



## Lights of Love



The Lights of Love Parade and Service will be held on Saturday 10 December. It will start at Lane End Shops at 5:00pm with the switching on of the Lights on the Christmas Tree. A Lantern parade will then proceed to Holy Trinity Church for a service, and we will finish at the Village Inn for free

mince pies, mulled wine, and soft drinks, and where Father Christmas will hand out sweets to the children.

As in previous years the BBA will provide lanterns, but you can bring your own if you want.

We would like to thank Bembridge Coast Hotel for donating the mince pies, and Sherbourne Street CoOp for donating the mulled wine.

## Bembridge & St Helens Guide 2017

The 2017 edition of the Bembridge & St Helens Guide is currently being planned, you should have already been sent details for advertising. **If you want to advertise in the Guide please return it as quickly as possible, as space is filling up fast.**

We are planning that next years Guide will be bigger and better, the print run will be increased from 20,000 to 25,000, and there will be 16 extra pages.

Are you planning an event or have details of other events to be included in our diary - PLEASE get the dates to Sue ([sue@bembridge.com](mailto:sue@bembridge.com)) as soon as possible.

Whilst we have a number of ideas for editorial content we are always looking for 'something different', would you like to write something? Also do you have any good photos of the village shops, that we might use? Ones where the shops are busy, or outside views without cars would be ideal.

## Member Subscriptions now due

At the time of writing 53 members have yet to pay their subscriptions. It really would help our membership secretary if these were paid promptly. In the unlikely event that you do not wish to remain a member of the BBA please do notify the membership secretary and he will remove you from the database.

## BBA Gift Voucher



Over the past few years we have regularly made a donation to the Library Christmas raffle, providing vouchers from three or four selected members as a prize. This year to give the winner more flexibility we are providing more general "BBA Gift Vouchers" which can be spent at participating members. The BBA will then reimburse the member the value of the voucher. **If you would like to accept these vouchers please contact David Groom and he will add you to the list at [www.bembridge.org/voucher](http://www.bembridge.org/voucher)**

## Introduce a New Member

Not every business in the area is yet a member of the BBA. The committee recently decided to offer an incentive to existing members to recommend the BBA. If you recommend someone to join the BBA you will be entered into a prize draw. The new Membership Application form has a space for the joining member to say who recommended them.

## Autumn Networking Event

In September we held a speed networking event at Tackt-Isle's premises in St Helens. This was the first such event we had undertaken, and all who turned up found the evening to be fun and, more importantly, rewarding from the point of view of promoting their business to fellow members of the BBA.

You might think that in a small community such as ours everyone knows about the services you provide, but this is not the case, and the evening did provide some members with definite chances to get new business.

We plan to run another event in the new year, so keep an eye on your inbox. Hopefully we will have even more members attending the next event.

## Business Rates 2017 Property Revaluations

Business properties have been re-valued for rating purposes and as may be expected have in most instances increased - check out your valuation on [www.gov.uk/correct-your-business-rates](http://www.gov.uk/correct-your-business-rates)

START NOW, enter post code and find your property the site shows you:  
2017 draft valuation / current valuation / previous valuations and similar properties

Under the 2017 draft valuation you can also get an estimate of your business rates bill for 2017. It would appear that 'the multiplier' payable will be around 46.7p in the £.

Then there are various reliefs which may be applied - particularly 'small business relief' which applies to a number of our properties/businesses - which can be 100% ie £0 payable, we are told that this small business relief will continue into 2017/18 - just check out your values and estimation of rates that will be payable.

If you don't agree, now is the time to appeal.

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## Footpath Closure

There are plans to close public access to the path which runs along the course of the old railway from St Helens marina towards Bembridge.

A number of residents are applying for this path to be made a public right of way on the basis of long term historic use. If you want to submit evidence to the IW Council that you have used this path in the past forms are available from St Helens Post Office.

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## St Helens Primary School Christmas Fayre

St Helens Primary School are holding a Christmas Fayre on Saturday 26 November between 11:00am and 2:00pm. If you would like to donate a Raffle prize then please contact the school ASAP. They are hoping to purchase a Library Bus - which will be available not only to the Primary School kids but to locals as well. They need £10,000 to buy the bus, convert it, heat & light it and to fill with books "that will inspire, inform and delight our children".

If you have time available then please do pop along on Saturday to support them.

## BBA Christmas Party

You only have until this Thursday, the 24 November, to let us know if you are coming to the Christmas Party on Tuesday 6 December.

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## Bembridge Harbour Newsletter

The first issue of the Bembridge Harbour monthly newsletter - On the wind- went out in February 2012. It's one page of news snippets and updates about the Harbour and what's happening locally. That first issue went to about 80 people - now it goes to more than 2,800 - with a wide local/Island distribution as well as being read by many of the visitors who come to Bembridge by boat.

They are always happy to include special offers or opportunities being provided by BBA members - anything from a special offer at a restaurant/pub, a discount on a service, or a local art exhibition - as long as it's relevant to Harbour users.

If you don't receive the newsletter but would like to, you can either sign up via their website ([bembridgharbour.co.uk](http://bembridgharbour.co.uk)) or send an email to [fionathorpe@btconnect.com](mailto:fionathorpe@btconnect.com) (and it's easy to unsubscribe should you wish!).

They also use their Facebook page to help promote relevant local events and happenings - there's always a lot going on, so please remember to get in touch and let them know what you are up to!

## BBA Committee

**Chairman:** Clare King - Anthropometry Training, Bembridge

**Vice-Chairman:** position vacant

**Treasurer:** Tim Woodcock - TW Woodcock, St Helens

**Secretary & Membership Secretary:** David Groom Vectis WebDesign, 114 High Street, Bembridge

### Committee Members:

Jay Chapman - Village Inn, Bembridge

Sue McLagan - Bembridge Powerboat Training / Desktop Studio, St Helens

Caroline Scott-Jackson - Bembridge Building Supplies, Bembridge

Ben Smith - Tackt-Isle, St Helens

Gail Wade - Bembridge Barbers, Bembridge

Sarah Jane Weigall - Magnolia Lodge B & B, Bembridge