



Timothy White's



Timothy White's was once a familiar sight on British high streets. The venture, interestingly, had its beginnings in Portsmouth in 1848, started by the 23-year-old Timothy White, who took over an existing business and later himself qualified as a pharmacist. By 1890, it had expanded to comprise more than 10 branches, with the shops also selling paints and hardware, a quite common feature of retail chemists in the period.

In Ventnor, there was a Timothy White's chemist at 12 High Street by the early 1900s, located in the new block known as Clarence Buildings, with the National Telephone Company's call office housed above the shop. By about the same date, Timothy White's had a separate hardware store at 66 High Street (on the corner of High Street and Market Street). The chemist shop remained at 12 High Street well after the 1939-45 war. By that

time, Timothy White's had become a prime household name in urban retailing, a feature that continued until its chemist division was taken over by Boots in 1968, leaving just the hardware division to carry on the Timothy White's name, then comprising nearly 200 shops across the country. By 1985, though, the brand name had gone.



The adjacent picture shows Timothy White's chemist on the extreme right in a snowy scene from December 1950.

The upper picture of the hardware store dates from around 1930, with staff posing for the photographer. The one standing far left in the doorway is Elsie Thomas who was manageress until 1934.

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.

www.ventnorheritage.org.uk / telephone 855407

[Ventnor & District Heritage Facebook Group](#)

