



T.H. Mulliner, Oil & Colorman, China & Glass Depot



Looking along Pier Street and High Street today, one would be forgiven for thinking that the town has too many shop premises, for there are rarely times when a selection of them isn't empty. But go back one hundred years or so, there were probably twice as many shops as can be seen now. They lined the High Street where the main shoppers' car park is found and they continued, only partially interrupted, along both sides of the higher reaches of the High Street and into Trinity Road. The picture below shows Tom Mulliner's business, located at 2 Down View (later 10 Trinity Rd). It was on the south side a few doors beyond the junction with Madeira Road. To its right was Mrs Bishop's bakery and confectionery shop and to its left was Bastien's picture framing store.



The business was founded by Thomas Hood Mulliner in 1895 and he is thought to be the man in the doorway, the picture probably taken in the early 1900s. His son Harold took over in 1920 and continued to trade until retiring in 1963, whereupon the business closed. The picture repays some closer scrutiny, for it takes us back into another world. Above the doorway, there is a splendid array of hand brushes for sweeping up dust, while down on the pavement to the right is a fine selection of small shovels, plainly meant for household coal. Lots of tin baths and buckets add to the window display. The late Fay Brown recalled how the shop always had an intriguing smell, a strange amalgam of paraffin oil, soap, polish, rope and other articles.

Ventnor & District Local History Society: Michael Freeman, from files in Ventnor 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.

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