Director, providing support and guidance through consultancy, coaching, and mentoring.

Understanding that many businesses struggle with numbers, she excels at demystifying spreadsheets and helping even the most numerically challenged individuals understand their business finances.

Sally is a firm believer in business planning, including budgeting, forecasting, financial reporting, cost control, and cash flow management. Her approach emphasises the importance of systems and processes.

**Sally will be leading a one-day training session on 18th July on the subject of Finance.**



Sally Casterton



IW LOTTERY



### THE WINNING STATS:

**115** businesses have received loans so far, totalling a whopping **£1,268,431**

Over **435** Island jobs created  
**£100,000** of funding to Island businesses in interest free loans in 2023

More than **540** prizes paid out in 2023, with **£118,000** paid out in prizes

It's just **£1** to play

Find out more about the Isle of Wight Lottery by heading to:  
[www.isleofwightlottery.com](http://www.isleofwightlottery.com)



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[ISLEOFWIGHTLOTTERY.COM/JOIN-NOW](http://ISLEOFWIGHTLOTTERY.COM/JOIN-NOW)

## ISLE OF WIGHT LOTTERY WIN BIG, SUPPORT ISLAND BUSINESSES

Playing the Isle of Wight Lottery offers a unique opportunity to support the local economy while also giving players a chance to win exciting prizes. Unlike many lotteries, the IW Lottery is designed with the community in mind, channelling funds directly into the development and growth of Island businesses. By participating, you contribute to a vibrant, thriving local economy, helping businesses like The Island Holiday Company expand their services, create jobs, enhance their offerings, and go on to win a 2024 Chamber Award. Your ticket not only gives you a shot at winning but also ensures that local businesses receive the crucial support they need to innovate, prosper, and continue enriching the Isle of Wight community.

### Winning numbers for Island businesses

The Isle of Wight Lottery has paid out more than 100 loans to Island businesses, pumping more than £1million into the Island's economy since 2001.

In the last two years the IW Lottery has helped 9 Island businesses to create and sustain jobs, with £270,000 in interest free funding.



**Wooldridge Interiors**  
**£50,000**

**Island Photo Co.**  
**£15,000**

**4D Sports**  
**£50,000**

**Nosy Consultancy Ltd**  
**£15,000**

**Wight Lease Ltd**  
**£20,000**

**The Island Holiday Company Ltd**  
**£20,000**

**Wight Knuckle Brewery**  
**£50,000**

**Jack Thompsons Store**  
**£20,000**

**1840's by Wed & Prosper**  
**£30,000**

Above: Jack Thompson

Below left: Emma Kelman and staff of The Island Holiday Company

### Emma Kelman explains how the IW Lottery and the Chamber have been instrumental in her company's success

"As the Director of The Island Holiday Company, I am proud to share the journey of our successful holiday letting business, which began in December 2020 during the final lockdown. Recognising the strong demand among local holiday homeowners for a comprehensive, locally experienced letting agent, we set out to fulfil this need by offering an all-encompassing service. From marketing and property management to maintenance and housekeeping, we aimed to deliver an exceptional holiday experience for our guests.

"The foundation of The Island Holiday Company was built on the principle of providing all these services and more, under one roof. This holistic approach has been the cornerstone of our success, ensuring seamless and enjoyable stays for our guests.







Wight Knuckle Brewery



Wooldridge Interiors



5K winner Renny Talbot

"As our business expanded, it necessitated significant investment to foster growth. Securing funding can be a challenge for any new enterprise, but as proud members of the Isle of Wight Chamber of Commerce, we found the perfect springboard with the IOW Lottery. This support was instrumental in our development.

"The funding allowed us to invest in office premises, hire an apprentice who is now a full-time employee, and enhance our brand presence with a sign-written works vehicle. Additionally, we upgraded our software and launched a new website, resulting in a surge of bookings and revenue, while also attracting new clients to our portfolio.

"Our portfolio and revenue have grown consistently year on year, with bookings for 2024 already surpassing those of 2023. To accommodate this growth, we have hired another seasonal staff member and plan to continue our expansion.

"The support from the IW Chamber of Commerce and the IW Lottery has been invaluable. They have been our pillars of strength, providing help, advice, and celebrating our successes. Their support has enabled us to contribute to the

local economy by offering high-quality accommodation and creating job opportunities.

"We extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone at the IW Chamber and IW Lottery for their unwavering support. Together, we look forward to further success and growth, benefiting our community and delighting our guests."

### Playing to win: Renny wins the 5K prize

The lottery is a great way to support Island businesses and there's always the opportunity to win big, which player Renny Talbot did when he won the £5,000 prize at Easter.

"We play the Isle of Wight lottery because we live on the Island, and we like to support local businesses and good causes. We were over the moon when we were told we had won the easter £5,000 jackpot! At £1 a week to play I would encourage everyone to join the Isle of Wight Lottery."

**To find out more or to sign up for the Isle of Wight Lottery, head to [www.isleofwightlottery.com](http://www.isleofwightlottery.com)**

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# EVENTS & TRAINING

## IW CHAMBER NETWORKING BREAKFAST

Quay Arts, Newport

Friday 5th July, 7.30am – 9am

IW Chamber members - £16 per person

Join us for an excellent networking opportunity at Quay Arts, with a hot breakfast and a great start to the business day, networking with other Chamber members.

## FIRE MARSHAL COURSE

Delivered by Good Skills Training at YMCA, Shanklin

Tuesday 9th July, 9am – 12.30pm

IW Chamber members - £65+VAT per person

This half day course is designed specifically for those who have been designated with the responsibilities of Fire Marshal or Fire Warden. The course will look at the legal responsibilities of both the company and the individual. By the end of this course learners will understand what their duties as a fire marshal are. The certificate will be emailed after completion.

## BUSINESS BREAKFAST AT IW CHAMBER BUSINESS EXPO 2024

Ryde School, Ryde

Wednesday 10th July, 8.30am – 9.45am

IW Chamber members - £18 per person

Start Expo with a hot breakfast with Biscoes. A great start to the business day, networking with other Chamber members.

## IW CHAMBER BUSINESS EXPO 2024 WITH WIGHTFIBRE

Ryde School, Ryde

Wednesday 10th July, 10am – 4pm

Free to attend for everyone – you don't have to be a Chamber member.

If you're in business on the Island, you'll want to be at Expo 2024. See page 10 for full details and a list of exhibitors.

## IW CHAMBER NETWORKING BRUNCH

The Garlic Farm, Newchurch

Tuesday 16th July, 9am – 11am

IW Chamber members - £20 per person

A new networking opportunity with a capacity of 30 people, ideal for informal networking and the chance for a "one-minute pitch" to like minded businesses, in the great setting of The Garlic Farm.

## COURSE: "COURAGEOUS CONVERSATIONS" DELIVERED BY ALISON THOROGOOD

Spithead Business Centre

Wednesday 17 July, 9.30am – 4.00pm

IW Chamber members – £160 +VAT per person

Are you a manager finding it tricky when faced with challenging conversations with your team members? Would you like to learn how to tackle these conversations with confidence and get your point across whilst maintaining the relationship?

This course offers a safe and supportive environment for participants to practice courageous conversations. By the end of the training, managers will gain practical insights and strategies to effectively manage challenging discussions while maintaining trust and fostering understanding.

## IW CHAMBER MEMBER EXCLUSIVE TOUR - PROJECT BEAR

Wildheart Animal Sanctuary, Sandown

Thursday 18th July, 9.00am – 10.30am

IW Chamber members - FREE

The Wildheart Animal Sanctuary are offering IW Chamber members an exclusive tour of their future bear enclosure with Chief Operating Officer, Lawrence Bates, and a presentation on their newest rescues, Benji and Balu, two former "restaurant bears" from Azerbaijan. Join us for tea, coffee and biscuits and an opportunity to enjoy the amazing animals before they open to the public for the day.

## IW CHAMBER MEMBER EXCLUSIVE TOUR OF AJ WELLS FACTORY

AJ Wells, Newport

Tuesday 23rd July, 9.30am – 11am.

IW Chamber members only

A.J Wells & Sons Ltd would like to invite members for a Factory Tour on Tuesday 23rd July at 9.30am. There will be refreshments, networking, the chance to ask questions and an opportunity to get a glimpse of the manufacturing process. Spaces are limited and will fill quickly. AJ Wells has been honoured with a King's Award for Enterprise for International Trade.

## EMERGENCY FIRST AID AT WORK COURSE

Delivered by Good Skills Training at YMCA, Shanklin

Wednesday 24th July, 9am – 4pm

IW Chamber members - £74+VAT per person

This one-day course is designed to give delegates the knowledge, skills, and confidence to help those that have become unconscious, and those with minor injuries. The Emergency First Aid at Work Course also looks at the responsibilities of the Emergency First Aider. On successfully completing this course, attendees will be confident, safe, prompt, and effective emergency first aiders. The certificate will be emailed after completion.





Quay Arts



Liz Earle

## IW CHAMBER COWES WEEK BBQ & DRINKS WITH RED SQUIRREL PROPERTY SHOP

Island Sailing Club, Cowes

Wednesday 31st July, 1pm – 4pm

IW Chamber Members - £72 + VAT per person

Join IW Chamber members for an informal networking afternoon overlooking the sailing at Cowes Week. Soak up the atmosphere with an open bar including Mermaid Gin, Mermaid Rum and Fever Tree. The food menu includes IOW Meat Co burgers, sausages and kebabs and other local produce.

## BUSINESS BREAKFAST AT LIZ EARLE

Liz Earle, Nicholson Road, Ryde

Friday 2nd August, 7.30am – 9.00am

Please join us for a hot breakfast, networking and to listen to a short talk from Helen Curel, Head of Isle of Wight Operations – Liz Earle and Martha Henson, comms officer for the IW Biosphere. The Isle of Wight won UNESCO Biosphere Reserve status in 2019 and in celebration of the 5th Anniversary, Martha will be answering questions about what our UNESCO Biosphere status is and how it can benefit the island, as well as seeking your views and suggestions about how it might relate to local businesses.

## TOUR OF TEEMILL

Teemill, East Cowes

Wednesday 21st August, 2pm – 4pm

IW Chamber members only

Award Winning Company Teemill would like to invite fellow members to a tour of their Albany factory in East Cowes. There will be refreshments, networking, and the chance to ask questions to the industry leader in sustainability. Teemill was recognised for creating the world's first open-access circular economy at the 2019 Queen's Award for Innovation. Spaces are limited.

## IW CHAMBER NETWORKING BREAKFAST

The Fishbourne, Fishbourne Lane, Ryde

Friday 6th September, 7.30am – 9am

IW Chamber members - £18 per person

Join us for an excellent networking opportunity at The Fishbourne, with a hot breakfast and a great start to the business day, networking with other Chamber members. We will be sitting outside for this event if the weather is fine.

## COFFEE AND CAKE NETWORKING

Caffe Isola, Newport

Wednesday 18th September, 3.30pm-5pm

IW Chamber members–FREE

Join us for afternoon networking and a superb way to meet other members informally, in the great setting of Chamber patrons Caffe Isola. If you're new to networking, it's a brilliant way to get started and promote your business.

## RED FUNNEL BUSINESS START UP COURSE

IW Chamber Office, Branstone Business Park

Wednesday 24th July, 9.30am – 4pm

Wednesday 25th September, 9.30am – 4pm

Available to non-members, £5 admin fee

We offer new businesses the opportunity to take their ideas from paper into practice. We offer a business seminar aimed at people who are starting a business. Get the tools you need to take your idea from the drawing board to the real world. This course is designed for those with a business idea through to those who have been in business for six months.

## BOOK YOUR PLACE NOW!

Go to [www.iwchamber.co.uk](http://www.iwchamber.co.uk) or  
Email [chamber@iwchamber.co.uk](mailto:chamber@iwchamber.co.uk)



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Our expert business mentors will give you an overview of running your own business, operating as sole trader or company, bookkeeping, insurance, professional services, marketing and more.

**The Red Funnel Business Start Up Course** is a great way to learn more about the world of business and how to get moving in the right direction. The informal environment is also a friendly place to ask questions and learn with like-minded people.

**The Red Funnel Business Start Up Course** is only £5 to attend, thanks to the support of **Red Funnel**. The courses are promoted by the **Isle of Wight Lottery**, as part of the Lottery's work to create and sustain employment on the Isle of Wight.

**Sign up today!**

**Wednesday 24th July, 9.30am – 4.00pm**

**Wednesday 25th September, 9.30am – 4.00pm**

Visit: [www.iwchamber.co.uk/startmeup](http://www.iwchamber.co.uk/startmeup)



**IWChamber**

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# NEW IW CHAMBER MEMBERS

## Alphapictures Limited

alphapictures.eu  
info@alphapictures.eu  
02074 425778



## Clean Clothes Inc Limited

Joe Rolfe  
cleanclothesinc.com  
contact@cleanclothesinc.com  
07780 925873



## AMP Hire Ltd

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facebook.com/amphireltd.com  
info@amphireltd.com  
01983 433103



## Connected Wight

connectedwight.com  
here@connectedwight.com  
linkedin.com/company/connected-wight  
instagram.com/connectedwight/



## Andrew Williams Consulting Ltd (AWC)

Andrew Williams  
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andrew.williams@awilliamsconsulting.com  
07771 960218



## Cotton & Leaf

Laura Smith  
cottonandleaf.co.uk  
cottonandleaf@gmail.com  
07724 301906



## Artemis and The Mermaid

Hannah Thompson  
artemismermaid.co.uk  
artemismermaid@yahoo.co.uk  
07796 395678



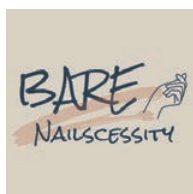
## Emma Johnson Photography

Emma Johnson  
emmajohnsonphotography.co.uk  
hello@emmajohnsonphotography.co.uk  
01983 533255



## Bare Nailscessity

Chloe Camoccio  
barenailscessity.com  
chloe@barenailscessity.com  
07730 367861



## Fieldwork

Sue Field  
fieldworkpatterns.com  
hello@fieldworkpatterns.co.uk  
07399 325618



## Blink Charging

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blinkcharging.com  
dharper@blinkcharging.com  
07899 925931



## Grace's Bakery Ltd

Sarah Redrup  
gracesbakery.uk  
admin@gracesbakery.co.uk  
01983 566868



### Guest Expert

Toni Sheppard  
linkedin.com/in/toni-sheppard-b827774/  
toni@guestexpert.com  
07828 153219



### Julia Tanner Art

Julia Tanner  
juliatainnerart.co.uk  
juliatainnerart@yahoo.co.uk  
01983 651905



### Honey's Donuts

Wendy Jeffries  
honeysdonutsiow.com  
hello@honeysdonutsiow.com  
07801 417817



### Keert CIC

Matthew Whittaker  
keert.uk  
hello@keert.uk  
01983 898055



### Hostd Homes

Nicola Cornwell  
hostdhomes.com  
instagram.com/hostdhomes  
hello@hostdhomes.com



### Lantern Clinic

Margarita Kitova-John  
lanternclinic.com  
info@lanternclinic.com  
01983 685667



### I Love Wight Events

Jayne Booth  
eventsilovewight@outlook.com  
07896 991338



### Make a Scene

Samantha Woodhouse  
masceneevents@gmail.com  
07521 289821



### IOW Film Fixers C.I.C

Dadina Sagger  
iowfilmfixers.co.uk  
info@iowfilmfixers.co.uk  
01983 404275



### Modh Design Ltd

modhdesign.co.uk  
facebook.com/modhdesign  
hello@modhdesign.co.uk  
01983 555051



### The HOLT Isle of Wight C.I.C.

Juliet Bell  
theholtiow.co.uk  
juliet.bell@theholtiow.co.uk  
01983 241849



### Monetae Group Limited

Daniel McDonnell  
monetaefx.com  
daniel.mcdonnell@monetaefx.com  
02071 191547



Want to join the Chamber?

Call the team on 01983 520777 or online [iwchamber.co.uk](http://iwchamber.co.uk)



# NEW IW CHAMBER MEMBERS

## MyLiferaft

myliferaft.com  
linkedin.com/company/myliferaft/  
facebook.com/myliferaft  
info@myliferaft.com

## Safe Gas IOW Ltd

safegasiow.com  
facebook.com/safegasiowltd  
info@safegasiow.com  
01983 655058



## Off The Rails – Yarmouth Ltd

Roger Hewins and Philippe Blot  
offtherailsyarmouth.co.uk  
offtherailsyarmouth@gmail.com  
01983 761600



## SaltBox Property Staging

Katy Sullivan  
saltboxpropertystaging.com  
katy@saltboxpropertystaging.com  
01983 722630



## The Orchard Clinic

Samantha Savage  
orchard.clinic  
enquiries@orchard.clinic  
01983 719772



## Simplex Accounting Limited

Lucy Johnson  
simplex-accounting.co.uk  
enquiries@simplex-accounting.co.uk  
01983 402000



## Peekaboo Limited

peekaboo.co.uk  
hello@peekaboo.co.uk  
linkedin.com/company/peekaboo  
01983 565566



## Smiles of Wight Ltd

Rob & Gill Johnson  
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reception@smilesowight.com  
01983 566405



## Roofstore P&P Ltd

Penny Whale  
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enquiries@roofstoreppltd.com  
01983 825463



## Sourced Components (Europe) Limited

Mark Greenslade  
sourcedcomponents.co.uk  
mark@sourcedcomponents.co.uk  
01983 559100



## Ryde Chiropractic Ltd

Roxanne Cussen  
wightchiro.com  
enquiries@wightchiro.com  
01983 618800



## Sparta Associates LTD

Toby Cook  
spartaassociates.co.uk  
toby@spartaassociates.co.uk  
07341 613797



### Suzie Ellis Administrative and Operational Support

Suzie Ellis  
hello@suzie-ellis.com  
07943 963175



### Wight Karting

Cathy Foulkes  
wightkarting.co.uk  
cathyf@wightkarting.co.uk  
01983 565366



### Theatretrain Isle of Wight

Julie Caudle  
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iow@theatretrain.co.uk  
01983 248844 / 07768 863146



### WISC Isle of Wight Ltd

John Elford  
www.getintorecovey.com  
johnelford04@aol.com  
01983 862710



### Trusted Homecare Ltd

Abigail Wheeler  
trustedhomecareltd.co.uk  
hello@trustedhomecareltd.co.uk  
01983 655059



### The Worm Farm (IOW) Ltd

Simon Hill  
theworm.farm  
simon@theworm.farm  
01983 221122



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# Join the CHAMBER!

Being a member of the Isle of Wight Chamber of Commerce is a great business decision! Membership starts at little more than £3 a week and entitles you to a huge range of business support, exclusive events and member discounts.

IW Chamber members have access to these four essential services:

- ChamberHealth & Safety
- ChamberHR
- ChamberTax
- ChamberLegal

These services give you unlimited access to no less than five business advice lines and a website which features over 750 free downloadable template documents. Not only that but you are protected by £1,000,000 of legal expenses insurance which includes employment cover and tax enquiry cover.

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# Chamber events highlight the transformative power of business networking and recognition

## IW CHAMBER PRESIDENT

By Jonathan Thornton, IW Chamber President

It was an honour to recently be invited to the British Chambers of Commerce President's lunch where we had a chance to network and meet with other Presidents of Chambers from across the UK and overseas. This was the inaugural lunch at the Houses of Parliament which Steven Holbrook and I attended, and it was interesting to hear some of the similar challenges that Chambers and other businesses have, and that we share many of those challenges and concerns. The President of the British Chambers is Baroness Martha Lane-Fox CBE, one of the founders of Last Minute, and she gave a fascinating talk about her background, how she is very pro-chamber involvement in business, and how to get the most from it. It was wonderful to join a wide cross-section of other Presidents, some of whom run companies like me and are volunteers in their presidential roles, at what must be the ultimate networking meeting in great surroundings.

In May we had the annual Chamber Awards at Cowes Yacht Haven which was the perfect opportunity for Island businesses to get together and celebrate their successes. It was amazing to see the calibre of entries and the breadth of businesses entering, and every year the organisation of the show is further elevated by the Chamber team who went all out to give everyone a great evening. There were hundreds of entries and a shortlist of over forty, and after thorough scrutiny by our twenty-two judges who had a hard job this year, this shortlist gave us a comprehensive snapshot of just how many tremendous Isle of Wight businesses we have who all deserved their nominations. We should also realise that the awards have value which goes beyond the evening itself and there is the opportunity to pick up business after the event. The feedback I've had from several people is that they've already had direct enquiries based on the fact that they won an award and how it can be transformational for their company. I was particularly delighted to see Rachael Randall from HTP Apprenticeship College win the President's Award and to hear about her business journey and the impact that she's had on younger people getting into work and training. Congratulations must also go to AJ Wells and Stainless Games who recently won King's Awards for Enterprise in the International Trade category, which is the UK's most prestigious business award given to only a select number each year.

Looking forward, we have the Business Expo at Ryde School on the 10th of July which is another opportunity to network and engage with fellow business owners, and each year the Chamber looks to make the event better and better; to increase footfall and to provide a space to showcase Island companies. It brings together hundreds of like-minded people in an informal setting to chat and engage with each other on what is a high-value day.

For me, the past few months have underscored the importance of Chamber of Commerce networking, both locally and nationally. Attending the British Chambers of Commerce President's lunch and the Chamber Awards has highlighted the shared challenges and opportunities among businesses, giving valuable insights and connections. These events, along with the upcoming Business Expo underline the Chamber's role in creating a collaborative and supportive business environment celebrating achievements and future opportunities and emphasising the transformative power of networking within the business community. ■

### IW CHAMBER'S MISSION

To provide value and benefits for our members through listening, representation, support and collaboration.

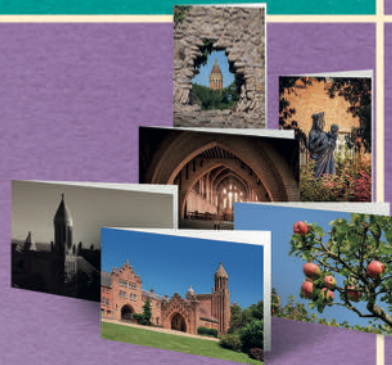




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