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Message from the Mayor

After a very hectic year in 2022 this year has got off to a slightly quieter start but there are plenty of things to look forward to in 2023.

January 2023 saw the appointment of our new Town Councillor David Priddle who was coopted. Some of you will already know Dave as he is chair of the East Cowes Business Association and proprietor of Coast to Castle Estate Agents. I would like to officially welcome him and look forward to working together for the good of East Cowes over the coming months.

Many of you will have attended the spectacular Mother Goose Pantomime at the Amy White Theatre on stage at the Town Hall in December. The Town Council is very keen to see the development of the arts in our community. This has coincided with the Supporters Amy White Theatre Group wishing to retire so a new Town Council Theatre Committee has been formed which will include Councillors and those interested in staging shows.

Improvements are planned for Victoria Recreation Ground. New safety surfacing is to be laid at the play area.

The Town Council is also funding the installation of brand new goal posts and nets on the lower section of the recreation ground for East Cowes Youth Football Team. The pitch will be marked out and the grass kept mown.



Some of you may have seen the planning application for the Albany Barracks in the press recently. This is one of the areas being regenerated under the governments Levelling Up Fund. There is now a dedicated website that you could check out:

<https://eastcowesregeneration.co.uk/>

Due to having the expertise in house, staff and volunteers have been undertaking first aid training recently. We have also been able to offer the certificated First Aid at Work course to the wider community at very reasonable price.

The East Side Curve is getting busier every week. In addition to all the library services there are weekly Rhyme Time and Story Time Sessions, a fortnightly creative writing group, a monthly evening Book Group. Other monthly sessions that may be of interest include Beat Surgeries with our local PCSO and charity coffee mornings. Following training with Visit Isle of Wight The East Side Curve will shortly become the official Tourist Information Point for East Cowes.

The Town Council is very fortunate to have a growing band of dedicated volunteers helping out with the library, litter picking and the community cinema. New volunteers are always welcome so please get in touch.

This May will see the Coronation of King Charles III. Keep an eye on the Town Council Website and Facebook page for details a bit nearer the time.

*Clr Tracy Reardon
Mayor of East Cowes*

East Cowes Community Library and The East Side Curve

OPENING HOURS

Monday to Friday 9.00am-5.00pm
Saturday 9.00am-1.00pm

Did you know it is free to join the library and by doing so you have access to the whole Isle of Wight Library Service catalogue. Many people in East Cowes are taking advantage of this with over 270 new people joining since August 2022 when the community library took up residence in its new home.

WEDNESDAYS 10.15AM for babies and toddlers



TUESDAYS 4PM for age 7 and under



Bumble Bee Garden

A further £2000 has been raised towards the new play equipment. Hopefully 2023 will be the year Kezi's Kindness reach their target.



A Few Other Updates.....

- **Solent Bathing Awards Scheme** Following last year's EXCELLENT bathing water quality designation under this scheme an application has been made for this year.
- **C4C Cost of Living Grant** from Isle of Wight Council. The Town Council has distributed £15,000 of assistance helping 49 families, 28 pensions and 4 others with their food and utility bills.
- **Beat Surgeries in The East Side Curve** Police Community Support Officers are now running monthly drop in sessions. Andy MacDonald (District Inspector for North-East Wight) attended the Full Council meeting in February. Following incidents of arson on vehicles in the town the public are urged to call 999 if they see anything suspicious due to the risk of someone being hurt and as this is a significant issue for the community.

BEAT SURGERY with the PCSO for East Cowes



THURSDAY 16TH MARCH 10-11AM

and every 3rd Thursday of the month at The East Side Curve
Please feel free to call in – no appointment needed

Change to Town Crier Distribution from June

The Town Crier is now in its 15th Edition. To save on the cost of distribution from June the newsletter will no longer be delivered door to door to every household in the town. Pick up points have been organized in the following locations and our schools have agreed to send copies out in book bags. If you would like to distribute copies to your friends and neighbours please pop in to The East Side Curve to collect some or to have a copy delivered to your door please contact the Town Hall.

PICK UP POINTS

The East Side Curve, York Avenue
East Cowes Town Hall, York Avenue
Parkside Pavilion, Vectis Road
MadAid DOT, Lower York Avenue
East Cowes Heritage Centre
Classic Boat Museum, Columbine Road

Shops Flix Hairdressers, Coast to Castle, Kathy's Cards, Halls
Newsagents (Ferry Road)

Churches St.James' Church, Methodist Church
Red Funnel

Primary and Pre-Schools

Seashells Pre-school and Early Years Centre
Queensgate Primary School
Holy Cross RC Primary School

REGULAR EVENTS

Monthly Market

The Town Council took over running the market in November. This project is being coordinated by our new Business Administration Apprentice. It takes place in the Town Hall usually on the second Saturday of the month 10am-2pm. Due to the Easter bank holiday in April it will be on the third Saturday. Stalls include local crafts and gifts, fresh produce and plants, bakery goodies and treats and much more.....



**EAST COWES
COMMUNITY MARKET**



Welcome All to East Cowes' Monthly Community Market

- We have a wide variety of goods from a range of local businesses and sold by friendly faces
- OPEN on the 2nd Saturday of every month
- Tea and Coffee available from the Servery

11th March 2023

10:00am – 2:00pm

East Cowes Town Hall
EAST COWES TOWN COUNCIL
Town Hall, York Avenue, East Cowes, Isle of Wight, PO32 6RU
(01983) 299082
admin@eastcowestowncouncil.co.uk | www.eastcowestowncouncil.co.uk

Next Market: 15th April 2023

Monthly Charity Coffee Mornings for 2023

Tuesdays 10am-12noon in The East Side Curve
Pop in for a drink and a cake, find out more about these charities.

March 14th Mountbatten Isle of Wight
April 4th Applegate Breast Cancer Support Group
May 9th Alzheimer's Society
June 13th Parkinson's Disease Society

We have already raised a total of £295 for 3 local and national charities. Thank you to everyone who has supported these events so far.



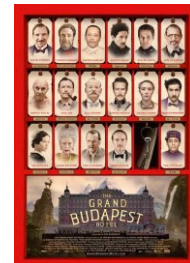
Community Cinema Introducing Matinees...

Following the success of the monthly evening films over the last year and having run a test screening matinee for a local scout group our expanding group of fabulous volunteers is looking to open this experience to a wider audience by showing friends and family matinees on Sunday afternoons during school holidays. The **POPCORN PARTY** will launch with it's first film **Road Dahl's Matilda The Musical (Cert PG)** on **2nd April at 1.45pm in the Town Hall**. Future films have yet to be selected. Pop these other dates on your calendar now – 28th May and 20th August.



The tickets cost £4 or you can bring a group of 4 for just £12. Available in advance from The East Side Curve or on the door subject to availability.

EVENING PROGRAMME March to May 6.45pm



11th March
WHERE THE CRAWDADS SING (15)
8th April
THE GRAND BUDAPEST HOTEL (15)
13th May
WESTSIDE STORY (12A)

Happy Birthday to East Cowes Town Council!

May 2023 sees the 25th Anniversary of the Town Council. Please check the website and Facebook Page nearer the time to see how this will be marked.

Introducing Cllr David Priddle



David Priddle is the owner of local estate agency Coast to Castle Property Services and has been an East Cowes resident since birth. David has been involved with events and projects in East Cowes over 30 years, both as an entertainer and through project management. His involvement in the community has also included charity work for local projects. David is proud to be part of the East Cowes community and is currently chairman of the local business association. He looks forward to continuing to work with local residents to improve valued services and the local area.

Precept set for 2023/2024

At the January Full Council meeting the budget for 2023/24 was approved. The Council has set a precept of £373,476 which will mean a small increase of 15p per week for a Band D household.

You might like to know where this will be going! In addition to all the Council's regular expenditure looking after the Town Hall, The East Side Curve and numerous parks and open spaces this year will see a major refurbishment of the Esplanade Toilets near the play area. £70,000 is set aside for this project. Here it is "before".



An additional sum of £17,000 has been allocated to future improvements at the Skate Park.

Other improvements and developments include resurfacing the play area at Victoria Grove and installing goal posts and nets and marking out the pitch on the lower section of Victoria Recreation Ground to provide a pitch for East Cowes Youth Football Team.

Town Council Meetings

Dates for the coming 12 months are set at the annual meeting. Full Council meetings usually take place on the 3rd Thursday at 6pm. Facilities Projects and Events Committee meetings take place bi-monthly on the first Thursday of the month at 6pm.

Additional meetings are set as required for the Planning Committee and the Human Resources Committee.

Agendas are available 3 clear days before on the Town Council website, Facebook Page and in the noticeboards at the Town Hall, Parkside Pavilion and Bumble Bee Garden Play Area.

HOW TO CONTACT THE TOWN COUNCIL

The Clerk's Office
The East Side Curve
East Cowes Town Hall
York Avenue
East Cowes
Isle of Wight
PO32 6RU

Tel: 01983 299082

Email: clerk@eastcowestowncouncil.co.uk
Website: www.eastcowestowncouncil.co.uk

SEND US YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS!

Contributions to this newsletter from the community are welcome. If you are involved with a local group, project or event please email an article and a photo to: assistantclerk@eastcowestowncouncil.co.uk

Copies of the newsletter are delivered to every household in East Cowes and available from the Town Hall lobby and The East Side Curve as well as on the Town Council website and via Facebook.

DISCLAIMER: This newsletter is produced by East Cowes Town Council. All articles are taken in good faith. We cannot take any legal queries resulting from these. Submitted articles do not necessarily reflect the views of the Town Council. We reserve the right not to print submitted articles.