

As the complex administrative machinery of the redevelopment of this site is once again resumed, readers may like to see what used to be here in past eras.



The upper picture shows Nash's Coach station in the 1950s, once the home of Henry Brown's famous posting establishment. The lower picture shows (to the right side) the same premises around 1960 when it was occupied by Southern Vectis who also used it as a coach or bus depot.

According to the late Fay Brown, this building was in the course of being dismantled in February 1962 to make way for the present structure that has, for so many years, disfigured Pier Street since it was taken out of use.

Nash's coach business was a centrepiece of Ventnor's holiday trade in the 1950s. The picture shows drivers standing proudly by their vehicles, the billboards offering a 70-mile round the Island tour for just 9s.6d (less than 50p nowadays) or a visit to Osborne and Carisbrooke for 5s.9d (around 30p now).

Looking again at the lower picture, the upper storey of the premises on the left was for a long-time home to the local Liberal Club. The shop below it was for some years the Copper Kettle café until the entire building unit was sold to Southern Vectis in 1958, eventually to make way for the new Bus Depot.