



VENTNOR & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY



## Mill Street shops in 1867

This fine photograph is among the latest of the additions to the Heritage Centre collections, part of a new gift from Jill Wearing. Mill Street is what later became Pier Street.



Up to this time, only the west side of the thoroughfare had been developed, with the Rose Inn just recognisable on the left extremity, the still extant archway just to the right, and then a sequence of shops: a butcher, Walter White, at no. 8; Geo. Jackman, poulterer at no. 6; and Edward Nicholls, Draper at no. 4. At least, these are the identifications gleaned from the 1871 Census, which also reveals that Nicholls was at no.2, but this is out of the picture. The range of shops benefits from a recently constructed pavement which is quite wide for the era. Maybe it reflected the reputation of Mill Street (once Mill Lane) as something of a quagmire after heavy rains, for at the time it had a stream and withy bed running along its east side. The photograph is plainly posed, with the shopkeepers and some of their young children standing in the doorways or on the pavement close by. The draper has some rather fine blankets or rugs hanging either side of each window. All of these buildings are there today, though the shop fronts long since altered.

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



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) / telephone 855407

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