

Island Business

SEPTEMBER | OCTOBER 2026

features | interviews | articles | news
including Isle of Wight Chamber
member news and events

ISLAND BUSINESS CONNECTED

Another successful Expo
brings businesses together

IFPL

NOSY

IW Chamber Expo

Just For You

Cowes Week
Celebrations



Plus IW Chamber
member news and events



Scan for
brochure



*Festive
Celebrations
2026*



— WIGHT PUBS —
HOTELS & EVENTS

Island Business Magazine
Published by the Isle of Wight
Chamber of Commerce

Editor

Amber Beard
amber.beard@iwchamber.co.uk

Sales

Amber Beard
amber.beard@iwchamber.co.uk

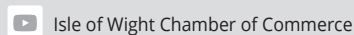
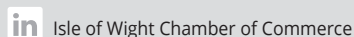
Isle of Wight Chamber of Commerce

Unit S1, Branstone Business Park,
Stockmans Close, Branstone,
Isle of Wight. PO36 0EQ
Telephone: 01983 520777

Designed & Printed by

Meridian3.co.uk

While every care has been taken to ensure the accuracy of Island Business magazine the publishers do not accept any liability or provide any guarantee that the information is accurate, complete or up to date. The publisher and its employees and contractors have used their best efforts in preparing these pages and this publication but make no warranty of any kind, expressed or implied, with regard to the information supplied. The views of contributors do not necessarily represent those of the IW Chamber of Commerce. The IW Chamber of Commerce and its employees and contractors shall not be liable in the event of incidental or consequential damages in connection with, or arising out of, the providing of the information offered here. Contains material sourced from responsibly managed forests, certified in accordance with the FSC (Forest Stewardship Council).



Please recycle this magazine



EDITOR'S FOREWORD

As I write this, the Island is basking, or perhaps wilting, in another spell of exceptionally hot weather. By the time this edition of Island Business reaches you, we could just as easily be back to rain and wondering whether summer ever really happened.

One date we can be certain about, however, is Friday 11th September, when the IW Chamber Business Awards return for what promises to be a very special evening at Bembridge Fort.

The Awards are always a highlight of the Chamber calendar, but this year there is a real sense of anticipation around them. We have a new venue, a fantastic shortlist of businesses and, for the first time, Chamber members have been able to have their say by voting in three categories – Customer Service, Tourism & Leisure and Hospitality.

What always strikes me about the Awards is the sheer breadth of businesses

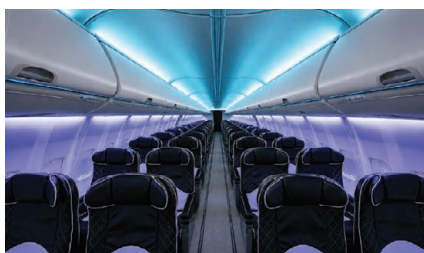
represented. The shortlist brings together companies of very different sizes and from very different sectors, but all have a story to tell about what they have achieved over the past year. This edition once again reflects that diversity, with stories from businesses and organisations across the Island, celebrating milestones, investment, innovation and the people behind them.

September will also mark a new chapter for the Chamber, as we prepare to welcome Helen Curel as our new Chief Executive following the Awards. We look forward to introducing Helen more fully in future editions.

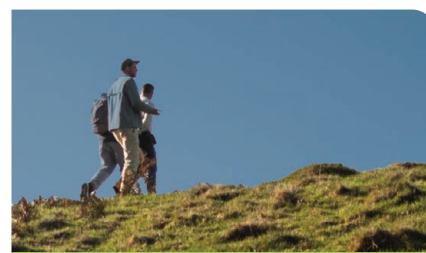
For now, though, all eyes are on Bembridge Fort. Good luck to every business shortlisted. I look forward to seeing many of you there. ■

AMBER BEARD
EDITOR

CONTENTS



08 IFPL



10 NOSY

02 NEWS

08 IFPL

10 NOSY

12 REAL WISDOM

14 IW CHAMBER EXPO

20 IW CHAMBER BUSINESS AWARDS

23 JUST FOR YOU HOLIDAY HOMES

24 COWES WEEK CELEBRATIONS

26 SUMMER NETWORKING

28 IW LOTTERY

31 EVENTS

36 CHAMBER PRESIDENT

IW CHAMBER'S VISION

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

Island venues urged to prepare for Martyn's Law



Isle of Wight venues are being encouraged to prepare now for the introduction of Martyn's Law, new legislation designed to strengthen public safety at publicly accessible locations.

Formally known as the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025, the law received Royal Assent in April 2025 and is due to come into force in Spring 2027. It will require venue operators to carry out proportionate risk assessments, introduce appropriate security measures and ensure staff and volunteers are trained to

respond effectively to potential threats.

Newport-based Lifeline Alarm Systems is already helping organisations across the Island understand the forthcoming changes and plans to host free information events to explain the new requirements.

Managing Director Mark Lee said: "Martyn's Law represents the most significant change to venue and event security legislation in more than a generation. The implementation period allows organisations to review their

arrangements, assess risks and improve staff awareness before the legislation takes effect."

Many Island venues, including schools, theatres, community halls, places of worship and sports facilities, are expected to fall within the Standard Tier of the legislation. Lifeline says early preparation will help organisations meet their responsibilities while maintaining the welcoming atmosphere that makes the Island's public spaces so valued. ■



Cowes Yacht Haven secures top marina accreditation

Cowes Yacht Haven has retained its prestigious 5 Gold Anchor accreditation following its latest inspection by The Yacht Harbour Association (TYHA), reinforcing its position as one of the UK's leading marinas.

The internationally recognised accreditation reflects high standards across customer service, facilities, operations and the overall visitor experience. Assessors reported improved scores and customer feedback since the previous inspection, resulting in Cowes Yacht Haven being invited to apply for the coveted Gold Anchor Platinum status.

The invitation is extended to only a small number of exceptional marinas worldwide and is typically associated with leading superyacht destinations.

Cowes Yacht Haven is one of only two UK marinas to receive the invitation.

Hayley Cloke, Executive at The Yacht Harbour Association, said: "We are absolutely delighted that Cowes Yacht Haven has once again been awarded the prestigious 5 Gold Anchor accreditation, achieving one of the highest marina assessment scores in the UK. This recognition is a testament to the dedication, professionalism and hard work of the entire marina team, who consistently strive to deliver exceptional facilities and customer service."

The accreditation highlights Cowes Yacht Haven's continued commitment to delivering a first-class experience for berth holders, visiting yachts and the wider sailing community. ■

From classroom to newsroom for Island Echo recruit

Independent Isle of Wight news publisher Island Echo has welcomed a former work experience student to its editorial team after supporting her journey from education into full-time employment.

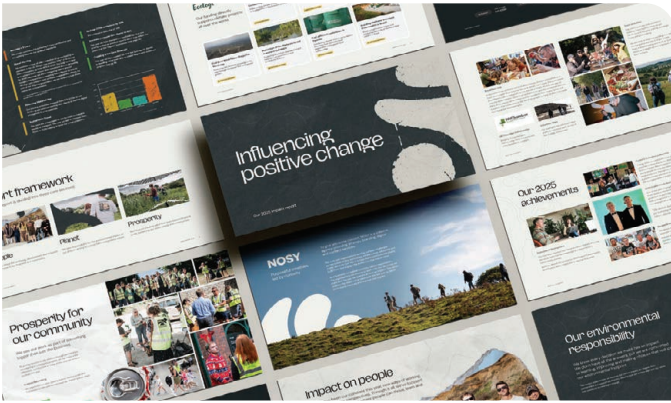
Mackenzie Whittaker first joined the Ryde-based business for a week's work experience in August 2025 while studying journalism at News Associates. Impressing the editorial team with her enthusiasm and professionalism, she was offered a part-time role in February, allowing her to gain newsroom experience while completing her studies.

Having since graduated with a 2:1 BA (Hons) in Multimedia Journalism and achieved the NCTJ Diploma in Journalism to Gold Standard, Mackenzie has now joined Island Echo as a full-time reporter.

Editor and Publisher Darren Toogood said, "We saw something in Mackenzie during her work experience that made us want to invest in her development. It's incredibly rewarding to see someone progress from work experience to becoming a full-time member of the team in less than a year."

Mackenzie's appointment means every member of Island Echo's editorial team was born on the Isle of Wight, something the company believes provides a strong understanding of the community it serves. Island Echo continues to welcome work experience applications from aspiring journalists looking to gain practical experience in a busy digital newsroom. ■





NOSY shortlisted for national business excellence award

Newport-based creative agency NOSY has been named a finalist in the prestigious Lloyds British Business Excellence Awards 2026.

The purpose-led agency has been shortlisted for The Social & Sustainable Impact Award, joining almost 200 finalists from across the UK. Widely regarded as one of the country's leading business awards programmes, the event celebrates organisations making a significant contribution to innovation, growth and positive social impact.

Founded eight years ago, NOSY has built its reputation by working with purpose-driven organisations, helping clients grow while creating wider benefits for communities and the environment.

"From day one, we wanted to prove that a creative business can be a genuine force for good. We're proud to be flying the flag for the Isle of Wight and showing that ethical business is good business," said Founder Matt Greg.

Among the agency's achievements are reducing its carbon emissions by more than 20% in the past year, donating more than £12,000 to environmental causes through its 1% for the Planet membership, and launching its 'Rubbish Networking' initiative, which combines business networking with community litter-picking events. The winners will be announced at a gala ceremony in London on 10th November. ■



UKSA opens new maritime education centre at Victoria Barracks

UKSA has officially opened its new education centre at Victoria Barracks in East Cowes, creating additional capacity to inspire young people and support careers in the maritime sector.

The historic site has been transformed into a dedicated training and education facility, enabling the charity to expand its programmes for children, young people and adults while strengthening community access to the sea. The centre was formally opened during a special ceremony attended by UKSA's Royal Patron, HRH The Princess Royal, accompanied by Vice Admiral Sir Timothy Laurence.

The project has been delivered in partnership with the Isle of Wight Council and made possible through a

combination of public funding, charitable donations and philanthropic support. UKSA Chief Executive Catherine Dixon said, "The opening of Victoria Barracks is a landmark moment for UKSA and for the future of maritime education. This new centre significantly expands our ability to inspire and support children, young people and adults, helping them develop the skills, qualifications and confidence they need to thrive."

The new facility will play an important role in helping address skills shortages across the maritime sector, increasing opportunities for more people to access training, build confidence and pursue careers on and around the sea. ■

WightFibre secures naming rights for Newport IW FC's new home



Newport IW Football Club has announced a long-term partnership with WightFibre that will see its new Community Sports Complex named WightFibre Park.

The agreement includes stadium naming rights and a three-season main sponsorship deal, with WightFibre's branding appearing on the First Team's home shirts, training kit, matchday programmes and club publicity. Branding will also feature throughout the new ground, including at entrances, around the stadium and pitch side. The partnership comes as the club prepares to move into its new home at The Racecourse, marking a significant milestone in its development.

Club Chairman John Davies said: "This is a huge moment for the club. WightFibre has backed our vision from the start, and we're proud they'll be part of this exciting new chapter. The new ground has been years in the making and having a well-known Island company alongside us makes it even more special."

John Irvine, Chief Executive of WightFibre, added: "We're delighted to be partnering with Newport IW Football Club at such an exciting time. We're proud to support the club as it builds for the future and hope WightFibre Park becomes a place the whole Island can enjoy." The partnership reflects both organisations' commitment to investing in the Island and supporting local communities through sport. ■



Epic triathlon raises more than £11,000 for Mountbatten

Three Isle of Wight fundraisers have raised more than £11,000 for Mountbatten Isle of Wight after completing an extraordinary 100-mile triathlon challenge.

On 11 July, Sam Tyson and brothers Kemp and Aiden Price took on The Wight 100 Miles – a two-mile sea swim from Sandown to Shanklin, a 70-mile cycle around the Island's coastline and a 28-mile run following the Walk the Wight route with additional miles to complete the distance.

The challenge has raised £11,437.75, including Gift Aid, with the trio presenting a cheque to Mountbatten earlier this month. Kemp Price said the cause was deeply personal. "Dad recently had Mountbatten support him at home. Once that care touches your family, you realise just how important it is."

The trio admitted the extreme heat made the run particularly demanding but said the generosity of supporters and the amount raised kept them going. "The last stretch was the longest 500 metres in the world," they said. Their challenge was supported by a number of Island businesses, with the funds helping Mountbatten continue providing vital care and support to patients and families across the Isle of Wight. ■

WightAID grants support Island community projects

Seven Isle of Wight organisations have shared almost £13,000 in the latest round of WightAID funding, supporting projects ranging from literacy and community wellbeing to sport and environmental initiatives.

A total of £12,950 was awarded, with the largest grant of £5,000 going to the Isle of Wight Literary Festival's Schools' Programme. The funding will help bring 24 children's authors into every Island school as part of the Year of Reading initiative. Programme Director Dawn Haig-Thomas said, "This grant is vital to us. It costs around £25,000 to deliver the programme and literacy levels on the Island remain below the national average."

Elsewhere, East Cowes Carnival received £500 for new costumes for its Christmas Carnival, while Sandown Carnival was awarded £450 for promotional banners. Planet Aware secured £500 towards its beach cleaning programme, including the creation of its giant recycled plastic Seahorse, while Pan Together received £1,200 to expand its Tea, Talk and Togetherness sessions.

Isle Access was awarded £4,300 towards a new Tomcat tricycle for disabled users, and Wight Eagles FC received £500 to purchase equipment for its new under-8 and under-10 girls' teams, helping grow female football on the Island. ■



Flowers by Nic celebrates 20 years in business



Award-winning Island florist Flowers by Nic @ The Floral Boutique is celebrating 20 years in business this month, marking two decades of serving customers across the Isle of Wight.

Founded by Nichola Lovegrove, the independent business has built a strong reputation for floral design and customer service, alongside a commitment to sustainability and supporting the local community. Nichola's career in floristry began at just 13, when she worked as a Saturday assistant in a florist. She went on to work for several florists, gain professional qualifications, and travel to Holland to further develop her knowledge and skills before establishing her own business.

Over the past two decades, Flowers by Nic @ The Floral Boutique has grown into an established and award-winning Island business, with the anniversary also being recognised by the Good Florist Guide. The milestone comes at a challenging time for many independent businesses and reflects Nichola's long-standing commitment to her profession and her customers.

Celebrating 20 years, Nichola said the achievement represents a career built on hard work, continuous learning, and a passion for floristry, while demonstrating the important contribution independent businesses continue to make to the Island's economy and communities. ■

GO
LET'S
WORK
TOGETHER

Are You Reaching
the Right Talent?



On the Isle of Wight, around **80% of jobs filled, come from passive candidates** - people who aren't actively searching for jobs but would consider the right opportunity if it came along.

Finding the right people isn't just about placing a job advert. It's about knowing where to look, how to engage candidates and having the time to do it properly. We help you reach talent that isn't actively applying.

That means relying solely on job applications can leave a large proportion of local talent untouched.

Recruitment That Goes Beyond Advertising

At Pertemps, we combine local knowledge with national reach to connect businesses with the widest possible talent pool.

Our recruiters search across the UK's leading candidate databases, including CV-Library, Reed, Indeed and LinkedIn, giving access to 40,000+ Isle of

Wight and cross-Solent candidate profiles alongside our own extensive network.

More importantly, we don't just wait for applications—we actively identify and engage the people who could make a difference to your business.

A Recruitment Partner, not Just a Supplier

Working with Pertemps means buying back valuable time. We can manage the recruitment process from sourcing and screening through to arranging interviews, allowing you to focus on running your business.

Whether you're making your next hire or planning for future growth, we're here to provide honest advice, market insight and recruitment solutions tailored to your business.

**The best candidates aren't always looking. We know how to find them.
Let's build your team together.**



Scan the QR code
to learn more

Pertemps

Tel: 01983 533235

— www.pertemps.co.uk —



**INVESTORS
IN PEOPLE**

GUIDING ISLAND BUSINESSES FOR OVER 150 YEARS

Residential Conveyancing / Commercial Property / Wills, Trusts,
Tax & Probate / Debt Recovery / Leases / Company & Commercial
Agriculture & Estates / Development / Property Litigation

Speak to one of our experts today

60-66 Lugley Street, Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 5EU
01983 524431 | info@roachpittis.co.uk | roachpittis.co.uk

ROACH  PITTIS

lifeline
alarms & security
services

Visit us
online



Why Risk It?

**CCTV Systems are one of the most effective
methods in the fight against crime.**

HD Images, Remote Smart Device Control and Viewing,
24 Hour Monitoring, Insurance & Police Approved.

Lifeline are award winning specialists in securing properties
across the Isle of Wight.



The Island Security Centre, Riverway, Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 5UX

01983 521621

info@lifeline-security.co.uk

lifeline-security.co.uk





ISLE OF WIGHT CHAMBER WELCOMES HELEN CUREL AS NEW CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The Isle of Wight Chamber of Commerce has announced the appointment of Helen Curel as its new Chief Executive, marking the beginning of an exciting new chapter for the organisation as it continues to strengthen its support for businesses across the Island.

Helen becomes the first female Chief Executive in the Chamber's modern history, bringing with her a wealth of commercial leadership experience, organisational development expertise and a deep understanding of the Isle of Wight business community.

Her appointment follows a distinguished career that includes 17 years with Island-founded Liz Earle Beauty Co., where she progressed to become Head of Isle of Wight Operations. During that time, she played a key role in leading teams, driving change and supporting business growth, experience that will prove invaluable as the Chamber continues to deliver its ambitious strategy for the future.

Speaking about her appointment, Helen said, "I am really delighted to be joining the Isle of Wight Chamber of Commerce as CEO. The Island has an incredibly diverse and entrepreneurial business community, and I am excited about the opportunity to work with our members, the Chamber team and partners across the Island. Together we will build on the organisation's strengths and ensure it continues to provide a strong voice and guidance for Island businesses.

"A key priority for me will be getting out to meet members, listening to what is important to them and understanding where the Chamber can make the greatest difference. There

are undoubtedly challenges facing businesses, but there are also huge opportunities for the Island, and I am very much looking forward to getting started."

Chamber President Alison Colley welcomed the appointment, highlighting Helen's commercial expertise and commitment to the Island's business community. "We are pleased to appoint Helen to the position of Chief Executive. She brings a wealth of commercial expertise and a genuine connection to the Island that will be vital in delivering our new objectives. As an independent and standalone organisation, our priority remains championing Island businesses of all sizes. Helen's leadership will ensure our members continue to receive the highest level of support and representation. We would also like to thank Rob Johnson for the excellent foundation he has built during his tenure."

Helen will formally take over from outgoing CEO Rob Johnson following the Isle of Wight Chamber Business Awards in September. ■

BRITISH CHAMBERS

MANAGE YOUR BUSINESS ENERGY WITH CONFIDENCE

Running a small business has never been easy. Many are navigating fluctuating energy bills, higher operating costs, and inflation.

When it comes to managing bills, a smart meter can help track your energy use and identify where you might be able to save some money on energy costs. That can help you have a better idea of what you will be spending on utility costs. Smart meters aren't just for homes; they can benefit your business too. In fact, 9 out of 10 small business owners are happy with their smart meter.*

Smart meters are the next generation of gas and electricity meters being rolled out in homes and small businesses across Great Britain by energy suppliers. Your energy supplier will provide you with access to free and regular information on your energy use, either via an app, an online platform, or other data tools. Your business could also be eligible for a smart meter display, which

lets you see and track your energy use in near real-time.

Whether or not you are eligible for one, free data from your supplier can help with budgeting for future bills and help you to identify ways to reduce your energy use. A smart meter takes automatic readings of your gas and electricity use and sends them directly to your energy supplier. It means you no longer need to read a meter and send the figures yourself, giving you more time to focus on other jobs. Getting a smart meter installed also means the end of estimated bills. A smart meter records exactly how much energy you use so that your supplier can bill you accurately. This helps you to budget and gives you greater control over one of your most important expenses.

Installation normally takes about two hours, and you can arrange it in advance to fit around your schedule so that your business isn't disrupted. Your energy supplier may even offer installations in the evening or on a Saturday. Whether

you rent or own your business premises, you could still be eligible. Businesses with 10 employees or less could be eligible for a smart meter.

Go to: www.britishchambers.org.uk/smartmeter to find out whether you are eligible. ■

*Research conducted by Yonder, November 2025

3 benefits for getting a smart meter for your small business:

- **making bills simpler**
- **goodbye to estimated billing**
- **manage your cashflow and budget**

IDEAS THAT TAKE FLIGHT

If you've ever settled into an aircraft seat, plugged in your headphones or adjusted the mood lighting during a long-haul flight, there's every chance you've experienced a little piece of Isle of Wight engineering without ever knowing it.

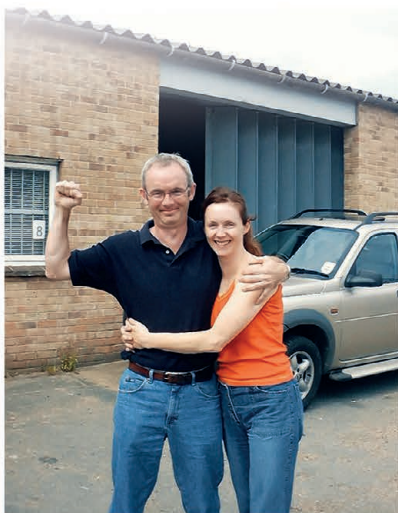


Hidden behind a hedge in Calbourne sits IFPL. It isn't a household name, yet its technology flies on aircraft across the world, improving the passenger experience for millions of travellers every year. It's exactly the kind of company that Geoff Underwood OBE believes deserves greater recognition, not because of the accolades it has collected, impressive though they are, but because it represents an often-overlooked side of the Island's economy.

"The Isle of Wight is still viewed through the lens of tourism," he says. "Tourism is hugely important, of course, but there are also dozens of technology companies here employing thousands of people in highly skilled, high-value jobs. They're often hidden away, but they're doing remarkable things." And few businesses illustrate that point better than IFPL itself.

Today, the company employs around 70 people across two Island sites, exports worldwide, and is part of the supply chain for many of the world's leading aircraft manufacturers and airlines. Along the way it has collected three Queen's (now King's) Awards for Enterprise, while Geoff himself was recently awarded an OBE for services to the technology industry and his charitable work with WightAID, recognition that came as a complete surprise. "When the letter arrived, I was absolutely taken aback," he admits. "It's an incredible honour."

Despite those achievements, Geoff still talks about IFPL's beginnings with the enthusiasm of someone describing a favourite hobby rather than the foundations of an international business. "I've always been an inventor, and I've still got notebooks full of ideas." Not every idea made it into production. Some were simply 'solutions looking for problems', but over the years those notebooks became a way of capturing opportunities, refining concepts and solving real-world challenges. One conversation with British Airways would prove to be the catalyst that changed everything.





The airline's engineers explained that the headphone sockets fitted to aircraft seats were constantly failing. Rather than simply improve the existing design, Geoff went back to first principles, engineering a socket capable of surviving around 100,000 insertions instead of the industry norm of around 5,000. It was a deceptively simple solution to an expensive problem, and one that would ultimately become the cornerstone of the business.

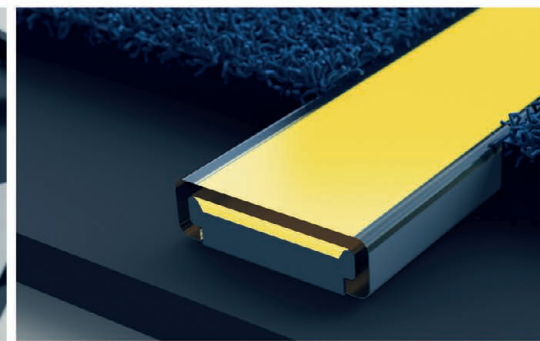
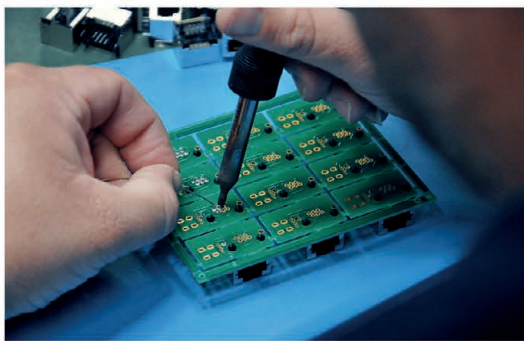
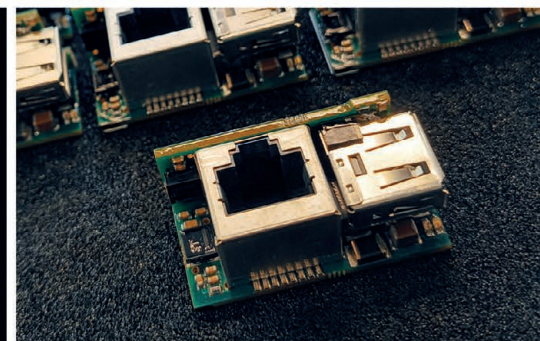
When Geoff founded IFPL in 1996, he was still employed by GEC Marconi, having been given permission to start his own company while remaining on the payroll during a period when there was little work available. The fledgling business operated from a spare bedroom at home, while manufacturing took place in the family garage. Geoff's first production team consisted of his parents and his son, who assembled the first thousand units by hand. It wasn't until a major order arrived from aerospace giant Rockwell Collins that the business truly outgrew its humble beginnings. Suddenly the garage was no longer big enough. A move into a small industrial unit in Newport followed, along with IFPL's first employees, before contracts with Panasonic and Thales cemented the company's position within the global aviation industry.

During the Covid pandemic, when international travel ground almost to a halt, aviation businesses across the world faced an uncertain future. For IFPL, the impact was immediate. "It was like someone switched the lights off." Airlines stopped spending overnight and, despite carefully managing reserves, difficult

decisions had to be made to protect the business. Yet even in those circumstances, Geoff saw opportunity where others might have stood still. "Our view was that the best form of defence was attack."

Rather than retreat, IFPL acquired aircraft lighting specialist Cobalt Aerospace in 2021, bringing both the technology and manufacturing to the Isle of Wight. Many commercial aircraft still rely on ageing fluorescent cabin lighting, and IFPL's innovative LED replacement system allows airlines to modernise their cabins overnight without replacing existing wiring, giving operators a quick, cost-effective upgrade while creating a completely different passenger experience through programmable mood lighting.

For Geoff, though, success has never been measured purely by turnover. Having joined the Isle of Wight Chamber of Commerce shortly after establishing the business, he went on to serve on its board before becoming President. The role gave him a broader understanding of the Island's business community and reinforced his determination to champion the technology sector alongside tourism. "There are some incredible businesses here. People don't always see them, but they're making products that are used all over the world." ■



Taking small steps towards positive impact

Every business can have a positive impact, you do not need to have everything figured out to start. By taking small, practical steps and bringing others on the journey, our collective influence on the Island can become something truly special.



Here are three initiatives we introduced at NOSY.

They are relatively small commitments, but they have delivered a big, measurable impact on our business. We hope they spark a few ideas for your own organisation.

01 – START MEASURING

We have been measuring our carbon footprint for four years now, but this year we invested in Seedling, a software platform that helps us track and reduce our environmental impact. It integrates directly into our accounting platform (Xero) and costs us around £1,000 a year. Because we had clearer data, we were able to make changes that dropped our total carbon emissions from 23.6 tonnes to 18.46 tonnes.

Try this: You can start for free by measuring your monthly electricity usage and business mileage. Once you have those raw numbers, make a simple plan, outlining how you can reduce them. This approach will lower your carbon footprint and save your business money at the same time.

02 – GIVE IN MORE THAN ONE WAY

1% for the Planet is a global initiative where businesses commit 1% of their annual sales to approved environmental organisations. We meet this commitment through a mix of direct donations, volunteering and in-kind creative support. Over the past three years, we have supported the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust. We helped the Trust strengthen its storytelling through photography and video, giving their team the tools to clearly communicate the importance of local conservation.

Try this: Choose one organisation you genuinely care about and decide what you can offer consistently: whether that is money, time, skills or access to your audience.

03 – USE YOUR WIDER INFLUENCE

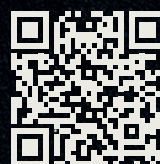
A business influences much more than its own operational footprint. You also influence your clients, your suppliers and your wider network. To better understand that wider impact, we introduced a client impact methodology that assesses organisations across five key areas: intent and values, action and operations, impact and measurement, accountability and governance and transparency and communication. This framework helps us think carefully about the work we take on, the questions we ask and how our communication can support positive change.

Try this: Add one sustainability question to your supplier reviews, client onboarding or project briefs. Small prompts can shift better decisions into everyday work.

Start with one practical action

When it comes to improving your impact, the biggest trap is waiting until you have a flawless plan before taking action. Some action, however big or small, is always better than taking no action at all. We encourage you to pick one area where you can realistically make a change today and simply get started.

Scan the QR code to read our full 2025 Impact Report.



UNLOCKING THE UK'S HIDDEN BOARDROOM

The UK's workforce is ageing, yet many of the people with the deepest business experience are being overlooked at precisely the time small businesses need practical guidance.

The Centre for Ageing Better notes that 1 in 3 UK workers is now aged over 50 and argues that the UK is wasting a huge amount of talent and experience because older workers are prevented from staying in or re-entering work. The research also highlighted that nearly half a million people aged 50-64 are out of work but would like to be working.

Britain is sitting on a huge reserve of business knowledge and leadership experience that is not being used.



The Hidden Boardroom

Thousands of former managing directors, finance directors, sales leaders, operations experts and entrepreneurs leave full-time employment every year. Their knowledge disappears from the economy just as small businesses need guidance the most.

According to the UK Government (Gov. UK), there are 5.64 million businesses with between 1 and 49 employees, which represent 99.2% of all businesses. They employ 13.1 million people or 47% of private sector employees and generate a turnover of £1.88 trillion or 34% of private sector turnover. 95% of businesses employ fewer than 10 people!

Simon Harrop, founder of Real Wisdom, a group of highly experienced small business mentors based on the Isle of Wight, recognises the opportunity. "I started my first company straight out of university. I was full of enthusiasm and energy but lacked experience and made mistakes. At the time there was a government initiative called Business Link (axed in 2011) which connected small businesses with experienced advisors. The woman assigned to me was fantastic. She had experienced nearly all the challenges that I encountered and was able to calmly share what had worked and what hadn't. She was able to recognise patterns in all kinds of situations and my business thrived as a result."

Three out of every four UK businesses have no employees other than the owner(s). This means the UK's entrepreneurial economy is driven largely by individuals and very small teams rather than large organisations. Small businesses are not a small part of the UK economy; they are the UK economy.

This supports the argument that experienced professionals in their 50s, 60s and beyond, helping and advising small and start-up businesses, can have a meaningful cumulative effect on employment, local economies and productivity, even if each venture remains relatively small.

Simon goes on to say, "I believe passionately that the knowledge gained from decades of building businesses, leading teams, overcoming setbacks and creating growth, should remain available to the next generation of entrepreneurs and business owners". "The Real Wisdom mission is to unlock the economic value of experience by creating a network of senior business mentors who help growing businesses to succeed in ways that are highly affordable and appropriate to that business' particular needs. For the experienced mentors, it provides a sense of purpose, stimulating connection with a younger generation and perhaps some very modest income to top up any pensions."

If the model proves successful on the Isle of Wight, Simon's vision is a network of Real Wisdom business mentors up and down the UK.

For more information:
www.realwisdom.org.uk



Island talent succeeds when Island employers invest in it.

**With HTP, you can recruit, train and grow
apprentices with confidence.**

Give young people the chance to learn, work and build their future here.

HTP works with employers across the Isle of Wight to recruit, train and support apprentices, making it easier to give someone a real start.

Apprenticeships give Island employers a supported way to develop young local talent – helping young people take their first steps into work, while businesses grow the people they need.

Every business needs people with energy, commitment and the right skills.

**NEW
INCENTIVES**

INCENTIVE 01:

GET UP TO £3,000
WHEN YOU HIRE AN ELIGIBLE YOUNG
APPRENTICE

INCENTIVE 02:

FULLY FUNDED TRAINING
FOR ELIGIBLE APPRENTICES AGED 16-24*

INCENTIVE 03:

ONLY 5% EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTION
FOR APPRENTICES AGED 25+*

INCENTIVE 04:

NO EMPLOYER NATIONAL INSURANCE
FOR QUALIFYING APPRENTICES UNDER 25

Find out more at http.ac.uk 01983 533926 | info@http.ac.uk

*Subject to eligibility, employer status, programme and start date. Funding and incentives apply in England only.

IWChamber BUSINESS EXPO2026

Sponsored by



EXPO THROUGH MY EYES

By Ethan Day
(IW College student)

Having never been to Expo before, I wasn't quite sure what to expect, but it quickly became clear why it's such an important date in the Isle of Wight business calendar.

Held at Ryde School on a beautiful, sunny day and sponsored by WightFibre, Expo '26 brought together businesses from across the Island to showcase their work and connect with the local community.

The event was open to everyone, which meant people

*Continued
on page 16*



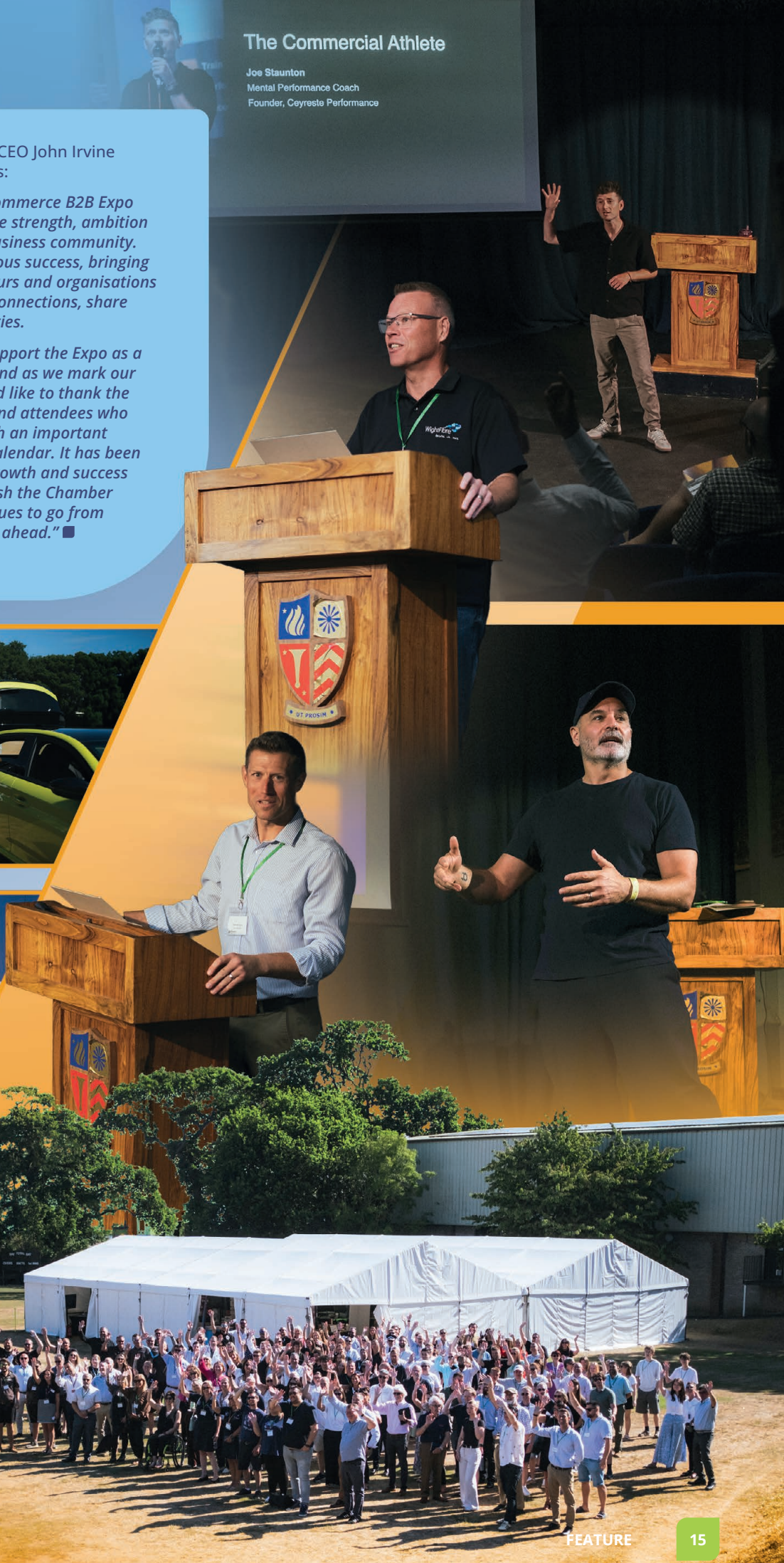
The Commercial Athlete

Joe Staunton
Mental Performance Coach
Founder, Ceyreste Performance

Headline sponsor WightFibre's CEO John Irvine was proud of this year's success:

"The Isle of Wight Chamber of Commerce B2B Expo has once again demonstrated the strength, ambition and innovation of the Island's business community. This year's event was a tremendous success, bringing together businesses, entrepreneurs and organisations from across the Island to build connections, share ideas and create new opportunities."

WightFibre has been proud to support the Expo as a sponsor for the past ten years, and as we mark our final year of sponsorship, I would like to thank the Chamber, exhibitors, speakers and attendees who have helped make the event such an important fixture in the Island's business calendar. It has been a privilege to play a part in its growth and success over the past decade, and we wish the Chamber every success as the Expo continues to go from strength to strength in the years ahead." ■



could wander around, ask questions and discover products, services and career opportunities they may never have come across otherwise. One stand that really stood out was the tropical beach display created by Lifeline Systems and PC Consultants. Complete with a beach hut serving ice cream, it brought plenty of smiles and showed how creative businesses can be when engaging with visitors.

Outside, Tesla's electric vehicle display attracted lots of attention, especially the Cybertruck. It was fascinating to see such an innovative vehicle up close and learn more about the latest developments in electric transport.

What impressed me most, though, was the atmosphere throughout the sports hall and marquee. Everywhere I looked, people were talking, networking and sharing ideas. Business owners, employees and visitors all seemed genuinely interested in making new connections and supporting one another. It was a great opportunity to experience the Island's business community first-hand, and I came away with a much better understanding of the opportunities available right here on my doorstep. ■





Expo 2026 once again demonstrated the strength and diversity of the Isle of Wight business community. Despite the soaring temperatures, Ryde School was buzzing throughout the day, with exhibitors, visitors and speakers making the most of every opportunity to connect, share ideas and build new relationships.

From packed speaker sessions to conversations across the exhibition, there was a real sense of energy and collaboration. Our thanks go to everyone who exhibited, attended and contributed, and particularly to headline sponsor WightFibre for their continued support in helping us bring Island businesses together and make Expo a success. ■



THE SWEET CHILLI

2018, I walked into a bar just north of Kings Cross station. What was a dodgy part of town when I first moved to London in 1998 was now trendy and vibrant. I spotted the 'private party' sign and walked up the steep and echoey wooden stairwell.

My fintech client had grown rapidly to 60 employees, and I could hear the function room buzzing in conversation. I was one of the first hires back in 2014, a part-time or fractional finance director building and supporting the company's financial affairs.

At the start, I was living in London, but in 2015 I moved to the Island with my growing family. So, I was mostly working remotely, only heading into the London office for matters we couldn't resolve online, like a HMRC audit. Skype and 'shall I share my screen' were my communications tools of choice.

I scanned the room for familiar faces. I knew the founders and early team, but the room was filled with many new faces I couldn't place. I was wishing everyone had a name badge so I could match faces to the names I knew from payroll and various email threads.

After catching up with one of the founders, I walked across to the bar to get a top-up.

"Hi, I'm Nick", our PR lead, whom I recognised from LinkedIn.

"Hi, I'm Ciaran," and assuming he didn't know me continued with "I've been working with Greg as his finance director since 2014 when they built the initial prototy ..."

"Wait a sec ... are you the Sweet Chilli guy?!"

"Huh?"

"You sent us the bottles of Sweet Chilli Sauce, right?"

"Ah ... yes, I did!"

With a dose of baby-brain, I'd forgotten that the prior Christmas I sent bottles of Sweet Chilli Sauce to all my clients, one for each member of their teams. Across my portfolio of clients, it was almost 200 bottles from an Isle of Wight producer. I hadn't expected thanks, but I got some lovely random emails and reactions by email and text. All the bottles got snapped up. I knew they would. The Sweet Chilli Sauce with Garlic combines sweetness with a gentle heat and rich garlic flavour. Everyone wanted one.

As the evening went on, others joined our widening circle, and almost every time I was being introduced - "Ciaran's the Sweet Chilli guy!"

"Sweet Chilli guy?! Ah ... the Sweet Chilli! It's amazing with hard cheese. We still buy it!"

Even the chairman, a City investor and more formal in every way, leaned in and quietly disclosed

"I'd like to thank you for the Sweet Chilli Sauce. I wasn't sure if we were only allowed one bottle, but under

pressure from my kids, I took a second one. I trust that was OK! My teenage son stirs some into his porridge."

The conversation stayed on Sweet Chilli Sauce for the next 30 minutes, and throughout all the exchanges, I shared my personal favourite was Sweet Chilli Sauce on a fish finger sandwich.

"I must give that a try!"

With the party still going strong, I had to leave to catch the 9.00 pm train from Waterloo and make the last Fastcat. But as I walked back to the tube station, I thought about a friend who builds brands. She often reminded me that personal brand values are set by what people say about you when you have left the room. In this instance, I had no doubt most conversations weren't about my finance, accounting, or Excel skills! ■



A BEARY MERRY
CHRISTMAS

Book your Christmas

MINGLE JINGLE

AT THE

BEAR Lookout

DECEMBER 2-4 PM



wildheart
animal isle of wight
sanctuary

bear.lookout@wildheartanimalsanctuary.org

Celebrating Success Together

The Isle of Wight Chamber Business Awards simply wouldn't be possible without the incredible support of our sponsors.

Each year, businesses from across the Island come together to celebrate the people, organisations and achievements that make our business community so special. While the finalists and winners rightly take centre stage, behind every successful awards programme is a group of businesses committed to investing in the Island's future.

Our sponsors do far more than put their names alongside an award category. They demonstrate a genuine commitment to recognising excellence, championing innovation and celebrating the ambition that continues to drive the Isle of Wight economy forward.

From long-established organisations to growing local businesses, each sponsor shares a belief that success should be recognised and that businesses thrive when they support one another. Their investment helps create an evening that not only celebrates achievement but also inspires others to aim higher, think bigger and continue pushing the boundaries of what's possible.

The Awards are also one of the Chamber's biggest opportunities to bring the Island's business community together. They provide a chance to reconnect with



IW CHAMBER
Business Awards 2026


RED FUNNEL
THE ORIGINAL ISLE OF WIGHT FERRIES

lifeline
alarms & security
services

 **consultants**

 **Cherry Godfrey**

RPL
CONSTRUCTION

 **GLANVILLES
DAMANT**
LEGAL SERVICES

 **MOORE**

YOKOGAWA 

colleagues, strengthen relationships, meet new contacts and celebrate alongside businesses of every size and sector. That sense of collaboration and shared success is something our sponsors play a vital role in making possible.

This year's Awards promise to be particularly special as we gather in the unique surroundings of Bembridge Fort. It's a fitting venue for an evening dedicated to recognising resilience, innovation and excellence, and we're delighted that so many organisations have chosen to be part of the journey.

To every one of our category sponsors, thank you. Thank you for believing in the value of recognising success. Thank you for helping us showcase the very best of Island business. Most importantly, thank you for continuing to invest in the businesses, entrepreneurs and individuals who make our Island such a vibrant place to live and work.

When businesses support businesses, everyone benefits. Together we're not only celebrating today's achievements, but we're helping to inspire tomorrow's success.

We look forward to seeing you all at Bembridge Fort on the 11th September and wish all the nominees good luck. ■



IW CHAMBER
**Business
Awards** 2026



Isle of
Wight

JOEDAN
WINDOWS & DOORS

Gurit

IFPL



Employer Standards for Careers Education

Shaping the workforce of tomorrow

A free online tool that helps you have more impact with young people, teachers and parents.

The recommendations and tailored resources save you time and help you learn from best practice.

Solent
CAREERS HUB

CAREERS &
ENTERPRISE
COMPANY



How it works

- Complete the self-assessment in just 25 minutes
- Receive real-time results
- Compare with industry peers
- Track your progress
- Gain insight and ideas to improve

You will receive

- An evidence pack underpinning each Standard
- Inspirational case studies from other businesses
- Curated resources to improve the quality of your careers education outreach

Strengthen talent pipelines

Close skills gaps

Increase diversity in the workplace

Scan the QR code to find out how the tool can benefit your business



Island Catering Equipment Co



48% Discount

iVario Pro

**TRY BEFORE YOU BUY - 100% RISK FREE
30 DAYS TRIAL AT YOUR SITE**



**Rational Oven
iCombi Pro
6 Grid, Electric
£5,187**

Gas, £6,180



**Rational Oven
iCombi Pro
10 Grid, Electric
£7,282**

Gas, £8,442



**Rational Oven
iCombi Pro
20 Grid, Electric
£12,305**

Gas, £13,897

Prices are Excluding VAT.





JUST FOR YOU BRONZE PATRON SPOTLIGHT

DELIVERING MORE FOR HOLIDAY HOME OWNERS ON THE ISLE OF WIGHT

The holiday letting market is more competitive than ever, meaning property owners need more than just an online listing to achieve the best results. Success comes from combining expert local knowledge with innovative technology, strategic marketing and exceptional guest experiences.

At Just For You Holiday Homes, we're committed to helping holiday home owners maximise the potential of their properties while taking the stress out of day-to-day management. By continually investing in our services and embracing the latest technology, we're able to deliver outstanding results for both our homeowners and their guests.

Most recently, we've introduced a new property management and booking platform, allowing us to manage bookings more efficiently, optimise pricing in real time and increase the visibility of our properties across multiple booking channels. The impact has been immediate.

Since making the switch, we've experienced an impressive 57% increase in bookings, while our portfolio is now achieving higher occupancy levels and stronger average daily rates than the wider Isle of Wight holiday let market. These results demonstrate how combining the right technology with a proactive management approach can make a significant difference to a property's performance.

Of course, technology is only part of the story. Every holiday home is different, which is why we take the time to understand each property and its owners' goals. From creating attractive listings and managing guest communications to coordinating professional housekeeping and maintaining five-star standards, our experienced team is dedicated to delivering a seamless service from start to finish.

Sustainability also remains an important part of how we operate. From using eco-friendly cleaning products wherever possible to encouraging responsible property management practices, we're committed to reducing our environmental impact while maintaining the exceptional

standards that homeowners and guests have come to expect.

Whether you're looking to let your holiday home for the first time or you're considering switching management companies, choosing a team that combines local expertise with proven performance can make all the difference.

If you'd like to discover how your holiday home could benefit from higher occupancy, stronger nightly rates and professional management, we'd love to hear from you. Contact Justine at Just For You Holiday Homes today for a no-obligation conversation and find out how we can help your property achieve even more. ■

justine@justforyouholidayhomes.co.uk
www.justforyouholidayhomes.co.uk

"Their in-depth knowledge of holiday letting persuaded me that this was the right team for me. And then their constant support, communications and 'get it done' attitude have assured me I made the right decision! Justine and her team have been brilliant and I'm relieved to have our house in their hands."





COWES WEEK

BUSINESS NETWORKING MAKES WAVES AT COWES WEEK

The Isle of Wight Chamber of Commerce enjoyed a fantastic day of networking during Cowes Week, bringing businesses together for both its Business Brunch and afternoon Cowes Week Party at the iconic Island Sailing Club.

Set against the spectacular backdrop of the Solent, guests had the opportunity to catch up with familiar faces, make valuable new connections and enjoy one of the best vantage points of the racing from the Club's famous terrace.

From the first coffee of the morning through to the afternoon celebrations, the events provided the perfect opportunity for businesses from across the Island and beyond to come together in a relaxed setting, proving once again that some of the best business conversations happen outside the office.

The Chamber would like to thank the Island Sailing Club and everyone who attended and helped make the day such a success. A special thank you goes to PC Consultants, whose generous sponsorship helped make both events possible. Their continued support of the Chamber and the Island's business community is greatly appreciated and plays an important role in bringing businesses together throughout the year. And a big well done to Jonathan Thornton, who climbed the mast for the Ellen MacArthur Cancer Trust. ■





The Summer has been back-to-back flagship Chamber events. Look back on the Chamber's schedule, and a clear narrative emerges: these big moments are an opportunity to meet the Island's decision-makers. Sustainable success is rarely built in isolation. You 'achieve more than you could alone' through connection, understanding, and collaboration.

That journey began in July with a wonderful annual networking afternoon tea at Quarr Abbey. Set against the Abbey's striking brick architecture and scenic grounds, members navigated the summer heatwave over chilled Pimms, elderflower lemonade, a homegrown buffet, and visits with the famous resident pigs. The relaxed atmosphere provided the perfect backdrop for informal conversations that laid the foundation for referrals and long-term partnerships.

Then, the pace changed as the Chamber hosted Expo, the Island's premier B2B event. Hosted at Ryde School and made possible by WightFibre's support, the event brought together hundreds of businesses to meet the people behind the emails, shake hands with clients, and learn more about new supply chains, turning initial introductions into commercial collaborations.

We carried that collective spirit straight into Cowes Week. This year celebrated its 200th anniversary, meaning 200 years of Island businesses working together to host this historic, world-class event. Cowes, and the whole Island, should be exceptionally proud of this achievement. This year's event was made possible thanks to support from PC Consultants, which allowed the Chamber to open the top-floor Centenary Room at the Island Sailing Club for the first Cowes Week Brunch. This rooftop venue gave attendees a front-row vista of the racing across the Solent. This exclusive access continued as

members moved into the Terrace Bar for a locally sourced buffet, bottomless bar, and a bespoke Mermaid Gin station, proving that premium hospitality and a one-of-a-kind view don't distract the Chamber from its mission in collaboration.

The pinnacle of bringing businesses together came through our connections with Hampshire Chamber of Commerce and Dorset Chamber of Commerce. We led by example by building bridges with our neighbouring Chambers to host the first South Coast 'Networking With The Neighbours' event. Together we brought 70 businesses from three chambers across the Solent. The Novotel Hotel in Southampton hosted this milestone business lunch without borders, made possible by sponsorship from Red Funnel. The feedback was glowing, and we look forward to watching these relationships grow.

Every handshake at Quarr, deal struck at Expo, connection made at Cowes, and partnership forged in Southampton forms part of a single, continuous trajectory. These flagship events provide the opportunity for local businesses to innovate, scale, and thrive. And before we look forward to winter, we have the crown jewel of our business calendar: the Isle of Wight Chamber Annual Business Awards. Good luck to all those who are shortlisted, but everyone there on the night is part of something much bigger - an Island worth celebrating. ■







TURNING A BUSINESS IDEA INTO REALITY



When Carrie Almond came up with the idea of opening a bridal boutique, she knew she had found a gap in the market. Having already invested a significant amount of her own money, she needed one final boost to get the business off the ground. That came in the form of an Isle of Wight Lottery loan.

Carrie had first heard about the scheme after reading about other local businesses that had received funding in Island Business magazine. She applied, armed with a strong business plan and a clear vision for what would become 1840 by Wed & Prosper. The loan funded the final set-up costs, including fitting out the shop and investing in the right bridal collections. "It enabled me to buy the stock we needed and create the shop I had imagined," Carrie explains. "Without that investment, the business wouldn't have happened."

Looking back, Carrie says having access to the funding was one of the key reasons the business got off to such a strong start. "In bridal retail, having the right designers and enough choice for customers is so important. To do that, you need the right investment." Since opening, Wed & Prosper has continued to grow. The business has moved into larger premises, expanded its range to include bridesmaids' dresses

and prom wear, and has been recognised with a major national bridal industry award.

Another exciting development came earlier this year when Hannah Clarke joined the business as co-owner. "We've grown as a business and personally within the industry," says Carrie. "Bringing Hannah into the business has helped us go from strength to strength."

Earlier this year, Wed & Prosper reached another important milestone by repaying the Isle of Wight Lottery loan in full. "It felt amazing. I actually got a bit emotional because it marked such a big achievement," Carrie encourages other Island businesses to consider applying for an Isle of Wight Lottery loan if they have a strong business idea. "It's not an easy process, and you need a solid business plan. Presenting your idea feels a bit like being on Dragons' Den, but it's absolutely worth it. Having experienced businesspeople believe in your idea gives you real confidence."

Reflecting on the journey so far, Carrie sums up the impact of the loan simply: "It was life changing. It took a 3 am idea and turned it into a successful business." ■

SIGN UP TODAY!

ISLEOFWIGHTLOTTERY.COM/JOIN-NOW

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 £1million into the Island's economy since 2001.

OUR BIG SUMMER LOTTERY WINNER

Huge congratulations to Kim Comer, who won the summer 5k draw recently.

Sharon and Megan went to present her with the big cheque, and she was thrilled, saying, "Winning £5000 means that we will be able to go on holiday in September; we were looking to go on a cruise to the Greek Islands and will now be able to book.

I have played the Isle of Wight lottery since 2014, shortly after we moved to the Island from Weston-Super-Mare to be near family. I have always supported the lottery as it helps local businesses and good causes. I am over the moon" ■



WIN UP TO
£10,000
BY PLAYING THE
ISLE OF WIGHT LOTTERY,
FROM **£1** PER WEEK

Every Friday we give away £1,000,
plus another ten £100 prizes!

Don't forget our £10,000 Monster Draw,
as well as our £5,000 prizes twice a year!

Playing supports local businesses through
interest free loans to create and sustain
jobs on the Isle of Wight

★ JOIN NOW ★

Sign up at isleofwightlottery.com



IW CHAMBER NEW MEMBERS

@theSTUDIO

Sarah Moore
atthestudio.uk
info@atthestudio.uk
07824630232



Lane Aerial Media Ltd

Jason Lane
laneaerialmedia.com
jason@laneaerialmedia.com
07533769373



Air Wear IOW

Claire Holley
airweariow.fullcollection.com
claireeholley@gmail.com
07871056369



Real Wisdom

Simon Harrop
realwisdom.org.uk
simon@realwisdom.org.uk
07899 916331



Durman Electrical Ltd

Tom Durman
durman-electrical.co.uk
info@durman-electrical.co.uk
01983 655026



Wight Drainage LTD

Dean Scott
wightdrainage.co.uk
office@wightdrainage.co.uk
07506 458407



The First Hub

Tina Maretic
firsthub.org
tina@firsthub.org
07898893449



Wight Premium Driveways

Stephen Rosen
hello@wightpremiumdriveways.co.uk
01983 896894



Being a member of the Isle of Wight Chamber of Commerce is a great business decision!

Join the CHAMBER!

www.iwchamber.co.uk

Call 01983 520777

IW Chamber members have access to these four essential services – all included in your membership fee.
Plus many more benefits are also available.

- ChamberHealth & Safety
- ChamberHR
- ChamberTax
- ChamberLegal

**DON'T DELAY
JOIN TODAY!**

NETWORKING EVENTS

COFFEE & CAKE

17th September 2026

Café Isola, Newport.

3:30 pm – 5:00 pm

IW Chamber Members - FREE

£10 (non-members)

Join us for informal networking, coffee and cake.

NETWORKING BREAKFAST AT MOUNTBATTEN

2nd October 2026

John Cheverton Centre Café,
Mountbatten Hospice, Newport.

7:30 am – 9:30 am

£20 per person

Join members of the IW Chamber on Friday for another morning of connections at Mountbatten's colourful John Cheverton Centre Café. Kickstart your working day with networking over hot drinks, and business growth during a delicious full English breakfast.

We are delighted to welcome guest speaker Becky McGregor, CEO of Mountbatten Hospice, who will highlight the vital work the hospice does and the events that businesses can get involved with.

Brighten your network, fuel your business growth, and directly support Mountbatten's essential mission - all in one motivational morning.

NETWORKING BREAKFAST AT THE SEAVIEW HOTEL

6th November 2026

The Seaview Hotel, Seaview

7:30 am – 9:30 am

Location: Seaview Hotel, Seaview

£20 per person

The IW Chamber is once again delighted to return to a firm member favourite this November for our next Networking Breakfast. This November, we open the doors to the bistro at The Seaview Hotel.

Renowned for its heritage, exceptional hospitality, and Michelin Bib Gourmand-accredited dining, the hotel will be serving up a superb, high-quality morning feast to kickstart your day. Connect with the Chamber's business community in this charming coastal venue, grow your business over fantastic food, and share your latest business news over hot drinks on a November morning.

Spaces at this popular venue always fill up quickly, so secure your seat today for exceptional November networking.

EVENT: COFFEE & MINCE PIES

19th November 2026

Café Isola, Newport.

3:30 pm – 5:00 pm

IW Chamber members - FREE

£10 (non-members)

Join us for informal networking and an early mince pie

NETWORKING BREAKFAST AT THE ROYAL HOTEL

4th December 2026

The Royal Hotel, Ventnor

7:30 am – 09:30 am

£20 per person

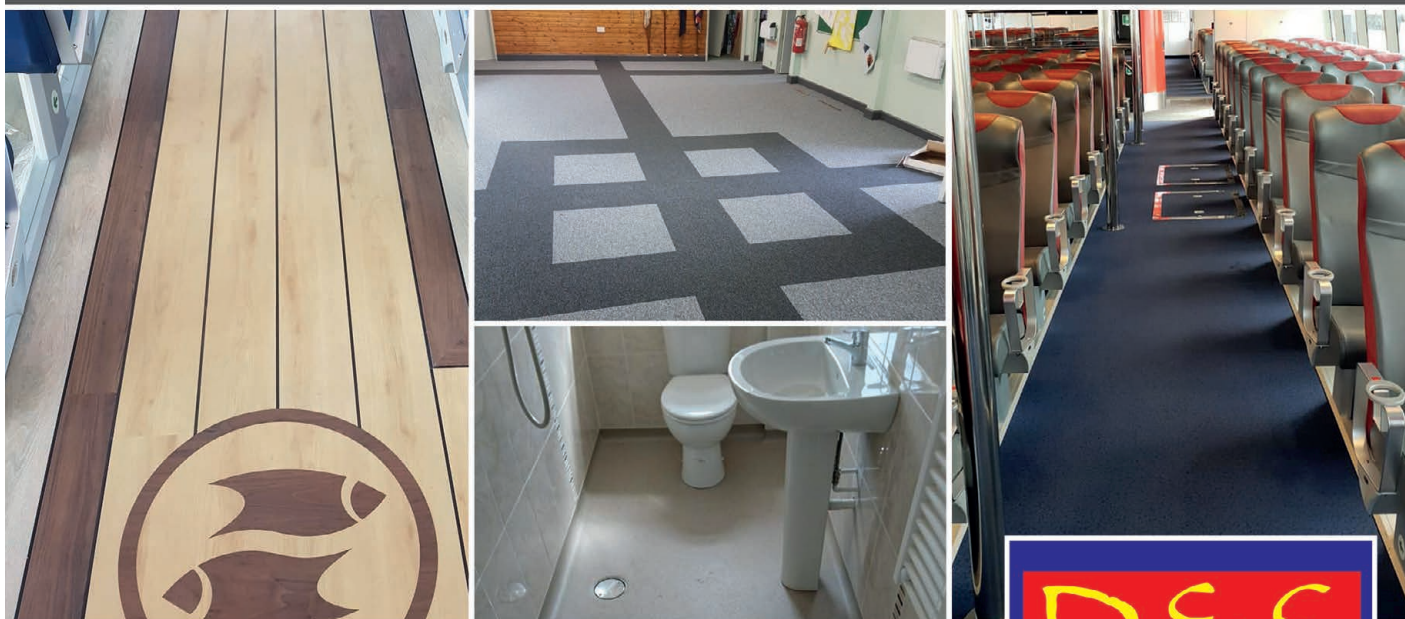
The days are getting colder and the nights are getting long, so get ready to feel more festive at the Isle of Wight Chamber of Commerce Networking Breakfast at the award-winning Royal Hotel.

With frosty views of the stunning gardens and onto the English Channel, this historic building has long been a firm favourite of members. Join us and the membership for one of the fixtures of the networking calendar. Make connections over hot drinks, build business over breakfast, and leave knowing where you stand in the Island's business community.

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



Flooring for all your commercial needs



The Island's CARPET & FLOORING SUPERSTORE

12 Hurstake, Riverway Industrial Estate, Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 5UU

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK • FREE ESTIMATES ISLANDWIDE • FREE PARKING

Mon – Fri 9am – 6pm, Sat 9am – 5pm, Sun 10am – 4pm

01983 533150
www.dscarpets.co.uk

Rugs

Luxury
Vinyl Tiles

Wood & Natural
Flooring

Vinyls

Carpets

D&S
CARPETS

BUILDING 41 SPOTLIGHT

Creative Island is the cultural development agency for the Isle of Wight, championing the Island's creative and cultural sector. Currently working on **CAN YOU HEAR US?** An Island-wide, 6-week celebration from 11th Sept - 24th Oct 2026 that celebrates all that the Island is.

“Building 41 has allowed us to collaborate with other organisations from other sectors, fuelling the narrative that creativity is everywhere, and B41 nurtures that.” **Find out more at canyouhearus.uk**



“Being able to connect, support and amplify the Island's creative community from Building 41 as our homebase has been exactly what we've needed.”

Join the B41 community.
Find your perfect workspace today!

@innovationwight.co.uk Innovation Wight 07976 009394



Sculptglass - Proud to help Island Businesses celebrate the wins since 2002



sculptglass.co.uk
01983 523618



EXPERT LEGAL ADVICE YOU CAN TRUST

ELDRIDGES

SOLICITORS

ESTABLISHED 1832

Accredited
CONVEYANCING
QUALITY SCHEME
(CQS)

Accredited
LEXCEL
PRACTICE MANAGEMENT
STANDARD

youth trust

Newport: 01983 524741 | Freshwater: 01983 752492
Email: info@eldridges.co.uk | www.eldridges.co.uk

MEDINA

ELECTRONICS DESIGN CONSULTANCY LTD

Design • Prototype • Assembly • Test

- **End-to-End Design:** Concept to full life cycle development.
- **Rapid Prototyping:** Fast-turn-in-house assembly & testing.
- **Analysis & Debug:** Expert root cause analysis & hardware recovery.
- **Legacy Support:** Obsolescence management & reverse engineering.
- **Specialist Systems:** IoT, BMS, Remote Monitoring.
- **Custom Design:** Bespoke products, instrumentation & control.

Email: neil@medina-electronics.co.uk Call 0771 737 5917



UNIT 8 THE BROOK, NEWPORT

01983 249300
www.rstyres.co.uk

Claire Beasley

Court & Spark Consulting

HELPING BUSINESSES FIND AND DEVELOP EXCEPTIONAL LEADERS

Executive Search

Executive Coaching

Board Facilitation

cb@courtandsparkconsulting.com
www.courtandsparkconsulting.com



01983 822615
WWW.WPRECRUITMENT.CO.UK

**TEMPORARY, CONTRACT
& PERMANENT STAFF**
ALL INDUSTRIES SUPPLIED

Recruiting for the Island since 1989

Rebecca Taylor DC FMCA
McTimoney Chiropractor
07973 775097

Rosie Fox
www.holisticsanctuary.co.uk
07714 310725

13 York Avenue, East Cowes, PO32 6AF

This is an ad for winners!

Be recognised for what you've achieved



Business awards are a powerful way to drive success, and I have been helping companies develop award winning entries for over 30 years.

90% reaching award finals, with **72% receiving awards** at regional, national and international level.

Giving my clients a distinct advantage
dalehowarth.com

ADVERTISE HERE

for only £75+VAT

Email: amber.beard@iwchamber.co.uk

IW CHAMBER PATRONS

GOLD | SILVER | BRONZE | LOTTERY

SILVER PATRONS

SILVER PATRON

Gurit

SILVER PATRON

HTP
APPRENTICESHIP
COLLEGE

SILVER PATRON

IFPL

SILVER PATRON

pc consultants

SILVER PATRON

RED FUNNEL
THE ISLE OF WIGHT SPECIALIST

SILVER PATRON

Vestas®

SILVER PATRON

VIKOMA

SILVER PATRON

WightFibre
because we care

SILVER PATRON

BLACKGANG
Land of
Imagination
CHINE

SILVER PATRON

WRS

SILVER PATRON

YOKOGAWA ◆

BRONZE PATRONS

BRONZE PATRON

Caffè Isola
artisan cafe, coffee roastery & retail

BRONZE PATRON

County Press

BRONZE PATRON

ELDRIDGES
SOLICITORS
ESTABLISHED 1870

BRONZE PATRON

ICEC
Island Catering Equipment Co.

BRONZE PATRON

**ISLE OF WIGHT
STEAM
RAILWAY**

BRONZE PATRON

Just For You
HOLIDAY HOMES

BRONZE PATRON

**Luccombe
HALL**

BRONZE PATRON

meridian 3
DESIGN & PRINT

BRONZE PATRON

PS
PIRACIE SUITES

BRONZE PATRON

NECTIS
REFRIGERATION LTD

LOTTERY PATRON

Rouse
INTELLIGENT FINANCIAL PLANNING

ISLE OF WIGHT LOTTERY BUSINESS START UP COURSE



DO YOU WANT TO BE YOUR OWN BOSS?
ARE YOU LOOKING TO START
YOUR OWN BUSINESS?
WE CAN HELP!

The **Isle of Wight Lottery** has been supporting Island entrepreneurs and new businesses since 2000, helping to create and nurture hundreds of jobs.

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 £16 to attend, which includes refreshments and lunch, 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!

17th September - Caffe Isola

22nd October - Goddards Brewery

17th November - Caffe Isola

Visit: www.iwchamber.co.uk/startmeup

PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY RED FUNNEL



RED FUNNEL

THE ORIGINAL ISLE OF WIGHT FERRIES





IW CHAMBER PRESIDENT

Celebrating Success and Strengthening Connections

By Alison Colley, IW Chamber President

One of the greatest strengths of the Isle of Wight business community is that we genuinely come together.

This was evident at the Isle of Wight Chamber Business Expo in July, where businesses from across the Island gathered to showcase their products and services, exchange ideas, build new relationships and discover opportunities for collaboration. Events such as these remind us that while we may operate in different sectors, we share many of the same ambitions and challenges.

IW CHAMBER'S MISSION

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

In business, it is easy to become focused on the day-to-day demands of running our organisations. Time is precious, diaries are full, and networking can sometimes feel like something to fit in when everything else is done. Yet the Expo demonstrated once again that stepping away from our desks and engaging with the wider business community is often one of the best investments we can make.

Many of the conversations that begin over a coffee or at an exhibition stand develop into new customers, trusted suppliers, collaborative partnerships or simply valuable friendships with people who understand the realities of running a business. Those relationships strengthen not only individual organisations but our Island economy as a whole.

I for one can testify first-hand how friendships and long-lasting relationships can come from engaging at Chamber events and how they have had a positive impact on my own business and business growth.

The same spirit of community will be on display again at the forthcoming Isle of Wight Chamber Business Awards.

The Awards are, of course, an opportunity to celebrate innovation, resilience, leadership, customer service, sustainability and the many achievements that make our Island such a vibrant place to do business, but they are about far more than trophies.

The Awards are an opportunity for us to pause and celebrate the people behind the businesses, the entrepreneurs who have taken risks, the employers who invest in their teams, the organisations that support our communities and the individuals whose hard work often goes unseen.

Importantly, they also remind us that success is not a competition. Every finalist and every winner helps raise the profile of the Isle of Wight as a place where businesses can thrive. Their success inspires others, demonstrates what is possible and reinforces the strength of our local business community.

I am continually encouraged by the willingness of businesses across the Island to support one another and the Chamber. Whether through attending events, supporting events with sponsorship, sharing expertise, mentoring new businesses or simply making introductions, these small acts of collaboration create lasting value.

As we look ahead, I would encourage every member to continue making the most of the opportunities the Chamber provides. Attend an event, introduce yourself to someone new, celebrate the achievements of your peers and, if you are joining us at the Business Awards, take the opportunity not only to applaud the winners but to recognise the collective success of the Island's business community.

Together, we continue to demonstrate that the Isle of Wight is not simply a collection of individual businesses, but a connected community that is stronger when we work together. That spirit of collaboration remains one of our greatest assets, and one we should continue to celebrate. ■



meridian3.co.uk



Your friendly local
design & print company!

Telephone: 07777 155663

Email: meridian3mail@icloud.com

meridian3.co.uk

Why not join them?

Over 1,500 Island Businesses use WightFibre for their phones and broadband connections. Join them today!



business.wightfibre.com

01983 300 000

Resilient, High Availability Broadband for your business and your customers.

Free WorkPass App. Easily manage guest WiFi networks, security settings and device access.

Business Phone Systems. Truly Flexible for home and office working.

Advanced AI Security with Shield™. Enterprise level security without the hassle, or cost.

Made on the Isle of Wight.

Island engineers, Island call centres, Island staff.