JULY | AUGUST 2025

# Island Business features interviews articles news

# AND THE AWARD GOES TO...

ALL THE WINNERS AND PICTURES FROM THE IW CHAMBER AWARDS 2025

The King's Awards Island Nature WRS Beverley Bell CBE Isle of Wight County Press Eldridges IW Chamber Expo 2025 Isle of Wight Lottery

> Plus IW Chamber member news and events

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# EDITOR'S FOREWORD

A wise man once said, "Change is the only constant in life." And if the last few months are anything to go by, he was definitely onto something. Here on the Island, we've seen businesses adapting, growing, and finding new ways to thrive, often with a good dose of creativity and determination, and nowhere was that more evident than at this year's IW Chamber Business Awards. What a night!

It was a real celebration of the talent, hard work, and community spirit that make the Island's business scene so special. In this issue, we're reliving some of those highlights and catching up with the people and stories behind the success. We're also shining a spotlight on our Island winners of the prestigious King's Awards for Enterprise, a real mark of excellence and a testament to the impact our businesses are having both on the Isle of Wight and beyond. As well as all those awards, there's a conversation with the candid Beverley Bell CBE, a look at WRS' new branding, and a feature on the County Press, the Chamber's oldest member.

This issue feels decidedly celebratory, so enjoy your Chamber magazine and remember to send me your good news stories and successes.

#### AMBER BEARD EDITOR

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Please recycle this magazine

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



# UKSA appoints Cat Dixon as new CEO

The UK Sailing Academy (UKSA), a leading Isle of Wight-based maritime training centre, has appointed Cat Dixon as its new Chief Executive Officer.

Cat brings extensive leadership experience across the education, legal, health, and social justice sectors. She has held CEO roles at NHS Resolution, the Law Society of England and Wales, and Askham Bryan College, where she supported thousands of students from diverse backgrounds in vocational education.

A qualified solicitor and mediator, Cat has long championed diversity, equality, and inclusion values that align closely with UKSA's mission to transform young lives through maritime training. She also holds the world record for the fastest circumnavigation of the globe on a tandem bicycle, showcasing her resilience, teamwork, and determination.

"I am absolutely delighted to join UKSA and lead the organisation in its vital work. I've seen firsthand how outdoor education and practical skills training can transform the lives of young people. Our goal is to deliver outstanding experiences on the water that lead to real and lasting life chances."

UKSA Chair of Trustees Richard Stokes CBE added: "We are thrilled to welcome Cat to the team. Her broad experience of developing successful organisations, passion for outdoor learning, and commitment to delivering impact for young people will be a great addition to UKSA."

### Hovertravel strengthens leadership team with two senior appointments

Hovertravel has announced two key director-level appointments, reinforcing its focus on operational excellence, financial resilience, and long-term sustainability.

Cindy Peche has been appointed Managing Director. A daily commuter turned Head of Finance in 2024, Cindy quickly became instrumental in evaluating business performance and understanding operations, engineering, and customer service within the cross-Solent market. Her previous role as Vice President at NRC International, supporting global oil and gas clients, gave her strong experience in operational safety, a value she brings to Hovertravel.

Joining her in the leadership team is Captain Steve Attrill, now appointed Director of Operations. Steve originally joined Hovertravel in 1988 and has logged over 25,000 hours piloting hovercraft across the Solent and abroad. Between 2007 and 2015, he served in senior aviation roles, including Chief Pilot for Hampshire Police and Operational Commander for EU Naval Forces, delivering air support in counter-piracy missions. Since rejoining Hovertravel in 2015, Steve has led pilot and operational teams and will drive efficiency, compliance, and operational performance across the business.

"Steve and I are incredibly proud of the legacy Hovertravel has built. With such a talented and passionate team, we are committed to exceptional service, strong compliance, and sustainable growth for our business and community."



### Mountbatten Isle of Wight faces devastating NHS funding cuts

Mountbatten Isle of Wight is facing a major crisis after being told it will lose around £1.4 million a year in NHS funding by 2026/7, with £600,000 cut as early as this autumn. The decision by the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Integrated Care Board (ICB) to reallocate hospice funding came without warning or consultation.



"This hugely disappointing decision, amounting to funding cuts, has been made without direct meaningful consultation, engagement or negotiation with Mountbatten," said incoming CEO Becky McGregor. "It is one that will have a wide-ranging and significant impact on Islanders."

The hospice charity has relied on the ICB for roughly a third of its income for over a decade. Now, services for Islanders facing death and bereavement are at risk, and staff redundancies are likely.

Chair of Trustees, Sir Ian Cheshire, added: "Cutting funding to Mountbatten Isle of Wight will adversely affect the Islanders who need us and the services they rely on. We demand NHS commissioners reconsider their appalling decision."

Retiring CEO Nigel Hartley, MBE, warned: "Hospice care, as we know it, is dying... It seems clear to me the ICB is intent on destroying this."

Mountbatten is urging Islanders to speak out and defend their hospice by writing to the ICB, Healthwatch and your MP

### Demand from mainland schools for the Island classroom

With its south coast location, history, scenery, attractions, and wide outdoor spaces the Isle of Wight is seeing increased demand from schools looking for a cost-effective way to complement a school's curriculum and support practical learning outside of the classroom, giving young people of all ages a chance to have fun while learning.

As a result of this increasing demand, Education Destination, a specialist education travel provider based on the Island, who this year celebrate a decade in business, are looking for many more accommodation providers to help satisfy unparalleled demand from schools across the country.

"Looking ahead, we anticipate generating over £1 million directly into the local economy each year, not including secondary visitor spend. Providing an essential economic boost during term time and out-of-season periods. Additionally, this long-tail marketing approach reaches parents and guardians, highlighting the Isle of Wight as a premier holiday destination



for them and their families. Generating further opportunities right across the Island," said Jon Carter, MD of Education Destination.

With over 10,000 students having visited the Island with Education Destination over the past decade, generating over £3.5m in direct revenue for local accommodation providers, attractions, venues, and countless local businesses, the Island is now firmly established as a unique and popular destination for schools across the UK and well placed to take full advantage of this tourism opportunity.

### IW Chamber of Commerce welcomes new CEO, Rob Johnson

The Isle of Wight Chamber of Commerce is delighted to announce the appointment of Rob Johnson as its new Chief Executive Officer. Rob will be succeeding Steven Holbrook, who has led the Chamber for the past seven years and will step down in August 2025.

Rob brings with him a wealth of experience and a strong commitment to the Isle of Wight's business community. As the co-owner of Smiles of Wight Ltd, a leading local business, he has helped grow the company significantly, focusing on customer service excellence, innovation, and community engagement.

"I am truly honoured to be entrusted with the role of CEO at the Isle of Wight Chamber of Commerce. I recognise and respect the communities, businesses, and the incredible people who all add to the potential of the Island. As we navigate the challenges and opportunities of today's rapidly evolving world, I look forward to working closely with our members, patrons, and stakeholders to drive innovation, support collaboration, and strengthen the business network both on and off the Isle of Wight."

Steven Holbrook, current CEO, expressed his confidence in Rob's leadership: "I am delighted to welcome Rob to the Chamber. His extensive local knowledge and passion for the Island's businesses make him the ideal person to lead the Chamber forward. Over the past seven years, we have achieved significant milestones, including transforming the Chamber's financial position and expanding our services to better support our members. I am excited to see Rob build on this foundation and continue to encourage a thriving business community."



### Just for You Holiday Homes wins award for sustainability



Just for You Holiday Homes, a standout independent holiday agency based on the Isle of Wight, has proudly been awarded a Shortzy Award for Sustainability, a well-deserved recognition of founder Justine's pioneering efforts in creating eco-friendly, guest-focused holiday experiences.

From the very beginning, Justine saw sustainability not as a trend but as a responsibility. She started small, replacing toxic cleaning products with homemade baking soda solutions, and has evolved her practices to now exclusively use refillable, non-toxic, locally sourced toiletries and eco-cleaning supplies. Her team and guests alike benefit from a healthier, more environmentally conscious environment.

The Shortzy Award highlights Justine's holistic approach, which includes: Zero-tolandfill recycling programs for guests and hosts. In-house eco laundry systems that drastically cut down on water and energy use. A partnership with Treepoints, planting over 2,000 trees to date, one for every guest. Gold Tourism Award from Visit Isle of Wight for commitment to sustainable visitor experiences. Sustonica environmental accreditation awarded to each property in the portfolio

Justine insists on full compliance with the latest safety and environmental standards, empowering property owners to take part in positive change. The result? Premium properties with higher occupancy rates and loyal, sustainability-minded guests.

### National recognition for Hampshire nature leader



Debbie Tann MBE, Chief Executive of Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, has been named one of the UK's Top 100 Environmental Professionals in the **ENDS** Report Power List 2025. The ENDS Report's annual list recognises influential environmental professionals, celebrating those shaping policy and delivering transformative projects. Debbie was honoured in the Campaigner category for her leadership in nutrient

neutrality—restoring degraded land to thriving habitats that reduce pollution, protect ecosystems, and set new standards for sustainable development.

She is also recognised for her role in the Trust's ambitious Wilder 2030 Strategy, aimed at restoring nature across the region. "At a time when nature is too often seen as an obstacle to progress," Debbie said, "this recognition is a powerful reminder: real progress works with nature, not against it.

"We are facing unprecedented pressures, it's more important than ever that we step up. Protecting, rewilding, and restoring our natural landscapes is vital for wildlife and essential for our own future, including our economy, our resilience, and our wellbeing.

"This recognition is not just a personal honour; it's a celebration of everyone committed to giving nature a louder voice. The climate and nature crisis are real, and the time to act is now."

### Trekking to the summit of Mount Toubkal for Mountbatten

Mountbatten Trustee Charlie Panayi has successfully summited Mount Toubkal, North Africa's highest peak at 4,167 metres, to raise vital funds for Mountbatten Isle of Wight.

From climbing Kilimanjaro and Mount Etna to completing Everest Base Camp and a trail marathon, Charlie has consistently pushed himself to the limit to raise awareness and funds for causes close to his heart, particularly in memory of

his sister, Zoe, who died from melanoma at just 26 years old.

Reflecting on his achievement, Charlie said: "Climbing Mount Toubkal was both a personal challenge and a tribute to my sister. The journey was tough, but the thought of supporting Mountbatten kept me going. A couple of weeks ago, I got a message from someone who heard Zoe's story at a charity event. They were worried



about their daughter and got her checked out. It turned out she had stage two cancer, but they caught it early."

Mountbatten CEO Nigel Hartley praised Charlie's efforts, saying: "Charlie's dedication and commitment are truly inspiring. His climb not only honours his sister's memory but also raises essential funds that enable us to continue providing compassionate care to our community."

### Steam Railway acquires historic Ashey Station



The Isle of Wight Steam Railway is proud to announce the acquisition of Ashey Station, 57 years after it was sold by British Railways. The purchase includes the full station grounds, original buildings, and land to the north.

Built in 1875 for the Ryde and Newport Railway, Ashey Station became an unmanned halt in 1953 and was sold into private ownership in 1968. The railway has long aspired to reclaim the site, first outlining the goal in its 2009 strategic vision.

In February 2024, the railway expressed interest to the Holbrook family, who had owned the station since 1980. "We are immensely grateful to the Holbrook family for their willingness to enter into exclusive negotiations and a sale directly to us," said Marc Morgan-Huws, Chief Executive. "What better way to celebrate the 150th anniversary of our railway!"

The railway plans to restore Ashey Station to its 1926 Southern Railway appearance. "We will return the station to 1926 Southern Railway period condition externally, restore the public rooms, and allow us to achieve an income from the remainder of the property from holiday letting."

Phase two of the project, estimated to cost £550,000, will involve full restoration and futureproofing of the site.



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# Growth and a rebrand for Wightlife Group

WightLife Group is progressing with its growth plans following a recent rebrand from WightLife Homes. The company, which has a growing portfolio of residential, retail, and office properties, has now relocated to its new headquarters at 147 High Street, Newport, a striking Grade II listed building in the heart of the town. The property is undergoing sensitive refurbishment and enhancement to create a boutique serviced office centre. Designed to support local entrepreneurs and small businesses, the new space will combine period character with modern facilities, including superfast broadband and plans for a professionally landscaped garden to provide an inspiring outdoor meeting space.

The business has also made its first two hires. Luke Churches joins as Site Manager, bringing a background in carpentry and senior site management with a national contractor. Megan Vincent joins as Property Assistant, supporting the day-to-day running of the portfolio and helping to deliver upcoming projects.

This marks an exciting new phase for WightLife Group as it strengthens its team and invests in both people and property across the Isle of Wight.

### Wight Computers backs John Cattle's Skate Club

Wight Computers has donated £1,000 to John Cattle's Skate Club C.I.C., supporting its mission to make skateboarding accessible for all ages and abilities across the Isle of Wight.

The Ryde-based IT support company has chosen the Skate Club as its 2025 Charity of the Year, recognising its impact on community wellbeing, youth engagement, and inclusion.

Andrew Nordbruch, Managing Director of Wight Computers, said: "I took lessons with John a few years ago and saw first-hand what a welcoming and positive environment the Skate Club creates. They do fantastic work in the local community, and when we heard they were struggling with rising costs, we knew we wanted to help. This donation is our way of giving something back to a cause that genuinely changes lives on the Island."

Founded by Isle of Wight skateboarder John Cattle, the Skate Club relies on donations, grants, and volunteers to keep sessions affordable. The donation will help cover insurance, staff training, and operational expenses.

John Cattle added: "We're really grateful to Andrew and the Wight Computers' team. Donations like this give us breathing space while we wait on funding decisions and help us keep doing what we love."



# Living independently at home

The third Independent Living Show (formerly, the Older Person's Good Living Show) is on Saturday, 5th July, 11 am – 3 pm at GG's Riding Centre in Newport. Showcasing businesses, services, and charities available to aid living independently in your own home for longer. The show will have food, home safety, wellbeing, finances, dementia, plus many more topics,



providing invaluable information for the community. There will also be equine therapy demos, and Southern Vectis with their dementia bus.

At Right at Home, their main purpose is to improve the quality of life of clients and their families. The Independent Living Show will provide the wider community with information to remain in their homes safely and confidently. Feedback from previous events has shown there is a real need for the show, and members of the public found it ideal that so many services were under one roof - to help, support, and give them vital information.

The Independent Living Show at GG's Riding Centre is free for visitors, and with an onsite café and play area, it's a great day for the whole family.



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### Yokogawa Marex expands teams to drive global software development



Cowes-based Yokogawa Marex is expanding its Software Development and Customer Service teams to meet growing global demand for digital transformation in process automation.

A subsidiary of multinational Yokogawa, the company has sold over 4,000 systems and supports more than 30,000 users worldwide. Its flagship Exaquantum software has been enabling safe and efficient operation of production facilities for 25 years.

The Software Development team is growing by over 25% to deliver the next generation of solutions. Open roles include experienced frontend developers, graduate frontend developers, and experienced C++ developers.

The Customer Service team, responsible for 2nd line global support, is also expanding. New roles include a Customer Services Team Leader and software support engineers to boost support and ensure systems run reliably.

"This is a very exciting time for us as we grow our team to expand our leading-edge software solutions to meet our customers' everincreasing challenges with the continual advancement and adoption of technology in the process automation space," said Wayne Matthews, Divisional Director.

With major projects in the pipeline, Yokogawa Marex continues to strengthen its position as a global leader in process automation software from its Isle of Wight base.

### Warren Farm brings dairy back to the Isle of Wight

Amid a steady decline in Island dairy farms, Warren Farm near the Needles has made a bold return to milk production after 25 years. Now one of just five remaining dairy farms on the Isle of Wight, the family-run farm is reviving local, sustainable dairy using innovative, welfare-focused methods.

James and Becca, the husband-and-wife team behind the project, are passionate about reconnecting with the farm's heritage. "There is a rich history of dairy farming at Warren Farm, with my father previously running a dairy here for over 35 years," said James. "We're excited to be bucking the trend and bringing dairy cows back."

With support from the National Trust and the Farming in Protected Landscapes scheme, the couple has rehomed pedigree Jersey cows with bloodlines linked to Queen Victoria's own herd. Their new 'Micro Dairy' milks fewer than 20 cows using a 'cow and calf' system, where calves stay with their mothers and cows are milked once daily.

"At Warren Farm, we farm with organic and regenerative principles. We really prioritise the welfare of our animals."

Processed and bottled on-site, their unhomogenised milk is sold at the farm shop and across local outlets, with more products to come.



### RIWAS education day welcomes over 300 pupils



The Royal Isle of Wight Agricultural Society (RIWAS) hosted more than 300 children from 11 Island primary schools at the County Showground in May, for a fun and educational day ahead of the Royal Isle of Wight County Show in July.

Thanks to support from Wight Aid, schools across the Island were able to attend. Sixteen sections of the upcoming County Show were represented, offering hands-on experiences with animals, sports, tourism, and more. Pupils enjoyed demonstrations, met farm animals, and took a memorable tractor and trailer ride to the woodland area.

Graham Biss, County Show Chairman, said: "We were delighted to give the children a fun but informative day. The real stars, as always, were the animals and it was wonderful to see the excitement and interest on the children's faces."

Vicky Briddle from Northwood Primary added: "Our pupils had a brilliant time. One child even said they want to become a forester, so thank you to Luke and Richard for inspiring them! They loved meeting Ralph and his calves, making butter with Briddlesford Farm, and watching the Isle of Wight College's play."

RIWAS plans to expand the event further, with the next Education Day set for 19th May 2026.

#### THE KING'S AWARDS

# ISLAND EXCELLENCE RECOGNISED

In a remarkable show of innovation, social commitment, and sustainability, four Isle of Wight organisations have been named recipients of the prestigious King's Awards for Enterprise, among the highest recognitions for UK businesses. These awards not only celebrate their outstanding achievements but also spotlight the Island as a hub of national enterprise excellence.

#### Datum Electronics: Precision Engineering with a Global Reach

East Cowes-based Datum Electronics has spent more than three decades quietly revolutionising the world of precision measurement systems. With their sensors used to monitor torque, power, and performance across a range of global industries, from shipbuilding to renewable energy, Datum has grown into a trusted international player while staying proudly rooted on the Island.

Now exporting to over 40 countries, the firm has earned the King's Award for Enterprise in International Trade.

"Receiving the King's Award for Enterprise is a real milestone for us," said Managing Director Michael Irons, ACCA. "It's recognition not just of our international growth, but of the hard work, skill, and commitment of the entire team, past and present, who have helped us grow from a small Island company into a global competitor. We're incredibly proud to represent the Island and to show that world-class innovation and manufacturing can thrive right here."

#### The Garlic Farm: Sustainable Agriculture with a Bold Flavour

At the intersection of food, farming, and environmental stewardship stands The Garlic Farm, which has been cultivating unique varieties of garlic on the Isle of Wight for over 50 years. Their commitment to sustainability, underpinned by organic certification, B Corp status, and regenerative practices, has now earned them the King's Award for Enterprise in Sustainable Development.

The accolade celebrates their initiatives in biodiversity, soil regeneration, woodland restoration, and their outreach work with local schools and businesses. With a seasonal workforce of 100 and a thriving visitor operation, The Garlic Farm is both a local treasure and a national example of responsible farming.

"We are honoured and humbled to have achieved this globally recognised mark of achievement," said Managing Director Natasha Edwards. "We're incredibly grateful to our team, our customers, and the farming community for their ongoing support as we continue on our nature-friendly farming journey."











#### HTP and the NHS: Creating NHS Careers for Young Islanders

Innovation doesn't always come with a circuit board. In this case, it came with a career path. The Careers for Young People (CfYP) Programme, a partnership between Hampshire and Isle of Wight NHS Healthcare Foundation Trust and Newportbased HTP Apprenticeship College, has been recognised with a King's Award for Enterprise in Promoting Opportunity.

Targeted at 16- to 18-year-olds, the programme offers a direct entry into NHS careers and has already changed lives across the Island. It's a shining example of how local partnerships can solve national problems, such as youth unemployment and NHS staffing gaps, with tailored, grassroots solutions.

"We've proven that by investing in young people and supporting their development, we can build a sustainable workforce from within," said Nicola Longson, Director of Transformation and Improvement at the Trust and Founder of the CfYP Programme. "This programme is a perfect example of how we're tackling local employment challenges while also addressing the wider needs of the NHS."

HTP's CEO, Rachael Randall, echoed the sentiment: "This is an incredible recognition and genuinely highlights the real impact of the Careers for Young People Programme and the opportunities we're creating for young people on the Island."



#### **PC Consultants: IT Excellence** Driving Social Mobility

PC Consultants, founded in 1993, has built a reputation for excellence, but it's their inclusivity that has truly set them apart. This year, they received a King's Award for Enterprise in Promoting Opportunity through Social Mobility, making them one of just 10 companies nationally to do so.

Their philosophy is simple but powerful: recruit and support individuals from disadvantaged or non-traditional backgrounds, and give them the tools and mentorship to succeed in tech. It's not an initiative bolted onto the business; it is the business.

"There is no greater recognition than receiving the King's Award for Enterprise, and we are immensely proud of this award," said CEO Jonathan Thornton. "An incredible achievement, not only for the company, our team and clients but proof that commercial success and social mobility are not mutually exclusive."

From garlic fields to engineering labs, IT networks to NHS wards, these four winners demonstrate the breadth and depth of enterprise thriving on the Isle of Wight. Lord Lieutenant for the Isle of Wight, Susie Sheldon, will present the awards to the four local businesses at a later date.



#### **ISLAND NATURE**

#### GROUNDBREAKING LOCAL NATURE RECOVERY STRATEGY LAUNCHED













The Isle of Wight has officially launched its Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS), marking a significant milestone in the UK's efforts to restore wildlife and habitats. Approved by government and hailed as a national exemplar, the Island's strategy is just the fourth to be published in England, out of 48 currently in development.

Designed as a roadmap for nature recovery, the LNRS is the result of two years of research, consultation, and collaboration involving local authorities, landowners, environmental groups, and communities. It supports national objectives to halt biodiversity loss and build climate resilience, while aligning closely with the Island's status as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve.

Covering 400 km<sup>2</sup> of land and coastline, the strategy outlines targeted actions to protect and restore species and habitats, many of which are under threat. With 15,000 species recorded on the Island around 20% of the UK total—and one in six nationally at risk of extinction, the urgency is clear.

Ian Boyd of The Common Space, who led the strategy's development, commented, "We are at a crossroads. The LNRS is a collective commitment to a future where our human and natural worlds thrive together. It's vital we protect the Island's ecological integrity for current and future generations."

Natural England has also welcomed the launch, calling the LNRS a "vital tool" for identifying the right places and actions to restore nature. Minister for Nature, Mary Creagh, praised the Island's leadership as a National Exemplar, saying it sets a strong example for others: "This is a major step toward our goal of protecting 30% of UK land for nature by 2030."

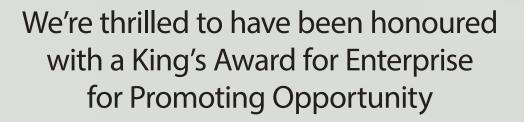
Looking ahead, the Island Nature team emphasises that the LNRS is just the beginning: "This strategy is a foundation. It's about building partnerships and creating an Island where nature and people flourish together." Councillor Lora Peacey-Wilcox added: "This is a landmark moment for the Island. Our nature recovery plan reflects the voices and input of thousands of Islanders. The facts are stark: 14 species lost since 2000, and more at risk, but our ability to change this story is within reach."

The LNRS is now live and ready to guide collective action for a greener, richer future for the Isle of Wight, and you can find out more at: **www.islandnature.org** 



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ATC'S AWARDS FOR ENTER



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14 ADVERTISEMENT

THE BUSINESS MAGAZINE FOR THE ISLE OF WIGHT

#### PATRON FEATURE: POWERED NOW

# MAKING TAX DIGITAL EXPLAINED

Powered Now is an Isle of Wight software business that helps plumbers, electricians, and other trades run their businesses more efficiently, based in Newport. CEO Benjamin Dyer looks at the upcoming government-mandated Making Tax Digital legislation and plots the way forward.

If I asked you for £200, me, a stranger you've never met, would you hand it over?

Probably not. It's a lot of money. But if you're a sole trader and you ignore upcoming tax changes, that's the minimum fine HMRC could slap on you from April next year.

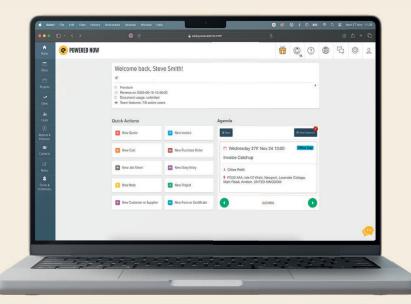
The change? It's called Making Tax Digital for Income Tax (MTD for IT). From April 2026, if you earn more than £50,000 a year (but aren't VAT registered), you'll need to start keeping digital records and submitting updates to HMRC every quarter. If your sales are between £30k–£50k, you'll join in 2027. And for £20k–£30k? You're looking at 2028.

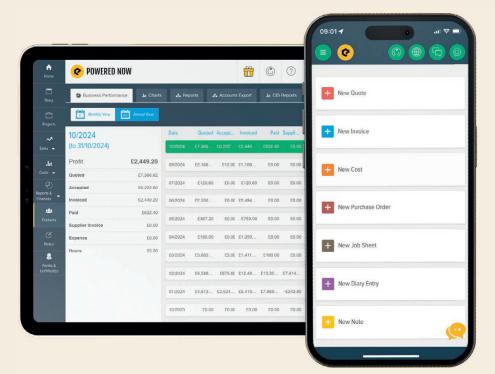
If this is news to you, don't panic, there's time to prepare. I've even put together a guide and checklist to help (powerednow. com/mtd-for-income-tax).

So, what are your options?

You could use a spreadsheet and

'bridging software'. It ticks the boxes, but it's fiddly and won't help you stay on top of customers, jobs, or paperwork. Standard accounting software is another route, but most of it feels like it's built for, well, accountants, not sole traders.





# POWERED NOW

There's a third way. At Powered Now (we're based on the Isle of Wight), we've built software specifically for sole traders. It handles your everyday admin, such as quotes, invoices, job scheduling, compliance documents, and just happens to do MTD too. No extra work, no stress.

The big picture? MTD might sound like a headache, but it's also a chance to get organised and dodge nasty fines. With the right tools, staying compliant becomes a side benefit of running your business smoothly.

And that's got to be better than handing £200 to a stranger.

To find out more: www.powerednow.com

#### **BEVERLEY BELL**

# **DRIVING CHANGE:** A CANDID CONVERSATION

Beverley Bell CBE has never been afraid to challenge the status quo. From being the UK's first female and youngestever Traffic Commissioner to founding her own national consultancy, Beverley Bell Consulting, she has spent her career shaking up one of Britain's most male-dominated industries. Now based on the Isle of Wight, Beverley runs a thriving business advising and training commercial vehicle operators across the country, using the same ethos that defined her time in public service: fairness, clarity, and a relentless focus on compliance.

"I didn't want to retire from working," she says of her decision to launch the consultancy in 2017. "I wanted to retire from being a Traffic Commissioner, but not from the sector. There's still too much work to do."

It's this deep understanding of the transport industry and its many pain points that has made Beverley's consultancy a trusted name among hauliers, passenger transport providers, and major logistics firms alike. "We work with companies at all stages. Sometimes they're in trouble, with a public inquiry looming. Sometimes they want to avoid trouble. And increasingly, we work proactively, helping businesses understand what good compliance looks like before things go wrong."

The foundation of her expertise lies in her 17 years as a Traffic Commissioner, culminating in her appointment as Senior Traffic Commissioner in 2011. It's a job that gave her an unfiltered view into the challenges, and sometimes the confusion, of Britain's road transport sector.

"I came into the role from a legal background. Originally, I was a criminal lawyer doing magistrates' court work. Then I ended up prosecuting cases for the Department for Transport and was hooked. When the Traffic Commissioner role came up, I thought, 'Well, they're never going to pick me. I'm too young and definitely too female.' But I applied and got it."

It was a jarring transition for a traditionally male, military-leaning establishment. "At one event, someone actually asked where 'this new chap Bell' was. I told him I was Beverley Bell. He looked shocked and said, 'Well, I suppose they do have women doctors now.' That was in 2000."

> To build credibility, Beverley took the Certificate of Professional Competence (CPC), a qualification held by operators. This determination to master the subject matter, combined with her fairness and no-nonsense style, earned her respect across the sector. "I became known as 'firm but fair'. That's not something I tried to manufacture. It's just who I had to be to do the job well."

> After retiring from the Commissioner role, Beverley moved to the Isle of Wight having previously set up her consultancy, initially from her kitchen table. The business has since grown rapidly, with offices on the island and in the north west, and a team that delivers training, audits, compliance support, and board-level briefings nationwide.

> > "I never thought it would grow this big," she admits. "I just thought I'd do two or three days a week to help pay the mortgage. But the demand was enormous. And the Isle of Wight is a fantastic base. We employ local people and bring business to the Island, which helps the local economy too."

Beverley remains passionate about improving standards and awareness, especially around training. "The sector can be very poor at investing in people," she says bluntly. "There's a fear that if you train staff, they'll leave. But the reality is, if you don't train them, they'll stay and make mistakes."

Her consultancy addresses this gap by delivering immersive, hands-on training that demystifies complex regulations. "We run mock hearings, simulated interviews, and interactive courses. It's not about PowerPoint presentations, it's about helping people understand how to actually comply, and why it matters."

When asked about the biggest challenges facing the industry today, Beverley doesn't hesitate: "Skills shortages, the green agenda, over-regulation, and poor



public perception. The British public don't want to pay for transport, but they expect it to deliver day after day without giving it a second thought. And young people aren't drawn to it because they don't see it as a modern, rewarding career, which is a huge shame."

She's also sceptical about the short-term promise of autonomous vehicles and electrification. "The technology

"I became known as 'firm but fair'. That's not something I tried to manufacture. It's just who I had to be to do the job well." may be advancing, but the infrastructure isn't there. I once challenged a manufacturer about driverless trucks, and they hadn't spoken to a single regulator. That tells you everything."

But for all the challenges, Beverley remains optimistic. Her podcast, Breakfast with Beverley, invites industry figures to talk candidly about their work, while helping humanise the sector for a broader audience. "We want to show the personalities behind the profession. People think it's all trucks and tachographs, but it's about people delivering goods throughout Great Britain whilst ensuring everyone's safety."

Looking ahead, Beverley hopes

to see a cultural shift in how the transport sector views training, technology, and talent. "I may not wear a Commissioner's badge anymore, but I'm still doing the same job: helping keep people safe and businesses compliant. Just from a different chair."

To find out more and listen to Beverley's podcast 'Breakfast at Beverley's' go to: **www.beverleybell.co.uk** 



# One system, Every possibility

WRS

# BUILDING A BRAND TO FUTURE-PROOF THE BUSINESS

Building a bold, new identity to align the brand with the business was the inspiration behind a new look for WRS.

With the company expanding into new sectors, introducing software products and winning major contracts across the UK and beyond, WRS needed to rethink how it presented itself.

NOSY was tasked with delivering the project, and worked with WRS to discover an identity that reflected today's status as a leader in the POS industry.

At the heart of the rebrand was a central idea: 'One system, every possibility'. More than a strapline, it defined the direction, tone and intent of the entire identity.

David Jackson, WRS CEO, said:

"For us, every possibility is all about opening up what's next, creating a smarter service, built to keep evolving.

"It influences how we meet our clients' needs and the progress they expect to see by working with us, honing in on our strengths and expertise to provide the very best POS solutions. "That's what WRS is all about one system, every possibility."

Working at pace was key to the project.

WRS has moved from a successful Isle of Wight-based family business to an international provider of scalable, integrated POS systems with installations in nine countries, across over 5,000 sites.

With multiple visual styles causing inconsistency across print, digital and sales materials, NOSY and WRS worked to bring everything back under one coherent system.

The rebrand was carefully extended across every touchpoint, from signage and vehicles to digital platforms and merchandise.







"The strategy was brought to life through a new creative direction rooted in clarity, confidence, and movement," said Scott Bennett, NOSY Creative Director.

"WRS delivers integrated systems that adapt to any size or sector, so we built an identity that mirrored that flexibility and forward momentum.

"The new WRS brand has been designed as a flexible, modern identity system, one that reflects the speed, precision and innovation at the heart of the business, and one that can confidently scale across every channel WRS operates in."

Exploration, motion, adaptability and scalability were all key themes identified during the discovery process. To reflect that in WRS' new visual identity, NOSY explored Lissajous curves, created by two signals moving in harmony.

That inspiration shaped the WRS brand loop: a symbol of integration, flexibility and rhythm, and from there, brand shapes, a vibrant and focused colour system, and a typeface that delivered clarity at every size, was developed.

"A rebrand isn't just about changing how a company looks, it's about aligning how it feels and functions across every touchpoint," said Scott.

"WRS is fast, adaptable and trusted by national brands, so everything from the identity to the messaging was designed to reduce friction and create confidence, for both the team using it and the clients experiencing it." The new brand was revealed at this year's Isle of Wight Chamber of Commerce Business Awards, this year sponsored by WRS for the first time.

"We were incredibly proud to showcase our new brand at the awards," said David Jackson.

"It was a moment in time to celebrate where we have come from to where we are now.

"We are thrilled with the new brand, it tells a story of WRS today that will take us forward into the future."



#### CHAMBER CHAT

## WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO AT THE CHAMBER

The Chamber has been buzzing with activity this Spring, with the team securing exciting new venues, planning exclusive member-only business tours, and expanding the 2025 events calendar to offer greater value, connection, and inspiration for Island businesses.

A highlight was the sold-out breakfast in support of the Alzheimer's Café in Cowes, which brought the business community together for a great cause. This was followed by a lively brunch at The Birdham in Bembridge, where members shared one-minute pitches that showcased growth, referrals, and the power of networking.

Membership value has been a key focus, with access to exclusive behind-the-scenes experiences. Members enjoyed a special visit to the Isle of Wight Donkey Sanctuary and a Q&A with Robin Hill's new co-owner, including a preview of the Heron Restaurant ahead of its public opening, demonstrating the spirit of collaboration among Island businesses.

Looking ahead, preparations are underway for EXPO 2025, the Island's biggest networking event, and the Chamber's Cowes Week BBQ and drinks event at the Island Sailing Club, with Red Squirrel Property Shop.

Beyond Chamber-led events, the team continues to actively support member initiatives. We were delighted to be invited to join the Bay Business Association event at the Wildheart Trust, a networking session at Mountbatten Hospice with the Island Business Network, and an insightful presentation on 'The Basics of Investing' hosted by Rouse Limited."

As we move forward, the Chamber remains focused on its core mission: creating opportunities for Island businesses to connect, learn, and thrive together.













#### The Isle of Wight College

Your Future Starts Here

# ADULTS THRIVE AT THE ISLE OF WIGHT COLLEGE

The Isle of Wight College offers a dynamic and inclusive range of adult education opportunities that blend practical skill-building with creative exploration. Through its SkillUp programme, participants can dive into hands-on courses like Carpentry for Beginners, Tiling Basics, and Perfect Your Plastering—ideal for those looking to enhance their DIY abilities or explore new career paths. At the same time, the College's vibrant leisure course offerings provide a space for adults to reconnect with their passions and discover new hobbies, with options such as Exploring Art for Beginners, Introduction to Photography, and Painting Masterclass: Interiors and Set Design.

These two strands of adult learning—vocational and leisure are thoughtfully designed to meet the diverse needs of the community. Whether someone is aiming to upskill for employment or simply seeking personal enrichment, the College ensures that education remains accessible, engaging, and rewarding. Many of the SkillUp courses are free for adults over 19, while the leisure courses offer a relaxed and supportive environment where creativity and confidence can flourish.

In addition to vocational training, the college provides a robust offering of online and professional development courses. These courses include qualifications in Project Management, Bookkeeping, Microsoft Excel, Forklift training, Customer Service, and Equality & Diversity. Complementing these professional pathways is the University Centre at The Isle of Wight College, which provides Access to Higher Education courses with pathways such as Nursing, Midwifery, and Humanities, in addition to Higher Education courses right on the Island. In partnership with the University of Portsmouth and the University of Chichester, the University Centre offers fulland part-time degree level courses in areas such as Business



Management, Early Years Education, Engineering, Computing, and Teacher Training.

These programmes are designed to be flexible and affordable, allowing the opportunity to study but to "stay local and go far" while gaining respected qualifications that open doors to new careers or advancement in existing roles.

The impact of these adult education opportunities is deeply felt across the Isle of Wight community. By equipping adults with new qualifications, confidence, and career prospects, the College plays a key role in supporting local economic growth and social mobility. Whether individuals are returning to education after many years or seeking to pivot professionally, The Isle of Wight College provides a welcoming, supportive environment where lifelong learning truly thrives.

If you're looking to gain new skills or retrain, or if your business needs a customised training program, The

Isle of Wight College has something for you. Explore our wide range of courses and find the perfect fit for your goals.

For more information on the range of courses offer please visit **www.iwcollege.ac.uk/adult** or scan the QR code



## The Isle of Wight College Students Shine in National Young Enterprise Competition

We are thrilled to celebrate the journey of our Military and Public Services students, who reached the London semi-finals of the Young Enterprise competition with their business, Paws of Wisdom. Their innovative pet enrichment toys, designed to promote purposeful play, started as a classroom idea and grew into a successful venture.

After placing second in the Isle of Wight finals, the team advanced to the Southampton

regional finals and earned a spot in the London semi-finals on 21 May. Although they didn't make it to the final round, their growth and achievements are commendable.

The students have now launched their products online, marking a significant milestone. At The Isle of Wight College, we support our students with mentoring, business coaching, and enterprise resources, helping them turn ideas into impactful businesses.

> We are incredibly proud of Paws of Wisdom and excited for their future. This journey is a testament to what our students can achieve with the right guidance and determination.

#### Enhance Your Workforce with The Isle of Wight College Apprenticeships

Looking to recruit new apprentices or up-skill existing employees? Our dedicated recruitment team will identify your training needs and support you throughout the process.

We offer a range of apprenticeship standards, including Business Administrator, Team Leader, Customer Service Specialist, Information Communication Technician, Data Analyst, Associate Project Manager, and Operations Manager.

Our services include free training needs analysis, recruitment, advertising vacancies, candidate screening, and interview support.

Strengthen your workforce today. Contact our recruitment team to find the right apprentices and training solutions for your business. Please email **apprenticeships@iwcollege.ac.uk** 



#### PATRON FEATURE

# A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF THE **COUNTY PRESS**

It has been quite the year for the Isle of Wight County Press, which has seen huge growth online and staff mixing in high places. The newspaper was founded in 1884 and is the Isle of Wight Chamber of Commerce's oldest member, now a new Bronze Patron. Among recent highlights was an invitation for CP editor Lori Little and Chief Reporter Oliver Dyer to go to Buckingham Palace and meet the King and Queen at a reception for regional media. They got to talk to King Charles about how local long-standing brands such as the CP are all about news local people can trust.

"The King quipped that the newsroom didn't need 'BBC Verify' if readers are forthcoming with their feedback on stories, and he said 'fake news' is a worry these days. All the more reason for turning to established newspapers that employ professionally trained journalists."

Just days later, Lori was invited to 10 Downing Street for a media reception hosted by Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer. Along with Peter Henley, political correspondent for BBC South, and Southern Daily Echo editor Ben Fishwick, Lori spoke to the Prime Minister about the recent concerns the public had raised about Isle of Wight ferries.

An edition of the County Press from 12th May 1945



"Both events were an honour to be invited to, and it gave us the chance to put the Island and the County Press on the map. To talk about important issues with the King and the Prime Minister was an incredible experience, and it was a privilege to be selected to go along to represent trusted local media."

The CP has undergone many changes since it was founded. Up until 1974, the front page was nothing but advertisements, but this changed with the addition of news items on the cover. Printing of the CP was moved to the mainland nearly 30 years ago, in 1997. In 2008, the paper went from broadsheet to tabloid size, moving into the modern age.

In 2017, the CP was taken over by Newsquest Media Group, but has retained a busy Newport-based newsroom, which is now at the Innovation Centre at St Cross Business Park. These days, most readers are online, and the paper reaches a bigger audience than its founders could ever have imagined.



An edition of the County Press from 10th January 2025



"Countypress.co.uk is the Island's biggest news website by quite some margin, with website analysis site SimilarWeb showing in February that the CP recorded 3.008 million page views, and page visits for February were 1.789 million. In print, the latest audited figures show the CP sells on average 8,940 copies a week, with every copy sold accounted for accurately, with a weekly print readership of more than 31,000 according to the latest JICREG data (as of September 2024). This is incredible in an era of widespread print decline, and means the CP is still the biggest-selling local weekly newspaper in the entire country."

Isle of Wight

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The newspaper is also recognised by the media industry as one of the best. The prestigious Newspaper Awards shortlisted the CP in the category of Best Local Weekly for the third year running this year.

"This is thanks to our fantastic team of local journalists who care about the Island and want to tell stories that matter, and the Islanders who regularly engage with us. Our newspaper is 80 to 88 pages each week, packed full of news, and we are constantly making changes to improve it, from our eyecatching front pages to new additions such as our new features focusing on pubs, chefs, and walks. This year, a rejig of the pages has seen more space created to fit even more news in. If you haven't picked up a copy for a while, it's worth a fresh look, and your £1.50 will support qualified journalists in your local newsroom."

> The County Press team: Victoria Pearl, Rufus Pickles, Oliver Dyer, Pamela Parker, Zach Saunders, Lori Little, Stuart Robertson, Matthew Curran, Liam Chorley.

> > County Press

County Dress

County Press

st-cutting to Jut 250 jobs at risk at hospital



County Press

#### EXPO 2025



# If you're doing business on the Island, you won't want to miss Expo 2025

As the Isle of Wight's biggest day for B2B networking, it's a must-attend event in the local business calendar.

"Every Island business should have July 9th circled in their diary," says IW Chamber CEO Steven Holbrook. "Expo is completely free to attend, open to all, and you don't need to be a Chamber member to take part. It's an unmissable chance to connect, build relationships, and explore opportunities.

Getting hundreds of like-minded professionals in one place, casually connecting and exchanging ideas, just doesn't happen every day. IW Chamber makes it possible – so come along and be part of a vibrant day of insight, interaction, and inspiration.

"This will be our third year at Ryde School, and it's proven to be an ideal venue for Expo. The central location in Ryde continues to drive strong footfall and create a real buzz throughout the day. We've built a great partnership with Ryde School, and they've been fantastic hosts. Plus, the exhibitor breakfast and lunch menus have become something of a highlight, and we know they'll impress again in 2025."

#### LIST OF EXHIBITORS

**5 Star Pest Control Acclaim Logistics Airtek Services** Amazon World Zoo Park -**Amazon Rainforest Conservation Centre Bembridge Powerboat Biscoes Solicitors BNI Hampshire & IoW Buliding 41 by Innovation Wight Celcius Hire Cherry Godfrey Churchers Solicitors** Dementia UK **Dyno Rod IOW Eddisons Commercial Eldridges Legal Services Ltd Emerald Elite VA Services ERMC Ltd** 

Fortis Energy **Glanvilles Damant Legal Services Good Skills Training** Green Isle of Wight CIC Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance Hose Rhodes Dickson Commercial & Survey Hotel Lock & Safe Ltd **HTP Apprenticeships College ICR Systems Island Catering Equipment** Island Echo Island Windows & The Plastics Depot Ltd Isle of Wight College Isle of Wight County Press Isle of Wight Donkey Sanctuary Isle of Wight Observer **Isle of Wight Radio** Isle of Wight Tomatoes

#### EXPO BREAKFAST

Ryde School, Ryde 7.30am - 9.00am

IW Chamber Members - £18 Non Members - £36

Join **Meridian 3** and Start Expo with a hot breakfast.

A great start to the business day, networking with other Chamber members.

#### **EXPO LUNCH**

Ryde School, Ryde 12.30pm - 2.30pm IW Chamber Members - £20 Non Members - £40

Book your lunch for Expo 2025. Join **Biscoes** for a cooked lunch.

#### BOOK YOUR PLACE ONLINE:

www.iwchamber.co.uk in the 09 JULY listings





"We look forward to connecting with as many businesses as possible at the IW Chamber Business Expo 2025. Entry is free to visitors, and you don't have to be an IW Chamber member to attend – it's open to everyone! This is a brilliant opportunity to engage with the Island's business community and chat with people from businesses of all sizes and sectors. The Expo is back at Ryde School and proudly supported by WightFibre. It's the biggest business networking day of the year, with hundreds of attendees and a wide range of exhibiting businesses. We hope to see you there!"

John Irvine, WightFibre

Isle Of Wight Youth Trust **IWCTG** Lifeline Lloyds Bank SME Commercial **Meridian 3 Mindset Bros** Moose Digital Media Ltd Mountbatten IoW **NOSY Creative Agency PC Consultants** Pertemps **Powered Now Quest Business Services Ltd Red Funnel RPL** Construction Ltd **Ryde Neighbourhood Board Ryde Town Council** Silver Arch Group Limited

Simplex Accounting SJ Jones Photography **Smart Training and Recruitment Snows BMW & MINI Solent Growth Partnership** The Events Co. The Lighthouse Clinic The Media House IoW **Top Mops** Vectis Business Link Vision Accounting Wessex Cancer Support Wight Computers WightFibre WightLife Group Ltd Wightlink Ltd **WRS Systems** 



#### PATRON FEATURE

# **ELDRIDGES SOLICITORS** AN OLD FIRM WITH A YOUNG TEAM





Founded in 1832, Eldridges Solicitors is a dedicated Island law firm with high street offices in Newport and Freshwater, supporting not only a wide range of essential commercial and private client legal requirements but also specialist areas including Commercial Conveyancing, Trusts, Contentious Probate and First Registration of Title, making them both unique and highly sought after across the Island.

As you would expect, with almost two centuries of experience supporting Island businesses and with a team of 27, all of whom live on the Island, Eldridges are well placed to meet the ever-changing needs and increasing legal demands being placed on today's Island businesses.

Providing all clients with the consistent legal advice they need, when they need it, through an approach tailored to meet their individual needs and current situation has made them one of the most trusted names in legal services on the Island. Delivering peace of mind for clients and guiding them through any legal issue, resolving each swiftly with minimum stress, professional care, and empathy at all times.

Eldridges is an old firm with a surprisingly young team. They understand the importance of developing careers, especially in an industry that finds recruitment of staff and their retention challenging. Which is why throughout their history, Eldridges have developed careers, turning graduates into solicitors, secretaries into paralegals, and paralegals into Legal Executives. Something which is also making them increasingly attractive to young lawyers looking to develop their careers with a leading local law firm. All achieving their goals and ensuring Eldridges remains current and progressive as a law firm.

The high levels of repeat business, recommendations, and referrals bear testimony to a unique Island law firm. One that takes pride in becoming Bronze Patrons, supporting the Isle of Wight Chamber of Commerce, Island businesses, and the wider community for many years to come, which includes The Youth Trust as their charity of the year.

www.eldridges.co.uk



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EXTENSIVE FOOD MENU SUNDAY CARVERY FROM 12PM FAMILY & DOG FRIENDLY LARGE PLAY AREA PRIVA



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# A Sparkling Celebration of Island Enterprise

The very best of the Isle of Wight's business community stepped into the spotlight at the 2025 IW Chamber Business Awards with WRS, held on a sunny 9th of May evening at Cowes Yacht Haven. Beneath the twinkling lights and with the echo of applause, the Island's biggest celebration of business excellence brought together leaders, entrepreneurs, and changemakers for a night to remember.

Hosted by TV and radio favourite Jamie Laing, the ceremony was anything but ordinary. "I've had an amazing time. The Isle of Wight is an incredible place, and we smashed it tonight. Congratulations to all our winners!" Jamie's signature charm lit up the room, peppering the evening with laughter, audience banter, and his own Candy Kittens treats, gifted to lucky nominees, winners, and audience members.

The night also offered a touch of West End magic. Acclaimed stage star Kerry Ellis delivered a showstopping performance, her rendition of Defying Gravity soaring through the room

IW CHAMBER

WITH

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WRS



and earning a rapturous response. As the first British Elphaba in Wicked, and with Broadway credits to her name, Kerry's appearance made the celebrations something truly special.

In a heartfelt moment, the prestigious President's Cup for Outstanding Contribution was awarded to Nigel Hartley MBE. The outgoing CEO of Mountbatten received a standing ovation as he accepted the honour, a testament to his impactful leadership, legacy of care on the Island, and a lifelong career spent in end-of-life care.

WightFibre took home the title of Business of the Year, alongside two further trophies, marking a triple win on the night. IOW Group and Brightbulb also celebrated double success, highlighting the strength and diversity of Islandbased innovation.

"We've had an amazing night, our biggest and best yet," said Steven Holbrook, IW Chamber CEO. "With the support of our main sponsor WRS, we've been able to pull out all the stops and share in a brilliant evening of celebration, with some incredible talent on show, both on-stage and in our shortlist."

WRS themselves marked the night with the unveiling of their new brand identity. "WRS was founded right here on the Isle of Wight back in 2003," said CEO David Jackson. "We've always been proud of our local roots. The Isle of Wight is home to an inspiring network of businesses, business leaders, entrepreneurs, and creators who make the Island a special place to live and work. WRS is incredibly proud to support this celebration of talent, innovation, and excellence."

As the nominees, winners, and guests danced the night away, one thing was clear: the Island's business community is thriving, and the IW Chamber Awards continues to be its most dazzling stage.

# Start Up Business of the Year

Sponsored by PC Consultants

#### WINNER: Wight Vets

#### NOMINATED:

Diamond Adventures Pinnacle Suites Hotel Simplex Accounting Limited

#### Entrepreneurship Award

Sponsored by Red Funnel

#### WINNER: Pinnacle Suites Hotel

HIGHLY COMMENDED: Island Echo

#### NOMINATED:

Charlie Panayi



"We are truly delighted that Wight Vets has won this coveted award. Our team of highly skilled professionals has worked incredibly hard over the past 3 years, so it is wonderful to have this independently recognised. We are blessed with wonderful clients who are hugely supportive and vocal in their appreciation for what we do.

Wight Vets is a family business, locally owned and run by vets. Our practice values are 'Honesty, integrity, compassion, and empathy'. We give clients a choice of care at home or our Chapel Street clinic in Newport. We have built an excellent local reputation where many of our new clients come to us by word-of-mouth recommendation from our existing clients. We deliver excellent, individually tailored, pragmatic veterinary care for our patients, as each patient, situation, and client is unique, and it is a privilege to care for them.

We are hugely excited for the future as we are planning for Wight Vets to move premises to a new home next to Sainsbury's petrol station in Newport, into the former British Red Cross Headquarters building. Thank you all so much for your support." *John Knight, Wight Vets* 



"Zoe and I were honoured to receive the Entrepreneurship Award—a meaningful milestone at the end of a long and challenging journey. From COVID delays to economic and regulatory hurdles, and moments of sheer exhaustion, completing our dream project often felt like chasing light at the end of the tunnel (and, thankfully, not a train).

We've been humbled by the positive reception from both local and visiting professionals seeking city-standard accommodation and meeting spaces, close to world-class specialist businesses. Drawing from our global business travels, we envisioned a place we ourselves would love to stay—brought to life through Zoe's unique design flair.

Transforming a decommissioned bank into something vibrant and new, we contributed to reimagining the high street at a time when such ambition would be near impossible in larger cities. Being part of the Chamber Bronze Group gave us not just insights, but camaraderie—a reminder that post-global careers and 'semi-retirement' don't have to be solitary paths." *Steve Tewkesbury, Pinnacle Suites* 

# Growth Business of the Year

Sponsored by WRS

#### WINNER: Wight Coaches Ltd

#### **NOMINATED:**

Island Echo Strings Bar & Venue Superior Bespoke Furniture & Kitchens

#### Tourism and Leisure Business of the Year

Sponsored by Visit Isle of Wight

#### WINNER:

#### Isle of Wight Studio Glass Ltd

**NOMINATED:** Blackgang Chine



"We're incredibly proud to receive the Growth Business of the Year award, it's a real honour and a moment of reflection on how far we've come in such a short time. This recognition means so much to us as a team, especially coming just a year after being named Startup Business of the Year. It's a testament to the hard work, dedication, and passion of everyone involved.

We're truly grateful to every single passenger who has chosen to travel with us whether for a school trip, day out, holiday or private hire. Your trust and support have helped us grow, and we never take that for granted.

We also want to thank our amazing team of drivers, who are the heart of what we do. Their professionalism, reliability, and care make all the difference, and this award belongs to them just as much as myself and Ben. *Josh Harris, Wight Coaches Ltd* 



Winning the IW Chamber of Commerce Tourism & Leisure Business of the Year Award is a tremendous honour for our business. It recognises the hard work, passion, and dedication of our small team in delivering an exceptional product, experiences and customer service, for visitors and locals alike. It serves as a powerful endorsement of our product, brand and our commitment to excellence, innovation, and sustainability in the tourism and leisure sector. Being acknowledged by such a respected organisation affirms that we're making a positive impact on the Islands economy, enhancing its reputation as a premier destination, we're incredibly grateful to the chamber, the judges and associates for this recognition and our customers and trade partners for they're continued support. This achievement celebrates our past efforts energising us for an exciting future ahead, inspiring us to continue growing, improving and striving to set higher standards, in our "pursuit of excellence". *Nicola Harris, Isle of Wight Studio Glass* 

# Employer of the Year

Sponsored by Glanvilles Damant Legal Services

#### WINNER: Brightbulb

**NOMINATED:** WightFibre Yokogawa Marex

#### Technology and Innovation Award

Sponsored by Lifeline Alarms

#### WINNER: Brightbulb

#### NOMINATED:

IFPL Group Limited Yokogawa Marex







"Winning both Employer of the Year and the Tech and Innovation Award is an incredible honour and a true reflection of the amazing people behind Brightbulb. I couldn't be prouder of our team—their passion, creativity, and hard work are what make moments like this possible. These awards not only celebrate our internal culture and innovation but also represent our commitment to pushing boundaries and making a positive impact in our industry and community. As a business born and grown on the Isle of Wight, we hope our journey can inspire others—whether they're just starting out or striving to reach the next level. Recognition like this is a reminder that with the right people, values, and vision, anything is achievable. We're excited for the future and incredibly grateful to be part of such a vibrant and supportive local business community." Matt Jeffery, Brightbulb

#### Community Award Sponsored by Moore (South) LLP

#### WINNER: Sight for Wight

HIGHLY COMMENDED: Isle of Wight Youth Trust

#### NOMINATED:

Mountbatten Isle of Wight Natural Enterprise Ltd

#### Manufacturing and Export Business of the Year

Sponsored by GKN Aerospace

#### WINNER: Isle of Wig

Isle of Wight Tomatoes

#### **NOMINATED:** Diverse Marine

IFPL Group Limited



"Five years ago, the charity was on its last reserves and desperately needed to go back to basics and look at why we were here, what did our members need. Our 2020 survey entailed phoning all 375 people registered with sight loss and asking them what they needed and how we could support them. As CEO, I am registered Deafblind, with two siblings, all living with 10% of 'normal' vision. I understand that having the same sight loss condition does not mean we have the same life experiences, same desires, or same wishes. This is at the heart of what we do: treat everyone as the unique person they are, not only ensuring their safety in daily living but also their independence and confidence too. Winning this most prestigious award represents to us we are there, we are providing tailored, valued support to the now 732 Islanders living with sight loss." *Lisa Hollyhead, Sight for Wight* 



"We were delighted to have walked away with the Manufacturing and Export Business of the Year Award. It's our mission to make sure everyone can enjoy a good tomato, and in the last year, we have really spread our wings. Reaching places around the globe that we would never have dreamed of. This is fantastic recognition of how hard the team has worked to make that mission a reality. We have always felt we have a world-class product, and it's incredible to have such buy-in from leading retailers in the UAE and beyond. However, it doesn't mean anything without a strong and dedicated team behind it, believing in what we do and bringing their passion and drive every day." **Paul Thomas, Isle of Wight Tomatoes** 

#### Creative Impact Award

Sponsored by Medina Publishing

#### WINNER: WightFibre

HIGHLY COMMENDED: Spence Willard

**NOMINATED:** Isle of Wight Studio Glass Quay Arts

#### Customer Service Award Sponsored by RPL Construction

#### winner: WightFibre

**NOMINATED:** Preziosa Dachshunds The Royal Hotel

Business of the Year Award 2025

#### WINNER: WightFibre



"Winning the Creative Impact Award at the Chamber Business Awards 2025 is a significant achievement for WightFibre. It underscores our innovative and creative approaches in enhancing our services and engaging with the community. This award is a testament to our team's dedication to bringing world-class full-fibre broadband to the Isle of Wight and setting a new standard for excellence in the industry. The street cabinets wrapped in bright colourful designs really puts a smile on your face and I will be reminded of this great award every time I pass one! We are honoured to be recognised for our efforts and will continue to strive for excellence in all that we do. **Deon Redpath, Marketing Director** 

"Winning the Customer Service Award at the Chamber Business Awards 2025 is a tremendous honour for me personally. At WightFibre we really do care about providing the best possible service. This award reflects that and the dedication and hard work of the entire WightFibre team in ensuring the highest possible customer satisfaction. We are incredibly proud of this achievement and grateful to our amazing customers for their trust and support." *David Beckett, Head of Customer Service* 



"I was truly humbled when WightFibre was awarded the Business of the Year at the Chamber Business Awards 2025. This overall award recognises the hard work and dedication of the entire team at WightFibre. It reflects their commitment to our 'because we care' ethos and how this permeates our entire business from top to bottom. Our success is the result of the thousands of homes and businesses across the Island who have put their trust in WightFibre to deliver their broadband and telephone services. To them we say a very big THANK YOU!" John Irvine, CEO

#### Small Business of the Year Sponsored by Wightlink

#### WINNER: IOW Group

HIGHLY COMMENDED: The Seaview Hotel

**NOMINATED:** Diverse Marine Eldridges Solicitors NFU Mutual Isle of Wight

#### Environment and Sustainability Award

Sponsored by IFPI

WINNER: IOW Group

HIGHLY COMMENDED: WightFibre

**NOMINATED:** GKN Aerospace Services







'Being nominated for the Isle of Wight Chamber Awards is an achievement in itself, but to be recognised in two categories and win both is truly incredible. We're especially proud to have received the Environmental and Sustainability Award, as it highlights the core of IOW Group's mission, to deliver innovative centrifugal technology that reduces fuel consumption and emissions. Our solutions help industries worldwide operate more efficiently and with a smaller environmental footprint. This recognition validates our commitment to sustainable engineering and a cleaner future. Winning Small Business of the Year is equally rewarding and a testament to the dedication of our talented team, who continue to drive growth and innovation behind the scenes. We're also incredibly grateful to the Isle of Wight Chamber for hosting such a fantastic event and for fostering a vibrant, supportive business community. It's a privilege to be part of such a dynamic and forward-thinking network.' *Brett Nicholls, IOW Group* 

#### Training and Development Award

Sponsored by Top Mops

#### WINNER:

Yokogawa Marex

#### NOMINATED:

WightFibre Willetts and Doig

Optometrists

## Hospitality Business of the Year

Sponsored by Cherry Godfrey

#### WINNER: The Chequers Inn

#### NOMINATED:

The Blacksmiths The Island Holiday Company The Seaview Hotel



"To win the Training and Development Award and receive recognition from the Chamber of Commerce for what we are doing is very special to us at Yokogawa Marex.

Our team is why we exist; they are the beating heart of the organisation. Providing a platform to be the best that they can be is the cornerstone of professional and personal development and growth. Everyone plays their part from the senior members of the team providing mentoring through to our apprentices who are committed to learning and self-development, balancing work and their studies. It does not start there through close engagement with schools; we provide an entry into a career in software.

To be there on the night with so many of the Yokogawa Marex team, to see their faces when it was announced we were winners, and the pride in walking up to receive the award was a great moment." *Wayne Matthews, Yokogawa Marex* 



"For us, as first-time nominees, going to the awards was genuinely a win on its own. Any opportunity that highlights the hard work of our team is something worth celebrating. We were blown away by the show The Chamber put on. The entertainment, the atmosphere and of course Kerry Ellis and Jamie Laing, made for a true celebration of Island business. And this was all before we won the award! As a team we are still processing what a fantastic achievement it was and have since seen our marketing opportunities blow up, which is fantastic exposure for The Chequers. We would appeal to any Island business to enter next year as the response has been phenomenal, and you never know, it could be your year!

We'd once again like to thank The Chamber for the opportunity, the judging panel for their votes and our fantastic fellow nominees for all highlighting what Island hospitality has to offer!" *Jack Read, Wight Pubs* 

#### Business Social Impact Award

Sponsored by WightFibre

#### WINNER:

#### Red Squirrel Property Shop Ltd

#### **HIGHLY COMMENDED:**

Medina Publishing Limited & Medina Bookshop

#### NOMINATED:

RenoDrain Right at Home, Isle of Wight

#### Micro Business of the Year Sponsored by Gurit

WINNER:

JR Zone

#### NOMINATED:

Silver Arch Property Solutions Limited

Superior Bespoke Furniture and Kitchens

Wight Coaches Ltd



Winning the Business Social Impact Award means more than just recognition; it's a reminder of why we started Red Squirrel in the first place. From day one, we've believed that business should be a force for good, not just profit. Whether it's supporting local charities like Mountbatten Hospice and many others locally, launching Zoe's Law in memory of my sister, supporting local sports teams, or mentoring young people into property and business, we always want to lead with heart.

This award shines a light on the work we do behind the scenes, and I'm incredibly proud of the whole team who make it happen every single day. It's also a huge honour to be recognised by the Chamber and amongst so many fantastic Island businesses. Awards like this inspire us to keep pushing forward, not just for our own growth, but to create a bigger ripple across the community. Thank you for believing in what we do. *Charlie Panayi, Red Squirrel* 



Winning the Micro Business Award at the IW Chamber Awards is a truly proud moment. In a time when so many businesses on the Isle of Wight are facing real challenges, this recognition feels especially meaningful. Running a small business often means wearing many hats, working long hours, and pushing through uncertainty – so to be acknowledged in this way is both humbling and incredibly encouraging.

This award isn't just for me - it's for everyone who has supported us along the way. Our employees, our customers, and the brilliant local business community that continues to champion one another through difficult times. I hope our story shows that even the smallest businesses can make a big impact.

A heartfelt thank you to the IW Chamber and all involved. We're honoured to be part of such a supportive and resilient Island network. *Sandra Knowles, JR Zone* 

IW Chamber Membership Special Award

#### winner: Andy Squibb

IW Chamber President's Award for Outstanding Contribution 2025

WINNER: Nigel Hartley MBE "To say winning the Chamber Membership Special Award came out of the blue and was completely unexpected would be an understatement! I'm honoured to have had my work on the Business Awards show over the years recognised in this way.

I've worked with the Isle of Wight Chamber team on delivering the awards show since (I think) around 2007/8, and over the years have seen various faces within the Chamber team come and go. There have been different visions and creative ideas/challenges over the years, and it's been a privilege to work with everyone as the show has evolved over the years, but always with the continuous determination to improve and build on the success of the previous year's show. The goal has always been to improve and grow technically and deliver bigger and bolder show, and together with my tech crew and the Chamber team I believe we've always managed to achieve that and continue to push the boundaries - it's always very much been a team effort that I've been proud to be a part of.

Above all, I'm still in awe of the awards team's ability to keep this award off of my radar - I prepare the show content weeks in advance of the show, so have sight of the list of awards



and respective winners well in advance, so flagged early on that there was an award that seemed to be missing this year (which I was reassured 'wasn't there' and not to worry). Nevertheless, there was some initial panic as Steven suddenly announced during his opening speech that he was breaking with tradition and going off script without any prior warning, so I was genuinely caught off guard when my name was announced!" **Andy Squibb** 



"I was so honoured to receive the President's Award for Outstanding Contribution at the recent Isle of Wight Business Awards. Although it was a shock to me personally, I accepted the award on behalf of all the amazing people who work for, volunteer for, and support Mountbatten across our wonderful Island. I feel so proud and humbled." *Nigel Hartley MBE, Mountbatten* 









### SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESSES AND WIN BIG WITH THE ISLE OF WIGHT LOTTERY

#### Island Foods Ltd Receives Interest-Free Loan to Boost Local Growth

Island Foods Ltd, based in Bullen Village, has received a £25,000 interest-free loan from the Isle of Wight Lottery to support its continued expansion. Led by Steve and Joanne Doe, the business has grown from its beginnings as a local butcher shop in Sandown into a well-established catering supplier serving homes, schools, hospitals, and even high-profile events like Wimbledon.

The company's journey began when larger supermarket chains moved into Sandown, prompting the Does to pivot their business model. They transitioned into catering, outgrew their initial premises, and eventually took on two units in Bullen Village. Thanks to increasing local support and demand, they expanded further by opening a retail counter, which has since become one of the largest on the island.

The COVID-19 pandemic, while challenging for many, became a turning point for Island Foods. Already equipped with a website and a small-scale delivery service, the team quickly adapted to the new circumstances, expanding home deliveries and building a broader client base across the Isle of Wight. Their high standards and reliability have earned them FDA approval and contracts with major clients, including Red Funnel.

With 18 staff members and plans to hire at least two more, the interest-free loan from the Isle of Wight Lottery has been instrumental. It is being used not only to expand the team but also to invest in new equipment and to outfit a cookery room upstairs, where Steve and Joanne plan to produce their own branded goods like pork scratchings. "The loan really helps," Steve explained. "It's enabled us to grow without the burden of interest. We'd definitely recommend it to others."

Despite their success, Steve and Joanne remain humble. "We're not ones to shout about what we do," Steve said, "but we're passionate, and we love serving the island." With strong community roots and a hands-on approach, Island Foods Ltd is a shining example of local enterprise thriving with a little help.

#### £10,000 Winner!

Wayland Barker has been a loyal supporter of the Isle of Wight Lottery for an incredible 22 years, having first signed up in 2003 after hearing about it on the radio. He joined to help support the Island's economy, so it came as a complete surprise when he won the £10,000 prize draw in December 2024. However, it wasn't until May 2025 that we were finally able to track him down! Despite our efforts, Wayland remained unaware of his win. Thankfully, with the invaluable help of the team at Nationwide's Newport branch, we were able to get in touch with him. As for the prize money? Wayland plans to put it toward a well-deserved cruise - a fitting reward after two decades of loyal play.



There's never been a better time to play and at just £1 a week, you'll also be helping the IW Lottery to create and sustain Island jobs.

The lottery's unique interest-free loans have nurtured hundreds of jobs with more than 100 loans to Island businesses pumping more than  $\pm 1$ million into the Island's economy since 2001.

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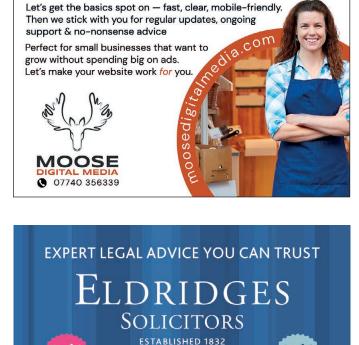
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#### IW CHAMBER | **NETWORKING EVENTS** & TRAINING COURSES

#### Networking Brunch at Richmond's Cake & Coffee Co.

Wednesday 2 July 2025 Richmond's Cake & Coffee Co., Newport 9.00am – 11.00am

IW Chamber Members – £20 per person

#### Non-Members – £40 per person

An ideal opportunity for informal networking at Richmond's Cake & Coffee Co. If you're new to networking, our Brunch is the perfect way to get connected with like-minded business people. Attendees will all get the chance to give their minutepitch to the room at this event.

#### **Chamber Chat: Meet the Chamber**

Thursday 3, 17 & 31 July and 14 & 28 August 2025 IW Chamber of Commerce Office, Branstone Business Park 10am-12pm

IW Chamber members – FREE

#### Non-members – FREE

The Isle of Wight Chamber of Commerce invites you to meet the team at our office at Branstone Business Park.

Every other Thursday the Chamber is opening its door to members to connect, discuss membership, and ask questions in a casual drop-in session.

Not yet a member? You're invited to drop in and discover the value of professional networking and explore how Chamber membership can support your business growth.

Booking not required - just drop in!

#### Business Breakfast at IW Chamber Business Expo 2025

Wednesday 9 July 2025 Ryde School, Ryde 7.30am – 9.00am

IW Chamber Members – £18

#### Non Members – £36

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

#### Business Lunch at IW Chamber Business Expo 2025

Wednesday 9 July 2025 Ryde School, Ryde 12.30pm – 2.30pm IW Chamber Members – £20 Non Members – £40 Book your lunch for Expo 2025. Join Biscoes for a cooked lunch.

#### 'Net-Gaming' Lunch at Snacks & Ladders

Monday 21 July 2025 Snacks & Ladders, Newport 12.00pm – 2.00pm IW Chamber Members – £20 per person

Non-Members – £40 per person

Join us for an informal networking opportunity with fun games and lunch, this will be a fantastic way to meet other members and catch up.

#### Networking Breakfast at The Heron Smoke House at Robin Hill

Friday 1 August 2025 The Heron Smoke House, Robin Hill

7.30am – 9.00am

IW Chamber Members - £18 per person

#### Non-Members - £36 per person

Join us for an excellent networking opportunity at the newly opened Smoke-House at The Heron at Robin Hill. Informal networking and a hot breakfast is a great way to start the business day.

We will also have a Dale Howarth doing a talk about 'How To Network'.

## IW Chamber Cowes Week BBQ & Drinks with Red Squirrel Property

Wednesday 6 August 2025 Island Sailing Club, Cowes

1.00pm – 4.00pm

#### IW Chamber members – £75+vat per person

Join us 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 burgers, sausages, and other local produce.

#### **Vestas Members' Tour**

Wednesday 20 August 2025

Vestas, Stag Lane, Newport

1pm - 4pm

IW Chamber members – free (limited availability)

Discover the future of energy production. Join the Chamber for an exclusive, members-only tour of Vestas' Island Facilities with a guided tour of cutting-edge wind turbine production, and the chance to learn about Vestas' innovative technology, its connection to the Island, and its global impact, with time for a Q&A session. Discover how renewable energy is shaping the future and gain valuable insights into an industry that's driving change towards net zero.

## BOOK YOUR PLACE NOW!

Go to www.iwchamber.co.uk or Email chamber@iwchamber.co.uk

## IW CHAMBER | **NEW MEMBERS**

#### Wight Global Logistics Ltd

Adam Marsek wightglobal.co.uk adam@wightglobal.co.uk 01983 210321



#### Sports Performance Centre IOW

Jake Brougham sportsperformancecentre.co.uk info@spciow.co.uk 01983 642088



Flo Financial Services Steven Kearney flofinserv@gmail.com 07491 974969



Vectis Business Link Alex Tana vectisbusinesslink.co.uk alextana1950@gmail.com

01983 563144



The Lighthouse Clinic Malcolm White

www.62crockerstreet.co.uk/ malcolm.white@nhs.net 01983 552590





# www.iwchamber.co.uk Call 01983 520777 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.

All these services are included in your membership fee.

Don't delay...join today!





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Our **one-day course** is sponsored by Red Funnel and delivered by expert business mentors, designed to get you started with lots of useful, friendly advice.

We'll give you an overview of running your own business, operating as sole trader or company, bookkeeping, insurance, professional services, marketing and more.

The Isle of Wight Lottery 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 Isle of Wight Lottery Business Start Up Course is sponsored by Red Funnel, who are proud to support new businesses and help to create new jobs and employment. The one-day course is only £5 to attend, thanks to the support of Red Funnel. The courses are presented 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!

Thursday June 26th – 9.30am – 4.00pm Thursday July 24th – 9.30am – 4.00pm Thursday September 25th – 9.30am – 4.00pm Thursday October 23rd – 9.30am – 4.00pm Thursday November 20th – 9.30am – 4.00pm

at IW Chamber Office, Branstone Business Park Visit: www.iwchamber.co.uk/startmeup

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There's a tangible sense of momentum surrounding the Chamber right now, the kind that follows a season of recognition, connection, and the promise of exciting transitions. The Isle of Wight Chamber Business Awards returned in full force, offering not only a glittering evening of celebration but a heartfelt reminder of the strength and spirit of our local business community.

## IW CHAMBER'S MISSION

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

## IW CHAMBER PRESIDENT Showcasing Success, Embracing Change

By Jonathan Thornton, IW Chamber President

It was a true honour to attend the awards under the banner of WRS, which unveiled their new branding at the event. With Jamie Laing hosting, the evening had a vibrant, elevated energy. His charisma positioned the Chamber's biggest night as something truly special, a milestone not just for winners, but for the entire Island.

The awards showcased the incredible breadth of talent across our business landscape. From large established names to unexpected entrants and tiny microbusinesses, it was a cross-section of innovation, resilience, and excellence. The judging process is always independent and merit-based, and it was refreshing to see some less familiar names being recognised. It's easy to forget just how many different types of businesses exist here; a reminder of the depth and diversity that gives our economy its character.

And yet, this is not just about trophies. It's about something more powerful: confidence. As Baroness Martha Lane Fox shared at a recent Chamber event at the House of Lords, UK businesses are often hesitant to shout about their achievements. In contrast to cultures like the United States, where self-promotion is embraced, we tend to be more reserved. But these award nights break that mould. They give us permission to be proud, to speak up, and to shine a spotlight on the extraordinary work happening every day here on the Island.

That same spirit of recognition and connection is at the heart of everything the Chamber does. Whether you're a solo start-up or a larger organisation, we're finding new ways to make sure everyone is included and supported. For instance, Island Business magazine now offers tiered opportunities for features and advertising, meaning businesses of all sizes and budgets can get involved and be seen. If you have a story to tell, the Chamber team wants to hear it.

There's also change underway within our own team, and it's something we're approaching with enthusiasm. Rob Johnson will soon step into the role of Chief Executive, succeeding Steven in August. Rob brings a wealth of experience and a natural presence that immediately resonates. He's already getting involved behind the scenes, meeting businesses and contributing to planning. His leadership marks a new chapter, one rooted in visibility, connection, and fresh energy.

As always, we want our members to know that we're accessible. Events like the informal Chamber Chat sessions at Branstone Farm offer drop-in opportunities to speak with the team, share concerns, and find new ways to engage. There's no need for a formal appointment, just come along and start a conversation.

Looking ahead, the Chamber Expo is another highlight on the horizon, a perfect platform to promote your business, engage with peers, and gain valuable exposure. It's another reminder not to hide your light under a bushel. Be bold, speak out, and let others know what you're achieving.

The Island is a brilliant place. It defines us. It's an amazing place to live and work. And for all of us, including our members of the Chamber, our membership really allows us to showcase that. So don't be afraid to promote your business, talk about your business, and shout about the great things that you're doing.

Here's to change, growth, and the incredible things we'll achieve next.













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