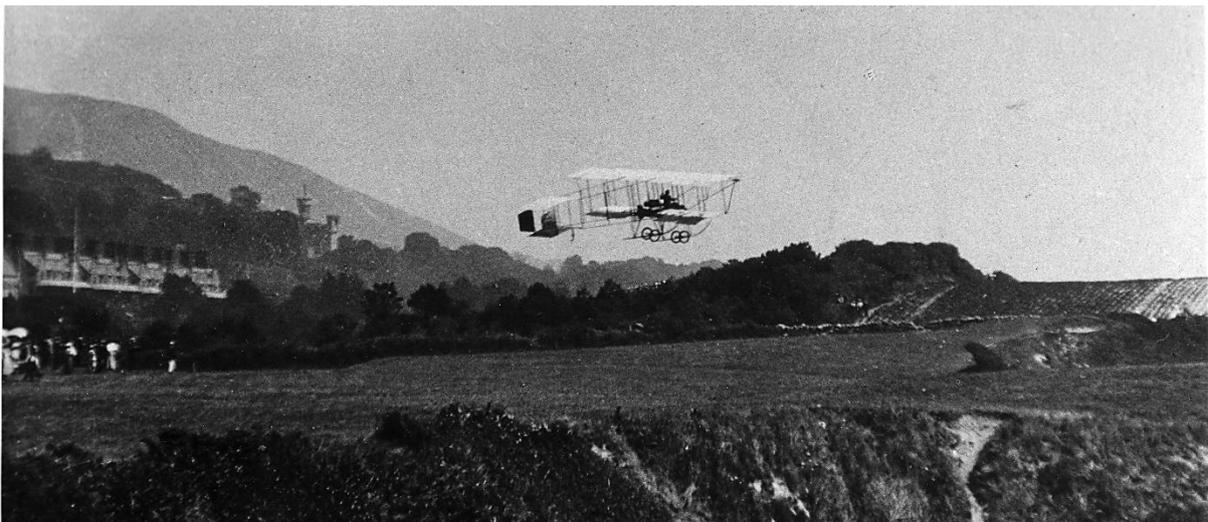




Air pageant at St. Lawrence, 1911



On 6th July 1911, hundreds of spectators assembled in the evening in a meadow at Home Farm, St. Lawrence, to watch a Bristol bi-plane, piloted by Mr Pixie and Mr. England, land there. The pair had left Shoreham airport at 7.15 p.m. and it took just an hour to reach the south coast of the Island, helped by a fire beacon that had been lit on the top of St. Boniface Down that the pilots had first spotted when they passed Selsey Bill. A sheet had been placed on the meadow turf to mark the landing point and, following two circuits seaward, the plane descended, touched the ground and pulled up just yards away from the cliff edge. The day after, the airmen took a few intrepid observers on short trips over Ventnor, charging three guineas a time, a small fortune, one hundred and ten years ago, in 1911.



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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