

**Chairman, Penny Watts:**

At our recent AGM, held at Bembridge Sailing Club, one of our founder members and five times Chairman decided to stand down. I am sure that everyone knows Robin Maconchy, not only from his invaluable contribution to the BBA, but also from his architectural company, RM Associates, in Bembridge. RM Associates will continue to trade under new ownership and will be offering all the services and remain members of the Bembridge Business Association...so please support them.

The committee presented Robin with a framed certificate, including press clippings and guide editorial, taken from various times during his extended periods of being Chairman. Robin was dedicated to the BBA and we are indebted for all his help throughout the years. From all of us, 'A big THANK YOU' for all you have done over the last 15 years Robin and every good wish for your retirement!



Some of you will be aware that the Chairman's post is now taken by me, Penny Watts, a retired member. I care passionately that Bembridge and St Helens pull through these hard times with imagination and flair, being proactive and using modern technology to forge ahead. I see it as crucial that we adopt a common-market trade agreement amongst our

community – in other words “if what you want can be supplied by a business in Bembridge or St Helens” please approach them first and protect our companies from outside competition. This, of course, will not be applicable to all our needs, but please take time to look in the Guide and see what the area has to offer, especially as most of our member companies have phone numbers for easy contact.

We will be distributing the Guide further afield this year, to encourage visitors to explore what we have to offer. Yes, we are going Islandwide - indeed even further... some have gone into Wightlink in Pompey.

Two of our members have been on the television recently, one featured in 'Four in a Bed' and the other in 'The Hairy Bikers'. Well done to them both... what an excellent way of putting Bembridge on the map! If you have something to offer, why not put yourself forward... promote, promote, promote... we at the BBA will help in any way we can.

I would also ask you for your ideas on supporting our area. Recently one of our committee members suggested a new up-market web site. We have the flair and technology amongst our members and will be looking into this so that every one of you can have your own page. Any more such excellent ideas will be most welcome.

I look forward to seeing most of you at our 'New Members & Advertisers Evening' on 30 April (invitations are enclosed herewith), we have nearly 140 members now including 29 new members in 2012/13 we do hope particularly all those will attend, it's an ideal opportunity to meet others and network, you are welcome to bring a guest, so you won't be alone, it should be a good one!

Penny Watts



**What's on this Summer:**

Everyone will be very happy if we have a summer like '1976' – well, that's the forecast at present!

The Guide gives some of our Island events and there are a few 'particular to Bembridge and St Helens, including:

- IW Randonnee**, which comes through the area on **Sunday 5 May**
- Walk the Wight** starting at Bembridge Airport on **Sunday 12 May**
- The Bembridge Street Fair** on **Monday 27 May**
- The Round the Island race** (excellent viewing as we know from Forelands and Seaview) on **Saturday 1 June**
- Isle of Wight Open Studios (East Wight)** over the **weekend 26 – 28 July** and
- Bembridge Harbour Celebration Weekend 26 – 28 July** with
- Dance on the Duver** on **Saturday 27 July** - a great evening with two local bands all arranged by BBA members, Will Squibb and Spyder UK with the assistance of others for the benefit of the Earl Mountbatten Hospice and Bembridge RNLI
- Cowes Week** is the normal **first week of August**,

followed by various other club regattas **Seaview Fireworks** on **Thursday 22 August** and **St Helens Sports and Carnival** on **Monday 26 August**

It will all go so quick, so local businesses get your skates on and make hay whilst the sun shines!



Garry and Laura on Rijnstroom IV would like to start doing caribbean food and music evenings on board.  
 Can seat 8 persons. £7.00 per person.  
 Please bring your own alcohol.  
 Phone 874789 or 07563722846.  
 Hopefully as weather warms up, this could be on deck.

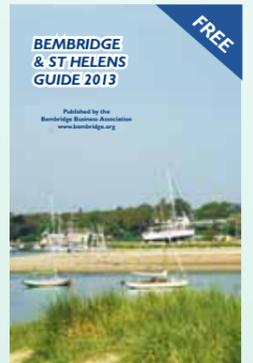
**Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs)**

What do you know about the Governments proposals for 'protected areas' around the English coast known as MCZs, including the one proposed off Bembridge? There are intentions to set up these 'reserves' around the coast to protect marine species and ecosystems. The area off Bembridge stretches from Ventnor to the Nab Tower and to Cowes with all the water/coastline inside. It could be very detrimental to our enjoyment of fishing, relaxing at anchor off Priory Bay, the ability to lay racing marks, etc., etc.

Richard Benyon MP (Minister for Natural Environment and Fisheries, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs – Defra) came to Newport last week to answer questions on the matter. It would appear that the most sensitive issue in this area is the potential damage to the Seagrass/Eelgrass beds, through anchoring, trawling, dredging, etc. These areas of grass provide the much needed cover for many small marine species including a habitat for seahorses and also act as nurseries to young fish.

The Minister indicated that he would be pro conservation issues being sorted out locally rather than the necessity of government having to spend our money on costly management and enforcement of complex measures! Roger Herbert, a member of BHYC and a Marine Biologist is knowledgeable on the subject and feels that we should all make ourselves aware of sensitive areas such as the Seagrass beds and respect them - ie rather 'drop your anchor' somewhere else. If we are seen to be responsible then the Government conservationists may to an extent leave us alone. Alan Deeming of BAC and Mike Samuelson were also both at the meeting and have spent considerable time involved with the *Balanced Seas* project locally and no doubt they may be happy to try and explain the project and thoughts in more detail.

**2013 –Guide & Village Signs**



Now that the Guide has rolled off the press - many thanks to Sue McLagan and all her helpers for a brilliant Guide this year, we shall have time to concentrate on producing the new Visitor Plaques for display in both St Helens and Bembridge.

The maps will again be produced by Sue, Desktop Studio while Gails' partner, Simon, will make the hardwood surrounds for us and erect them. Let us hope for better weather this summer and villages teaming with visitors who will find these maps useful guides for businesses in our area. So far we have 13 display sites arranged around the area.

As far as the paper guides are concerned, they have been distributed, as usual, to every property in Bembridge and St Helens, with extras going to local companies for distribution. We have also instigated the use of plastic distribution stands to help display the Guides in their best light and to encourage businesses to order more if they run out – *Please do ask!*

As you probably know, we print 20,000 of these Guides annually, the advertising revenue from which produces our surplus to put back into the local communities and your businesses via various avenues. In 2012 we donated to the Windmills Pre-School 'Appeal', we helped the Scouts with their marquee, this year we will be organising the Village signs and looking at other ways of promoting our members in the community and elsewhere.

Do help to get these Guides distributed 'far and wide' *it will benefit you!*

**Membership Subscriptions:**

Included in this mailing with this Newsletter, you will find the forms to complete for 2013/14 subscriptions. At present our membership year runs from 1st April to 31st March annually.

Our subscription of £20.00 pa has again remained the same for the current year. Please take advantage of our many discounts mentioned as well as our subsidised or free Social Networking evenings, our next evening is our New Members and Advertisers 'do' everyone is invited and we look forward to seeing each and every member!

On the subject of subscriptions and communications please let us have your email address and always update us with changes of addresses. Please ensure that you put your name on any subscriptions paid directly into the bank, if we don't have a reference we won't know who you are!

We have centralised the collection of hand-delivered payments and communications: Gail, Bembridge Barbers has agreed to act as a collection point for invitation return slips, etc.

Thank you Gail... a centralised collection point will make thing much simpler.

**New Members 2012/13**

We welcome the following as new members during the past year:

- Lu Shan · CoOp Welcome
- The Southern CoOp · Bodymorph
- Challen Building & Renovations
- Windmills Pre-School
- Bembridge Building Supplies
- Bembridge Motor Services (BMS)
- Paul Newell Sails · Crumbs Deli & Café
- Marine Kayaks for Hire · Silverpoint Fine Arts
- Sara's Dog Grooming · Cachalot Charters
- Ian Mann Plumbing & Heating
- Bembridge Boat Storage · The Garland
- Bembridge Youth & Community Centre
- Bembridge Plumbing & Heating
- Sandra Honey
- Harrison Bristow Holiday Lettings
- Lick of Paint · Weld Services (IW)
- Eazi Cleaners · Mulberry Cottage B & B
- Tackt-Isle Adventures · Bevan Young
- Spyder UK · Love Ironing · Shed

We hope you will all come to our evening on 30 April, 2013 – 7.00 pm at BHYC.

**Every Month a Winner:**

There would appear to be a certain amount of confusion amongst our members about our £25.00 monthly prize draw.

So here are the facts:

Each month the committee pick at random one of our 'paid up' members to win this prize.

*'it could be you' !!*

Those who are part of the scheme are:

- Woodford's (butchers)
- Bembridge Barbers
- Sara's Dog Grooming
- Coastal Gardener
- Shed (café and restaurant)
- The Beach Hut café
- Clay Clay
- Shoestyles
- Tackt-Isle Adventures
- Bembridge Building Supplies
- Bembridge Powerboat Training
- Desktop Studio (printers)

We give each of these members £25 in exchange for a voucher which the winner of the draw can spend in that establishment.

Recently,

Tim Bristow from Clay Clay won £25 for hairdressing at Bembridge Barbers

and

David Groom from Vectis Web Design won £25 worth of meat from Woodfords.

**Discount Scheme:**

New membership cards will be issued as subscriptions are paid, this entitles the member to various discounts, specials and deals from other businesses. These include:

- Bembridge Barbers
- Bembridge Flower Shop
- Bembridge Marine (Rib Hire)
- Bembridge Powerboat Training & Charter
- Beverly's Hairdressing
- Carol Pearce Art
- Clay Clay
- Desktop Studio (printing)
- Fox's Restaurant
- Ganders Restaurant (St Helens)
- Harbourside Plumbing & Heating
- Hideaway Holidays (Turkey & France)
- Lu Shan Restaurant
- Osteopath and Sports Injury Clinic
- Red Funnel Ferries (quote BBA12)
- Sally's Riding
- Sara's Dog Grooming
- Shed
- Shoestyles
- Stephen's Hairdressing
- The Beach Hut, Café & Restaurant, Forelands
- The Farm Shop
- The Pilot Boat Inn
- Weaver Bros – Skip Hire
- Wight Home Inspections (EPC's)
- Wight Limos

If you would like your business to join the scheme, just email your offers to:  
 Penny – barryandpen@talktalk.net

**BBA Officers and Committee**

Penny Watts (Chairman)	Vectis Web Design	barryandpen@talktalk.net	tel: 01983 717436
David Groom (Hon. Secretary)	TW Woodcock	david@vectis-webdesign.com	tel: 01983 873853
Tim Woodcock (Hon. Treasurer)	Bembridge Barbers	tim.woodcock@uwclub.net	tel: 01983 872519
Gail Wade (Social Secretary)	Beach Hut Café	gailwade@hotmail.com	tel: 07511 164801
* Jon Guy	Desktop Studio	jon_guy@graffiti.net	tel: 07703 171365
Sue McLagan	Hideaway Holidays	sue@bembridge.com	tel: 01983 872225
Carol Pearce	Coastal Gardener	carol@bembridge.com	tel: 01983 872285
* Gerry Price	Bembridge Marine	info@gfprice.co.uk	tel: 07977 550050
* Jim Robinson	Bembridge Build. Sup.	info@bembridgemarine.com	tel: 01983 872817
* Caroline Scott Jackson	Beaufort Marine	carolinesj@live.co.uk	tel: 01983 873553
* Heather Wilson		beaufortmarine@talktalk.net	tel: 07896 36988

\* denotes new to Committee in 2013