

Word up! What time is it Yarmouth?

Earlier this summer a crack team of abseilers swung into action high above the Yarmouth rooftops. No, this was not a scene from the next James Bond film but was in fact a team of conservators restoring the west and north facing clock faces of St James Church.

The tower of the Grade II* St James Church is a prominent landmark in the West Wight and its clock is an attractive and useful feature for local people and visitors alike - it being the town's only public clock. However, late in 2012 it was recognised that whilst the clock kept good time the faces were showing signs of wear such that the numbers were becoming illegible.



Abseilers at work on St James Clock in June 2013 (Photo by Sue Poston)

In January 2013 the WWLP awarded the Friends of St James a grant to make good the condition of the clock. Works included overhauling the mechanism and re-gilding the numerals and clock hands using 23¼ double-thickness gold-leaves as would have been used when the clock was originally erected in 1831. The effect has been dramatic and the clock once again stands as a proud, accurate beacon that is worthy of the historic town.

Open Studios 2013

The WWLP are delighted to once again be supporting local artists during the West Wight's fantastic Open Studios weekend. This annual event has gone from strength to strength and this year we will be supporting more than a dozen exhibitors at venues in Freshwater and Shalfleet.



Lis Toft - exhibiting at Freshwater Parish Hall

Six local artists will be exhibiting within the wonderfully refurbished Shalfleet Village Hall, Church Lane where demonstrations will also be taking place throughout the weekend. A further seven local artists will be exhibiting under one roof at Freshwater Parish Hall, Victoria Road. For further details, pick up an Open Studios Yearbook 2013 from outlets across the Island.

Sound Trail at Fort Victoria Country Park

Join international installation artist Eva Wolfram for a series of workshop sessions over the weekend of Saturday 13 - Sunday 14 July to create a unique Sound Trail in the woods of Fort Victoria Country Park.

What's a Sound Trail you may ask? Well, expect a journey into the sounds of nature set within the evocative woodlands of the Country Park that will allow you to experience 'earth sounds' made by natural instruments such as wind chimes and log drums.



Following the weekend workshop sessions the Sound Trail will be opened to the public as part of the West Wight Open Studios event for 2013 on Saturday 20 July. Located in a contemplative space visitors will be able to interact with and tune into the wonderful resonant beauty of our natural environment. Weather permitting the Sound Trail will also be illuminated and available to walk by moonlight from 8.30pm till 10pm on Sunday, 21 July. For further details, pick up an Open Studios Artist Yearbook 2013 from outlets across the Island.

Diary Dates

Islanders' thirst to learn how to prune their fruit trees seems to be as strong as ever. Therefore, in response to overwhelming demand the WWLP have once again teamed up with Ventnor Botanic Gardens to deliver more pruning workshops. See below for dates of this and other free activities being offered by the WWLP in the coming month.

Woodland Walk with Irene Fletcher
Thursday 1 August 10-12noon Jubilee car park, Brighstone Forest

Coastal Plants Walk, Irene Fletcher
Monday 5 August 10-12noon
Brook Chine car park, A3055

Fruit tree pruning
Wednesday 7 August 11am - 1pm
Northcourt Manor, Shorwell

Fruit tree pruning
Saturday 10 August 11am - 1pm
Northcourt Manor, Shorwell

To reserve your place email Pete at peter.fellows@iow.gov.uk