

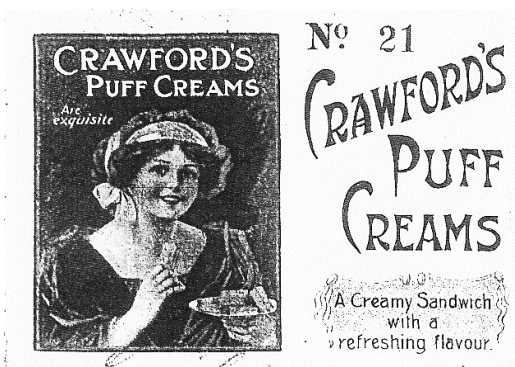


Newberry's Corner



On January 8th 1971, the *Isle of Wight Mercury* recorded the death of Edmund Newberry, aged 86, of Forelands Road, Bembridge. For 34 years, he had been in business as a grocer at premises located at the junction of Newport and Gills Cliff Roads in Upper Ventnor, having taken over the shop from Henry Burnett in 1923, continuing business there until retirement in 1957. The headline in the *Mercury*, though, was the way a Ventnor corner had, in local parlance, become named after the shopkeeper there. Everyone came to know it as 'Newberry's Corner'. And even when the shop was finally closed by the last owner in 1965, it was, for a while, still known by that name among older residents.

Edmund Newberry certainly knew his trade, for he had started work as a grocery boy with Riddicks of Brading and, after leaving school, took over the running of the firm's Bembridge shop. In 1913, Edmund married Miss Christina Winter, and then shortly after left to serve in the Royal Navy for the duration of the Great War. Having taken over the grocery store in Upper Ventnor in 1923, he quickly established himself as a shrewd businessman. Adverts posted in the local papers described how the shop was famous for its Danish Bacon, how it was an agent for Lyons' Cakes and how families were waited on daily. Helping to provide personal service in the shop was Miss Myrtle Muncey, who remained as an assistant after the shop changed hands in 1957.



The photograph above plainly shows the grocery store when in the ownership of Henry Burnett. It is the clearest picture that the Heritage Centre has of the premises. Studying it a little, it is plain that this is the archetypal corner shop or village store, selling not only groceries and provisions, but tin baths, saucepans and pans. The adjacent billhead from Burnett's in that era incorporates an advert for Crawford's biscuits. Older residents may recall from childhood the famous 'puff creams'.

After 1965, the premises ceased to be a grocery store and became, instead, a fish and chip shop, called 'Crispy Fry'. True to form, this corner soon became known by that name among locals, and Southern Vectis even altered the name of the nearby bus stop.

Ventnor & District Local History Society: Michael Freeman, from files in Ventnor Heritage Centre, with help from Colin Beavis.



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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