



Junction of Red Cliff with Culver Cliff, Bembridge Down © AONB Unit Photographer Joe Low

Chairman's Welcome

Through these summer months the natural world around us is constantly changing and the colours in the fields and hedgerows too. Now the hedges are adorned with dog roses and honeysuckle and the verges rich in ox eye daisies and tufted vetch. The cornfields around the Island are starting to turn and it will not be long before harvest is upon us.

At the time of writing this, the application for the Wellow Wind Farm has been submitted and the various organisations concerned with the issue are considering their responses. This is a major issue for the AONB and the Island landscape as a whole. If there is anything positive to come out of this process, it is that it has caused many people to look more closely at our Island landscapes and countryside and to reflect on their true wonder. From simple things like hedges and verges to wider vistas, they enrich our daily lives and it is when these things are threatened they seem most precious.

Not only does the AONB enrich the daily lives of those who live on the Island and those who make their living from it, it is also the reason why many people come here on holiday and for breaks. Most leaflets, posters or brochures that you see promoting the Isle of Wight contain spectacular photos of our Heritage Coast or AONB countryside, and these promotional tools prove a major draw to the visitors

who come here. Once here our Island visitors are not disappointed because they soon realise that it is even better than it appears in the photos, and the recreational opportunities provided by our coast and countryside enable our visitors to have a great holiday. This leads me on to the fact that not only is the AONB beautiful and provides many people with enjoyment; it also provides the Isle of Wight with a major economic benefit and is one of its greatest financial assets. This is another reason why it should be looked after and protected with the greatest care. It is also a demonstration that economy and environment are words that are not incompatible.

This issue of the newsletter contains many interesting features. On the centre pages is a feature on the AONB Sustainable Development Fund, and the different projects that have been successful in obtaining grants. They cover some wide-ranging projects that have been selected because they look to the future in showing that the Isle of Wight AONB is a living, working place.

Tony Tutton *Chairman,
Isle of Wight AONB
Partnership* ■



The Isle of Wight AONB Partnership is a member of the National Association for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Zummet vor Nippers!!!

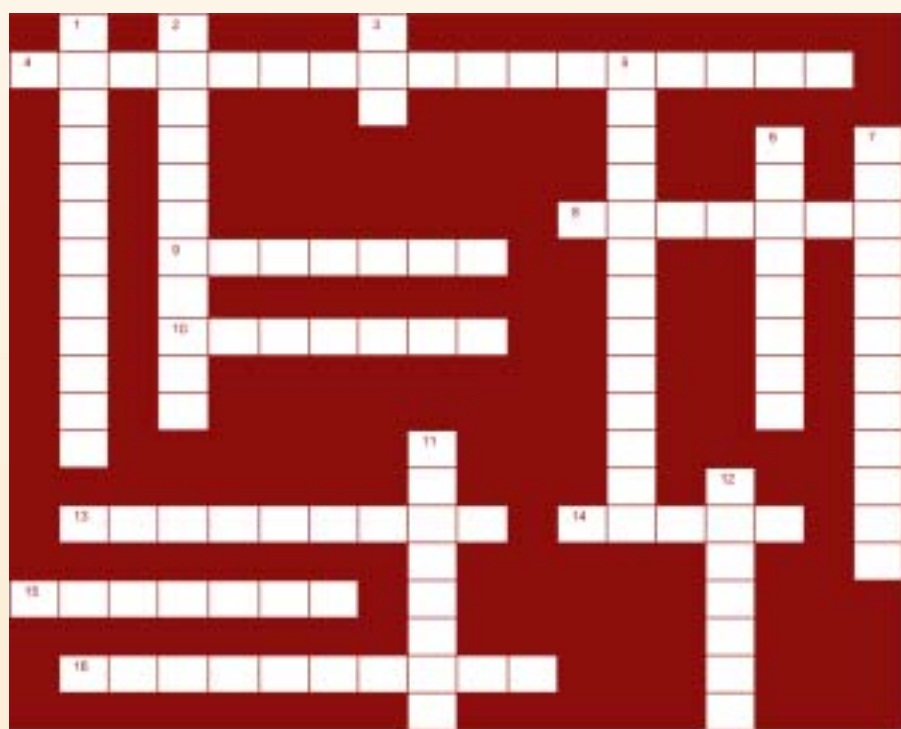
How well do you really know the Island's AONB? *Carrie McDowell, AONB Assistant*

The Isle of Wight is a fantastic place, over half of which is designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

There are wonderful walks, stunning scenery, beautiful beaches and great places to visit. It is steeped in heritage and history, with settlements as far back as the Old Stone Age, and teeming with

all kinds of rare and fascinating flora and fauna.

It is, however, very easy to take it all for granted, so have a go at our Crossword and test your own and even Mum and Dad's knowledge of the AONB, by seeing how many questions you can answer. The solution will be in the next issue of *Finest Landscapes*.



Wordscramble

Can you unscramble the names of these famous people linked to the AONB?

- IJULARTAGMAEROMCNARE (5,8,7)
- DEFARLDRLONTNOSNEY (6,4,8)
- RSIDIRHCRAYROWESL (3,7,7)
- DLROUOBHRAOYGR (4,10)



Acknowledgement

For more information about the Isle of Wight, see 'So you think you know the Isle of Wight' - produced by the Francis Frith Collection for Ottakar's

Errata

Many apologies for the error in our last issue - plants B and C were the wrong way round. Hope it did not spoil your enjoyment of our puzzle.



Across

- 4 Where was Lord Louis Mountbatten formally installed as the Island's last Governor (11,6)
- 8 According to legend, which 12th century queen was incarcerated at Quarr Abbey (7)
- 9 What is the modern name of "Niwetune" meaning new borough (7)
- 10 Complete the phrase Local Nature (7)
- 13 Where was the 1970 Island Rock Festival staged (5,4)
- 14 The Island was divided into how many parishes following the Norman Conquest, all of which contain areas of the AONB (5)
- 15 Where on the Island did Marconi establish the first wireless telegraph station in the world (4,3)
- 16 On which down are the remains of the Island's only Iron Age hilltop fort (10)

Down

- 1 Where on the Island is the fossil forest (7,5)
- 2 The statue of which rock star can be found at Dimbola Lodge (4,7)
- 3 What is the name of the monument on St Catherine's Down (3)
- 5 Which of the Island's great houses was the home of Sir Richard Worsley (13)
- 6 Farringford House was the home of which famous poet (8)
- 7 Where was the site of the Royal Engineers Submarine Mining Depot (4,8)
N.B. This is not in the AONB, but you can find the AONB Unit here on Thursday 17 August 2006.
- 11 The Island's first charter was received by which town (8)
- 12 The site of the 19th century Royal National Hospital for Diseases of the Chest was in which town (7)

Cheap as Chips

Biomass woodfuel for heat

Jim Fawcett, Principal Policy Officer (Health and Sustainable Development), Isle of Wight Council

THE USE OF WOOD for heat and power production is undergoing something of a renaissance in the UK with support from the Government, Forestry Commission and the Biomass Task Force under the chairmanship of Sir Ben Gill, ex-President of the NFU.

Modern biomass heating systems are clean, efficient and very cheap to run. They can be fed with either woodchips, which are used in larger boilers or wood pellets which are more suitable for domestic boilers.

With the recent increases in fossil fuel prices, woodchip is now the cheapest fuel on

the market.

It has been estimated that there is something like 22,000 tonnes of wood available each year from the Island's woodlands on an ongoing basis. This corresponds to approximately 55 GWh of thermal energy or 11MW of heat capacity. If all this wood were used for heating on the Island in place of heating oil, the combined carbon dioxide emissions avoided would be over 13,000 tonnes of CO₂ each year.

This biomass capacity is sustainable since it is based on the "increment", or additional growth on the trees. In the longer-term it may be possible to supplement this through the planting of short rotation coppice. This is based on quick growing species such as willow and hazel, which can be harvested on a 3 year cycle. The Island's wetter soils are very appropriate for these species.

The AONB's Management Plan recognises that the use of local biomass

sources of energy will bring social, environmental and economic benefits. It will bring increased opportunities for the suppliers of biomass fuels in rural areas and reduce the fuel bills of businesses and households. If developed properly it will lead to the more widespread management of woodland on the Island, thereby improving landscape quality and it will reduce carbon dioxide emissions through displacement of fossil fuels. Biomass is a renewable resource which is carbon neutral, since the carbon released in its destruction is equivalent to that absorbed during its growth.

Biomass is suitable for almost any activity requiring heat. It has been used successfully in schools, Council offices, swimming pools, large greenhouses, community buildings and domestic properties. Biomass boilers are now fully automated with the fuel moving automatically from the store into the boiler with no need for manual handling.



Stop Press - Wellow Wind Farm

Following the attendance of a number of meetings, seminars and discussions regarding the application for six wind turbines at Wellow, the AONB Partnership's comment was submitted to the Local Planning Authority on Friday 21st July 2006, a copy of which can be reviewed on our website www.wightaonb.org.uk

'A world-class coastline' World Heritage/GeoPark Study

The Isle of Wight Council's Centre for the Coastal Environment is leading a study and education programme to assess the possibility of designation of part of the Island's coastline as either a World Heritage Site or Geopark, taking account of its internationally important geology, landforms and coastal processes.

The ten month study is benefiting from funding from the Leader + Programme with the support of the Isle of Wight Economic Partnership.

The World Heritage/GeoPark study will contribute to the IW Council's key strategic objectives of achieving sustainable development together with protecting the special qualities of the Island's environment, whilst at the same time encouraging economic regeneration through environmental tourism. Furthermore, this study will involve extensive consultation with coastal stakeholders as well as a comprehensive education programme students and school children from across the study area.

For further information visit www.coastalwight.gov.uk/worldclasscoast.htm or contact IW Centre for the Coastal Environment on 01983 857220

Photograph courtesy Wightlight Gallery, Ventnor



We would like to thank Wight Wildlife, Footprint Trust, National Trust, Island Food & Craft Association and Isle of Wight Council's Design & Conservation Team, Centre of Coastal Environment, Agenda 21 Office and Archaeology & Historic Environment Service for their contributions to this newsletter and the work of the Isle of Wight AONB Partnership.

AONB Sustainable Development Fund

The hugely successful AONB Sustainable Development Fund was introduced as a funding scheme available via AONB Partnerships last year. The Fund looks to assist projects that will bring social, environmental and economic benefits to the Isle of Wight AONB. It aims to develop and test new methods of achieving a more sustainable way of life in this area of great beauty and diversity.

We have again seen a terrific response to this year's fund and we have been able to offer grants to a broad range of projects. Here, with assistance from the various project managers, we have outlined just some of the projects that are currently being funded.

Applications are now closed for this year's scheme, however, if you require any further information or want to discuss a potential future project, please contact Fiona Hanna on 01983 823855 or e-mail fiona.hanna@wightaonb.org.uk



WATER WORKS

Local educational charity the Footprint Trust has launched a new initiative entitled **Water Works**, which will work with the Isle of Wight's community to promote the benefits of sustainable living. The IW AONB Sustainable Development Fund has supported the project, along with EU, Leader+, the Ernest Cook Trust and Southern Water.

The aims of the project will be achieved by raising awareness of the need to use water resources more efficiently. The initiative has been in the planning for a year and coincidentally was launched in the wake of the recent hosepipe ban on the Island.

The pumping of fresh and wastewater has many impacts on the environment including the vast amounts of energy used in the process. The Isle of Wight imports a percentage of its water from the mainland depending on demand. This puts a particular strain on natural resources during the summer months. In common with the rest of the South East we have a shortage of water. Sustainable management of this important resource is essential to the health of the environment. Today we all use 50% more water than 25 years ago - we use around 160 litres per person every day.

One way the Trust will be seeking to reduce waste is by promoting water efficiency in gardens and the home. It has already attended the Robin Hill Garden Show and will have a presence at Wolverton Garden Show and Chale Show. The Footprint Trust has recently praised an innovative Island invention the NuCan which is a very efficient watering can. It will be taking the NuCan to its displays to highlight its benefits.

Don Roe of the Footprint Trust explains the project;

'The **Water Works** project seeks to raise awareness of the need to use water wisely. By reducing

water wastage we can reduce the impact on resources and wildlife. The activities we plan will help children and their families appreciate the water environment and the need to conserve it. The project will be aimed at both local people and visitors. Demonstration drought tolerant gardens will be created in public places during 2007. We will work in partnership with local garden centres to promote water efficiency in the garden.'

'We wish to explain how water management affects the landscape, habitats and wildlife of the AONB. This educational project will encourage hands-on activities. We will work with young people and families to bring about a greater understanding of the need to conserve wetland habitats, linked to water saving and fun activities such as pond-dipping. We will work with gardeners and allotment holders to seek ways of becoming more water efficient.'

A simple leaflet giving guidance to gardeners on water efficiency in the garden is about to be published and distributed through libraries and public events. Information will also be published in the Beacon and I.W County Press. The Trust will be giving away some 2,000 Southern Water 'Save-a-Flush' bags which save a litre of water with every flush of the toilet.

The Trust is a member of the Centre for Alternative Technology (CAT), which promotes sustainable technologies including rain-water harvesting.

Footprint Trust
Contact Footprint Trust
01983 822282 or
info@footprint-trust.co.uk
www.footprint-trust.co.uk



Biomass Project

The SDF has provided the IW Council's Agenda 21 Unit with £2,350 for a project called 'Encouraging the Market for Biomass Energy'.

The project started in March 2006 with a successful seminar at Calbourne Water Mill, which attracted over 70 people. The seminar showed that biomass heating is now modern, highly efficient and affordable, with fuel costs less than those of mains gas. The seminar also showed that there is an abundant source of wood on the Island suitable for chipping and that greater management of the woodlands would have positive landscape benefits.

The second part of the project is to provide potential end users with detailed surveys and specifications to enable them to move quickly to purchasing a biomass boiler. A total of 5 free surveys will be available for biomass heating systems (wood chips or pellets) and 2 for Anaerobic Digestion systems, which use farmyard manure as a source of biogas.

The project helps to implement the AONB Management Plan and is seen as the first step in creating a network of biomass end-users on the Island from which a sustainable supply chain can be created. By encouraging the production of energy from biomass sources, it will also contribute to the Island's Renewable Energy Strategy.

If you are interested in a free biomass survey or would like more information on this project please contact Jim Fawcett on 01983 823204 or jim.fawcett@iow.gov.uk

European Island Farm Landscapes

In November 2005, the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, supported by Leader + and the Isle of Wight AONB Sustainable Development Fund initiated the European Island Farm Landscapes project.

This scheme seeks to share experience between island farming communities and environmental organisations across Europe. It aims to explore how farmers, crofters and rural landowners use new European Union Agri-environment schemes to maintain their small and micro-businesses, supporting landscape and wildlife through sustainable land use; as well as to explore alternative viable or sustainable forms of farm diversification favouring farm landscapes.

It is intended that the islands will jointly identify common opportunities and issues on farming and landscapes, that can be presented as a united initiative to European Policy makers.

Over the course of the next two years each European island involved will work on the four elements of the project. These elements are: the assessment and monitoring of agri-environment schemes; the efficacy of farm advice and



information; the effects of farm diversification on landscape management and the establishment of a European Initiative to promote farming on islands in the EU.

Other islands participating in this project include Texel, Menorca, Shetlands, Ireland's western offshore islands, Cyprus and Malta, many of whose representatives attended the project's first workshop held on the Isle of Wight in April 2006. The workshop, which incorporated a number of visits to AONB/Leader+ farms and other rural businesses, identified a number of key issues and successfully agreed a timetable and joint work programme for 2006-2007.

Further information on this project is available on www.islandfarming.net

Island Food and Craft Association

Last year saw the AONB Sustainable Development Fund sponsor the introductory phase in the development of a central coordinating body looking to improve the supply systems, marketing and promotion of local produce and Island crafts. The core aims of the organisation are to: Develop an umbrella support organisation for producers and users/retailers of locally produced food and craft products on the Isle of Wight; Raise the level of local produce consumption and the quality of local produce/producers on the Island; Develop the Island as a 'Food Tourism' destination to support the long-term sustainability of rural economy; Help tourist outlets such as hotels, attractions, restaurants, etc, to raise the quality of their product through using local produce as a 'Unique Selling Point' and promoting an 'Eat the View' concept; and promote artisan crafts as a means of broadening and deepening the rural economy.

The Island Food & Craft Association (IFCA) has been up and running for over 3 months now and

already considerable progress is being made. There are over 100 members covering food & craft producers, retailers, farm shops, hotels, B&Bs and restaurants, who are all committed to producing, sourcing and selling as much local Island produce as possible.

DEFRA & the Isle of Wight AONB Sustainable Development Fund have confirmed funding for 2006/07 a total of £88,000, which will allow IFCA to develop a whole host of planned projects and initiatives. On the back of this funding IFCA has appointed a 9-month project manager to lead the organisation through to its second AGM, the project manager is Hayley Elston from Sol Food, a consultancy specialising in developing local produce development.

The 'Island Breakfast' pilot project is getting close to its launch, there are around 15 outlets (cafés, hotels etc.) involved, offering 200 covers per day. Each will source all their respective breakfast products from a

range of IFCA members. A full list of outlets will be published as soon as the scheme pilot is launched.

IFCA has been working with a number of events for 2006; these include the Garlic Festival, Chale Show, Wolverton Manor Show and the Isle of Wight Food & Drink Festival. IFCA will have dedicated tents for each event featuring a range of members.

The IFCA website has recently gone live. www.islandfca.org is still very much in the development stage although it is growing in content by the week. The aim is to eventually have a complete online directory of all Island based food & craft producers as well as information on events, business support and IFCA initiatives.

Other developments include the formation of a committee to undertake the branding/labelling process to create an Isle of Wight 'local produce' label.

For further details please see the above mentioned website or call Hayley Elston on 01983 761380.

The Isle of Wight Historic Environment Action Plan

Many readers will have heard of Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPS) but are less likely to have heard of Historic Environment Action Plans (HEAPS). Whereas BAPS identify habitats for wildlife within a local area and develop strategies to manage them effectively, HEAPS identify and develop management strategies for areas of archaeological interest and historic landscapes. The Isle of Wight Archaeology and Historic Environment Service has just launched a new HEAP Project, based at the Archaeological Centre in Clatterford Road, Carisbrooke. This project is supported by the AONB Sustainable Development Fund and by LEADER+. It will run from June 2006 until March 2008. Vicky Basford has been appointed as part-time Consultant Project Officer.

The AONB Sustainable Development Fund aims to develop and test innovative methods of achieving a more sustainable way of life, including more effective conservation of the environment. HEAPS are certainly an innovative approach to the conservation of the historic environment, building on an idea proposed by English Heritage in 2004. However, the Isle of Wight HEAP will draw on

existing information available at the Archaeological Centre, in particular the recently completed Historic Landscape Character Assessment and the Historic Environment Record. The aim of the HEAP is to produce a historic environment action plan which will identify historic landscape character types of particular significance, and recommend actions for the future conservation and management of these types.

A HEAP Steering Group has been established to manage the two year project. Steering Group members have been recruited from conservation, environmental and countryside bodies, including the AONB. The Steering Group will aim to promote collaborative working in managing the historic environment, and will oversee production of the Action Plan.

The Historic Environment Action Plan will support the management of the AONB by providing more detailed information on the historic environment. Information will also be fed into the Island Plan and into community planning documents. Data from the HEAP will be used in the provision of advice on Environmental Stewardship

schemes.

A key aim of the Isle of Wight HEAP Project is to raise awareness of the local historic environment, and to promote community projects which will assist with conservation and management. During the course of the project presentations will be made to planners, countryside managers, local societies and local community groups. Information about the Island's historic landscape character will be provided through leaflets and the Isle of Wight Council's website. Historic environment walks will also be offered through the Council's guided walks programme. The HEAP Project Officer will encourage local action by businesses and community groups which will lead to the identification, protection and management of historic environment and historic landscape features. She is currently working with the Isle of Wight Natural History and Archaeological Society, to organise a survey of historic lanes and tracks which will provide information for the HEAP.

Anyone wanting further information about the HEAP should contact Vicky Basford on 01983 823810.



Heritage Open Days

Thursday 7th - Sunday 10th September 2006

HERITAGE OPEN DAYS celebrate England's fantastic architecture, history and culture. As part of this major national event (coordinated by the Civic Trust and English Heritage), the Isle of Wight is offering you a chance to experience its fantastic local history, architecture and culture for free. You will be able to visit interesting buildings, which would usually be closed to the public or where an admission fee would normally be charged. There will also be a variety of guided tours and walks on offer.

At least 19 events are on offer on the Isle of Wight over the four day period and include:

1. A walk in the special nature reserves of **Alverstone Marshes** to look for birds, water voles and a bit of pond dipping for bugs too! The marshes have amazing wetland archaeology with wetland finds. Sun 10th from 10.30am to 12.30pm. Meet at the parking area, past Sandown High School and just past Sandown/Shanklin Golf Course.



2. Free entry to **Appuldurcombe House** – once the Island's grandest house. Thurs 7th - Fri 8th from 10am to 4pm. Pre-book guided walks available at 2pm both days: 01983 852484.
3. Short walk tracing the evolution of **Appuldurcombe Park** – one of the 'listed' parks of Great Britain. Thurs 7th and Fri 8th from 3pm to 5pm. Pre-book on: 01983 852484
4. A five-hour walk around the historic landscape of **Godshill and**



Appuldurcombe House

Appuldurcombe – an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Fri 8th at 9.30am. Pre-book on: 01983 823855. Meet at Godshill Car Park.

5. Free entry to **Brading Roman Villa** – see the villa's fourth century mosaics and the award winning cover building. Sun 10th from 9.30am to 5pm.
6. Children under 16 may bring their parents into the **Classic Boat Museum** for free. Sat 9th from 10am to 4.30pm.
7. Free entry to the **Dimbola Lodge Museum** – the former house of Victorian Pioneer Photographer, Julia Margaret Cameron, housing an exhibition of her works, photographic equipment and contemporary photography. Thurs 7th to Sun 10th from 10am to 5pm.
8. **East Cowes Heritage Centre exhibition**, showing the town's development and its industry from the 1700s to present day. Thurs 7th to Sun 10th from 10am to 4pm.
9. **A ghost and history walk around Freshwater Bay**, visiting the former homes of Alfred Lord Tennyson and Julia Margaret Cameron. Sun 10th at 10.30am and 2.30pm. Meet at Freshwater Bay Car Park.
10. View an **exhibition at Brading Station** marking the end of steam and the reduction of the Island's rail network. Thurs 7th to Sun 10th from 10am to 4pm. An introduction to the exhibition will be given at 11am and 2pm on Thurs 7th, Fri 8th and Sat 9th.
11. **A guided tour of HMP Parkhurst Prison**, including a presentation of its history from 1838 to the present day, and a visit to the Prison Heritage Centre. Thurs 7th - Fri 8th from 6.45pm to 9.15pm. Report to main gate HMP Parkhurst by 6.45pm. Pre-book on: 01983 298756 (before end of August).
12. Guided walk (approx 2 1/2 hours) to discover the **history and landscape of Tennyson Down**. Dogs welcome on leads. Thurs 7th at 2pm. Meet at High Down Pit Car Park.
13. Discover the Island's history from the time of the dinosaurs to the present day at the **Museum of Island History**. Sat 9th from 10am to 5pm.
14. A guided walk looking at the **history of Newport pubs** from the outside. Thurs 7th from 5.30pm to 7pm and Sat 9th from

4pm to 5.30pm. Meet at the junction of Sea Street and Newport Quay. Pre-book on: 01983 823821

15. Free entry to **Newtown Old Town Hall** – the only remaining evidence of the former importance of Newtown. Sun 10th from 2pm to 5pm.
16. Free entry to **Newport Roman Villa**. There is an education room, mosaic making, a demonstration of Roman games, a children's quiz. Sat 9th from 10am to 4pm.



17. Talk on the ruins of medieval **Quarr Abbey**. Fri 8th, Sat 9th and Sun 10th at 12 noon and 3pm. Meet at bridleways junction car park at the Old Abbey.
18. Explore the Island's maritime past at **The Underwater Archaeology Centre** – with displays and hands on activities it is housed in a Victorian fort built in 1855. Sat 9th from 10am to 4.30pm.
19. Free entry to **Ventnor Heritage Museum** – a former furniture shop. It now displays an exhibition of Ventnor's history and a model railway. Sun 10th from 1.30pm to 5pm.



Freshwater Bay

You can find the list of pre-book and turn-up events, with full details, at www.iwight.com by clicking on **Planning Online – Planning Services – Conservation & Design – Heritage Open Days**. From mid-July leaflets will be available from Island libraries and tourist information centres

A range of English Heritage properties will be taking part in Heritage Open Days. Further details will be available on the English Heritage website on 1st September 2006. Check at www.english-heritage.org.uk for more information.

Needles New Battery Information Point

Heather Bradshaw, National Trust



WALKERS ON THE NEEDLES headland may already be familiar with the National Trust's Highdown site. Since the summer of 2004 these former gun emplacements, high above the Needles Old Battery, have housed a refreshment kiosk and a small exhibition on the site's history as part of the British Space programme. Now, with the help of a grant from the AONB Sustainable Development Fund, donations from National Trust Associations and the Marsh Heritage Award (presented in recognition of the volunteers' help at the site) the underground rooms, previously used in the secret rocket testing programme of the

1950s – 70s, have been renovated and are open to the public.

It has taken many months of hard work by staff and volunteers to put right years of neglect, and many problems have been encountered on the way. For example, despite the clearing of vents and installation of dehumidifiers the rooms remain damp and are cool on even the hottest of days: as soon as the walls are painted, patches of black mould appear. This has affected the type of interpretation that can be housed in the rooms and so for this season, there will be a temporary exhibition giving a brief history of the site and an explanation of the

work that has been carried out.

During the coming winter the interpretation of the site's history as a rocket test site will be improved, and for 2007 it will be moved to the underground rooms. Information about the archaeology and natural habitat of the headland will then be available in the room adjoining the kiosk, which will create a more complete information point for visitors to the headland, with no admission charge. The underground rooms will be officially opened in April 2007, to coincide with the 50th anniversary of the first static test firing.

Whats your AONB favourite?

AS PART of our 50th Anniversary celebrations, we are compiling a record of "50 favourite things about the Isle of Wight AONB". Please help us complete this record by telling us one thing about the Island's finest landscapes that makes it particularly special for you. Come and see us at the following events:

CHALE SHOW

Chale Recreation Ground

Saturday 5th & Sunday 6th August 2006

FORT VIC FORAY

Fort Victoria, Yarmouth

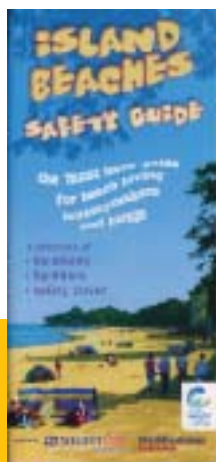
Thursday 17th August 2006

WOLVERTON SHOW

Shorwell

Saturday 2nd & Sunday 3rd September 2006

This very useful Free Guide is available from Tourist Information Centres and Ferry Terminals ▶▶▶



AONB Pocket Map

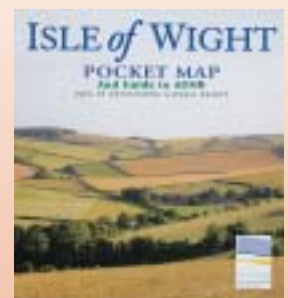
IN CONJUNCTION with Isle of Wight Tourism, the AONB Unit have updated the popular AONB Pocket Map and Guide to Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

The Map incorporates a basic road map, and highlights some of the Island's natural and historic places of interest. While the reverse features stunning photographs and information about the Island's Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty – all folding conveniently into a pocket-sized card cover.

The pocket map is ideal for walkers when used in conjunction with IW Tourism's Coastal Path & Inland Trails Guide, which follows the 67-mile coastal route along spectacular cliffs and explores eight picturesque inland trails through ancient farmland, woodland and along the downland ridges with their panoramic views of the Island.

Additionally, the AONB Pocket Map complements Isle of Wight Tourism's Pocket map, which features many of the Island's local attractions and towns.

Both maps cost £2.00 with the Trails Guide £3.00 and all are available from the Island's Tourist Information Centres.



An Anniversary Walk

THIS YEAR is the 50th Anniversary of The Gower Peninsula in South Wales, being designated as the first Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). Since then 50 AONB's, including the Isle of Wight AONB, have been designated in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

To mark this event John Brownscombe, AONB Lead Officer and Jill, have devised a walk almost entirely in the Isle of Wight AONB. The walk encompasses a variety of different paths, tracks and trails, and we are confident that it embodies the sheer diversity of the Island's finest landscapes.

As a taster, here is an extract of some of Jill's comments on her reconnaissance of part of the walk earlier this year –

"...Amazingly I walk for two hours without seeing a single person, I'm almost into Brighstone before I meet anyone, in fact, I love the solitude. A big brown hare comes towards me, he is just so close - we look at each other for a full 30 seconds, quite silent and still, except for the larks singing their heads off. The celandines are opening their hearts to the warm spring sunshine, the banks are buttoned with primroses, overhead two buzzards circle in the clear blue sky.... the view from Idlecombe Down is so beautiful, I have all day to enjoy this scenery. Little jenny wrens are very much in evidence, but above all it's the day of the skylarks...."

*Celebrating 50 years of
Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)
in England, Wales & Northern Ireland*

50 for 50



A specially devised 50 mile walk in the Isle of Wight AONB covering coast, downs and some of the more 'hidden' parts of the Island's Finest Landscapes

JILL GREEN,
*renowned long distance walker and AONB Steering Committee Member, will be leading this very unique walk, starting at Yaverland Car Park on **Saturday 12th August 2006** at 9.00am and finishing at St Blasius Church, Shanklin on Sunday morning.*

Walkers are invited to join Jill on this walk either in its entirety (please pre-book with the AONB Unit) or one of the shorter stages as detailed below.

Yaverland – Brading (3 miles)	Leave Yaverland Car Park @ 9.00am
Brading – Arreton (8 miles)	Leave Brading Bull Ring @ 10.25am
Arreton – Carisbrooke Castle (4 miles)	Leave White Lion Pub @ 1.45pm
Carisbrooke Castle – Brighstone (6.5 miles)	Leave Castle Car Park @ 3.25pm
Brighstone – Brook (4.5 miles)	Leave Opposite 3 Bishops Pub @ 6.05pm
Brook – Chale Green (9 miles)	Leave Brook Chine Car Park @ 8.10pm
Chale Green – Godshill (8 miles)	Leave Chale Green Shop @ 11.50pm
Godshill – Shanklin (9 miles)	Leave Car Park opposite Baiter @ 3.30am

Further information is available from the AONB Unit on 01983 823855 or e-mail unit@wightaonb.org.uk


AONB Unit Team

John Brownscombe – AONB Lead Officer
Nicky Rogers – AONB Planning Officer
Fiona Hanna – AONB Communications Officer
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