

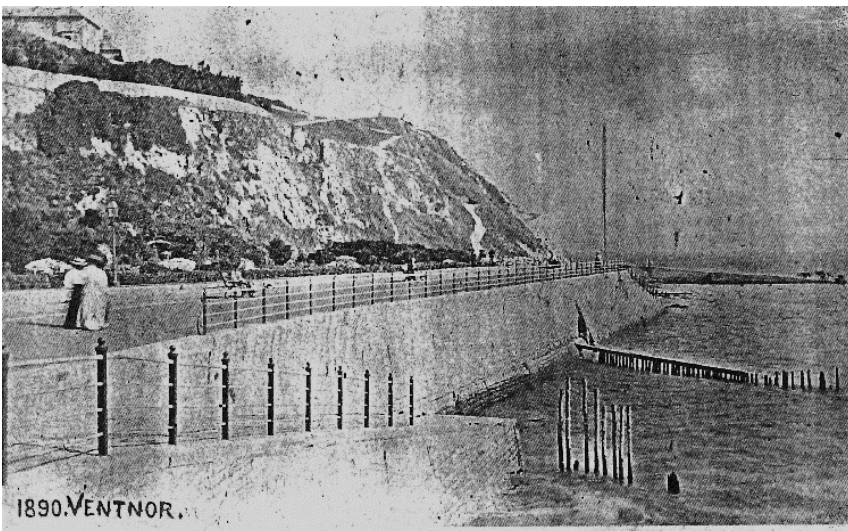


VENTNOR & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY



Building the Eastern Esplanade

Among the many images recently donated to the Society by Jill Wearing is this arresting picture of men constructing Ventnor's Eastern Esplanade sometime in the late 1880s. It is printed up from a fine glass plate negative and shows at close quarters the fixing of the dressed stone blocks, the makeshift railway for conveying those blocks, as well as the temporary work sheds used for preparation. In the left distance, one can discern the twin kiosks of the Royal Victoria Pier, completed in 1887, while in the right distance one can see the viaduct walkway beside the area that later became the Cascade Gardens.



We can date this picture quite precisely owing to the evidence of the grainy postcard image that is contained in the late Fay Brown's index files, held in the Society's archive. It shows two ladies walking on the new promenade, with the date 1890 showing bottom left. The base of the cliff slope appears to have been planted up to add to the amenity.

Michael Freeman, *Ventnor & District Local History Society*, from files in Ventnor Heritage Centre