



Get all the latest highways news on Twitter

You can receive regular updates on our activities across the business via Twitter @IslandRoads.



As another winter season draws to a close and the gritters stand down, we can reflect on mixed fortunes this winter

with comparatively fewer gritting runs required, despite some very cold spells and a relatively sizeable amount of snow, but a busy season nonetheless thanks to 'Gareth', 'Erik' and 'Freya' bringing a fair amount of rain and debris to the Island's roads. Our staff have worked around the clock during these periods to help keep the network clear and safe and hopefully, the better weather will soon be upon us.

With that in mind, we have already started our annual road resurfacing programme which, having completed a significant proportion of the Island's main roads will this year see more of the rural and residential roads treated across the network. There are still some fairly big schemes in amongst these smaller roads though too, including works at Shanklin Esplanade and Fishbourne Lane – both of which have required a balancing job to ensure we can get the work done as quickly as possible and avoiding the main tourism season. The support we have had from local businesses and residents to help us plan and schedule these works has been extremely helpful and we will endeavour to support them, as best we can, throughout these works.

This year of course represents the last year of a period called the 'core investment programme' – a seven-year period of intense work to bring the Island's roads up to the required road



Pictured: The new road surface at Brading

conditions. The end of this period does not however mean that work ceases, far from it, roads will continue to be treated to ensure they meet the requirements under the Highways Improvement Programme up to 2038, however although work will still be significant it is likely to be less intense than in previous years. Each year we commission an independent survey to determine the condition of the network and along with our footway and highway inspections this will help us focus ongoing improvement on the most appropriate roads.

You will see in this issue that we have also brought in new state-of-the art machinery to help us tackle some of the narrow and steeper roads in this next phase. We are also looking at new systems to help residents to report problems on the network which we will announce soon.

We also have to make a few changes to our business over the coming months

as a result of the council needing to achieve savings that address the budget deficit. Discussions have been held to identify savings options and we are now at the stage where changes need to be implemented. These savings will be achieved by a reduction in our service levels with CCTV, cleansing and grass cutting being the key initial areas.

Lastly can I remind you that applications for the latest round of grant funding from the Isle of Wight Foundation closes on 1 May, so if you know of a project that could potentially benefit, please encourage them to apply.

Steve Ashman,
Service Director, Island Roads





Keeping us safe out and about this winter

Around 500 tonnes of salt over 23 gritting runs has been used to keep the Island's roads as safe as possible in the freezing conditions during this year's winter maintenance season. The winter period was also preceded with an intense gully cleansing programme to reduce the risk of highway flooding.

Though there was a significant 'snow event' beginning in January that required round-the-clock gritting runs, the overall level of snow and ice was less than in previous years. However, with several significant storms including 'Freya', 'Gareth' and 'Erik' hitting the Island, staff were also kept busy tackling fallen trees, debris and flooding to keep the roads safe and clear.



With the end of the winter season, the seventh year of the road upgrade programme is now underway. Having improved a significant number of the main roads across the Island's highway network, this year's programme is focusing on more of the rural and residential roads across the Island.

However, some bigger schemes are still scheduled including at Shanklin Esplanade and Hope Hill, where the exposed nature of this section requires work to be undertaken in the drier, warmer months but outside of the main summer tourism season. We have carried out extensive site visits and met with businesses affected to try and minimise disruption and seek to find solutions which enable the businesses to continue trading during these works. Also included in the programme are Fitzroy Street and

Star Street in Sandown and Park Road in Ryde where elements of the carriageway require reconstruction to address problems of weak foundations which have historically caused a deterioration in the road surfaces.

Similar issues have also driven the need for extensive work to Fishbourne Lane in Ryde, work that is made more challenging by the fact that this is a major gateway route to the Island carrying a large volume of traffic from the ferries. We have worked very closely with local businesses including Wightlink to schedule the work at the optimum time to try and minimise disruption and are very grateful for their support and that of the residents.

More information on these and other schemes in this year's programme can be found on our website www.islandroads.com



A state-of-the-art piece of custom-built surfacing plant is joining the Island Roads' resurfacing fleet. The new 'midi-paver' is a specialist in resurfacing narrow roads and will be used extensively in the coming year when numerous rural roads will be improved as part of the 2019 programme of works.

The midi paver has been brought in primarily to tackle these roads that are too narrow for conventional resurfacing vehicles, but it also comes into its own working on areas with steep inclines and on combined footpaths and cycleways. The vehicle is also suitable for resurfacing roads that have difficult 'barrel' cambers such as Appley Rise in Ryde which was recently resurfaced using the new vehicle.

The vehicle boasts a series of safety, security and efficiency features making it what is thought to be the most advanced vehicle of its type operating in the UK. Hi-tech features include technology enabling its performance to be monitored remotely and in real time and allowing its whereabouts to be tracked.



Project to re-open Newport Quay Bridge to start soon

Work by Island Roads, in partnership with the Isle of Wight Council, to re-open Newport Quay Bridge will begin in May.

The project will involve replacing the bridge deck and supporting beams, leaving a structure less prone to deterioration and therefore requiring less maintenance.

The bridge has been closed since 2017 when it was found to be suffering from severe corrosion due to the effects of the brackish (slightly salty) tidal flows on the steel elements of the previous structure.

As part of the work, new safety barriers will be installed on the new bridge to protect the adjacent footbridges and anyone on them.

The work is due to begin on 13 May and completed by the end of the month. There will be no weight restriction on the new structure.

"Various consents and approvals from statutory bodies have been required before this project can get underway," said Ian Hodson, Island Roads structures manager, "but we are pleased to be starting work soon and looking forward to re-opening the bridge in time for the Isle of Wight Festival at nearby Seaclose Park in June."

Please note that pedestrian access across the Quay for this year's Riverfest, on 18 May, will be unaffected.

New life-saving kit installed thanks to local schoolgirl



Bullen Village near Ryde now has its own life-saving defibrillator thanks to the fundraising efforts of 12-year-old resident Katie Barnicoat.

Katie was inspired to fundraise after attending the Isle of Wight NHS Trusts Ambulance Service's 'Restart a Heart' training session with her brother and sister. She learned how the machines can dramatically increase survival rates compared to CPR alone and was concerned that the nearest publicly accessible defibrillators to her village were several minutes away at Tesco and Busy Bee Garden Centre.

Katie set out to fundraise the £1,150 needed to purchase the equipment through various initiatives and contacted Island Roads to see if we could help. As a result, we installed the device in Hornbeam Square free of charge and donated towards the cost of the kit.

Red alert means footpath closure



The need to protect one of the Island's most famous residents is the reason behind a current footpath closure in Shanklin.

The path at Chine Hollow which links the Old Village and Popham Road has been shut for the last few months because a large wild cherry tree has become dangerous and poses a risk to pedestrians. However, the tree was found to be hosting nesting red squirrels, and, as a result, the tree has had to be left untouched until we can be certain the squirrels have left the drey.

Working with local wildlife experts, steps have been taken to install a purpose-built squirrel home in a neighbouring tree in the hope the squirrel might be encouraged to 'move' to a new waterproof 'cosy' home but so far to no avail.

In the meantime, the footpath remains closed and diversions are in place, but you can still reach Rylstone Gardens from the Old Village via the steps which are outside of the emergency closure.

Horringford boardwalk works makes popular route more accessible

A new scheme to upgrade the Newport to Sandown cycleway has been completed by Island Roads.

The project, supported by the IW Council, Rights of Way, IW Bridleway Group and CycleWight, has involved replacing 100 metres of the old timber boardwalk, which was prone to deterioration, with a wider and more durable stone causeway at Horringsford.

The new causeway was built using wire gabion baskets, filled with a lightweight material that also allows flood water to pass through if needed. This was necessary because the path is located over seven metres



depth of very soft soil, and a causeway built of traditional stone is likely to settle over time. It will also be more durable and not prone to rotting, compared to the wooden structure it replaces. Widening the structure has meant it will also be more suitable for shared use, including cyclists and horse riders.

Cub scouts get Island Roads safety lesson



Scout volunteer Brian Waghorn was turned into an honorary Island Roads employee in double-quick time during a challenge taken up by 1st Godshill and Rookley Cubs. As part of a safety talk, delivered to schools and youth groups by Island Roads, 1st Godshill and Rookley cubs formed teams to dress up Brian in full personal protection equipment in a race against the clock.

The challenge was part of the talk which also addressed road safety issues, particularly around roadwork sites and the importance of wearing appropriate protective clothing. The session was part of the cub pack's work towards gaining a road safety badge.

Leader Penny Weedon said: "We were over the moon with the talk. The cubs found the session very engaging and particularly enjoyed the dressing up challenge which was great fun."

Charity begins at Home-Start for Island Roads staff



Home-Start Isle of Wight, a Newport-based organisation that offers family support, has been chosen by Island Roads staff as their charity of the year.

Island Roads employees have already begun a year of fundraising activities with plenty more planned to help raise money for Home-Start, a charity which works to help families with young children deal with the challenges they face.

Last year, Island Roads staff raised over £2,700 for the 2018 chosen charity - Ability Dogs 4 Young People which was enough money to enable the charity to buy a new puppy - already named 'Dougal' by staff - and will help towards the costs of its training. The trained Ability Dog (after 2 years of training) will provide assistance to a disabled young person on the Island.

Isle of Wight Foundation seeks fifth round of grant applications



Local organisations working to tackle social exclusion have another opportunity to apply for grant funding from the Isle of Wight Foundation.

Each year the foundation - which is jointly funded by Ringway Island Roads, Meridiam, VINCI Concessions and Island Roads Services, the companies which make up the partnership behind Island Roads - awards grants of between £3,000 and £16,000 to eligible good causes.

Since 2014 around £400,000 has been given to 42 such organisations with 12 local projects sharing £95,000 last year alone as well as voluntary support from Island Roads employees as project sponsors. Now the search is on for groups, charities and projects who are eligible for support in the next round of funding.

To find out more about the foundation and its work and to download an application form please visit www.islandroads.com/137-iw-foundation.html

All bids must be submitted before 1 May 2019 and successful applicants will be announced at the end of the year.

Night at the movies?

Do you know what happens to the water from our gully cleansing work? Fancy a behind the scenes look at the work our structures team get involved in, or want to see how our resurfacing teams work? If you haven't already seen them on Twitter, you can now view a series of short films on these and other aspects of our work here bit.ly/IRFilms

Island Roads helps magnify interest in science

Some of the Island's million years of natural history is being brought into sharp focus thanks to a high-powered microscope called a MicroEye purchased by not-for-profit group The Common Space, with grant money from Island Roads' IW Foundation. The MicroEye was unveiled for the first time during the Discovery Bay event held at Dinosaur Isle to coincide with British Science Week. The event featured a pop-up laboratory and featured over a 120 million years of natural history,



with everything from dinosaur fossils to aquariums busy with modern day pond-life - giving people of all ages a whole new insight into the Island's hidden ecology. The event was run by team at The Common Space, Arc, Artecology, the National Poo Museum and hosted by Dinosaur Isle. Around 150 people of all ages, Island residents and visitors attended.

Isle Access helps road crews focus on residents' support needs



Island Roads' staff, together with representatives from many of its supply chain partners, have been focusing on some of the access issues facing Island residents in their annual staff safety day.

The annual event is an opportunity for staff from across the business to get together with other suppliers, such as traffic management contractors, to discuss a range of health and safety aspects relevant to both themselves and the general public.

This year, staff were given an insight by local organisation Isle Access into the difficulties some people face when encountering worksites, such as those with mobility impairments or other physical, mental or sensory health challenges such as dementia or an aversion to noise, and were helped to understand how to identify and support them appropriately.

New bench for John!

It was a pleasure to be involved in the installation of a bench along Ventnor seafront recently for 94-year-old John Colenutt. Born and raised in Ventnor, he's been returning to the Isle of Wight almost every year since moving away after the war and his family thought it would be great for him to have his own bench to enjoy the sea views from when he visits.

John's great niece, Island Roads' Victoria Keefe, was there to see John try the bench out for the first time. Luckily, he was very happy with it!



Island Roads Foundation opens new doors to The Way Forward

The IW Foundation has also helped Newport-based charity – The Way Forward – to install new push button accessible entrance doors thanks to grant of £5,500. It means that the charity, which helps people build confidence and live independently, can now enable all visitors to its HQ at Dodnor, particularly wheelchair users, to access the support services of the charity far more easily. The doors were installed by Wootton-based company Fronrunner Door systems and are already proving beneficial to Way Forward users.



