

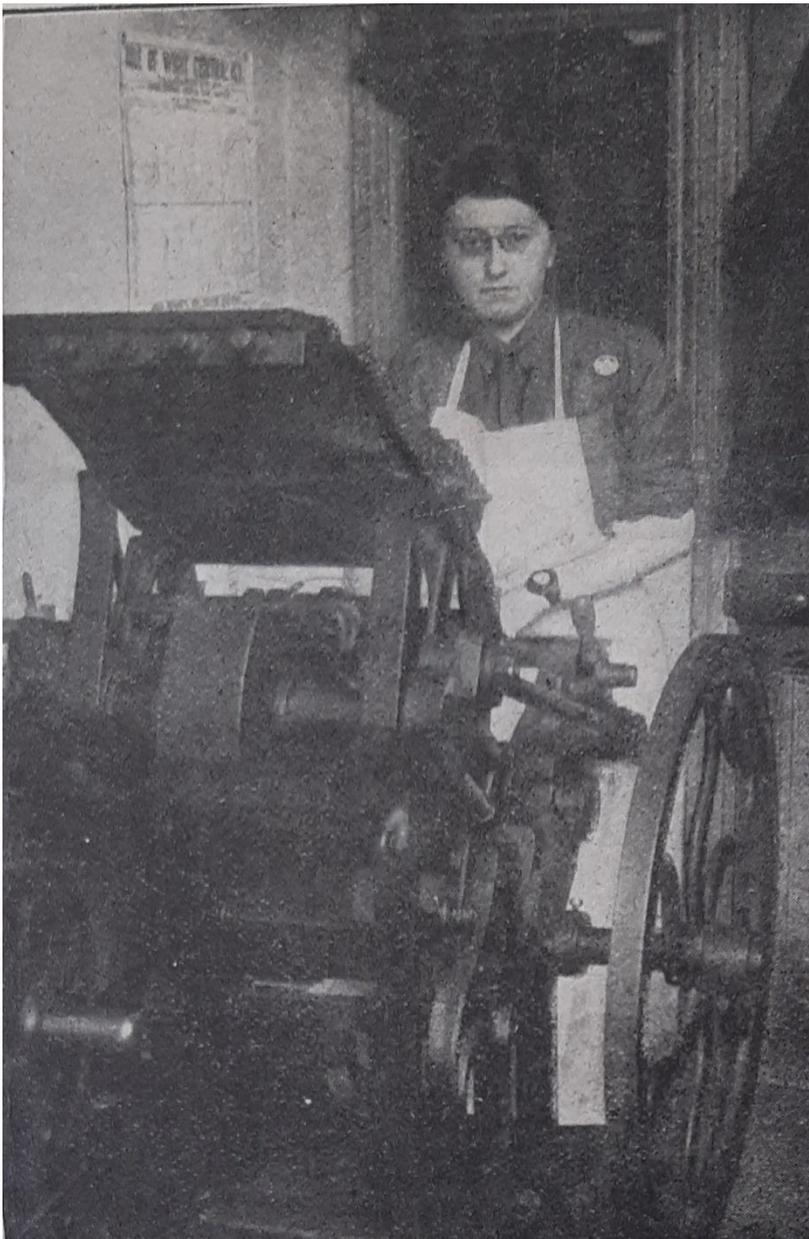


VENTNOR & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

**Innell Jolliffe, newspaper owner**



During the First World War, large numbers of women were recruited into jobs vacated by men who had left for war service. There were also many women who gained occupation in jobs that came about as part of the war effort, work in munitions factories affording a key example. A more singular case of women replacing men occurred in Ventnor when, in 1915, Miss Innell Jolliffe became proprietor, editor and printer of the Isle of Wight Advertiser. With some of the regular male staff gone on active service, she would sometimes do typesetting herself and was capable of working what was technically known as a 'flat bed double demy printing machine'. As well as newspapers, she printed postcards and books, in the former case able to manage one thousand cards an hour.



Mary Innell Jolliffe was a member of the Jolliffe family of Bonchurch, her father a well-known builder. She ran the Advertiser until 1923 when it was absorbed by the Isle of Wight Mercury, after years of newspaper rivalry.

Innell Jolliffe had literary aspirations that were not confined to printing. She had already brought out a book of poems, *A May Day Revel*, and she had written articles for magazines, as well as editing *The Island Sunbeam*, a temperance paper for young people. She was also a talented photographer and musician. She even had her own 'magic lantern' projector and screened photographs for the public to view.

Michael Freeman, *Ventnor & District Local History Society*, with many thanks to Jill Wearing for providing the source material for much of this remarkable story. The late Fay Brown wrote a piece about Innell Jolliffe in the *South Wight Chronicle* of 2nd September 2010. In later years, Innell was known for her marvellous memory, recalling what Bonchurch was like in the first decades of the 20th Century.



Ventnor & District Local History Society is a registered charity, working to preserve and record the history of our area and make it available to the public in the Ventnor Heritage Centre.

The Society and Heritage Centre are run and managed by volunteers.

[www.ventnorheritage.org.uk](http://www.ventnorheritage.org.uk) / [Ventnor & District Heritage Facebook Group](#)

