

# VENTNOR NEWS



## The New Town Council Elected June 4th 2009

The town elections in June saw quite a big change for Ventnor Town Council. Steve Stubbings (1) joins the council for the first time, being elected to represent Lowtherville ward along with Robbie Mew (6), who previously represented Ventnor West ward. Buster Bartlett (2), already representing St Lawrence ward, was uncontested and was joined by Doug Nettleton (not in photo), who was also uncontested. Graham Perks (3) was elected to Ventnor West ward for the first time, as was Susan Scoccia (5), who previously represented St Lawrence. Debby Robinson (8) was re-elected to represent Ventnor West. Joan Garlick (4) was elected for the first time, representing Ventnor East ward and Brian Lucas (9) and Chris Welsford (10) were both re-elected to represent Ventnor East. David George (7) joins the council for the first time, being elected to represent Bonchurch ward.

## Ventnor Town Council Meeting Dates 2009

Town Council meetings are held at the Winter Gardens on Monday evenings at 7pm. Members of the public are welcome and encouraged to attend. Planning meetings generally follow on from the Town Council meetings. Winter Gardens Management meetings are quarterly, dates may be subject to change.

July	13th	Town Council & Planning Committee
	27th	Grants Committee & Planning Committee
August	10th	Town Council, Planning Committee & Winter Gardens Committee
	24th	Planning Committee
September	7th	Town Council & Planning Committee
	21st	Planning Committee & Winter Gardens Committee
October	5th	Planning Committee
	12th	Town Council
	26th	Planning Committee
November	9th	Town Council, Planning Committee & Winter Gardens Committee
	23rd	Planning Committee
December	14th	Town Council & Planning Committee

## **A Message from the Mayor**

**Chris Welsford**  
**Ventnor East**  
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On June 4th, this town elected a majority of councillors that share a common vision for Ventnor; one which seeks to raise the profile of the town and safeguard its major assets. I broadcast a message loud and clear to electors - Ventnor is threatened with being relegated to a village. Now, thanks to you, this council is empowered to do all it can to prevent that from becoming a reality.

Ventnor Town Council must raise its game significantly. Many residents have come to see it as an antiquated relic and more of a talking shop than an active executive. Stereotypical images of the Dibley Parish Council are a familiar parody around the town and I have to say that from my experience, this view is, unfortunately, sometimes justified. This cannot continue. The majority of my fellow town councillors agree that VTC must improve through a programme of modernisation and democratisation. This means being more open and transparent in our dealings with the public. It also means embracing wholeheartedly our statutory role as the local authority for the town. The many voluntary organisations that now exist in Ventnor such as the Ventnor Partnership, Ventnor Together and Ventnor Enhancement Fund to name but a few, are both a testament to the great dedication and resolve of those involved to work for the town, but also to the failure of the VTC to adequately satisfy the various needs of the community. We have not provided the leadership and they have filled the gap admirably. Now the Town Council must engage with these organisations and regain a position of trust and authority, drawing the community together by co-ordinating these efforts.

In the wider community, the closure of Ventnor Middle School (VMS) is going to have a major impact on everyone in this town, even those without children. As one of the most socially deprived areas in the country, such action has the potential to exacerbate the problems of youth disorder and petty crime. Links forged through VMS between our young teenage population and local Police and other bodies will be far harder to maintain when, from age eleven, our young people are thrown into the melting pot with those from all over the Island at one of the proposed centralised secondary schools. Extra curricular activities will become extremely difficult to provide. The sense of comradeship and belonging that has been possible through VMS excellent sports, music and drama facilities will be lost forever. Even now County Council funding for the Rew Valley Sports Centre, an integral part of the VMS site, has been axed, leaving the school to pick up the cost of running the facility. The threatened cut to the Youth Service will be a further body blow to our ability to maintain our towns well-being and infrastructure.

The young people of this town are our future shop and café owners; police; care workers; builders; plumbers; doctors; teachers; entrepreneurs; entertainers and civic leaders. We will need them in the future more than they need us now. We have to face up to this and reflect it in the priority that we give education and youth services in Ventnor and the surrounding area. I am determined that we do not lose secondary education in Ventnor. In the new conciliatory County Council I hope that the voice of Ventnor Town Council will be heard and something can be salvaged from what might otherwise be a disaster for Ventnor.

**Joan Garlick**  
**Ventnor East**  
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I have lived in Ventnor for twenty years. I love its history and architecture and am a member of the Local History Society. I also love gardening and so joined the Ventnor Horticultural Society and became its Chairman several years ago. Living in a flat I'm very keen that the Town Council should find allotments somewhere in the area so that I, and all the other waiting applicants, can grow our own fruit and vegetables. I see being a Town Councillor as a new and interesting challenge and my main aim is to make myself available to Ventnor East ward residents at Ventnor Library at least one Wednesday evening every month. I feel it is so important for people to be able to speak to their representatives on the Town Council face to face and voice any concerns which they may have regarding local issues. I can be contacted by phone or e mail, details above.

**David George  
Bonchurch  
Tel: 852540  
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david@utilityfilms.co.uk**

I have lived in Ventnor for fifteen years with my wife, Jill, who leads the Hospice at Home team at the Earl Mountbatten Hospice, and our three children. A film maker by profession, I have spent many years working in theatre, television and film both in this country and abroad. As an independent councillor I am looking forward to representing everyone in the ward and will continue to campaign for an open and transparent town council. I am dedicated to seeing the Winter Gardens become a thriving, profitable centre of excellence, not only for the people of Ventnor but also for the island as a whole. As the newly elected chair of the Winter Gardens Management Committee I am keen to ask Ventnorians what their hopes are for the building and its role in the town. Work has been undertaken recently to try to improve the Winter Gardens but much remains to be done. With your views, help and advice we can move forward and breathe new life into this greatly loved building.

**Brian Lucas  
Ventnor East  
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My great, great grandfather came here as a stone mason in the late Victorian period and so I have an affinity with the towns heritage. However, in attempting to be green, I am aware that many of the towns buildings are questionable on the eco scale. Having spent my career in the construction industry, I feel that good modern design can complement our environment and be efficient. Thank you to the good people who voted for me in June, but please don't expect me to say no to everything, just because its new or different. I voted for wind turbines at the Golf Club, not because they are ideal or perfect, or even very efficient, but because we need to alleviate the country's massive carbon footprint. I am also dedicated to enlivening Ventnor, culturally, socially through my support of the Winter Gardens because Ventnor is a smashing place. It's big enough to have good services, small enough to be friendly, but we all need to use local businesses and facilities or we could be left with just a pretty dormitory town.

**Rob Mew  
Lowtherville  
Tel: 856300**

I started as the youngest councillor and after 39 years I am not the oldest councillor but am the longest serving member. I did think of standing down this time but a number of people wanted me to stand again and as I live in Lowtherville ward now and know there are a number of important issues coming up in this area in the near future, I changed my ward. I was born in Ventnor and have lived here all my life and for some 43 years ran a small removal business with my father until he passed away in 1980. I carried on with the business and latterly took a partner on but unfortunately he had a back problem and did not wish to carry on so I sold the business 6 years ago. I have seen some ups and downs in my time as a councillor some you win and some you lose but in the main I have enjoyed it. Thank you to everyone who has voted for me over the years.

**Doug Nettleton  
St Lawrence  
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duggletons@lineone.net**

I have a background in engineering and in the late 70's worked on the Isle of Wight as a quality engineer at Elliot Turbomachinery. I returned again in 1991 to take over St.Lawrence Post Office (renaming it Duggletons). I had three children and got involved with their Schools, becoming a Community Governor at Sandown High School. In 1994 I started a local Newsletter called the Village Chatter which I am still producing on a monthly basis. I got involved and chaired the Village Shop Association for many years and have been involved in the Niton Mackerel Fayre. From Village Shop business I became part of Leader Plus and by this time I had been elected to represent the Village on the Town Council and was Mayor in 2001/2 and 2004/5. There have been several activities that I have been involved in mostly related to the area I live but also things in Ventnor such as the revamping of Spring Hill Gardens. I enjoy living in the area and intend to continue my involvement with the community.

**Debby Robinson**  
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**Buster Bartlett**  
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**Graham Perks**  
Ventnor West  
Tel: 857446

I first became a Town Councillor at the by-election in December '07. Re-elected this June, I was honoured to be made Deputy Mayor by my fellow councillors. I really look forward to working with, and supporting, the Mayor, Chris Welsford. I will also be taking on a new role within the council in co-ordinating communications with responsibility for websites, social media, and publications. I hope to develop Ventnor News into a really informative magazine for the whole town. In this issue, however, my main aim was to put faces to names, along with a little background which I hope you'll find useful. This is just the start of a new openness and transparency for the Town Council. Please come and join us at the Winter Gardens for our meetings where your contribution will inform our future work. For those in my ward - if you have any specific concerns or issues please don't hesitate to call or e mail me because that's what I'm here for – to represent you.

It has been a great honour to serve as Mayor of Ventnor for the past two consecutive years, but it will be good to take a back seat this year to concentrate my efforts on ward issues and, of course, to assist wherever I can to take the Town Council forward. During pre-election canvassing, I have taken note of many issues such as parking, speeding, highway maintenance, dog bins, to name but a few, and I will be addressing these as my first priorities. Prior to the elections, the Town Council agreed to take forward "No Cold Calling" zones in St. Lawrence and Upper Ventnor subject to printing quotations, and again, this will be one of my personal priorities for this year. I will also be continuing with the Town Plan through the Partnership.

Firstly, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the many who voted for me in the recent town and county council elections. I made promises on so many doorsteps to represent the people of Ventnor to the very best of my ability. Anybody who knows me well will recognise that I have a heart for young people. I was motivated to enter the political fray by my strong objections to the way the IWC conducted the 'consultations' over schools. I believe the new proposals represent a considerable disadvantage to Ventnor's children, both socially and educationally. I'm convinced that many of the problems of anti-social behaviour which blight our community stem from disaffection and boredom amongst our youth. There is no 'childrens committee' on the Town Council. There should be one. I intend to be a voice for Ventnor's young people. The message I heard again and again during canvassing was 'there needs to be more for the kids to do'. By the time I finish my term with VTC, there will be, or I will have failed.

## What's on at The Winter Gardens

JULY	EVENT	DOORS	START	PRICE
10th	<b>VENTNOR COMEDY CLUB</b> Edinburgh Preview Special Featuring <b>Richard Herring &amp; Hannah George</b>	7.30pm	8.00pm	£5.00
11th	Christa Corrieas School of Dance	6.00pm	6.30pm	£4.50 Con £3
12th	Christa Corrieas School of Dance	2.30pm	3.00pm	£4.50 Con £3
17th	<b>CAN YOU SMELL JAZZ?</b> Fund Raising Event for V-Bay Festival, <b>three rooms of music</b>	8.00pm	8.30pm	£5.00
18th	<b>ROCKIN &amp; SHAKIN</b> Experience the Golden Age of Rock 'n' Roll, with the <b>TT's &amp; The Shakers</b>	7.30pm	8.00pm	£11 (£12 on door)
23rd - 25th	<b>MY GIRL SHOW</b> A Ventnor Theatre Group production.	7.00pm	7.30pm	£7.50 (U16s £5)
26th	My Girl Show Matinee	2.00pm	2.30pm	£7.50 (U16s £5)
28th	Public Fire Consultation	7 - 9pm		

For more information visit: [www.ventnorwintergardens.co.uk](http://www.ventnorwintergardens.co.uk) or call the Box Office on : 857581