

MAY 2011

Bembridge Parish News



The Old Alms Houses in the High Street

BEMBRIDGE PARISH NEWS

SERVES

THE PARISH CHURCH • THE CATHOLIC CHURCH • THE METHODIST CHURCH

Please inform the clergy of sick persons and other needs for visiting and prayers

VICAR: Canon Andrew Menniss Tel: 872175 E-mail: vicar@bembridge.com

ASSISTANT CURATE: The Reverend Linda Bushell Tel: 400261 E-mail: curate@bembridge.com

METHODIST MINISTER: c/o Rev. Bob Boyce Tel: 873785 / 07546 505 286

E-mail: r.b.boyce@bfineternet.com

CATHOLIC PRIEST: Fr. Anthony Glaysher Tel: 562171

Editor: Anna Driver, 1 The Ruskins, Kings Road, Bembridge. PO35 5NY

Tel: 873283 E-mail: annadriver@talktalk.net **Copy deadline - 8th of the preceding month**

Distribution Secretary: Mrs Jenny Austen, 31 Beachfield Road Tel: 872701

Hon. Business & Advertising Manager: Mrs Olive Light, 1 Trelawny Way, PO35 5YE

Tel: 874218 E-mail: mlight1485@aol.com

I wonder have you ever met a Street Pastor? Maybe not, unless you have been out on the streets of Ryde or Newport late on a Friday night or in the early hours of a Saturday morning! So, who are they and what do they do?



bringing peace to the community

Street Pastors are Christian volunteers who go out on the streets of Ryde and Newport town centres each Friday evening as a positive presence, offering practical help or a listening ear to people around the town centre. Working until 2-3am, a typical evening could involve diffusing an argument before it escalates into violence, giving out flipflops to revellers who can no longer walk in their high heels, calling an ambulance for someone who has fallen ill and talking to someone who feels lost and lonely.

Care is offered without judgement – regardless of the causes of pain, sickness or danger. Each of the people they help is a human being, someone's daughter, or someone's brother.

As well as regular evenings they also provide support to people during special events, including the Isle of Wight Festival, Bestival, Ryde Regatta

and Cowes Week. One of the questions they are most often asked on the streets is "Why do you do it?" As Christians they are called to demonstrate an unconditional love for people that Jesus modelled. Street Pastors have chosen

to show that by providing practical care for people, something they believe gives a great benefit to society, helping make our streets better, safer places for people to live, work and enjoy themselves. They don't go out to preach to people, just to show that someone cares.

Find out more about them at www.isleofwightstreetpastors.org.uk or If you would like to meet some of them to find out more about their work, they will be around at a Coffee Morning at the Methodist Church in Foreland Road on Saturday 28th May from 10.00 to 12.30 – All are welcome. Also, Dave Ouston their coordinator, will be present at the 10.30 Morning Service at Holy Trinity on Sunday 22nd May.

Bob Boyce
Church Pastor
Bembridge Methodist Church

Bembridge Singers Summer Concert

On the Lighter Side

Wednesday 1st June 2011, at 7.30pm

at Holy Trinity Church, Bembridge

Following the success of last year's *On the Lighter Side* concert the Bembridge Singers are again presenting a varied concert with arrangements of traditional songs, ballads and much more! **The Newchurch Male Voice Choir** will once again be among our guests.

We look forward to seeing you there!

A Right Royal Wedding!

**A 'Thank God it's Sunday' special
Sunday 1st May 10.30am at Holy Trinity Church**

Two days after the Royal Wedding we shall re-enact the ceremony during our Thank God it's Sunday Service with the help of the children present. So if you have any aspiring 'Wills' or 'Kates', or even 'Dukes of Edinburgh'(!), then come along to this informal service for all the family where we will use the Royal Wedding to explore the meaning of marriage.

**A visit from the Street Pastors
Sunday 22nd May 10.30am at Holy Trinity Church**

If you have ever been in Ryde late on a Friday evening you may have seen the Street Pastors helping young people as they come out of the pubs and clubs.

David Ouston, one of the leaders of this scheme, will give a presentation about their work during our Parish Communion service. All are warmly welcome to come and hear about this inspirational act of Christian witness and chat informally with David after the service over coffee.

Andrew Menniss, Vicar

Bembridge Street Fair

It's that time of year again, the Bembridge Street Fair will fall on Bank Holiday Monday 30th May 2011, 2.00 pm - 4.30 pm.

All regular stall holders should receive invitations to this year's fair, check with Stalls Manager, Paul Booth, 875555; 07973953309; paulbooth@yahoo.com

Newcomers check availability with Paul at this very popular Island attraction.

NOTICE:

Bembridge Street Fair will be Trading in the High Street, Bembridge, on Monday 30th May 2011 from 2.00 pm - 4.30 pm.

Members of the public may view the application at the IOW Council Licensing Offices at Jubilee Stores, Newport or view on line:

www.iwight.com/council/departments/licensing/licenceconsultationlist.aspx.

Any representation must be in writing to the above department before 10th May 2011.

Geoff Giles - Event Coordinator

Bembridge Festival 2011

Wednesday 25th May

Bembridge Festival Bridge Day

Book place in advance with Mrs Pat Wirdnam 873622

10.00am at Bembridge Sailing Club

Saturday 28th May

Coffee Morning and 'Bring and Buy'

Raising money for the Isle of Wight Street Pastors

10.00 am – 12.30 pm at the Methodist Church

Sunday 29th May

Village Songs of Praise

In this year of the Royal Wedding the theme will be

'Wedding Hymns'

6.30 pm in Holy Trinity Church.

Flower Festival

Begins after morning worship until Wednesday

Theme: 'A celebration of Creation'

10.00 am – 5.00 pm in Holy Trinity Church

Monday 30th May

Street Fair

In the High Street from 2.00 pm – 4.30 pm.

Arts and Craft Exhibition

The work of Bembridge Art Society

10.00 am – 4.00 pm in the Village Hall

Tuesday 31st May

Silent Auction

In aid of St Michael's Roman Catholic Church with other stalls, tea, coffee and cakes.

10.00 am – 12 noon in the Village Hall

Village Quiz

A quiz, canapés and punch evening.

Maximum of 6 in a team.

7.30 pm in the Methodist Church.

Wednesday 1st June

'On the lighter side'

Bembridge Singers and friends.

7.30 pm in Holy Trinity Church.

BEMBRIDGE BOWLING CLUB REPORT

The recent Spring Meeting of the Bowling Club was well attended and Club Officers updated members on a variety of Club matters and arrangements for the forthcoming season. The Club House looked particularly smart having been recently redecorated. Thanks for this go to Peter Pickworth, Colin Wilkins, Ron Gleaves, Doug Beckett, Peter McKenna and Dave Lowe, who also did a sterling job of organising the work party, not forgetting Jackie Pickworth who kept the team going with refreshments!

The Club's Open Day takes place on Sunday 1st May, and if you are interested in learning more about bowls, or the Club, come along from 10.00am onwards.

On Sunday 12th June, the Club stages its annual Bembridge Festival event. John Tolley has now been running this for over 15 years which, in addition to an enjoyable afternoon of bowls for participants and spectators alike, raises funds for local organisations. This year's good cause is the Bembridge Friendship Circle. It is open to all Bembridge Bowling Club members and residents of Bembridge who play for other Island bowls clubs. So, let's hear from you all.

Visit www.bembridgebowlingclub.co.uk for more information on the Club or contact Club Secretary, Colin Vines on 874163.

Steve Tutton



Coach Trip to Highclere Castle

This years annual coach trip from Bembridge Methodist Church, is to Highclere Castle (also known as DOWNTON ABBEY on the television series). Highclere Castle was designed by Charles Barry. He also built the houses of Parliament. The Castle is owned by the Carnarvon family. The 5th Earl of Carnarvon discovered the tomb of Tutankhamen and the castle holds some unique discoveries. The grounds were designed by Capability Brown.

There are the usual amenities for lunches etc. We will be going on Thursday 25th August and the cost is £37 per person inclusive of all coach, ferry and entrance fees for all exhibitions (www.highclerecastle.co.uk). The trip is open to everyone if you would like to join us or need to know any more information please ring Jane Chubb 873725.

Naomi, Clive, Karina and Vicky Hewlett would like to thank those of you who sent us messages of sympathy following the death of Lucy. We appreciated your thoughts and prayers and your kind donations in her memory to St Joseph's Anglican Church, Busunya, Ghana which amounted to £385.

All options open in rescue plan for Bembridge Library

Co-operate with Isle of Wight Council to save Bembridge Library yet work to support a legal challenge to stop it from closing island libraries ... that's the twin strategy for the newly-formed Bembridge Library Users Association agreed at a packed meeting on Wednesday 16 March at Bembridge Bowls Club organised by the Association's steering committee.

According to Chairman, Keith Fagan, the council is placing impossibly short and unrealistic timescales on the Association, expecting it to make decisions based on scant information. "Before committing ourselves, we need written assurances on a range of issues from the urgent need to renew the lease to employment legislation, from IT management to lending rights and volunteer training. We will not be in a position to start until the lease and employment issues can be resolved."

"There is no way in which we could implement measures to ensure the safe and legal running of such an operation by 1 July, let alone 1 April. A year would not be unreasonable."

The Association agreed to work towards maintaining library services at the existing location subject to certain conditions and assurances from Isle of Wight Council. A proposal to support a suggestion to re-site the library to the Steyne Park Community Centre was rejected.

Vice-chairman Peter Pickworth said that the library at the current site was at heart of the village and is vital to the survival of the Bembridge Heritage Centre, which shares some of the accommodation and has an agreement with the Council.

Said Peter: "We also agreed to support the island-wide campaign to mount a legal challenge through law firm Leigh Day against the IWC decision to close libraries on the grounds that it is lacking in its duty under the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964. There are two potential courses of action here and we will be studying the merits of both."

Despite describing Bembridge as a failing library, IWC's own figures reveal that in the financial year 2009/10, there were 45,604 recorded visits to the library, 37,215 issues and an adult satisfaction rating of 96 per cent.

Talks with Astrid Davies, manager for strategic partnerships at IWC, took place on 23 March. "We have a long list of questions which we hope Astrid can answer," said Keith. This meeting broke up without full agreement and is summarised as follows:

Grave concerns over Bembridge library takeover

Despite dealing with many of our concerns Astrid Davies was unable to guarantee indemnity for volunteers against the requirements of employee legislation known as TUPE (Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations) should the Association or the Parish Council take on the village's library.

"For us, these regulations are the elephant in the room, and none of us wants to take responsibility for a situation that IWC has created," explained Keith Fagan. "We're well aware that if we are not careful we may end up as the fall guys with the council walking away saying 'it wasn't us guv'. Even if we get the indemnity sorted, we're still unhappy about the way in which existing library employees have been treated."

TUPE was introduced to protect employees if the business in which they work changes hands and means that they, and any liabilities associated with them, are legally the responsibility of the new employer.

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The legislation could well apply to Bembridge as anyone interested in taking over a lease or licence and operating the same business would be liable.

Concern was also expressed about the leasing arrangement on offer and the time scales for implementation. IWC has offered a grant of £4,000 towards set-up costs for this year but with no guarantee of further payments. The Association has been told that money has also been set aside in the parish precept to help run the local library and the Association will be meeting the Parish Council in the next two weeks to discuss the ways this could be used.

Isle of Wight Council is keeping Bembridge Library open until the end of June on a reduced basis of 21 hours a week.

For queries about this release please contact Richard Beet on 875557 or email richardcurzonbeet@btinternet.com

For queries relating to the Bembridge Library Users Association, call the chairman, Keith Fagan on 874879 or email k.fagan@virgin.net

REVISED LIBRARY OPENING HOURS

From 4th April to 30th June 2011

Monday 10.00-12.30 // 1.30-6.00

Friday 9.00-12.30 // 1.30-5.00

Wednesday and Saturday 9.00-12.30

Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday - CLOSED

RNLI Bembridge Lifeboat Guild

Channel Rescues for Bembridge lifeboat:

March saw two "shouts" for the Bembridge lifeboat "Alfred Albert Williams", both to the rescue of yachts in the English Channel.

The Tamar class lifeboat was launched just after midnight on the 9th March to the assistance of a lone sailor on passage from Cherbourg to Portsmouth in the 29 foot yacht "Megaohm", having lost both power and steering 15 miles south of St Catherines Point, the most southerly point of the Isle of Wight.

Under the command of coxswain Steve Simmonds, the lifeboat arrived at the casualty around 40 minutes later with a moderate sea and force 4 wind blowing. Having determined the yachtsman to be OK, the "Megaohm" was secured with a towline and with a drogue streaming, was taken under tow back to Haslar Marina, inside Portsmouth Harbour around four hours later.

The lifeboat returned to station and re-housed at 0615.

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On Saturday morning, 26th March, the "Alfred Albert Williams" responded to a distress call from the 30 foot yacht "Eppi 2" , disabled in the middle of the main Channel shipping lanes with a plastic bag wrapped around the propeller, in poor visibility and with no wind, 32 miles south of Bembridge.

The yacht, with a crew of two aboard was only 28 miles out of Cherbourg, en-route for her home port of Portsmouth when she encountered the problem, resulting in a severe loss of engine power and speed.



Proceeding at full speed, the lifeboat under coxswain Steve Simmonds, arrived with the casualty just an hour later and, having unsuccessfully attempted to assist the "Eppi 2" clear the obstruction, rigged a towline and took the casualty back as far as Spitbank Fort, in the Solent from where she was able to proceed at her own reduced speed back to her home berth in Portsmouth Harbour.

The lifeboat returned to station at 4.40pm and was re-housed, five and a half hours after leaving.

Thanks to everyone who came and supported the Guild coffee morning on Saturday, 26th March. The spring sunshine brought out a good attendance and the event raised over £600. Bembridge RNLI Guild - meet on Monday, 9th May at the Methodist Church Hall, Foreland Road at 2.30pm. Coffee and tea available, all welcome.

The Bembridge Street Fair will be held on Bank Holiday Monday, 30th May. The Bembridge RNLI Guild will have their stall there as usual, with books, bric-a-brac and souvenirs for sale.

*Ken Orchard
Bembridge RNLI Guild Press Officer
01983 873139*

Bembridge Street Fair Monday 30th May

Refreshments will be available

Tea, Coffee, Squash, Sandwiches, Crisps and Cakes
will be on sale in The Cloisters, behind the Library,
from 12 noon until 4 pm



BEMBRIDGE WINDMILL WI

Fairies, butterflies and peacocks fluttered around the Cloisters as members of the Bembridge Windmill WI and our visitors were introduced to the fascinating art of glass painting. A strange silence descended over the room and the level of concentration was palpable. Of course this silence could not last and was soon interrupted by shrieks of laughter as the paint went where it shouldn't or a colour was not as desired. But despite all at the end of the evening ladies proudly took home a sun catcher and a greetings card that was 'all their own work'.

Earlier in the meeting Ginny had updated everyone with the latest news and the many plans to celebrate the Isle of Wight Federation 90th anniversary.

Pam then invited members to sign up for a number of visits and other activities including a jewellery workshop; a visit to Ryde House Nursery, preceded by coffee at the golf club; the cream tea and plant sale; a visit to Isle of Wight Zoo with an informative tour; a lunch at Brading Station for all including a walk to Brading for the walking group.

There is to be a big celebration at the Bembridge Windmill in June and members put forward ideas as to how they might contribute to those celebrations.

There are to be two main fundraising activities in May, the Cream Tea and plant sale at 3.00pm on Friday 20 May at the Cloisters – All invited please put date in your diary. The other will be the Stall at the Bembridge Street Fair so look us up for delicious homemade cakes.

The next meeting will take place on 16 May when members will hear all about antiques and will be asked to bring with them 'an antique with a story' for the competition.

If you think that Bembridge WI is something you would like to try – well just come along to the Cloisters on 16 May. Visitors are always welcome. Contact Ginny 874246 or Sarah 873873 for more information.

UPDATE: - THE BEAUTY BOX in aid of 'CASSIE'S COACH' for the ISLAND'S DEAF CHILDREN

The response to the Beauty Box has been incredible and Jillie Wheeler would like to thank everyone who donated their new and slightly used cosmetics and toiletries. Everything will be on sale at the

***Street Fair in Seaview on Monday May 2nd starting at 10am and the
Bembridge Street Fair on Monday May 30th starting at 2 pm***

and there'll be a really fantastic selection on offer covering a wide range of products at bargain and give away prices, including a free gift for those who spend £10.00 or over!

The Beauty Box is sponsored by Jenny Bull of Bembridge Beauty Base and she'll be at both venues to help and advise on skin and beauty problems.

The Beauty Box Bins are still 'open for business' at Boots the Chemist and Stephen's Hairdressing



St. MICHAEL'S RC CALENDAR

WALLS ROAD, BEMBRIDGE

(Combined Parish of Bembridge and Ryde)

Parish Priest: Fr. Anthony Glaysher

Telephone: (01983) 562171

Parish Office – Tel: (01983) 812127 (weekday mornings)

E-mail: stmarysryde@aol.com

www.stmarysryde.org

WEEKEND SERVICES ALL YEAR

<i>6.00 p.m.</i>	<i>Saturday Vigil Mass at Ryde</i>
<i>7.45 a.m.</i>	<i>Sunday (said) Mass at Ryde</i>
<i>9.15 a.m.</i>	<i>Sunday (sung) Mass at Bembridge</i>
<i>11.00 a.m.</i>	<i>Sunday (sung) Mass at Ryde</i>

<i>All Tuesdays</i>	<i>10.00 a.m.</i>	<i>Rosary & Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</i>
	<i>10.30 a.m.</i>	<i>Mass at Bembridge (said)</i>

As part of the Bembridge Festival at the end of May, St. Michael's will again be holding a Silent Auction in the Village Hall on Tuesday 31st May, from 10 a.m. - noon. If anyone has a contribution, please contact Yvonne Rowles on 873752. There will also be a cake stall. It is always an enjoyable event and you may find the treasure of a lifetime!

The Taize Group will meet for an hour of song, prayer and meditation on the second Tuesday of May, 10th, from 7-8 p.m. at the Methodist Church in Foreland Road. All are welcome.

Plans are going ahead for the Flower Festival in St. Michael's Church in July and more news of this will be in the next Magazine.

Angela Haydon

Holy Trinity Mothers' Union



Wed 4 May	10.00am	Corporate Communion at St. Luke's
Fri 13 May	2.30pm	Branch Annual General Meeting at The Cloisters

Garden Party

Please note change of date.

This has been brought forward to Friday 3 June

Sheila Wheeler - Branch Leader: (874065)



HOLY TRINITY CALENDAR

Vicar: Canon Andrew Menniss (01983) 872175

E-Mail: vicar@bembridge.com

Assistant Curate: The Reverend Linda Bushell (400261)

E-Mail: curate@bembridge.com

website: www.bembridgeholymenniss.org.uk

SUNDAY SERVICES

8.00am

Holy Communion at St Luke's (BCP)

10.30am

Parish Communion with STEPPING STONES for children at Holy Trinity (Common Worship)

1st SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH

10.30am

Thank God it's Sunday! Worship for all ages

SUNDAY

1st

THE 2nd SUNDAY OF EASTER

8.00am

Holy Communion (B.C.P.) at St Luke's

10.30am

Thank God It's Sunday Worship for all ages

MONDAY

2nd

No Monday Meditation

WEDNESDAY

4th

PHILIP AND JAMES APOSTLES

9.30am

Matins at St Luke's

10.00am

Holy Communion at St Luke'
M.U. Corporate Communion

SATURDAY

7th

1.00pm

Wedding

3.00pm

Wedding

SUNDAY

8th

THE 3rd SUNDAY OF EASTER

8.00am

Holy Communion at St Luke's

10.30am

Parish Communion

MONDAY

9th

9.00am

Monday Meditation

WEDNESDAY

11th

9.30am

Matins at St Luke's

10.00am

Holy Communion at St Luke's

SUNDAY

15th

THE 4th SUNDAY OF EASTER

8.00am

Holy Communion (BCP) at St Luke's

10.30am

Parish Communion with Baptism

MONDAY

16th

9.00am

Monday Meditation

WEDNESDAY

18th

9.30am

Matins at St Luke's

10.00am

Holy Communion at St Luke's

THURSDAY

19th

7.30pm

P.C.C.Meeting

FRIDAY

20th

12 noon

Wedding

SUNDAY	22nd	THE 5th SUNDAY OF EASTER	
		8.00am	Holy Communion (B.C.P.) at St Luke's
		10.30am	Parish Communion
			Preacher Mr David Ousten from I.W. Street Pastors
MONDAY	23rd	9.00am	Monday Meditation
WEDNESDAY	25th	9.30am	Matins at St Luke's
		10.00am	Holy Communion at St Luke's
SUNDAY	29th	THE 6th SUNDAY OF EASTER	
		8.00am	Holy Communion (B.C.P.) at St Luke's
		10.30am	Parish Communion
		3.00pm	Baptism
		6.30pm	Village Songs of Praise

The beginning of Bembridge Festival and Flower Festival in Holy Trinity until Wednesday June 1st -- 10.00am – 5.00pm daily

MONDAY	30th	No Meditation	
		2.00pm	Street Fair
WEDNESDAY JUNE 1st		7.00pm	Bembridge Singers Concert 'On the lighter side'



BAPTISMS:

April 10th Rosie-Mai HALL

FUNERALS:

March 11th Pamela BRAMBLE
 March 21st Ken ELPHICK
 March 30th Naomi JANES
 April 1st Ingrid LYONS
 April 13th Valerie PALMER

MEMORIAL SERVICES:

March 18th Lucy LOVE
 March 31st Hilda BOWRING
 April 7th David WOODFORD



The Methodist Church

A warm welcome in the name of Jesus

Pastor Bob Boyce. (01983) 873785
E-mail: bobbyce@btinternet.com

MIDWEEK EVENTS AND SUNDAY WORSHIP

Sun 1	10.30 am 4.00 pm	Local Preacher, John Wells Grapevine Family Service, Sacrament of Holy Communion
Sun 8	10.30 am 2.30 - 4.30 pm	Local Arrangement (Members of the Congregation) Vine Arts, (Children 8 and over)
Sun 15	10.30 am 3.30 - 5.30 pm	Rev. Nigel Rodgers, Chapel Anniversary, Sacrament of Holy Communion. Pebbles Plus (A relaxed family event)
Sun 22	10.30 am 6.30 pm	Grapevine Family Service Inspire Youth Group, 13 + years of age
Sun 29	10.30 am 4.00 pm	Paster Bob Boyce, Baptism Service Grapevine, Refresh: Prayer and Praise
Tues 31	7.30 pm	Village Quiz Night

ACTIVITIES AND GROUPS IN THE CHURCH

Alternative Tuesday in month	10.00 am	Church Friendship Walk Contact 873393
Every Wednesday in month	10.00 am 2.45 pm 6.30 pm 8.00 pm	Seekers Together Wednesday Welcome (see Noticeboard) Rock Solid Night Lite
Alternative Thursday in month	7.30 pm	Manse Bible Study at 45 Crossway
First Thursday in month - Except for May 12	3.30 - 5.30 pm	Pebbles
First Friday in month	10.00 am 7.45 pm	Coffee morning Grapevine Prayer Meeting

Our church is situated in Foreland Road

The Methodist Noticeboard

*Bembridge Methodist Church
Coffee Morning including 'bring and buy'
Saturday 28th May 10.00 - 12.30
In support of Street Pastors*

Festival Week Events

May 29th. *Village Songs of Praise. A joint service for Festival week
At Holy Trinity Church at 6.30pm. All welcome.*

May 30th. *Annual Street Fair. As in previous years our stall is a
Children's Lucky Dip and Adults Lucky Jars.
2.00pm to 4.30pm. See you there !*

May 31st. *Village Quiz Night with Canapes and Punch in
Bembridge Methodist Church at 7.30pm.
Test Yourself!*

BMC Church Summer Outing

This year's coach trip is to Highclere Castle (also known as DOWNTON ABBEY on the television series,) Highclere castle was designed by Charles Barry, he also built the Houses of Parliament. The castle is owned by the Carnarvon family. The 5th Earl of Carnarvon discovered the tomb of Tutankhamen and the castle holds some of his unique discoveries.

Capability Brown designed the grounds. There are the usual amenities for lunches etc. We will be going on Thursday 25th August and cost will be £37 per person inclusive of all coach ferry and entrance fees for all exhibitions.

If you want any more information please contact Jane Chubb 873725

Review of Bembridge Little Theatre Club's production: *'The Boyfriend'*



I was kindly invited to review Bembridge Little Theatre Club's production of 'The Boy Friend', and may I thank everyone who gave me this opportunity because it certainly surpassed my expectations. The Bembridge Little Theatre Club has an excellent reputation, and this performance did them justice in confirming their reputation as anything but an amateur production company.

The story is mainly set in Madame Dubonnet's School for Young Ladies, in Nice, France. The main character, Polly Browne (Ashleigh Mackness) is the only girl at the school who doesn't have a boyfriend because her father (Bill Meatyard) thinks that any boy interested in his daughter is only concerned with her inheritance. Cue, charming delivery boy Tony (Bertie Everson) at which point, the story unfolds, and starts to get complicated!

The opening night was well attended with a variety of ages in the audience and the cast. All the actors were well cast and suited their parts tremendously and what seemed to capture everyone's attention was the fact that the entire ensemble seemed to be enjoying themselves greatly. The dancers were well coordinated and the whole musical flowed smoothly and professionally.

The band were great, as were all the songs and I thoroughly enjoyed every minute.

It is difficult to single anyone out, however, Hortense the French maid, played by Amanda Gregory put on such a stunning performance, that from the moment she came on to the stage, she had the audience in the palm of her hand.

Maisie and Dulcie played by Olivia and Abigail Hickey also put on a superb show with great acting and vocals from both.

Leading roles of Polly and Tony, played by Ashleigh Mackness and Bertie Everson were charming and, like the rest of the cast well executed and professional in all aspects.

"Very professional, excellent! Brilliant production and performance. The costumes and decorations were great." Derek and Maureen Bean, (1st time viewers).

"Very, very good. They stayed in character the whole time. Faultless." Yana Trzebska, 14

Also, it was nice to see so many fellow Sandown High School students in such a top notch performance and I hope to see more of Bembridge Little Theatre Club's productions in the future.

Sarah Garnham

Bembridge Evening Townswomen's Guild

We started our evening with the speaker, Simon Goodenough from Ventnor Botanical Gardens who brought a great deal of delightful slides to illustrate a most interesting account of the vast changes that had been made to the Gardens since his appointment as Curator twenty five years ago. The slides showed us very many projects in the making, before and after shots and the devastation caused by the storm in 1987. His description of the phases in garden reconstruction was really informative and at times most amusing. Many questions were asked as he went along and we certainly learned a lot of Latin plant names.

After coffee we got down to the general business of the evening. A report was given on the excellent AGM held in the Medina Theatre on April 4th.

Supper Club will be held in The Windmill on April 19th.

Last minute plans were discussed for our next coffee morning in the Village Hall on Saturday April 9th. The proceeds from this will be going to Haylands Farm.

The coming Craft Competition organised by the Federation Committee will be held on May 21st in the George Centre in Ryde. The schedule was discussed and the meeting will hopefully manage to provide something for all of the sections.

We also began arrangements for the stall at the Bembridge May Fair.

The competition for the best bloom was won by Verena Sparrow with Ros Francis second and Marianne Britton third. Our competition this month for an unusual garden ornament was won by Marianne Britton with Ros Francis second and Sylvia Harrison third.

Our next meeting will be on May 3rd when we will welcome Martin Woodward to talk about Cycling round New Zealand.

We hold our meetings at the Methodist Church Hall at 7.30pm. All are welcome to attend. If you wish to know any details please contact Dot Harrison 872992.



Cover picture:

Canon Le Mesurier had these houses built in 1861 called "Widows Houses".

They were to be used as Alms Houses for widows, selected by the Vicar and Churchwardens.

Now demolished and replaced by flats.

Bembridge in Bloom 2011



Time again to think about getting your front gardens, shop fronts and businesses ready for this years' Bembridge in Bloom Competition.

It has been a hard, cold winter so we can cheer ourselves up by planning and planting beautiful flower beds, planters and hanging baskets. Bembridge has a great reputation to uphold.

The categories are:-

- Best Large Front Garden
- Best Small Front Garden
- Best Sustainable Front Garden (Drought resistant shrubs etc.)
- Best Containerised Frontage
- Best Large Commercial Premises
- Best Small Commercial Premises
- Best Houseboat Frontage
- Special Category – Residential complex

A new Award is for anyone who has overcome an illness or disability to create a garden. It is still free to enter. It's fun and rewarding to see our beautiful village blooming at its best. I look forward to a summer with even more entries – don't be shy – have a try. Watch out for the posters in April/May.

Happy Gardening

Barbara Blackburn - *Organiser Bembridge in Bloom*

BEMBRIDGE VILLAGE BAND CONCERT

On Sunday the 5th June at 3pm in Bembridge Village Hall

The Band will present their annual charity concert and celebrate their 10th birthday.

Over the last 10 years the band has raised nearly £3,000 for charity

We hope you will join us and enjoy a varied programme of music including; marches, Glen miller, traditional and wartime favourites

Also featured will be:

The Bembridge Handbell Ringers - The Holland Brass Quartet

The Bembridge Recorder Consort - Jazztones Quartet

Entrance fee is £5 payable on the door and includes light refreshments.

There will be a raffle and all proceeds will go to the very deserving

Earl Mountbatten Hospice. We look forward to seeing you,

Angela Holland *Conductor*

All Saints Counselling Service

You may have already heard of us here at All Saints, Portsmouth, so this is just a reminder to everyone that we are here, or an introduction to us if you were not aware we existed.

All Saints Counselling Service operates at All Saints Centre, All Saints Church, Commercial Road, Portsmouth. All our professionally trained counsellors are Christians as well, but we are happy to counsel clients of all faiths or no faith at all. Our counselling is under pinned by our Christian faith, but we do not impose it on clients, although we are happy to explore it within the context of the counselling situation if the client wishes.

If anyone would like more information or would like to enquire into receiving counselling, please call us on 023 92 863087, leave a message, and one of us will return the call.

No one needs to be at rock bottom before they come to see us. Many of us have difficulties at times, some may only seem small and not worth 'bothering' with, or we may feel we 'ought' to be able to deal with them ourselves, but sometimes intervention at the right time can stop them becoming insurmountable. Whatever the reason for seeking counselling, all enquirers will be treated sensitively and with respect, and of course everything will be handled with the strictest confidence.



The Culver Cliff Wireless Station

A recent article in the Bembridge Parish News prompted local author Tim Wander to write in and offer some more details on the Culver Cliff wireless station. Back in 2000 Tim wrote *'Marconi on the Isle of Wight'* for the 100th anniversary of the world's first wireless station at the Royal Needles Hotel at Alum Bay. The following is an extract from his new book, *'A Kind of Magic – The Birth of the Wireless age'* to be published in April this year. It charts Guglielmo Marconi's first five years in this country starting in 1896 and obviously it incorporates much information and many photographs about Marconi's work at Alum Bay, Niton and on the South Coast. You can find out more about Tim's recent books on the history of wireless at 2mtwrittle.com.

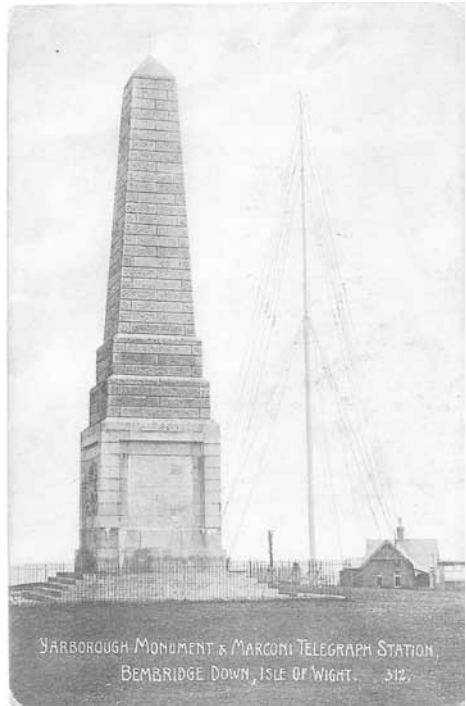
Apart from the now lost Royal Needles Hotel at Alum Bay and the Niton station, another 'Marconi' wireless station is recorded on the Isle of Wight. This was located high on Culver Cliff above the town of Bembridge on the Island's South Eastern coast, sitting in the shadow of the impressive Yarborough monument. The 75 foot high monument is dedicated to Charles Anderson Pelham Earl of Yarborough in the County of Lincoln and Baron Worsley of Appuldurcombe in the Isle of Wight who died on 5th September 1846 aged 65.

The wireless station that stood on Culver Cliff has for many years been known locally as the *'Marconi Station'*. The Culver Cliff Wireless station was built in 1903 for the coast guard and was equipped with the Marconi Companies latest equipment. By 23rd March 1903 the Company had established a total six coastguard signal

stations fitted with wireless telegraphy apparatus. These were Dover, Culver Cliff, Portland, Rame Head, Scilly's, and Roches Point. Eight more were planned for the financial year 1903/04; Bere Island, Spurn Head, Alderney, St. Abb's Head, St. Ann's. Head, Landguard, Port Patrick and Duncansby Head.

By 1906 using radio call sign 'CC' the Culver Cliff station was listed as performing 'Government work' or Royal Navy communications, operating on a wavelength of 350-400m and by 1910 its call sign had changed to 'RQN'. The station was still listed as being in use in 1920 by the British Admiralty.

This postcard shows the Wireless Telegraphy station on Culver Cliff probably taken around 1912. In front of the wooden building on the extreme right, with its own water tank and 150 feet high sectioned pine wood aerial mast was the coast guard station.



A popular story concerning the station was that it was the first shore station to receive wireless distress signals from the doomed liner *Titanic* when it struck an iceberg on Sunday 14th April 1912. There is no evidence that this actually occurred and for the time it would have been remarkable technical feat, but not *impossible*. It is widely known that the *Titanic's* distress calls were picked up by wireless operators on ships up to 153 miles away which led to many lives being saved. The *Titanic* was also heard by a Newfoundland shore station but it is unlikely that with the equipment on board the *Titanic* that any signals would have carried across the Atlantic to the Isle of Wight.

All sign of the wireless station was lost by the building of the Culver Tavern some 35 years ago although the round coast guard signal hut survived as the entrance porch until the infamous gales of October 1987.

Culver Cliff provides a spectacular walk and vantage point over the South Western corner of the Island. The headland also has a privately owned fort built by the Palmerston administration as protection against Napoleon III between 1862-1867 for the huge cost of £48,025. The fort served in both world wars and the grounds were handed over to the National Trust in 1967. Culver Cliff also has a headland battery built in 1902. The gun emplacements were built to protect the Spit-head approaches with two 9.2 inch breech loading guns through two world wars but they are now half filled in for safety.

If you have any further information on Culver Cliff or indeed Marconi's work at Alum Bay and Niton you can always email Tim on: timwander@compuseve.com

IBEMBRIDGE AFTERNOON TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD

In Mo's absence Hazel Ransome chaired the meeting thanking Ruth for her basket of flowers and Josie for being the hostess. Two members of the Island Federation also attended the meeting. All our groups are flourishing and details were given of our birthday lunch.

After tea we had a very informative talk by Martin Jamieson about his Charity work in Africa. Up until about 10 years ago Mr. Jamieson had been a teacher at Medina High School. He then went on to do an enormous amount of charity work in Africa culminating in him and his wife forming their own charity, SENT (Support Encourage Nurture Train). During this time they worked in Zambia, Malawi, and Ethiopia.

Over the years he worked for the Foundation for Cross Cultural Education, Voluntary Service Overseas, Institute of Physics, Generation 2000 and Kings Academy. Sometimes he was overseeing teacher training whilst also helping people in the fields growing their crops. His first project was to help a village in Zambia to get drinking water into the village. Previously they had to walk about a kilometre with plastic cans to obtain muddy water. He organised an auction to get money for this water project. He visited Universities in these countries helped write curriculums for some schools as well as managing to get equipment through customs without extra costs. His wife taught English and helped with the nursing in the villages. He became Headmaster of one of the Schools. He hopes to go back in 2012 to help start a School at the same time trying to encourage the local people to restore their old buildings rather than pull them down.

We all very much enjoyed this interesting brief insight into some of his charity work.

Best Bloom: 1st Joyce Farmer (Daffodil)
2nd Eve Dyer (Camellia)
3rd Josie Mursell (Tulip)

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 3rd May when Mr. Terry Nigh will be talking about postcards of the Island.

The Guild's coffee morning is on Saturday 21st May starting at 10am in the Village Hall in aid of the Wessex Cancer Trust. It is rumoured that two extra workers will be helping us in the kitchen that morning!

Bembridge Horticultural Society

Website: www.bembridgeblooms.org.uk

Meetings: 14th May *Coffee Morning and Plant Sale*

May is the month when the Azaleas and Rhododendrons are in full bloom as are late flowering tulips. All the flowers and shrubs have woken up and are preparing to delight us with their scents and flowers.

Time to get the bedding plants in, weather permitting, harden off plants still under cover.

Dahlias can be planted out after resting in the greenhouse or shed. I left mine in the ground, I haven't seen any signs of them so far, perhaps I did the wrong thing to leave them in again, time will tell!

Looking in my old gardening book I have noticed that a lot of the things to do this month will be too late as most of the small plants are out and perennials are either out or are well on the way. This year everything seems to be earlier even though we had a long winter.

Cut back shrubs that have finished flowering, sow vegetables and salad crops at regular intervals to prolong the season.

Mow the grass every week and combine the grass cuttings and prunings, if they are not too woody, and put them on the compost.

Lay straw around the strawberries to keep the bugs at bay and the fruit from touching the ground.

Make sure all pots and containers are well watered and checked for bugs before they overwhelm the plants.

Hanging baskets can go out if there is no sign of frost.

All the usual pottering about the garden - little and often trying to keep weeds at bay.

"The May Fairy"

My buds they cluster small and green, the sunshine gaineth heat.

Soon shall the hawthorn tree be clothed as with a snowy sheet.

O magic sight the hedge is white my scent is very sweet.

And lo where I come indeed the spring and summer meet.

Cicely Mary Barker