



George Jackman's Delightful Summer Excursions




This photograph shows the top of Pier Street in about 1900. On the right of the picture, under the clock, is Mrs Nicholls' Drapers shop, while on the left is Jackman's Royal Undercliff Posting Establishment, with a horse drawn carriage standing outside advertising Jackman's Excursions.

George Jackman had originally established himself as a 'Riding Master' in the 1870s at No 6 on the other side of the road, which was then still called Mill Street. He provided horses for hire *by the day, hour, mile or job* as well as *carriages of every description*. But to most visitors he was best known for his *delightful Summer Excursions*. As well as the Carisbrooke route advertised here, there was the even more popular Ventnor to Freshwater route, which in the summer ran every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, and back again at the end of the day, in wind or rain, cloud or sunshine, a return journey of around fifty miles, three hours each way, with four fresh horses kept at Bighstone to take over, half way through the journey.

During the winter, when travelling in open carriages was not so tempting, most of the horses were out to grass, but by Easter they were brought in to the stables to be made fit for the coach services, many somewhat wild looking after their winter freedom in the meadows around Ventnor, and the young colts needing to be broken in for carriage service.

The excursions must have been very profitable, for in 1878 Jackman paid £3500 for Montpellier House which stood in its own grounds at the junction with the High Street, and moved his business there. The move coincided with the renaming of Mill Street as Pier Street, and Jackman's Royal Undercliff Posting Establishment at 1-3 Pier Street became one of the largest on the island. The entry gate led through the coach house, filled with carriages of all sorts and sizes, and then via a covered corridor into the stable-yard. In the centre of the yard was a roofed area where coaches could stand in all weathers to be cleaned, using water from the old mill stream which ran under the property. Around this, on all sides, was stabling for 54 horses, with an exit into Pound Lane. All this in the area now covered by the Co-op car park.

**JACKMAN'S
FAVORITE ISLE OF WIGHT
EXCURSIONS.**



AT AND AFTER EASTER
TWO CHARS-A-BANC,
will run on these delightful Summer Excursions as follows.
CARISBROOKE ROUTE.
From VENTNOR to NITON, BLACKGANG, CARISBROOKE, NEWPORT, ARRETON,
and WROXALL, EVERY DAY (Sunday Excepted).
Leaving the Ventnor Railway Station on the arrival of the 10.20 train, calling at the Freemasons' Tavern, the Prince of Wales Hotel, the Globe Inn, the Commercial, the Crab and Lobster, the Marine, and the Royal Hotels, leaving Jackman's Excursion Booking Office at 10.45; arriving at Blackgang at 12.0. allowing time to visit the Chine, arriving at Carisbrooke at the Red Lion Hotel, at 2.30, allowing two hours to visit the Castle and the Roman Villa.
Leaving Carisbrooke for Ventnor, at 4.30, calling at the Bugle Hotel and the Wheatsheaf Inn, Newport; returning through Arreton. allowing time to see the Church and the Dairyman's Daughter's Grave, arriving at Wroxall and Ventnor in time for the 6.10 train to Ryde.
FARE 5s. for the whole Route.

Next week: the story of Montpellier House

Lesley Telford, [Ventnor & District Local History Society](http://www.ventnorhistory.org.uk), using information from our collection.