



Overdue thanks for Christmas highlights

Welcome to the March 2010 edition of the BBA newsletter.

Christmas seems a long time ago, however this is the first newsletter of the year, and my first opportunity to reflect upon our Christmas celebrations.

The annual Christmas Social was an enjoyable evening held at Bembridge Coast Hotel and I'm pleased to say that the night's raffle raised £309 for the Earl Mountbatten Hospice. Many thanks to Phil and his team for such a great evening.

Later in the week we held the Lights of Love event, which culminated in mince pies and mulled

wine in the Cloisters. We are grateful to Lottie's Bakery for the donation of the freshly baked mince pies which went down a treat. The street collection that night added a further £216 to the Hospice's funds.

The BBA had purchased additional strings of LED lights to illuminate the village centre and I have to say that these complemented the other lights put up by retailers in the vicinity, contributing I think to the best display ever. Once again we have to thank Weaver Brothers/Mr Terry Weaver for the Lane End Christmas tree and lights.

David Groom, BBA chairman

An evening with our MP – without the politics!

Our latest social event saw members and guests gathered at the Windmill Hotel for a talk by our local MP, Andrew Turner.

He was asked by the Association to make his talk non-political, a difficult task for a politician with an election looming. He duly rose to the occasion, entertaining all with tales from the Commons and the constituency. Ever mindful of not striking his audience down with what he called 'election fever' – symptoms of which are apparently glazed eyes and yawning – he ended his talk with an anecdote about Sir Winston Churchill, which raised a laugh from all present.

After his talk our members had an opportunity to ask the MP questions.

During the evening there was a raffle and over £80 was raised in aid of a local charity, enthusiasm no doubt generated in part due to a donated bottle of House of Commons Whisky. Many thanks to those members who donated prizes.

We very much appreciated Mr Turner giving up



Andrew Turner MP entertains BBA members

his Friday evening to come and talk to us. After the revelations in the past year about some MPs, it is perhaps timely to reflect on how much effort must go in to representing the Island, which is, after all, the largest parliamentary constituency.

Street fair appeal

The Bembridge Street Fair will once again take place on May 31. The organisers are looking for a sponsor to cover the cost of the insurance, which is likely to be about £200. If any member would like to help can they contact Geoff Giles on 873235, or email Ggiow@aol.com.

BEMBRIDGE AND ST HELENS GUIDE 2010

This year's edition of the BBA guide is now with the printers and should be available soon. Advertisers in the guide are being invited to a reception at Bembridge Sailing club on April 8.

Meet the members: introducing recent BBA recruits



Bembridge Powerboat Training

Peter Hewitt (above) started his powerboat training company six years ago, operating mainly out of Bembridge Marina.

"The training serves a dual purpose – it helps with their insurance and makes them safer on the sea," says Peter. "It also gives them their international certificates so they can hire boats abroad."

Peter reaches his customers mainly through word of mouth and the RYA website. (He is accredited by the RYA.)

On leaving school, Peter worked for ten years as a helicopter pilot before entering the catalogue business. Ultimately, however, the call of the water proved impossible to resist.

Governor sought

Bembridge C of E Primary School needs an additional community-based governor.

As a school governor you'll be part of a team responsible for agreeing the school's budget, covering everything from computers to chemistry benches. You'll decide on the key issues which will help teachers raise standards and to shape the future of the school. You don't need specific qualifications, just the desire to make a difference and a couple of spare evenings a month. It is not necessary for a community governor to have a child at school in Bembridge.

As you are no doubt aware, the schools in Bembridge are going through a major change, with the primary school enlarging to cover year groups up to and including year 6, and the governing body has a significant role in ensuring that the changes are as seamless as possible.

Anyone willing to join the governing body should contact Alan Morris on 873986 or alanmorris@talktalk.net.

During the winter Peter runs classroom-based courses on subjects such as first aid and radio. He also looks after the boats of several customers, taking them out of the water and making sure any necessary boatyard maintenance is done.

Bembridge Powerboat Training tel. 874231

TJA Chiropractors

It was personal experience that led Teresa Jones-Arnold into a career as a chiropractor. Experiencing back pain following the birth of her first child and a lot of desk-based admin work, she decided she needed some treatment. It proved a good decision.

"I just thought 'wow, that's amazing,'" says Teresa – and she was so impressed she signed up for a five-year degree course in chiropractic training in Abingdon.

After spells working in Sandford and Ventnor, she now operates out of Weaver's Yard in Bembridge, beginning her solo venture there in October.

Born in St Helens, Teresa is the daughter of Peter Arnold, a man familiar to many as the former owner of Woodfords butchers.

Teresa carries out a range of chiropractic work – her clients include the elderly and the pregnant.

TJA Chiropractors tel. 874123

New blood needed

This month sees our AGM, and some of the existing committee members are retiring from the committee. This will leave the committee rather short handed. The BBA constitution provides for up to 12 committee members, but with no new blood we may be down to only seven. So please do consider whether you would put your name forward for election, contact the Chairman or any other committee member for details.

Anyone for Parliament?

After recent visits to our social events by Ian Davies, the Speaker's trainbearer and Andrew Turner, our MP, we have had very kind offers from both regarding escorted trips around the Houses of Parliament. To this end we would like to ascertain whether we would have support from our members for such a trip. Please either phone Penny Watts on 872362 or email barryandpen@talktalk.net if you are interested.