



Snowed in on High Street Dec 1950

Snowed in seventy years ago – does anyone remember it?



On Friday December 15th 1950, Ventnor awoke, after a disturbing thundery night, to find everywhere blanketed a foot deep in snow. The *Daily Telegraph* observed that the Island rarely got snow before Christmas, but this was the exception. The snow fell over just three to four hours, possibly the heaviest fall in such a short time that anyone could recall.

The editorial in the *Isle of Wight Mercury* later observed that townspeople owed a debt of gratitude to the milkmen, bakers, coalmen and postmen who strove to carry on their work, in some cases helping dig out abandoned vehicles on Ventnor's hills.



The three pictures are copies of ones lent to the Museum many years ago by Peggy Stagg. But, apart from the date, there are no names for the men who have posed in the main picture at the junction of High Street and Spring Hill. However, Fay Brown had an annotated copy in her collection and, with further help from Colin Beavis, we can put names to a few of the faces. The man in the army tunic is Alan Parsons, while the man on the extreme right is Gunner Gattrell. The one between those two is thought to be Frank Jefferies who was greenkeeper at the bowling and golf clubs. The man standing in the shop doorway is thought to be Mr. Adsett, according to Fay's record, and Fay also identifies one of the men on the left as Young, but which one is unclear.

Ventnor & District Local History Society. Michael Freeman from files in the Heritage Centre. [This is an updated version of the article published in the South Wight Chronicle on 17 December 2020]

