



## Welcome

Just a very quick newsletter to keep you up to date with the activities of the BBA.

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## News from the AGM

Gail Wade was elected Chairperson of the Association, and Clare King and Ben Smith joined the committee.

The members approved a decision to change the period from which membership subscriptions run, this will allow us to collect subscriptions at the same time as fees to the next edition of the Bembridge & St Helens Guide. The membership subscriptions will now run from 1 October each year. As a consequence existing members have all got six months free membership of the BBA.

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## Bembridge Neighbourhood Plan

After many months the Bembridge Neighbourhood Plan is now complete. A local referendum will be held on 24th July to decide on whether the village wants to adopt this plan, which will then be used by the Isle of Wight Council in guiding decisions on planning applications in the area.

Planning issues may sometimes seem dull, **BUT** this is our chance to help determine how the village may develop over the next few years, so *please* do get out and vote on the day.

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## Bembridge Summer Festival

This year the BYCC will be launching a new event in Steyne Park for everyone to enjoy. Entry to the festival will be FREE and the day will be packed with entertainment, music, exhibitions, stalls and much more! So do go along on the 19th July from 2:00pm - 10:00pm

There will also be a fun Pet Show including Dogs and small animals (guinea pigs, rabbits etc) so please bring along your pooches and pets for a chance to win a rosette or a best in show cup!

## Review of Summer Social

On 19th June we held a summer social hosted by BBA members at St Helens Duver. Thanks must go to Bembridge Powerboat Training, Tackt-Isle and Baywatch Cafe for all the effort they put into making this such an enjoyable evening.

Sadly we didn't have many attending, maybe the World Cup encouraged some of you to stay at home on what was a lovely summer evening. It may well be true to say that those of us who did attend, and went paddleboarding, kayaking, took a rib-ride, tried out a Segway, or just had a burger and enjoyed the evening, may well have had more fun than those who stayed in to watch England play!

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## New Website

At the time of sending out invites to the AGM we informed you of the major redesign which was occurring to our web site ([www.bembridge.org](http://www.bembridge.org)), and the new site was launched at the AGM. To quote from the letter we sent you earlier in the year "As well as a more modern look, the new site will aim to promote the local area more than the current site does. Each business will also have space for a much larger presence on the web site, along with contact details there will be space for a description of the business and up to five photos."

The web site was shown at the AGM, with many positive comments, and those members who have so far taken opportunity to log on and update their details have said how easy it is to do so.

*However, dispassionately only 16 of our 150 or so members have so far taken advantage of the facility to update their details, and put some images and paragraphs of information about themselves onto our site. The passwords and username required to log on to the site were sent with your invite to the AGM, but if you have lost these then please contact David Groom on 873853, or [bba@vectis-webdesign.com](mailto:bba@vectis-webdesign.com).*

We would encourage as all of you to use this free facility since it allows you to promote your business, and also keep our membership secretary informed of changes in your contact details.

## Harbour Fun Weekend

As some of you will already know the owner of the Harbour is once again organising a "Fun Weekend" on the Harbour. The harbour are supporting the IW Air Ambulance and there will be fun and games on the water, a village regatta, BHYC's paper boat race and fireworks at the end of the evening sponsored by Bembridge Harbour Authority.

This is taking place over the weekend of 25/27 July to coincide with Will & Andy Squibb's annual "Dance on the Duver" on Saturday 26th July - this event is held in aid of Bembridge RNLI and Earl Mountbatten Hospice. Don't forget to get your tickets in advance from [www.danceontheduver.co.uk](http://www.danceontheduver.co.uk) for this popular party.



## Grant Funding & Advice

At a recent meeting of the Island Business Forum representatives from the Solent Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and the Solent Growth Hub outlined sources of funding and advice to businesses operating in the area. To be honest it is difficult to summarise all of what they said in the few paragraphs available here, but in a very brief summary is as follows:

The Solent Growth Hub is a 'One Stop Shop' that helps business navigate its way through the complexity of growth initiatives [grants, funding, advice etc.], and promotes growth opportunities to help unlock business finance options. The Business Growth Helpline offers businesses access to free help, expert advice and specialist services, more details at [www.solentgrowthhub.co.uk](http://www.solentgrowthhub.co.uk)

The Solent LEP (<http://solentlep.org.uk>) is a partnership between local councils and business, and has secured government funding to support startups and small to medium businesses in the area. Likely to of most interest is the "Bridging the Gap - Phase 2" initiative, which is for grant funding of between £5,000 and £50,000, and the funding is available to contribute between 50% and 70% of the project cost.

## Members joining & leaving

Our membership continues to grow and now stands at over 150 members.

Sadly one of our longest standing Members, RM Associates, has moved out of the village, and consequently is no longer eligible to be a member of the BBA though they continue to trade from new premises in Newport, and we wish them success in their new location.

## BBA Committee

**Chairman:** Gail Wade  
Bembridge Barbers, High Street, 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:

Jonathan Guy - Beach Hut Café, Bembridge

Clare King - Bodymorph, Bembridge

Sue McLagan - Bembridge Powerboat Training, St Helens

Carol Pearce - Hideaway Holidays, Bembridge

Jim Robinson - Bembridge Marine, Bembridge

Caroline Scott-Jackson - Bembridge Building Supplies, Bembridge

Ben Smith - Tacktle, St Helens

Heather Wilson - Beaufort Marine, St Helens

## New Members

**A & R Welding** - can make gates, railings and other wrought iron work, as well as repair steel, cast iron, aluminium and stainless steel items.

**RJR Solicitors** offer a variety of legal services one day a week in Foreland Road.