



Our story of 'A House through Time' now reaches the early 1900s, when 86, High Street had become Joe Newnham's Dairy, the photo showing Joe posing outside the building with his milk-cart. The Census of 1901 records Joe as 37 years old, a native of Little Bookham in Surrey, living at Margate Villa, The Grove, in Ventnor, with his wife Ellen, aged 38, and daughters Ellen and Gladys, aged 12 and 6. Joe first worked in Ventnor as a wine merchant's cellarman, but later went into business as a dairyman. He seems to have set up at 86 High Street about 1904, remaining there until he retired in 1924. He then went to live at 8, Altofts Gardens where he threw his energies into the local bowling club on Mitchell Avenue, one of the first to associate with indoor bowling. Joe died in 1933, aged 69.



In 1924, the premises saw another family established at 86 High Street when John Francis Roberton, from Whippingham, took over Newnham's dairy business. In the picture, Roberton's motor delivery van has replaced the milk-cart, but the shop itself and the distinctive archway to the left remains unaltered. Ten years later, Roberton entered into partnership with George Hibberd to form Island Creameries, with other outlets in Sandown and Newport. Front-page adverts in the *Isle of Wight Mercury* in 1934 offered up their Golden Guernsey as the 'Milk of Human Kindness'. Sadly, 86 High Street was destroyed in wartime bombing, along with many other adjacent premises. The site occupied by Knight's Court is now all that marks out the lost buildings.

Ventnor & District Local History Society: Michael Freeman, from files in Ventnor Heritage Centre. The lower picture was supplied by Colin Beavis, with help from Les Matravers who refined the image.



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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