



**Michael Lilley – Biography**

- **IW and Ryde Town Councillor (representing Ryde East Ward) – Elected as Green Party Candidate in May 2017.**
- **Director of a new publishing house – Papa Owl Publishing which focuses on innovation and creativity in educational books for children and adults.**
- **Trustee of proposed Wight Aviation Museum and archivist for the late Professor Geoffrey Lilley (pioneer in aeronautics and astronautics).**
- **Age Friendly Island and Mental Well-Being Champion**
- **Board Member of IW Youth Trust**

I am 60 in July 2017 and have been a community and green activist and campaigner since the 1970s. My childhood and education was on the Island which I left in 1974. I returned pre-retirement in 2013. I have worked within the community enterprise sector since 1976 when I established a campaign group for young homeless people in London. I went on to study as a community development worker and started my CD career as a community artist with Telford Community Arts. I went onto establish a number of cooperatives and worked as a cooperative development worker/community economic development officer in Nottinghamshire, Hastings, and Middlesbrough up until the 1990s. In the 1980/90s I was a board member of ICOM (Industrial Common Ownership Movement), ICOF (Industrial Common Ownership Fund) and Development Trust.

In the 1980s I sadly became a single parent dad of 3 young children and spent 18 years designing my work around being a full time dad. In the 1990s I was a national campaigner for single parents and editor of a national magazine for 3.5 Million single parents. Through this period I became interested in mental health and poverty and combined being a manager of a family centre and studying psychology and criminology. In 1997, I founded a family mental health centre in Staffordshire and in 2000 qualified as a community psychologist and counsellor. In 2002, I founded My Time in Birmingham which went on to be an award winning innovative and pioneering psychological practice and family mental health centre working with over 2000 people a year. In 2013, My Time merged with the 5 other mental health/social enterprises in England – the Richmond (Recovery Focus) Fellowship Group to become one of the largest mental health charities in the UK working with over 30,000 per year. In 2013, I established My Time and Richmond Fellowship on the Island and MyT/RF is the leading Mental Health charity on the Island and works closely with NHS. In July 2017, I am retiring as the Chief Executive of My Time and Lead Director of Innovation within the Group.

I am now focusing on my writing, politics, inventing in my shed and supporting local initiatives. I have always believed that healthy mental well-being and longevity is about strong community activism. I have a personal interest in solar innovation within energy and aviation.

See Linked-IN: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/michael-lilley-a0897716>

Face Book Page: <https://www.facebook.com/greencouncillorRydeEast/>

**Contact details:** [michaellilleyiow@gmail.com](mailto:michaellilleyiow@gmail.com) (personal) [michael.lilley@iow.gov.uk](mailto:michael.lilley@iow.gov.uk) (Council Work)