

XXX HAPPY CHRISTMAS XXX

The Magic of Thor's Revenge

As the icy blasts blew in from the North Pole the streets of Totland thundered and flashed as two great Gods of Norse mythology, Thor and his archenemy Loki brought their eternal battle for supremacy to the shores of the West Wight.

Inspired by Norse mythology and created by the children of West Wight, the West Wight Community Fireshow is the latest extravaganza of music, dance and fire to be curated by The New Carnival Company and enacted by and for the people of the West Wight.



Thor (left) and his sworn enemy Loki (right). Pictures by Paul Blackley

In a procession of lights and Fat Samba beats, giant character costumes of Thor and Loki strode the streets, buoyed on by fanciful Bob-the-Dogs, Skellies, Rock Monsters and the fire breathing Jackalwack. The final battle was played out in the shadow of Loki's Fort in the grounds of St Saviours School before the evening closed with superb firework display. A big thank you all involved for making it such a stunning event. To see a movie clip of the procession search You Tube for Thor's Revenge.

Happy Christmas from the WWLP

2012 has proven to be another wonderful year in the West Wight with numerous projects supported by the WWLP delivering good quality benefits for the local heritage and wildlife and creating new opportunities for local people to explore and enjoy the local landscapes.

Whilst highlights are too numerous to list, special mention must go to the local town and parish councils that have helped deliver some memorable events over the course of the year.



Lifeboat memorial at Brook

These include the unveiling of a memorial to the lifeboat men and women of the Back 'o' the Wight at Brook in March and the opening of the new bridge at School Green, Freshwater as part of the town's Jubilee celebrations. Three cheers to all involved and here's looking forward to more of the same in 2013.

Community orchard for local heroes

The site of the former gardens of The Mount, once Yarmouth's largest private residence and now owned by the Town Council, provide an appropriate setting to mark the contributions made by a range of local people to their community over the years.

With funding from the WWLP, Yarmouth Town Council were able to purchase a range of fruit and nut trees including local varieties that thrive on the Island such as the Steyne Seedling. Each was dedicated by local people to individuals or organisations considered to have made an outstanding contribution to the town. They included the local fire service, the football club, the carnival committee as well as Walter Cotton, coxswain of the Yarmouth lifeboat in the inter war years, local councillor Stuart Dyer, who passed away last year and 92 year old former Brown Owl, Effie Pitman.



Watch those fingers! (Photo by Thomas Cowley)

Luke Richards of the Island's Orchard Group was on hand to help with planting the 30+ specimens of trees, the fruits of which we hope to be enjoying the for many years to come.

Diary date for 2013

Keeping with the orchard theme the WWLP have teamed up with the Isle of Wight Orchard Group and our friends at the Ventnor Botanic Gardens to offer a fruit tree pruning workshop at Carisbrooke Priory on Saturday 9 February.

This is a great opportunity to learn how to look after your apple and pear and trees and also have a look at the Priory's historic walled gardens. 30 places are available so booking is essential on a first come first serve basis. Email orchards@wwlp.co.uk with the title 'Pruning' and your 'phone number to reserve your place.



Pruning workshop at Northcourt Manor