



VENTNOR & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Ventnor County Secondary School trip to Montreux, Switzerland, June 1954



Among the Heritage Centre's archives, there is a scrapbook entitled, 'The Swiss Journey', that offers a record of the school trip to Montreux in June 1954, put together by the youngsters who participated. There were 26 pupils in the group and three adults, two of the latter being teachers and one a former school pupil. The two photos record their departure on June 1<sup>st</sup> 1954 at 9.40 a.m.

Arriving in Montreux 24 hours later, the group were soon settled into the youth hostel at Montreux-Territet that was to be their residence for the next nine days. Montreux is a well-known Swiss resort at the eastern end of Lake Geneva, and the hostel was set right by the lake. Over the following days, the group took a variety of excursions, including one by lake steamer to Lausanne-Ouchy and to Evian-les-Bains, and another by coach to visit a Nestlé factory at Bulle, a cheese storage house at Gruyères, and, on the way back, to take a chairlift up to Wassengrat at 2,203 metres above sea level. There was also a trip to Geneva where they saw the UN building.



The trip as a whole did not go entirely smoothly, though. One of the girls was hospitalised with appendicitis and several pupils had to have days off with stomach aches. On June 11<sup>th</sup>, the group started the long journey home by taking the train to Berne. Here they stayed a night and, during the next day, a young Irishman volunteered to show them the local sights. Then, at 10 p.m. on the 12<sup>th</sup>, all embarked on the train for home, via Bâle, Calais, Folkestone and London Victoria. The trains all seemed to have been packed and there was standing in corridors and sitting on suitcases. Everyone was exhausted by the time they reached Ventnor late on the 13<sup>th</sup> - and they had to be back at their school desks the following morning!!

Ventnor & District Local History Society: Michael Freeman, 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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