



VENTNOR & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

## A view of Ventnor town in 1860



This photograph of Ventnor was taken in about 1860. The photographer must have been standing in Longdown looking down over the town towards the bay. In the foreground on the left of the picture are the chimneys of High Cliff (now called Silver Mist), with the top storey of Victoria Mount to the right. The high vantage point means that Victoria Street is not visible below these houses.

Albert Street can be seen running up on the right hand side of the photo, but there is no Dudley Road on the left - just fields and gardens leading towards the sea. The large three storey building standing on what would now be the north side of Dudley road has not yet been identified, but Salisbury Gardens and Devonshire Terrace are not yet built, and the earlier Devonshire Terrace (built in the 1840s, closer to the sea) is off the picture on the left, beyond the gardens.

St Augustine's Villa can be seen overlooking the bay, the chimneys of the old Rectory (now the site of the Winter Gardens) peeping above the hill to its left. The solid two-gabled block to the right of St Augustine's must be Ventnor Mill, demolished in 1875 when Alexandra Gardens was built. La Falaise villa, now also gone, is in the distance in the centre of photograph,

A fascinating picture of our town nearly 150 years ago. One thing is certain - it was a good 'drying day'!



Lesley Telford, [Ventnor & District Local History Society](#). Thanks to Michael Freeman and Jeff Mazo for their help and to Peter Chick who posted a copy of this photo on *IOW Heritage Group* on Facebook, prompting a lot of interest.