# Former Southern Vectis driver John King and wife die in Isle of Wight cliff plunge



Former colleagues and friends are mourning the loss of John King, a former bus driver for Southern Vectis, who tragically died alongside his wife, Lynn, after their car plunged off a cliff on the Isle of Wight. The couple, both in their sixties, were travelling in a Ford Mondeo when the incident occurred on the evening of June 6 near The Needles, well-known for its dramatic chalk sea stacks. Their two dachshunds also perished in the accident.

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary have confirmed the unfortunate deaths of John, aged 67, and Lynn, aged 66, while investigations into the circumstances surrounding the crash are still ongoing. A police spokesperson stated that emergency services were alerted at 7.21 pm following the vehicle leaving the road and falling into the water below. Efforts to recover the vehicle and ascertain the precise details of the incident are being conducted, with a post-mortem examination scheduled to provide clarity on the couple's deaths.

Richard Tyldsley, general manager of Southern Vectis, expressed his condolences, stating, “We are saddened to learn of this tragic event and our thoughts are with his family and friends at this time.” He clarified that although John had only recently left the company after two and a half years as a network driver, his impact on the team was felt by those who knew him. This sentiment of loss resonates deeply within the community, highlighting the personal nature of such tragedies.

This accident comes in the wake of significant concern regarding road safety on the Isle of Wight, which has seen a series of serious incidents. Most notably, a collision involving a double-decker bus and two cars occurred earlier, resulting in the death of a woman in her sixties and injuries to 22 others. Such incidents underline the pressing need for comprehensive safety reviews and increased awareness among drivers, especially on the island’s challenging roadways.

As the investigation into John's and Lynn's deaths advances, police are focusing on inquiries at an address in Cowes as part of their efforts to piece together what transpired. It is a reminder of the fragility of life and the devastating impact that sudden accidents can have on families and communities alike.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/john-king-alum-bay-death-b2767303.html), [[2]](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/john-king-alum-bay-death-b2767303.html)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/john-king-alum-bay-death-b2767303.html), [[2]](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/john-king-alum-bay-death-b2767303.html)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/john-king-alum-bay-death-b2767303.html), [[2]](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/john-king-alum-bay-death-b2767303.html), [[6]](https://www.the-independent.com/news/uk/home-news/isle-of-wight-bus-crash-car-hospital-airlift-newport-hampshire-a8869671.html)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/john-king-alum-bay-death-b2767303.html), [[5]](https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-hampshire-53390854), [[6]](https://www.the-independent.com/news/uk/home-news/isle-of-wight-bus-crash-car-hospital-airlift-newport-hampshire-a8869671.html)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/john-king-alum-bay-death-b2767303.html), [[2]](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/john-king-alum-bay-death-b2767303.html), [[5]](https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-hampshire-53390854)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/john-king-alum-bay-death-b2767303.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/john-king-alum-bay-death-b2767303.html> - Former colleagues of John King, a 67-year-old ex-Southern Vectis bus driver, have expressed their sadness following his death alongside his wife, Lynn, after their Ford Mondeo plunged off a cliff near The Needles on the Isle of Wight. The incident occurred on Friday evening, resulting in the deaths of John, 66-year-old Lynn, and their two dachshunds. Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary confirmed the fatalities and are conducting an investigation into the circumstances surrounding the crash.
3. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-hampshire-47928426> - A tragic collision on the Isle of Wight involved a double-decker bus and two cars, resulting in the death of a woman in her 60s and injuries to 22 others. The crash occurred on Forest Road, Newport, at approximately 12:45 BST. Fire crews assisted in freeing the bus driver and three individuals from one of the cars. Four casualties were airlifted to hospital, and a major incident was declared at St Mary's Hospital in Newport to manage the influx of patients.
4. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-hampshire-47933112> - Yvonne Copland, 64, from Shide, was identified as the victim in the Isle of Wight bus crash. Her family described her as a 'much loved' mother and grandmother. The collision involved a double-decker bus, a Fiat, and a Mini. Southern Vectis, the bus operator, stated that the bus was forced into the path of another car after a crash at a cross-road moments earlier. The cause of the collision is under investigation by Hampshire Constabulary.
5. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-hampshire-53390854> - Yaashmi Ravikumar, 20, was sentenced to 18 months in a young offenders institution for causing a fatal crash involving a double-decker bus and two cars on the Isle of Wight. The incident occurred in April 2019 when Ravikumar failed to yield at a junction, leading to a collision that resulted in the death of Yvonne Copland, 64, and serious injuries to four others. The court heard that Ravikumar failed to notice road markings and signs warning of the crossing ahead.
6. <https://www.the-independent.com/news/uk/home-news/isle-of-wight-bus-crash-car-hospital-airlift-newport-hampshire-a8869671.html> - A woman in her 60s died, and 22 others were injured in a crash involving two cars and a double-decker bus on the Isle of Wight. The incident occurred on Forest Road, near Newport, shortly after 1pm on Sunday. Several people were trapped in the wreckage following the collision. Four of the injured were airlifted to mainland hospitals, and another 15 were transferred to the island’s St Mary’s Hospital. The remaining three injured were treated at the scene.
7. <https://www.iwradio.co.uk/news/isle-of-wight-news/red-funnel-bosses-sadness-after-employees-death-following-a-lorry-crash/> - Red Funnel bosses expressed their sadness following the death of a 40-year-old employee after a lorry crash near the terminal on Thursday, 15th June. Fran Collins, CEO of Red Funnel, commented on the shock and sadness felt by the company and extended support to the family during this difficult time. Police are appealing for witnesses following the fatal collision in Southampton and are seeking information from anyone who may have seen the white HGV leaving the Red Funnel Port prior to the incident.