



Hibberd's Cordials




ASK FOR
HIBBERD & CO'S.
TABLE WATERS.

SODA WATER,	VENTNORIA,
POTASS	LEMONADE,
SELTZER "	GINGER ALE,
LITHIA "	Dry GINGER ALE.

HOME-BREWED GINGER BEER
 in Stone Bottles, and 1, 2, 3 & 4 Gal. Jars.

FRUIT WINE, AND CORDIALS.
 Non-Alcoholic Drinks

GINGER WINE A SPECIALITY.

All Communications should be ad
 HIBBERD & Co., North F

Charles Hibberd's mineral water business was started at the rear of the butcher's shop of his uncle, Moses Hibberd, 86 High Street, in the early 1860s. On the double doors to the side archway, the signage read 'C. Hibberd's Soda Water, Ginger Beer and Lemonade Manufactory'. Charles was born in 1830 at Cranbourne in Dorset and began his working life as a dairyman. Around 1860, he suffered a severe attack of rheumatic fever that prompted him to make his way to Ventnor in the hope that the resort's climate might aid recovery. It appeared to do just that, a story that was not at all uncommon among some of the individuals who formed the town's emerging business community.

The mineral water business thrived and manufacture was soon moved to premises in West Street, close to where Charles lived with his wife Eleanor and four children at 10 North Street. By the turn of the century, the business seems to have expanded such as to justify a further move, this time to occupy the old school building on the corner of West Street and North Street, visible in the middle of the picture with its gothic windows. The horses and waggons that hold pride of place in the image form Hibberd's delivery fleet by the early 1900s. Charles himself died in 1899 and his grandson, George Stephen, had by then assumed control of the company. Around this time, it absorbed another local mineral water company, RUWIAC (The Royal Undercliffe Waters and Ice Company), taking over its distinctive island map logo, used either in printed or embossed form. Hibberds grew further by amalgamation in the early 1920s. However, the old school building later became just a store and it was destroyed in wartime bombing, including the Hibberd's old home at 10 North Street.

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](#)

