

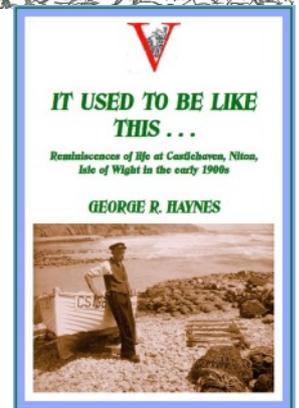
New Publication and Exhibition: “It Used to Be Like This...” by George R. Haynes

“I was born at Beach Cottage, Castlehaven, Niton Undercliff in the year nineteen hundred and six. Beach Cottage was built for my father by my grandfather of the local hard stone which we call ‘Rag Stone’ ... It was a most excellent cottage.” These are the words George Roland Haynes used to begin his memories of growing up in Niton. Our new exhibition uses George's words with images from our archives, and accompanies the publication of his book “It Used to Be Like This ...”.

George’s family were fishermen who also ran the beach, hiring bathing huts and bathing costumes out to summer visitors. He died in 1984, but left a typescript describing life in Niton Undercliff in the first half of the last century, saying “I have written all that I thought should be recorded before it is completely forgotten, about things that are now totally gone”. The Society is delighted to publish his account, which records in fascinating detail the day to day life of the time – fishing, schooldays, working in the ‘big houses’, transport – even the weekly horror of ‘washday’.



Above: Sketch of Beach Cottage, Niton Undercliff, by George R. Haynes.



Right: Cover of the new publication. The book is available in the Heritage Centre for £4.00. To order a copy please include £1.50 postage and packing.

Daphne Carter’s Photos: Ventnor Remembered Project

Daphne Carter (1927–2017) moved to Ventnor in 1987 when she retired from her work in Sussex as an Art Teacher and Art Therapist.

Daphne was very interested in local history, people and nature, and was an active member of the Friends of Ventnor Library and the V&DLHS. She was an active photographer, recording the built environment, natural landscape and cultural and artistic life of Ventnor and district from the 1980s to the early 2000s. Her 47 albums of photographs, which she left to the IoW Library Service, provide a valuable record of the area. The Friends have recently been awarded a grant from the lottery-funded Down to the Coast programme to:

- Select those photographs most appropriate for preservation and on-line publication.
- Scan the photographs using lottery-funded equipment at the Ventnor Heritage Centre
- Create a structured photo gallery web site and upload the photos to it with notes
- Publicise the existence of the archive and invite people to add comments from their personal experience
- Store the photographic originals and full resolution scanned images in accessible form.

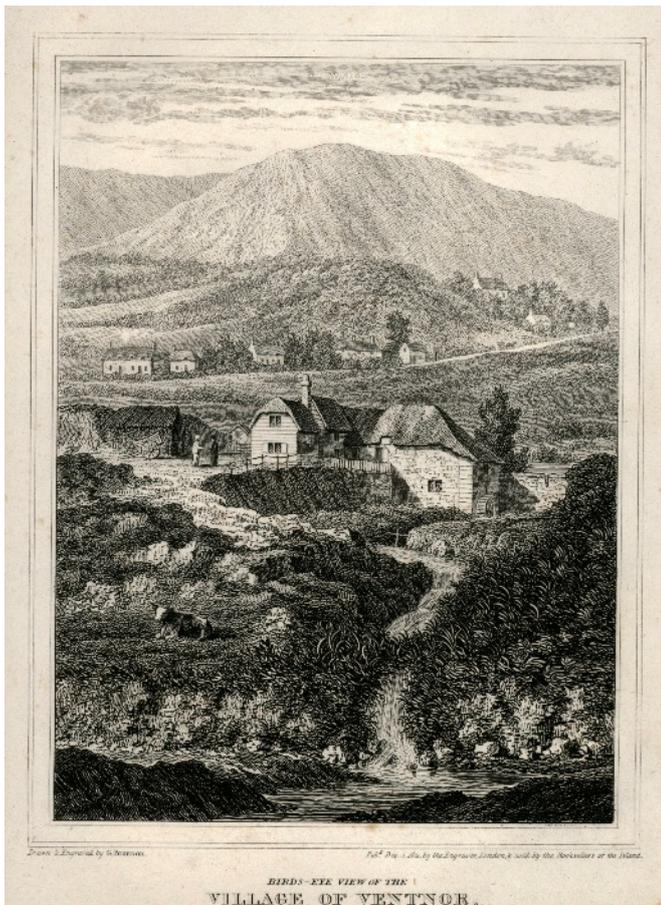


The view from Daphne Carter’s garden – one of the photos from her 47 albums of Ventnor life.

The collection includes images of the downs, woods and coastline, parks and gardens, pubs and shops, archaeological and palaeontological excavations, and carnivals and celebrations in the area. The Friends wish to involve Ventnor residents in the selection of photos for digitisation, in adding notes from their own memories and experience, and in scanning the photos at the Heritage Centre.



If you are interested in helping, please email info@friendsofventnorlibrary.co.uk or leave your contact details at the Library in person or by phone on 852039.



'Bird's Eye View of the Village of Ventnor', drawn and engraved by George Brannon, 1821.

Society Talk: An Island Legacy

On 29 June Kenneth Hicks MBE gave a talk based on his recent book *An Island Legacy 1817 to 2017*. The book – and the talk – present early engravings of Island scenes by members of the Brannon family side-by-side with modern photographs taken insofar as possible from the same vantage points. The engravings all came from Ken's extensive personal collection,

George Brannon (1784–1860) moved to the Island around 1809, and produced large numbers of engravings between 1816 and his retirement in 1857. Of his nine children, two – Alfred and Phillip – also became artists and engravers of Island scenes.

Ken showed pictures from Cowes, Ryde, Culver Cliff, Sandown, Shanklin, Blackgang, Freshwater and Newport as well as from the Ventnor area. In each case he pointed out any inaccuracies in the sketches, provided historical background and discussed the continuities and changes revealed by the parallel illustrations.

Profits from Ken's book go to charity. Some £5,000 has already been donated to the Earl Mountbatten Hospice, and another £5,000 has been used to set up a bursary for an Island student of History at university.

Ken brought a film crew with him to record the talk.

– Jeffrey Mazo

Society Talk: Lowtherville 1878–2018

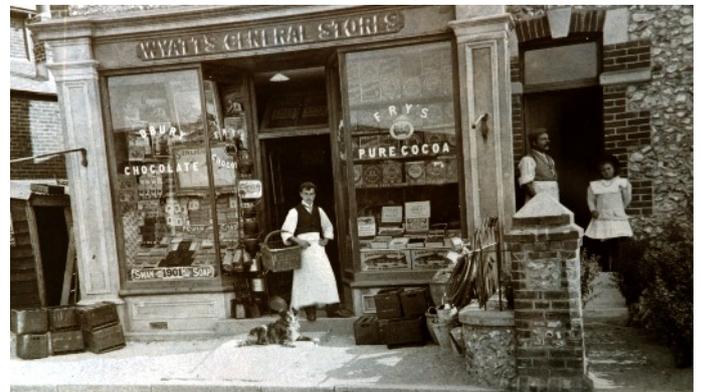
Colin Beavis, Society member and Heritage Centre volunteer, spoke on 25 May on the history of Upper Ventnor or, more properly, Lowtherville. Colin drew on the Society archives, five of Fay Brown's booklets (on sale in the Heritage Centre) and his own memories, having lived in Lowtherville Road as a child.

The area is named after Captain Francis Lowther, RN, from Ryde, who owned much of the land in the 1870s. Lowtherville grew rapidly in the 1880s. By 1919 there were 50–60 houses in the Newport Road area; this grew to 200 by 1976 and around 400 today.

Colin covered the history of the shops and cottages along the bottom of Newport Road, the schools and churches, and a number of the better-known residents and families. Among the nuggets of 'hidden history' were the Isolation Hospital, the RAF camp (now St Margaret's Glade estate), the annual circus in the fields to the west of Newport Road in the 1920s and 1930s, and the 1765-foot-long man-high brick tunnel running from near the garage on Newport Road to the St Albans steps.

The talk was one of the best-attended in recent years, with many Lowtherville residents attending and sharing their memories.

– Jeffrey Mazo



Wyatt's General Stores on Lowtherville Road, ca 1912.

Like to Talk About the Old Days?

Do you have a story to tell about your time living on the Island? Even if you don't think it would be that interesting, it is almost certain to be to someone else. We would like to hear from you so we can record your reminiscences to add to our extensive archive of material relating to Island history, for use by researchers or other interested parties. If you would like to take part in our oral history project, please contact the Museum, either in person or by phone or e-mail, and we would be happy to discuss the interview process with you.

– Melvin Hurst

Society Talk: A Victorian Tour of the Isle of Wight

On 27 April Bob Longton of the Carisbrooke Castle Museum spoke on the Isle of Wight in the Victorian period from the perspective of the visitor. He divided his talk into four parts: the journey from London to the Island, where to stay, the journey across the Island, and day trips by pleasure steamer.

In the 1830s, before the London–Portsmouth railway was opened, it took 11 hours to get to Ventnor from London, and a one-way ticket cost at least £2 12s 8d. By the 1870s it took 4 hours 7 minutes and a third-class ticket cost 10s 4d. In 1879 visitors to Ventnor could choose from 126 furnished boarding flats and six hotels.

Bob focused in some detail on the development of the railways, both on and off-Island. He also showed a number of advertisements directed at visitors to the Island, including some for luggage and travelling clothing and for the hot and cold seawater baths available in Ventnor (8d or 6s a dozen; children and servants 6d/5s).

The information and illustrations all came from the collections in the Carisbrooke Castle Museum. Membership of the Friends of the Museum is £15 per year (£26 for couples) and gives access to the museum, library and castle as well as other benefits.

– Jeffrey Mazo



The Experimental Squadron firing a salute to Queen Victoria aboard the Royal Yacht off Ventnor, 1845.

Heritage Lottery Fund

The Heritage Lottery Fund project has now been completed, with the total grant amount of £30,088.00 spent.

In mid-May we got approval to use our under-spend of around £1,000 (not including the contingency) to purchase various items including an oral history recorder, an audio-tape converter, model engines for the railway, another laptop and additional LED lights fitted to the new tracks. We submitted the final report on 25 May 2018.

We received the final payment of £2,224.00 on 11 June without any further queries. We all breathed a sigh of relief: it had been a very busy 18 months. But it's been so worthwhile knowing that the Centre is looking good and that we have the right IT equipment to help us achieve our objective of digitalising the Collection. The additional equipment will now help us start a project in Oral History and the conversion of audio tapes in our possession.

– Yvonne Hardy

Upcoming Society Meetings and Speakers

August	No Meeting
28 September	Andy Butler – 'Further Extracts from a Naturalist's Journal'
26 October	Leon Pullinger – 'Isle of Wight Chapels'
30 November	Mark Earp – 'Curiosities of the Isle of Wight No. 2, Fact, Fiction or Fantasy'
December	No meeting

All meetings to be held at 7:30pm in the Masonic Hall, Grove Road, Ventnor

**VENTNOR
CARNIVAL**

*'Legends and Folklore of the
Isle of Wight'*

*A Slide Show By Jo Thornton
in conjunction with
Ventnor Heritage Centre*

Monday 6th August

*St. Catherine's
Church*

7.30pm



Adult: £2.50
Child: £1.00

Refreshments Available



6th - 11th August

**Thomas
the Tank
Engine
Comes to
Town**

www.ventnorheritage.org.uk

Find us on Facebook: Ventnor Heritage



**Copy Date for Next Issue
Wednesday 24 October 2018**

Ventnor Day 2018

The Society again had a stand at the third annual Ventnor Day event on the green at Salisbury Gardens on 7 July. Our theme was 'Ventnor Seaside Through The Ages'. Besides an attractive display board and a selection of publications and postcards for sale, we had an old-fashioned painted board depicting dinosaurs with face-holes for folk to poke their heads through to have their photos taken.

There was a good crowd early on, despite the heat and the start of the England--Sweden World Cup quarterfinal match mid-afternoon. On the plus side, the calm conditions meant that more yachts than usual in the Round the Island Race were still passing Ventnor during the afternoon.

Over the course of the day we made £49.70 in sales (including two new memberships) and £43.87 in donations, much of which was in exchange for various unwanted or duplicate publications we didn't need for the archive.



Recent articles from the Society published in the *South Wight Chronicle*

If you have a subject that you think would make an interesting story, please do let us know. The articles published since the last newsletter include:

'Henry George Field, Gentlemen's Outfitters', Michael Freeman, *SWC*, no. 1371, 3/5/18, p. 8.

'Grandma's Recipes', Michael Freeman and Lesley Telford, *SWC*, no. 1372, 10/5/18, p. 8,

'1891: A Walk on Ventnor Downs with Gandhi', Lesley Telford, *SWC*, no. 1373, 17/5/18, p. 8.

'The Glory Days of B&B ... or Some Money on the Side', Michael Freeman, *SWC*, no. 1374, 24/5/18, p. 8.

'A Ventnor Character: Miss Olivia Parkes', Michael Freeman, *SWC*, no. 1375, 31/5/18, p. 8.

'Ventnor from the Air – 11th April 1946', Michael Freeman, *SWC*, no. 1376, 7/6/18, p. 8.

'The Canoe Lake, Eastern Esplanade', *SWC*, no. 1377, Michael Freeman, 14/6/28, p. 8.

'Milk, Metal and Motorcars', Jeffrey Mazo, *SWC*, no. 1378, 21/6/18, p. 8.

'Drifting Imagination', Michael Freeman, *SWC*, no. 1379, 28/6/18, p. 8.

'It Used to be Like This ... by George Roland Haynes', Lesley Telford, *SWC*, no. 1380, 5/7/18, p. 8.

'St Boniface Cottage part 1', Richard Downing, *SWC*, no. 1281, 12/7/18, p. 8. {TBC}

'St Boniface Cottage part 2', Richard Downing, *SWC*, no. 1382, 19/7/18, p. 8.

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