



# Vectis

## Housing News Autumn 2018



## AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2018



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# MARTYN'S COLUMN



It is with a little egg on my face that I can look back at my slightly pessimistic prediction of the England World Cup performance in the last newsletter. However, I am happy to be proved wrong on this occasion, and hopefully my expectations will also be exceeded in the future.

This is our third and last newsletter for 2018. It seems that the year has gone by incredibly quickly. We have completed our latest development of 4 new units in Keats Walk (named after Bob Keats a previous board member). We will have let around 50 homes over the course of the year and completed 2 HOLD properties in the same period.

We continue to work hard to produce more new homes. Hopefully, we will have a further 31 new homes on site by the end of the year in Gunville and Yarmouth, with a further potential for 22 more in Brighstone and Gunville again. These should start delivering new homes towards the end of 2019.

I hope that we have continued to deliver the level of service that prompted a 98% satisfaction return last year. We remain committed to providing homes that you can be proud of and enjoy. Please forgive us if we continue to ask your views about our performance. We are not complacent and always look to improve.

We continue to work hard to include and reflect your voice in the way we operate. The new Residents Panel is one of three new forums to get input from users, partners and stakeholders. If you would like to know more about the Residents Panel, Hew Homes Panel or Communities Panel please contact us.

Lastly, I realise it is a bit early, but I hope you have a safe and healthy end-of-2018 and an enjoyable Christmas. Please continue to follow us on Twitter and Facebook and through our website and newsletters.





## OPENING KEATS WALK



VHA are pleased to mark the completion of four new homes at Keats Walk, Bembridge.

The opening was attended by Helen and Sophie Keats, the wife and daughter of Bob, after whom the scheme is named. Bob Keats. This scheme has added four new bungalows to our housing stock. With two homes for rent and two for shared ownership this makes another important contribution for the local community. Keats Walk is named in memory of Bob Keats, a previous member of the VHA Board of management whose untimely death from Motor Neurone Disease was a major loss to the Association and the Island, to which Bob made a major contribution.



## NEW PANELS



### *Reserve your seat at our Fish and Chip Supper!*

On **December the 4th** we will be hosting a **'Fish, Chips and Focus'** meeting at Riverside Centre, Newport from 6pm to 8pm.

This is a completely free event which is open to all Vectis residents (and carers if relevant).

This event is an informal meeting to help Vectis stay connected with our residents by telling you a bit about what we are up to and listening to any issues or feedback you may have. The evening will be hosted by the Vectis Residents' Panel and we are also inviting someone along from the Isle of Wight Law Centre to talk about the services they have on offer.

Please tell your neighbours about this and as people get busy at this time of year let us know if you would like to come along by Friday 16 November. You can join us for a free Fish and Chip supper (or vegetarian alternative) and an evening of interesting topics by phoning us on **01983 525985** to register for a place. We can also help with transport if you need assistance getting to and from the venue.

We look forward to seeing you there!





# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

We held our 2018 AGM at the Bargeman's Rest in Newport on the 6th September. We are delighted to have had so many of our friends and partners attend.

It was a great opportunity to conduct the official business of the Association and also take the opportunity to thank of partners, contractors and stakeholders for their continued support.



## NEW LOOK HOUSING TEAM

We have recently reviewed our Housing Management services and will be making changes. We believe these changes will benefit both residents and VHA because:

- It better fits with our plans to increase the number of homes we manage.
- It better enables us to invest in our people, now and in the future.
- It will help us to improve our performance in collecting Rent Arrears – rental income is vital for VHA to be able to provide the services you rely on

To help us to deliver our plans and objectives, we have established a new structure for the Housing Management team. We will be moving away from having a dedicated Income Management Officer and instead having a third Neighbourhood Housing Officer. We believe that this new structure will help us to achieve the required transformation, which has been fully supported by the Board.

# CELEBRATING DIVERSITY THIS NOVEMBER

Lots of important occasions are being observed all over the world this November – what might your neighbours be celebrating?

**31 October (Wednesday) HALLOWE'EN**



This holiday is celebrated on the night of October 31. The word Halloween is a shortening of All Hallows Evening, also known as Hallowe'en or All Hallows' Eve. Traditional activities include trick-or-treating, bonfires, costume parties, and carving jack-o-lanterns. Irish and Scottish immigrants carried versions of the tradition to North America in the nineteenth century. Other western countries embraced the holiday in the late twentieth century including Ireland, the United States, Canada, Puerto Rico and the United Kingdom as well as of Australia and New Zealand.

**1 November ALL SAINTS' DAY and 2 November ALL SOULS' DAY (Christian)**

On All Saints Day thanks is offered for the work and witness of all saints, recognising that not all are known or specially celebrated. Many churches mark this day by holding events especially designed for children. On All Souls Day, the departed are remembered and prayers are offered on their behalf.





### 7 November to 11 November DIVALI (Hindu)

For Hindus this is a New Year festival lasting from one to five days, during which fireworks are set off and lights are hung out. It is a festival of light, coinciding with the darkest night of the lunar month. Divali marks the beginning of the Indian financial year.



Sikhs also celebrate Divali since Guru Hargobind, the sixth Guru, was released from Gwalior prison on this day. The Golden Temple in Amritsar is illuminated and firework displays take place there. It is a time for new clothes, presents and sweets.

### 11 November REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY (National)

The Sunday nearest to Armistice Day, devoted to remembering the dead of the two World wars and subsequent wars.

### 21 and 26 November, THE PROPHET MUHAMMAD'S BIRTHDAY / MILAD UL NABI (Muslim)

Observed by Sunni Muslims on the 12th of Rabi'ul Awwal and by the majority of Shi'a Muslims five days later. The day is widely celebrated within the Muslim world and is a public holiday in a number of Muslim countries. In the sub-continent of India and certain Arab countries like Egypt, the celebration starts with reading from the Qur'an, followed by poetry and songs in praise of the Prophet. In some big cities of the Muslim world the day is marked with processions and flag waving under a huge decoration of lights. In the UK many Muslims celebrate at the mosque.



### 23 November LOY KRATHONG Buddhist

Loy Kratong is celebrated in most of the village and town temples in Thailand and often coincides with a temple's Kathina Day. Degradable baskets are made and filled with carefully folded banana leaves, incense sticks, a candle and sometimes a coin. These are then launched on rivers, canals ponds or the sea, while a wish for good fortune is offered to the spirits of the water. Eels and turtles are sometimes liberated into the water at this time.



### 23 November BIRTHDAY OF GURU NANAK (1469 CE) Sikh

This is the birthday of Nanak, the first Sikh Guru. To celebrate such birthdays, an akhand path, a complete uninterrupted reading of the Guru Granth Sahib, is begun about two days earlier, so that it will be finished on the morning of the festival. Sikhs gather at the gurdwara to hear sermons and sing hymns about the life of the first Guru. The congregation will share a free meal (langar). The gurdwaras are usually illuminated and there are firework displays.

### 30 November, ST ANDREW'S DAY National

The patron saint of Scotland since the 8th century. Andrew was an apostle and brother of St Peter. In the Anglican communion he is associated with missionary activity.





# WILD ABOUT WIGHT

## THE ARC WOODLAND AND PLAYSPACE, OAKFIELD, RYDE



Through our Wild About Wight project and thanks in part to Down to The Coast funding, we are continuing with our plans working alongside housing association, landowners Sovereign Housing and local environmental organisations to bring the Arc, a bright green and very steep arc of semi-natural woodland on the Monkton Mead in Oakfield, Ryde back to good health.

The Arc woodland, together with its stream ecology, is of local and county importance, but in recent years it's become overwhelmed with litter and an invasive plant species, knotweed. Positive site management therefore has a significant ecological importance as well as maintaining an important natural recreational resource for Oakfield and Oakvale communities and even the business community of Nicholson Road industrial estate.

It's a wild spot so it doesn't need too much intervention but rather ways to enhance and celebrate it. We've worked with Sovereign to ensure a link to the Community Payback Service is keeping the woodland free from litter, there are new gates and the knotweed is being treated again. A design is under way for new interpretation, signage and sculptures that double as wildlife habitat too.

## ARC WOODLAND SAFARI...

Part of our aim is to remind people just what a wild and magical spot this is, literally on people's doorsteps. This summer, our Wild About Wight Arc Woodland Safari did just that.

Over 100 people, including local residents and holidaymakers explored the whole of the Arc play area, woodland and the Monkton Mead Brook with the help of local artists and ecologists, a bug Hoover, river nets, paints and clay. The result was a muddy, paint-splashed mini-Bioblitz and memory snapshot of this top spot in Oakfield! Everyone's nature finds were ID'd, painted, pressed into clay for our upcoming exhibition, or just remembered, from ancient woodland species to the modern-day. And we also had the Arc/Artecology pop-up natural history museum on display too.

One surprising and encouraging find was an elver (a baby eel) discovered during our river dip - amazing and very good news as eels are a rare conservation species! Second prize went to a crab spider...discovered in the playground hedgerow, this spider looks and behaves like a crab... even tucking itself on the sand in our tray.

We met local residents who had grown up in the area and returned to re-explore, while others said they didn't know they had all this round the corner from them! Here's hoping they'll all be back to explore and enjoy the Arc and Monkton Mead again and again.





# DOWN TO THE TOWN WITH WILD ABOUT WIGHT - CELEBRATING SANDOWN FOR HERITAGE OPEN WEEKEND



Behind the lovely bright deckchairs and bucket and spades lining the shore each summer, the seaside resort, Sandown, is full of rich human history and architectural timelines too. Vectis's Wild About Wight project helped to unlock some of this hidden heritage by contributing to a great line-up of walks, workshops and open days run especially for this year's Heritage Open Days... Celebrating Sandown.

With a range host of volunteers and organisations chipping in time and expertise, Celebrating Sandown made a weekend of this national event, turning the spotlight on the past, present and even the future stories behind some of Sandown Bay's best-known streets, monuments and attractions.



Historian Richard Smout got us off to a sterling start, leading a whole day of walks and talks for us all around town, tracing the architectural history from the early Victorian hotels and high street, to the Art Deco and the downright modern. Meanwhile, upstairs at Sandown's historic Carnegie library, artist Ian Whitmore taught us the special art tradition of sand painting also known as Marmotinto (no relation to the spread!). The resulting artwork (some brilliant art by our Vectis residents in particular!) is being saved for display as part of our Wild About Wight art exhibition next spring. Other activities included exploring Sandown Barrack Battery and meeting the National Poo Museum, discovering the history of the 30s Browns Golf Course and the PLUTO pipeline story and meeting the Men in Sheds spear-heading the Pavilion machinery restoration... something for everyone!

This was the first time Heritage Open Weekend has been brought to this part of the Island as far as know and a partnership project linking HOW to Vectis, Down to the Coast, Heritage Lottery Fund, The Common Space, Isle of Wight Men in Sheds, Age UK and Quay Arts, Isle of Wight Council Conservation Team, Arc, Browns Family Golf and Cafe too. Hopefully, we'll be able to do it all again next year and explore more and new places and spaces.

Look out for more Wild About Wight events exploring towns and countryside on our website events pages and on the Vectis and Natural Wight Facebook pages.





# WILD ABOUT WIGHT SUMMER SAFARI

## ROCKPOOL MAGIC



Vectis Housing teamed up with the ecologists at Arc for Rock pool Magic and our Wild About Wight summer safari this year, heading out to the world-famous rock pools at Bembridge Ledges.

After 60 days without rain, we were treated to thunder, lightning and a downpour as we set up... nevertheless, an almost biblical crowd, over 300 people (our residents, Islanders and visitors too) joined us, spreading out with their nets and buckets under clearing skies and a whopping double rainbow!



The pools here are easy to explore at low tide and no matter what your age or rock pooling interest or ability, you're guaranteed to discover a whole range of fascinating marine species – there's always something you've never seen before in your life. Learning to identify a squat lobster or tell your scorpion spider crab from its long-legged cousins with help of experts and ID guides made for a great day and way to get a new view on our Island coastline!



There are plenty of opportunities throughout the year to make the most of the beaches and hone your seashore skills... the Wildlife Trust's Wild beach workshops for tots or their Shore search days for adult rock poolers take place around East Wight, plus the annual Under the Pier event in Ryde.

If you'd like more details on anything coming up, get in touch with our Wild About Wight project by emailing [claire@vectishousing.co.uk](mailto:claire@vectishousing.co.uk).

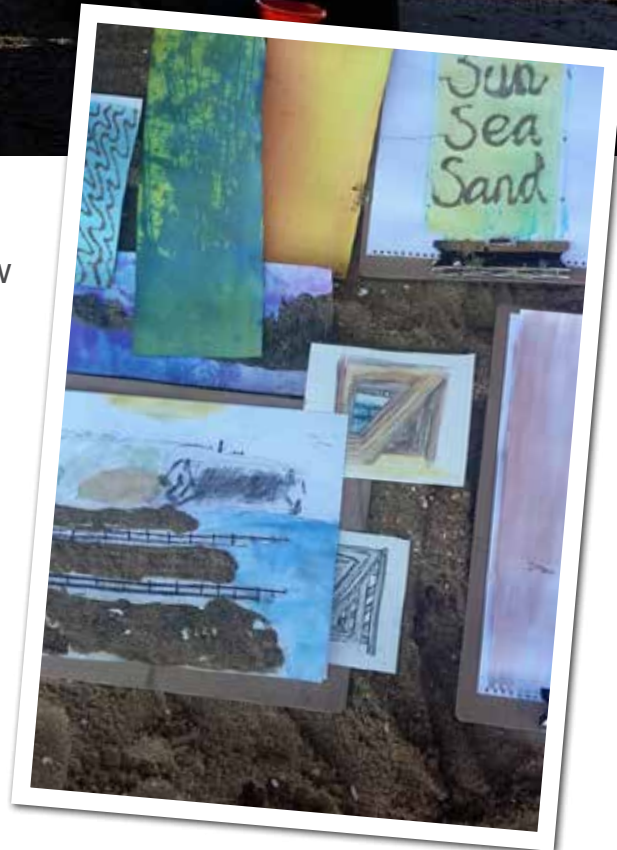




# BEACH SKETCHES & SPLASHES



Thanks to Wild About Wight monthly art workshops, Island residents and visitors have been learning how to draw, paint, sculpt and sketch in some fantastic locations around East Wight with both the indoors and outdoors for studios... from Borthwood Copse round the corner from our Paddocks to the Willow Walk, Hersey Reserve bird hide or inside historic buildings. Earlier this summer, under Sandown Pier became our studio with the town and beachscapes, Pier architecture, and views to Culver and Shanklin for inspiration. Bay artist Hannah George taught us how to paint with everything from watercolour to just water on sand and even passers-by joined in! All the artwork will be exhibited in our exhibition next year at Quay Arts.



Keep an eye out for our winter art workshops on the Vectis events pages or email Claire on [claire@vectishousing.co.uk](mailto:claire@vectishousing.co.uk) if you'd like us to add you to the events mailing list!

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

## CHRISTMAS GARDEN 16TH DECEMBER

Come along to a magical family event. A Free celebration brought to you by The Common Space and Ventnor Exchange. Set in a stunning clifftop location, Sandown Battery Gardens, (Opposite the Heights). Come along and get into the Christmas spirit.

**Sunday 16th December** at 4.30 till 7pm.



## WILD FOOD WALK SATURDAY 13 OCTOBER 1.00 – 3.00PM, ST HELENS DUVER

Discover more about nature's larder in and around our hedgerows and coastline this autumn with Mark Russell and Vectis Housing Association. Meet at the Old Church, The Duver, St Helens. Parking available in The Duver Car Park. Distance approx. 2 -3 miles.



For more info and to book your spot, email [Lisa@vectishousing.co.uk](mailto:Lisa@vectishousing.co.uk) or call **01983 525985**. Stout footwear recommended! (Sorry – no dogs allowed)

The walk is FREE for all the family.





## NEWS FROM WIGHT DASH



Our women's centre goes from strength to strength and the time table is updated regularly on our website. Paper copies can be picked up from WOW! Women's Centre at 4-5 St James Street, Newport or you can sign up to the newsletter.



WOW! pre-loved clothing, our charity shop is now open at 12 St James Street, Newport and we are looking for donations and volunteers.

There is plenty going on in the Wight DASH world, come along and join us!



Wight DASH (Domestic Abuse Support Hub) services are changing with effect from 1st October. We will no longer be running the refuge or IDVA services on the Island but we will still be operating a range of services for women who are facing difficult times.

We will be introducing new group programmes to run alongside the existing Freedom and Recovery Toolkit sessions. More information will be available on our website [www.wightdash.co.uk](http://www.wightdash.co.uk) in the next few weeks. Our new specialist support service offers intensive support to women who may have experienced domestic abuse, mental ill health, substance misuse or other challenges.

NATIONAL  
HOUSING  
FEDERATION

THISTLE  
TENANT RISKS

My Home  
Contents Insurance

### Fire, Theft, Water Damage, Flood . . . Are you insured?

When you move into your property, you should think about **protecting your personal possessions** and **home contents**.

These include your furniture, carpets, curtains, clothes, bedding, and electrical items. And don't forget your jewellery, pictures and ornaments.

*For more information contact your Housing Office or telephone*

**My Home on 0345 450 7288**

email: [myhome@thistleinsurance.co.uk](mailto:myhome@thistleinsurance.co.uk)

## HELP US TO KEEP IN TOUCH

Update your contact details with us. It would be really helpful if you could ensure we have up to date telephone numbers/email addresses on our records. If any of this information has change please give us a call so we can update your details.





# Home Swapper

The mutual exchange solutions for tenants and landlords

## Want to Move Home?

HomeSwapper.co.uk's local & national service means mutual exchange is better than ever. It's the UK's largest community of social housing tenants looking to swap homes.

• Tenants from over 1,000 landlords are registered

• 2 out of 3 matched to potential swaps in 24 hours

• hundreds of households move every month

How it works:



### HOME SWAPPER

If you have an assured tenancy with Vectis you have free access to the services offered by HomeSwapper. The system is easy to use and has already helped many residents find a new home better suited to their needs.

#### VISIT US:

[www.facebook.com/VectisHousing](https://www.facebook.com/VectisHousing)  
[www.vectishousing.co.uk](http://www.vectishousing.co.uk)

#### CONTACT US:

**Emergency Repairs**  
**Phone Vectis Repair Line:**  
**01983 520353**



*Please call this number to report emergency repairs. Inappropriate use may result in any additional costs being re-charged to you.*

*Please do not use the text service for emergencies, especially over bank holidays as we will not receive them out of hours.*

*Please phone these through on the maintenance line **01983 520353**.*

#### **SORRY WE ARE CLOSED**

#### **For the following:**

• **August Bank Holiday, 27th August**

All other enquiries: **01983 525985**  
[enquiries@vectishousing.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@vectishousing.co.uk)