



Isle of Wight Interest Group
The Pavilion, Watery Lane, Newchurch. PO36 0LX
Mondays 1.45 – 4.00 pm

The Isle of Wight Interest Group was formed in 2003. We are a friendly and enthusiastic group of people who meet weekly from September to July. We have interesting speakers who talk on a very wide variety of topics, which are often Island related. A small charge is made to cover costs, including refreshments. New members are most welcome.

Monday 9th January 2023

The Isle of Wight Footprint Trust have trained staff who can offer impartial information on saving energy and water in the home on the Isle of Wight. With winter coming and the threat of increased energy bills we are pleased to welcome their speaker, Norman Arnold.

Monday 16th January 2023

Our speaker today is Rob Farley, a well known Isle of Wight football referee who is also affectionately known as 'Emu'. If you were an Island carnival follower, you may have remembered him dressed up as an emu. He is going to share a lively talk about his 50 years in football and refereeing. He tells me that he will be treating us to some poetry as well!

Monday 23rd January 2023

New Year Celebration Lunch at The New Holmwood Hotel, Cowes.

Monday 30th January 2023

Especially for all animal lovers we have a speaker today from the Friends of the Animals charity. Helen Sinclair is the founder of the charity which supports pet owners with the cost of veterinary bills, rehoming animals that come into their care and supports members of the public in the care of their pets.

Monday 6th February 2023

Today's talk is from Geoff Banks who has a very personal tale to tell. He has been searching for his grand-father's burial place in Belgium where he died during WWI. It's hard to believe that there are at least 55,000 British and Commonwealth unrecovered dead from WWI.

Monday 13th February 2023

The Royal Shakespeare Company is the topic of our talk today. Debs Smythe worked for the company in Stratford on Avon for ten years in the Production Wardrobe Department as a Milliner/Jeweller and would like to share some of her experiences with us. Debs went on to become a Lead Textiles teacher in a Secondary School.

Monday 20th February 2023

The Isle of Wight Steam Railway is a much loved, attraction on the Island, for young and old. Today we have Tony French to talk to us about Steam Trains of the Island and his volunteering role as a train driver.

Monday 27th February 2023

Ella Rawlinson is with us today to speak about her work for the Ellen MacArthur Trust. This is an organisation that takes young people sailing and on adventures to inspire them to believe in a brighter future, living through and beyond cancer.

Monday 6th March 2023

Our speaker today is from the Isle of Wight Bat Group of volunteers that carry out a range of bat conservation activities. Donna Street runs the Isle of Wight Bat Hospital and will be talking about her role there. Donna may be able to bring some 'batty' friends, but we will not be able to handle them.

Monday 13th March 2023

Many of our group have been to St James Church at East Cowes to look at the ever popular, Jigsaw Puzzle Festival which returned this year following a 'Covid Break'. Rose Mitchell is the co-ordinator of this group and will share with us the complexities of organising such an event.

Monday 20th March 2023

Embracing Age is a charity that many may not have heard of. The charity is 'mobilising an army of trained volunteers to bring hope, joy and companionship to care home residents across the Island.' Their co-ordinator, Rebecca Savage would like to explain more about the work done by the charity.

Monday 27th March 2023

Mike Greenwood returns to our group to talk about his time working in the jungle of Borneo for an Orangutang conservation group. We welcome him and look forward to hearing about this interesting topic, especially in light of the effects that Global Warming is having on our World.

Our Summer term of sessions will start on 17th April when our speaker will be Island author Felicity Fair-Thompson.

Useful contacts:

Chairman – Ian Wilson 408068

Secretary/Editor – Peter Knowles 407707