



Albert Bull's funeral cortège, 1912



The scene is Newport Road in Upper Ventnor at the junction with York Road in November 1912. The hearse carries the mortal remains of Albert Bull, aged 67, a prominent local man whose passing is plainly a great loss to the locality, judging from the scale of the procession. He was born in 1845, a son of William and Peggy Bull who lived at Rock Cottage on Belgrave Road, William well-known in the Ventnor business community. Albert was privately educated in Ventnor and, later, at Shebbear College in Devon.

He started his working career assisting in his father's business on the Esplanade, but soon moved to London to work with Spicer Bros, who were paper merchants. He later joined the staff of Messrs Richardson, London auctioneers. He returned to Ventnor in 1886 and took over the local auctioneer and estate agency business that had been begun by his brother back in 1850. In this capacity, he became agent for the Hambrough and Evans estates and the firm expanded to run offices in Sandown, Shanklin and Totland.

Albert Bull came to take a lively interest in local affairs, joining the Ventnor Local Board and becoming chairman of the District Council that replaced it. He was regarded as an individual of kind and genial disposition, but he could be a vigorous opponent when the occasion demanded. He was a man not enamoured of the Church of England, becoming a trustee of the local Rechabite group. In later years, he had lived at Woodlynch in Wroxall and Messrs Gallop of Wroxall organised his funeral, with Jackman's of Ventnor providing the carriages. In his last Will and Testament, Albert left the princely sum of £7,950, around £8 million today. The funeral procession started from the deceased's Wroxall home and was destined for Ventnor Cemetery.

*Ventnor & District Local History Society: Michael Freeman, from files in Ventnor Heritage Centre, especially those of the late Fay Brown.*



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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