



# ISLE OF WIGHT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY



[www.isle-of-wight-fhs.co.uk](http://www.isle-of-wight-fhs.co.uk)

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## Programme of Events

Monthly Meetings are held (unless stated otherwise) at Arreton Community Hall, Main Road, Arreton, Newport PO30 3AD

Doors open at 2pm talks start at 2:15pm or 2:30pm

Admission members = £2; non-members = £3

DATE	SUBJECT	SPEAKER
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	I'm Not Blessed Well Jokin! An oral history of Bembridge	Alan PHILLIPS
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> July	A local war time diary and D-day 6 <sup>th</sup> June 1944 East Cowes memories	Sarah BURDETT
<b>This event will be held at: Newclose, County Cricket Ground, Blackwater Road, Newport PO30 3BE Doors open at 6:30 pm. Talk starts at 7:00 pm. Admission members = £2; non-members = £3</b>		
August	There will be no meeting in August.	

**For an up-to-date list of future events and to book tickets go to:**

[www.isle-of-wight-fhs.co.uk/events](http://www.isle-of-wight-fhs.co.uk/events)

### **2024 CALENDAR YEAR SUBSCRIPTIONS**

Standard Membership (ejournal)	£ 8.00
Classic UK Membership	£16.00
Classic Rest of the World Membership	£30.00

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The Isle of Wight Family History Society takes no responsibility for articles submitted to the Journal, nor does it necessarily agree with opinions expressed.

Authors are expected to have checked for factual accuracy and to have obtained the necessary permissions for lengthy quotations and the use of illustrations.

## **Editorial**

I draw your attention to page 2 of this Journal, "Programme of Events". The meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> July will be held in the evening at Newclose County Cricket Ground. There is a cash bar and ample free parking. There will not be an afternoon meeting at Arreton.

I also draw your attention to the centre four unnumbered pages, on yellow paper if you are reading the printed version. If you will be unable to attend the AGM in person you can use the link to vote online or pull out the centre pages from the printed version to vote by post if you do not have internet access.

Thank you to those members who submitted articles for publication in this Journal. New articles are always wanted. You will note that the second half of this edition is almost entirely taken up with repeats of articles about Island Parishes. So please get writing.

Peter SPENCER (IOWFHS Member 2187)

Journal Editor

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Cover Photograph

Seaview

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**The deadline for the August Journal is 1<sup>st</sup> July.**

## Heritage Resource Centre

**West Chapel, Northwood Cemetery, Newport Road, Cowes PO31 7ER**  
**(Address is NOT to be used for correspondence)**

### Opening Times

Tuesdays	1 pm to 4 pm
Wednesdays	10 am to 1 pm

**Enquiries to: [research.iowfhs@gmail.com](mailto:research.iowfhs@gmail.com)**

We can also be available at other times by arrangement with the Librarian, Hazel PULLEN (*see inside front cover*).

The Friends of Northwood Cemetery will have representatives on hand at other times during the week.

We are pleased to be part of the Heritage Resource Centre at the West Chapel, Northwood Cemetery.

**Please note:** Northwood Cemetery is a working cemetery, managed by the Isle of Wight Council Bereavement Services section. Priority is given to any funeral services and visitors should be respectful of the needs of people attending such services and other visitors to the grounds.

There is very limited parking at the Cemetery. Visitors **must not** use the nearby Medical Centre Car Park. The Park & Ride car park at Somerton is a few 100 metres away (one bus stop). Southern Vectis bus services (Route 1) from Cowes Red Jet Terminal or Newport Bus Station which stop at Cowes Medical Centre (use the service showing '**Park & Ride**'; operates approximately every 15 minutes). Buses showing '**Round House**' use a different route.

A DDA compliant toilet facility is available to visitors.

We have facilities to copy, scan and print materials for personal use (*subject to copyright where applicable*).

The Heritage Resource Centre will be 'free to use' but donations towards our running costs and any materials will be welcomed. Non-members will be asked to become temporary members (just a quick signature and a suggested minimum donation of £1 is all that is required) to enable us to offer access to privileged material available to our full members.

**Annual Report 2023-2024**

***Confidential***

***Confidential***



***Confidential***

***Confidential***

***Confidential***

***Confidential***

***Confidential***

***Confidential***

**Financial Report 2023**

***Confidential***

***Confidential***

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## **Membership Secretary's Report**

I wish a warm welcome to those of you who have joined or returned to our Society in the past three months.

If you have not already done so, please take the time to have a look around our website and familiarise yourself with the self-managed aspects of **My Account**. Advice and guidance can be found from our Home page under the **Help** and **Membership > Membership Information tabs** and as always, you are welcome to either email or write to me for assistance.

The membership subscription renewal date is 1<sup>st</sup> January each year. An automated facility in our membership database allows payments to be made for the following year from 1<sup>st</sup> November onwards. All subscription payments are made by you, we do not take payment from you. During the busy renewal period the Society's bank account is checked daily and your membership account up-dated accordingly.

We are keen to continue to use our fantastic resource of volunteers who undertake research for us. If you would like to contribute some time to a project, do let us know. It would be work which can be done remotely.

Should you be reading this Journal before 4<sup>th</sup> May, there are still tickets available for our Annual Conference and AGM. If you are intending to attend and have not yet purchased tickets, please email direct to book.

Could you join our Committee and help to keep the Society going? We are always looking for new faces and have a number of Committee roles which would benefit from extra help. The roles of Vice Chairman and Programme Secretary are vacant.

Gerry NEWBERRY (IWFHS Member: 2189)

Membership Secretary

**Email:** [membership.secretary.iowfhs@gmail.com](mailto:membership.secretary.iowfhs@gmail.com)

## **From the Desk in Westward Ho!**

About the time that you are reading this, I will be giving a talk at the Annual General Meeting of the Family History Federation, to mark their fiftieth anniversary. I will be looking back at how the family history landscape has changed since the 1970s, when I first started seriously researching. I was unusually young when I began delving into archives but I do feel quite ancient when I think that I was present at the tenth anniversary of the then Federation of Family History Societies.

Many of you will remember the pre-internet days, when searching through the registers of civil registration or winding our way through Census microfilms could only be done in London. What fun we had, leaving the Island by coach in the early hours to enjoy the Society's London outings, travelling home tired but able to share the findings and frustrations of the day. We thumbed our way through the annual publication 'The Genealogical Research Directory' hoping to find others researching our ancestral names. If they were overseas, we sent off air mail letters with International Reply Coupons to pay for return postage and hoped for a response.

In today's age of one-stop genealogy, of instant gratification, we expect the whole process to be much quicker and it is fantastic to have access to so many original records from our own homes. There is much that has been lost along the way. Now we plug our ancestor's name into a search engine and there is little to tempt us to look beyond the entry for that ancestor. We can home in directly on great grandad or with little forethought, someone else's great grandad, without the need for any comprehension of the dataset we are using or the context for that entry. Without the labour of winding through the whole of Hackney in the 1851 Census looking for the SMITH family, as I did in the early days of my research, we miss our understanding of the neighbourhood. We remain oblivious to the occupational profile of the area or of significant immigration from a specific place. Without looking at the context for our ancestors' entries when using a parish register, we are unaware of a hiatus in the entries or if an incumbent recording a burial, habitually comments if the deceased is an infant.

Next year marks the fortieth anniversary of The Isle of Wight Family History Society, there are several founder members who have maintained their connection for all forty of those years. Do you have memories of the early days of the society? The time when we crammed into Athena House in Ryde and our yellow covered journals landed on the doormat every

three months. I don't know what the plans are to mark the occasion but I am sure that our editor would be pleased to publish a selection of those recollections.

Before I get too maudlin, let's look to the future. The genealogical landscape is forever changing. It is hard to see what innovation might come next, to help us to discover and preserve the stories of our ancestors. At the heart of it all are our ancestors; their life stories are unchanging, we just need to make the most of the resources available to us to uncover as much as we can about their lives, to set those lives in the context of their times and to make sure that our history and heritage is passed to the next generation.

Janet FEW (IWFHS Member: 50)

Vice-President

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## **Talk by Dr Dominic FONTANA on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

We started our new year with a talk from Dominic about the sinking of the *Mary Rose*.

A chance meeting in a pub started 42 years of work as part of the archaeological team to raise and uncover as much as possible of the 16<sup>th</sup> Century shipwreck off a sandbank in the Solent.

A hot and sunny day in July 1545 was the ending of the *Mary Rose*, not at the time the flag ship of the Royal Navy. This position was granted to *The Great Harry*.

The French were ready to invade and their army was ready to invade Dover. They moved through the Channel to gain access to Portsmouth and in the battle of the Solent 500 sailors died aboard the *Mary Rose*.

It was amazing what was discovered 500 years later when the ship was recovered in 1982, this being the pinnacle of work that had been carried out over many years prior to the lifting.

Lovely bowls, woodworking tools, combs for fleas etc were all found on the rig. Along with pewter plates that were used by the officers, shoes made for the sailors. Navigational implements were also found along with a 4" nail discovered in pitch. peppercorns were also found which when they were dried out still smelt.

200 men were gathered in the encampment to make their way to the ensuing battle, they were landed at Bembridge and Seaview, with many of the Isle of Wight Militia they saw the French off the Island.

There is still an ongoing discussion as to how the ship sank in the Solent, they were only a short sail from grounding on the sandbank, were the holes in the sides for the guns left open? The debate goes on.

Hazel PULLEN (IWFHS Member:2650)

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## **Unravelling the Identity of William SALTER's Families**

If you are looking for relatives with very common surnames it's not unusual to find examples of several people with the same name living in the same vicinity at the same time, each marrying a spouse with the same forename or even having two or more of their children who share the same forenames.

I recently found two families that lived on the Island at the same time, which although not apparently related to each other in any way, shared many of the same names with several birth dates within a year or two of each other. The surnames of the main characters in this example are SALTER, SEXTON and BARNES which you might presume would not be particularly difficult to unravel and yet because of the number of coincidences, proved to be so challenging that it is worth presenting as a cautionary example.

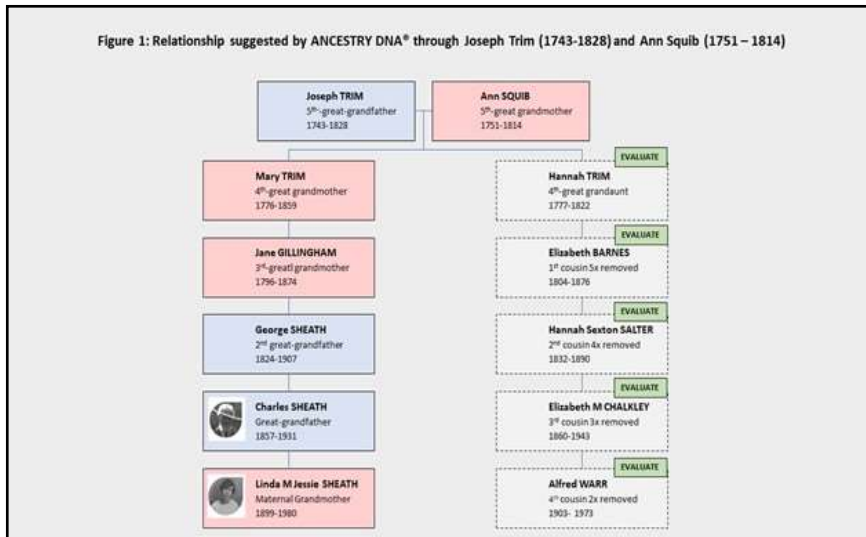
I came across this family whilst cross checking through my DNA matches. I am one of an increasing number that use DNA matching as a tool in their family research. If two people are matched, you can be confident that they are related to each other, usually to within 7 or 8 generations, i.e. up to their 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> great-grandparents. Someday it might be worth putting together a 'how-to' guide for using some of these tools but this is not the place. However, it's worth a small digression to give some context to the case in point.

This family was connected to two particular DNA matches, suggested to be 6<sup>th</sup> cousins of mine through my maternal line. These matches are first cousins to each other and are both granddaughters of Alfred WARR who was born in 1903 in Finchley, North London and who died in Costessey near Norwich, Norfolk in 1973.

By way of explanation, members of ANCESTRY DNA® have access to a tool called ThruLines® which uses an algorithm to find common ancestors between members who are a match to each other by comparing their respective family trees.

Figure 1 (*see next page*) shows each connection for the suggested relationship through my maternal grandmother, Jessie SHEATH, to Alfred WARR through common ancestors Joseph TRIM (1743-1828) and Ann SQUIB (1751-1814). Although it looks convincing, this is not proof that the suggested relationship is correct; it is only as reliable as the information provided in the family trees created by each member. It is important to stress that even the best researched family trees may contain unknown flaws and therefore each suggested step requires additional

verification. For this reason, Ancestry® displays the tag ‘EVALUATE’ for each link.



In the example above I was able to verify that the match via common ancestors, Joseph TRIM (1743-1828) and Ann SQUIB (1751-1814) was probably correct but there appeared to be a problem in the link between Hannah TRIM (1782-1822) and her granddaughter, Hannah Sexton SALTER (1831-1890).

There is a baptismal record for Hannah Sexton SALTER dated 1<sup>st</sup> January 1832 at St John’s, Niton which gives her parents’ names as William SALTER and Elizabeth. The working assumption is that this Elizabeth, the mother of Hannah Sexton SALTER, was the daughter of Hannah TRIM.

According to the Geneanet Community Trees Index the identity of William SALTER could be:

- Name = William SALTER
- Birth = 1798 Shorwell
- Death = 1879 Cowes
- Marriage = 28<sup>th</sup> December 1826 Carisbrooke
- Spouse = Elizabeth BARNES
- Father = John Jacob SALTER
- Mother = Mary MARWOOD

In many trees, this assumption has simply been accepted and hence Elizabeth BARNES is assumed to be the link, as is presented in the

ThruLines® example. There are some contra-indications however which suggest that this may not necessarily be the case.

Arguably the most important objection is that Elizabeth's mother and father were most probably Hannah TRIM and her husband, James SEXTON (1772-1831), who were married at St John's, Niton on 13<sup>th</sup> February 1800. There's an obvious reference in Hannah Sexton SALTER's given name that either her mother's or one of her grandmothers' surnames was SEXTON. Indeed, James SEXTON and Hannah TRIM did have a daughter called Elizabeth; she was baptised at St John's, Niton on 16<sup>th</sup> January 1803.

The William SALTER listed in the Geneanet Community Trees Index married Elizabeth BARNES. This discrepancy could be explained by Elizabeth SEXTON having been married previously to a spouse with the surname BARNES prior to December 1826. It might also be explained by Elizabeth having been adopted at some point by parents with the surname BARNES. However, the most likely explanation is that Elizabeth BARNES and Elizabeth SEXTON were different people.

William SALTER and Elizabeth (née BARNES) had a daughter, Hannah, who was baptised at Whippingham on 24<sup>th</sup> January 1841 and this is consistent with the details for the following family listed in the 1851 Census who lived close to Whippingham:

Household Members	Age	Relationship	Estimated Birth Year	Birthplace
William SALTER	53	Head	1798	Brading
Elizabeth SALTER	47	Wife	1804	Godshill
James SALTER	23	Son	1828	Carisbrooke
Jacob SALTER	13	Son	1838	Whippingham
Hannah SALTER	10	Daughter	1841	Whippingham
Edward SALTER	7	Son	1844	Whippingham
Sarah SALTER	5	Daughter	1846	Whippingham
George SALTER	3	Son	1848	Whippingham

A couple of observations: The estimated birth year for Elizabeth SALTER is acceptably consistent with the baptism record for Elizabeth SEXTON but the birthplace looks wrong. More importantly we find out that Hannah went on to marry William CHALKLEY at Saint Luke, Finsbury on 12<sup>th</sup> April 1854 which suggests she might have been as young as 14 at the time of her wedding; not impossible but unlikely. Of course, she may have already been a year or two old at the time of her baptism but the census record above suggests that she was born about 1841.

We also need to account for the 1841 baptism for Hannah SALTER at Whippingham with the earlier baptism record that we found for Hannah Sexton SALTER dated 1<sup>st</sup> January 1832 from Niton. Both records give her

parents as William SALTER and Elizabeth. One possible explanation is that the earlier record was for a child that died in infancy; it was relatively common to find a child born later in the same family to be given the name of a previous, deceased child. An alternative explanation is that the two baptism records are for two different children named Hannah SALTER from two different families.

Many family trees simply overlook the anomalies between the two different baptism records for Hannah, the discrepancy between the place of birth suggested by Elizabeth's baptism record and the census records, the problem of Hannah's early marriage and the apparent change in Elizabeth's surname sometime prior to her marriage to William SALTER. I might have accepted these anomalies too, were it not for the fact that I found another listing in the 1851 census for a William SATTER and wife Elizabeth, living at the time in Niton, with children of a similar age to the other SALTER family that lived at Whippingham:

Household Members	Age	Relationship	Estimated Birth Year	Birthplace
William SATTER	52	Head	1799	Yaverland
Elizabeth SATTER	47	Wife	1803	Niton
James SATTER	24	Son	1827	Niton
Isaac SATTER	22	Son	1829	Niton
Jane SALTON	11	Daughter	1840	Niton
Mary Ann SALTON	8	Daughter	1843	Niton
William SEXTON	38	Brother	1813	Niton
Ann SEXTON	24	Sister in law	1827	Shalfleet

Although the parents and children are listed as either SATTER or SALTON these are all members of one family. It's a reasonable assumption therefore that both names are derivatives of SALTER.

There is an additional clue; living at the same address in 1851 were a William SEXTON and his wife Ann. William SEXTON was baptised 24<sup>th</sup> October 1813 at St John's, Niton and his parents were James SEXTON and Hannah (née TRIM). He had married Ann WHITTINGTON in 1847 at the Register Office, Newport. He was therefore Elizabeth SEXTON's brother and this provides convincing evidence that Elizabeth "SATTER" was the same person as Elizabeth SEXTON.

Additional information from the census includes the occupation of each family member. In 1851 William SALTER's occupation was given as 'Agricultural labourer' and in 1861 (where only William and Elizabeth, still in Niton, are listed) it is simply 'Labourer'.

There is a copy of the marriage register from Saint Luke, Finsbury for the marriage of William CHALKLEY to Hannah SALTER on 12<sup>th</sup> April 1854 and William SALTER's occupation is given as 'Labourer'. Of course, this



type of occupation was very common in the 1850s but at least the records are consistent with each other.

Although there is no daughter called Hannah living with this family at the time of the 1851 census, the baptismal record for Hannah Sexton SALTER at Niton in January 1832 would appear to place her in this family. She would have been about 19 at the time of the census and therefore quite likely to be no longer living at home. A wider search finds this family in both the 1841 and 1861 censuses which provides a timeline. Hannah was present in the 1841 census with an estimated year of birth of about 1832 which is a good fit with the baptismal record:

This established that there were (at least) two different SALTER families with both sets of parents called William and Elizabeth, both of a similar age with four children in each family sharing the same Christian names, one living at Whippingham and the other living at Niton. Nevertheless, there were still some blanks to fill in – most importantly, although the two Elizabeths were clearly different people, might it be that William SALTER in both families was the same person living bigamously? After all, the respective birthplaces, Yaverland and Brading are not far from each other.

The answer appears to be that these are two different people called William SALTER and the proximity in age and birth location is simply a coincidence: a William SALTER was baptised at Yaverland on 1<sup>st</sup> June 1798 to parents John SALTER and Mary and another was baptised at Brading on 30<sup>th</sup> September 1798, the son of James SALTER and Sarah.

There are also different marriage records for William SALTER. There is indeed a marriage between a William SALTER and Elizabeth BARNES at Carisbrooke on 28<sup>th</sup> December 1826 but there is also a marriage between William SALTER and Elizabeth SEXTON on 1<sup>st</sup> November 1826 at John's, Niton. There is a burial record for a William SALTER (aged about 72) who was laid to rest at St John's Church, Niton on 19<sup>th</sup> March 1867.

So, the William SALTER that was baptised in Yaverland, was almost certainly the same person who later married Elizabeth SEXTON and lived and died in Niton. This is consistent with the information available from the 1841, 1851 and 1861 censuses. These were undoubtedly the parents of Hannah Sexton SALTER, the second great-grandmother of my two DNA matches. Overall, this provides a solid rationale for the DNA matches, confirming that they are 6<sup>th</sup> cousins through common ancestors, Joseph TRIM (1743-1828) and Ann SQUIB (1751-1814).

It also challenges the information about William SALTER from the Geneanet Community Trees Index which amalgamates the information

about birth date and place, parents, spouse and death date from at least two, possibly three different people.

So, what does this example teach us?

- It may be tempting to use information from sources such as Geneanet, FamilySearch and Ancestry trees but the quality of these sources can be highly variable. You cannot assume that any of it is correct and no fact should be copied across without checking them thoroughly for yourself.
- This same principle applies when evaluating potential DNA matches; your side of the connection may be reliable enough but you can't assume that the links in the chain from the other side will have been verified with the same degree of rigour.
- Never assume that there is a uniquely named candidate from a baptism or marriage record in a given location at a given time, even for a surname which is not common.
- Get as much information as you can about each person in your tree; search as widely as you can and check out any anomalies that you find.
- There is a wealth of valuable details in the census records and some of these can be cross referenced against other records such as marriages, burials or wills. For example, tracking a father's occupation through the years and comparing with the occupation stated on the marriage certificate.
- In this example the identity of the correct family was confirmed by finding the wife's brother and his wife lodging with them at the time of the census. There are often useful clues to be had by checking out the identity of any person in the household who is not part of the immediate family. It's also worth exploring next door or near neighbours as occasionally these can be members of the extended family.
- In rural communities, including many found on the Island, it was common for people to live in the same village over several generations right up to the mid-nineteenth century. This yardstick proved to be useful in unravelling the identity of William SALTER and Elizabeth, above. It's worth asking questions if you have people in your tree appearing to move from one side of the Island to another and back again. It certainly happened but it was the exception rather than the norm.

Steve STOTESBURY (IWFHS Member: 3664)

**Email:** [faithalert1@gmail.com](mailto:faithalert1@gmail.com)

## **The Sacrifice Made by Scouts in WW1 and WW2**

Barry GROVES talk on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March.

Barry GROVES and his friend Malcolm gave a talk at Arreton on the subject of the Boy Scouts and their involvement in the two World Wars. He mentioned the scouts who had been awarded the VC and the Honour Guard of Queen's Scouts mentioned on the Memorial.

Uffa FOX 1<sup>st</sup> Cowes Sea Scouts mentioned a trip to Thorness on the Island but ended up with lots of controversy in the French Capital Paris. In the first WW the scouts did their bit by using the semaphore that they had been taught along the coast of the Island, this released men from the Navy to go to war.

They did many jobs to help, they collected old newspapers which were used to produce newspapers of inferior quality.

They planted seed potatoes and other vegetables within hotel grounds, hospitals and private lawns that fed the Islanders.

Air raid warnings were sounded when bombing was expected but a scout bugler sounded the 'all clear' at the end of hostilities.

Jack CORNWALL was awarded a VC posthumously for his gallantry at the Battle of Jutland, he was only 16 when he was killed. He had a pauper's grave but money was raised and he was later reburied in London.

During World War II, the Thanks Badge depicted a Swastika in gold which was later replaced by a round badge.

The Scouts ran a volunteer fire service with scrapped vehicles, they built Andersen Shelters, 6 of the older scouts were used as messengers at Northwood House together with other military and police.

I hope this gives a flavour of the talk by Barry GROVES; it was shown with lots of the many photos that Barry has accumulated over the many years of his research.

To find out more have a look at:

<https://isleofwightscoutingheritage.blogspot.com/>

Hazel PULLEN (IWFHS Member:2650)

**Email:** [librarian.iowfhs@gmail.com](mailto:librarian.iowfhs@gmail.com)

## Learning and Development Resource Centre

# We need your donations!

Do you have any Isle of Wight History or Isle of Wight Geography books that our Local Primary Children could use to learn about where they live?



We are a Resource Centre used by Schools, Foster Carers, Child Carers, Early Years Practitioners and Social Care Staff across the Island and are keen to develop a Local Studies Shelf for our users. If you have any books or resources taking up space that you are happy to donate, please contact Anni Farthing at the Learning and Development Resource Centre on (01983) 823346 or [annika.farthing@iow.gov.uk](mailto:annika.farthing@iow.gov.uk)

**Register Your Votes in the Annual General Meeting**

You can cast your votes online by going to:

[https://mhstpauls.me.uk/agm\\_vote/](https://mhstpauls.me.uk/agm_vote/)

***Please read the instructions on each page carefully***

***Voting will be available until 20<sup>th</sup> May.***

**If you do not have internet access**, please insert your surname and the first line of your address in the spaces below.

You will find the voting form overleaf.

Please return the completed form **to arrive by 20<sup>th</sup> May** to:

Mr G K Allan  
Apartment 3  
Sandbanks  
Esplanade  
Sandown  
Isle of Wight  
PO36 8DW

Your surname .....

1<sup>st</sup> line of your address .....

<b>Candidate</b>	<b>Nominations</b>	<b>Voting</b>
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*Please fill in the 1<sup>st</sup> box to indicate your choice.*

*The 2<sup>nd</sup> boxes are for the use of the 2<sup>nd</sup> member if there are 2 members registered at your address.*

Chairman	<b>Geoff Allan</b> Proposed by <i>Sharon Beddard</i> Seconded by <i>Hazel Pullen</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> For <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Against <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Abstain
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Vice-Chair	<b>Vacant</b>	
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Secretary	<b>Gillian Glasbey</b> Proposed by <i>Mke Hoar</i> Seconded by <i>Claire Willis</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> For <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Against <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Abstain
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Treasurer	<b>Claire Willis</b> Proposed by <i>Geoff Allan</i> Seconded by <i>Gerry Newberry</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> For <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Against <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Abstain
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Membership Secretary	<b>Gerry Newberry</b> Proposed by <i>Sharon Beddard</i> Seconded by <i>Mike Hoar</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> For <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Against <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Abstain
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Programme Secretary	<b>Vacant</b>	
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Others (vote en bloc)	<b>Sharon Beddard</b> <b>Mike Hoar</b> <b>Hazel Pullen</b> <b>John Pullen</b> <b>Peter Spencer</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> For <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Against <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Abstain
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Proposers (P) and

Seconders (S) for these: Sharon Beddard (P) *Geoff Allan* (S) *Gerry Newberry*.  
 Mike Hoar (P) *John Pullen* (S) *Sharon Beddard*. Hazel Pullen (P) *Sharon Beddard*  
 (S) *Mike Hoar* John PULLEN (P) *Geoff Alan* (S) *Claire Willis*. Peter Spencer (P)  
*Gerry Newberry* (S) *Mike Hoar*.

Annual Report	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> For <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Against <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Abstain
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Financial Statement	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> For <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Against <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Abstain
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### **Information about the candidates**

Chairman Geoff ALLAN who lives on the Island, has been the Chairman since 2013. He has been the Webmaster since 2008. He has an interest in War Memorials and Monuments. He has been a member of the society since 1991.

Secretary – Gillian GLASBEY who lives on the Island, has been the Secretary since 2019. She has been a member of the society since 2005

Treasurer Claire WILLIS who lives on the Island, has been the Treasurer since 2021. She has been a member of the society since 2011.

Membership Secretary Gerry NEWBERRY who lives on the Island, was co-opted on to the committee at the March committee meeting to work alongside the outgoing Membership Secretary Dean BAGWELL to enable a smooth handover of the role. She has been a member of the society since 2010.

Sharon BEDDARD who lives on the Island, has been the Heritage Resource Centre Education Officer since 2019. She has been a member of the society since 2010.

Mike HOAR who lives on the Island, has been Systems Development Officer since 2019. He has been a member of the society since 2017.

Hazel PULLEN who lives on the Island, has been Librarian and Strays Coordinator since 2013. She is one of the regular volunteers at the Heritage Resource Centre. She has been a member of the Society since 2008.

John PULLEN who lives on the Island, has been the Friends of Northwood Cemetery Liaison Officer since 2018. He has been a member of the society since 2008.

Peter SPENCER who lives in Wiltshire, has been the Journal Editor since 2010. He is also the Publicity Manager and the founder of Society's Facebook group. He has been a member of the Society 2006.





## **Island Parishes – Freshwater**

The parish of Freshwater, at the western tip of the Isle of Wight, has some of the most spectacular coastal scenery of any Island parish, with chalk cliffs rising over 500 feet in height, culminating in the Needles Rocks. All the Victorian guidebooks recommend the visitor to take a boat out to fully appreciate its beauty.

This coastline has had its share of shipwrecks. In 1753 the *Assurance* returning from Jamaica went down at the Needles and a frigate, the *Pomone* sank at the same spot in 1811.

A lifeboat operated from Totland Bay from the 1880s but it was unable to assist the *Irex* which ran aground in Scratchells Bay in 1890. The survivors were rescued by rocket apparatus from the cliff top.

The lighthouse was built at its present position at the Needles in 1858 and a directory of the following year lists John BARCHARD as the lighthouse keeper.

The defence of the Island was important here in this area. In 1859 the newly built Fort Victoria, nearly opposite Hurst Castle, was in charge of chief gunner John STEVENS. James SMITH was at Cliff End Fort. Thomas KEOWN was chief gunner at the fort at Freshwater Gate.

In the early 1860s the Needles Point Battery was built overlooking the Needles Rocks. After being manned throughout both World Wars it was used as the test site for the Black Knight space rocket.

The Battery is now the property of the National Trust and has been restored and opened to the public. An unrivalled view of the Needles and lighthouse can be seen from the old searchlight position at the end of a long underground tunnel.

Such a coastline was ideal for smuggling, on one occasion contraband even had to be hidden in the church tower. Middleton Cottage was the home of one well-known smuggling family, the CONWAYs, until they moved to Colwell Bay.

George MORLAND spent some time sketching smugglers and fishermen while staying at the Cabin in Freshwater Bay or Freshwater Gate, previously known as Sutton. Norton still remains a separate hamlet but Middleton, Easton and Weston have all merged to become one.

By the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century Freshwater Bay was described as a neat village and bathing place, with two good hotels. These were the Albion, close to the beach, run by Thomas MUCCOW in 1859 and Miss Laura Ann LAMBECTION in 1878. Up on the cliff was Plumbley's, renamed the Freshwater Bay Hotel and run by William Tooley LAMBERT.

Overlooking Freshwater Bay was Dimbola. the house taken in 1860 by Julia Margaret CAMERON, the well-known photographer, in order to be near to her friends the TENNYSONS.

No one was safe from her lens, be it a local servant girl to the Poet Laureate himself. Her subject for one photograph, entitled the Grandmother, was 94-year-old Sarah, widow of Stephen GROVES. who was the village carpenter.

One of her favourite sitters was her parlourmaid, Mary Ann HILLIER. She had been born in 1847 at Pound Green, Freshwater, the daughter of the local shoemaker, John HILLIER and his wife, Martha. Mary Ann married Thomas GILBERT and had eight children. In old age she lost her sight and died, aged 88 years, in 1936. Five of the six children of master gunner KEOWN (all born at Freshwater) were used by Mrs CAMERON as models.

Alfred TENNYSON took his wife to see Farringford House in 1853. In her journal Emily described the trip to the Island: rail to Brockenhurst and then omnibus to Lymington, where they had missed the ferry so crossed to the Island by rowing boat. After spending the night at Plumbley's, they looked at the House the next day.

Noticing the scenery from the drawing room window she thought, "I must have that view." A sentiment that was obviously not shared by some of their servants who, she records, burst into tears saying they could not live in such a lonely place. However, the House was rented, furnished, for £2 per week. until they purchased it in 1856.

There was a constant stream of visitors, Ann THACKERAY, daughter of the novelist said that everyone in Freshwater was either a genius or a poet or a painter or peculiar in some way.

TENNYSON loved to walk on High Down and eventually a monument was erected to him at the site of the old beacon and the Down renamed in his honour.

The poet's growing popularity meant an increase in sightseers, which forced the family to spend only the winter months at Farringford.

Emily TENNYSON survived her husband by four years and was buried in Freshwater Churchyard.

The Church, dedicated to All Saints, built by the river Yar originally had just a cluster of cottages around it and the Red Lion, run in 1878 by Mrs Caroline SAWLEY. Although an ancient church, one of the six given to the Abbey of Lyra, it has been considerably altered and added to over the years. In spite of this it is said to be possible to find traces inside of the original Saxon building.

One of the stained-glass windows is based on a painting by G F WATTS, who spent a lot of time at the Briary, with his patron Henry PRINSEP, also an artist in oils.

WATTS was married for a short time to the actress Ellen TERRY and he used her face as the model for Sir Galahad. Lady TENNYSON modelled for an angel.

In 1875 £3,400 was raised by public subscription to build a church at Totland Bay, which then became a separate ecclesiastical parish. Hallam TENNYSON gave the land on which St Agnes Church was built in 1908. Its appearance is deceptive because old stone from a demolished farmhouse was used. It is the only thatched church on the Island.

The first Methodist meetings were held in the parish at Norton Cottage, the home of Mrs MITCHELL who later gave land for a chapel, which was first built in 1824 and rebuilt in 1860.

A Baptist Chapel was built near Colwell Bay and in 1884 a Congregational Chapel was built. There were also meeting places for the Plymouth Brethren and the Salvation Army.

All Saints National School was built in 1850 at a cost of over £1,000. 16 children could be educated free due to a bequest made by David URRY in 1714. In 1906 a mixed Council School was built in Queens Road.

In his *Tour of the Isle of Wight* (1790) HASSELL describes how the white sand of Alum Bay was dug out by miners in the summer months to be sent to Worcester for making china and glass.

The local people would drive iron stakes into the cliffs in order to be able to suspend themselves from baskets and collect birds' eggs and sometimes also the birds for their feathers.

Afton Downs above Freshwater Bay provided rich pasture for grazing sheep.

Tourists would come to Alum Bay to view the coloured sands, they would land at a wooden pier, replaced in 1889 by an iron one for the steamers to tie up at.

If they wanted to stay in the area there was the Needles Hotel, run by James BEAZLEY in the 1860s and 1870s. This hotel was burnt down in 1910.

MARCONI built a small experimental wireless transmitting station at Alum Bay to send messages to vessels out to sea. A plaque commemorates his experiments carried out from 6<sup>th</sup> December 1897 to 26<sup>th</sup> May 1900.

The scientist Robert HOOKE was born in Freshwater in 1635, the son of the Rector. After his father's death he left the Island for London, aged just 13 years. His name is remembered in Hooke Hill, Freshwater.

Source: IWFHS Journal 62 (August 2001)

## **Island Parishes – Gatcombe**

In his *Picture of the Isle of Wight* BRANNON describes Gatcombe as exhibiting altogether perhaps the most charming inland scenery of any part of the Isle of Wight.

The village itself is tucked away in a valley. The handful of cottages line a road that quickly becomes just farm lanes. It is said that stone for Carisbrooke Castle was quarried here and man-handled the couple of miles to the site.

Gatcombe's mill was valued at 40 pence in the Domesday Book. Built of stone, with a mill house and stables. Its mill pond was some distance away. In 1859 the miller was William T TULL and in 1914 William DEATH.

Gatcombe Manor came into the possession of the WORSLEY family in Elizabethan times.

Edward WORSLEY of Gatcombe was involved in attempts to free Charles I from imprisonment in Carisbrooke Castle and later was rewarded for his loyalty with a knighthood from Charles II.

Another Edward WORSLEY had the present house built in 1751 but within a generation the male line had died out. Ownership of the house changed hands many times.

In his *Tour of the Isle of Wight* (1790) HASSELL described it as the summer seat of Captain RATRAY, being a neatly built brick building but with no pictures or furniture of note.

In the 1830s it was occupied by Alexander CAMPBELL but by the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century it was the home of Charles SEELY.

In the nearby parish church, St Olave's, there is a fine marble effigy of SEELY's son, also Charles, who was killed at Gaza in 1917.

Another effigy in the church is that of a knight carved in wood, about which many stories have been invented. One of the stained-glass windows was

designed by the pre-Raphaelites - MORRIS, BURNE-JONES, ROSSETTI and MADOX BROWN.

Although the church dates from the 13<sup>th</sup> Century it has been restored many times, particularly in 1865 when the chancel was rebuilt.

When the porch was added in 1910 timbers from the *Thunderer*, a ship that fought at the Battle of Trafalgar, were used.

The church registers date from 1560.

A mile or so away, towards Chillerton, is Sheat Manor. When this Elizabethan house was built for the URRY family, Sir William OGLANDER gave some of his oak trees to be used. The URRYs were thought to be Roman Catholic and a priest's hole exists by a fireplace.

The children of Gatcombe went to Chillerton School, which in 1878 was in the charge of Mr and Mrs MOLE.

Prior to the building of that school there was a dame school in Gatcombe. Any Nonconformists would have had to have gone to Chillerton for worship.

Sources: IWFHS Journals 18 (August 1990) and 63 (November 2001)

## **Island Parishes – Godshell**

Godshell is one of the most ancient of the Island's parishes. It was also one of the richest. The church was one of the six Island churches in the gift of FITZ-OSBORNE. The parish included the out-lying hamlets of Roud, Sandford, Stenbury and Rookley.

The church of All Saints is built on a hilltop overlooking the main part of the village but to the side of it is a row of what must be the most photographed thatched cottages on the Island. One of these used to be the Bell Inn, run by James REYNOLDS in 1878.

The Church itself is probably on a Saxon site. Local legend tells of the stones being moved from their original site to the hilltop during building, until it was built there instead. The present building dates from the 14<sup>th</sup> Century.

Inside there is a 15<sup>th</sup> Century mural, unique in this country, of Christ's crucifixion on a Lily Cross. For centuries it was hidden under layers of whitewash. One of the finest tombs is that of Sir John LEIGH (died 1529) and his wife Agnes. The soles of the feet on his effigy are carved with two monks praying for his soul.

One of their daughters married James WORSLEY (died 1538) and their monument shows them kneeling in prayer. It was their son, Richard WORSLEY who, when Captain of the Island, ensured that every parish kept a parish gun. He too is commemorated in the church with other members of the WORSLEY family.

According to HASSELL in his *Tour of the Isle of Wight* (1790) there was a sign on the church door, dated the 7<sup>th</sup> year of James I which said every female having a second illegitimate child was liable for imprisonment and hard labour in the Bridewell for six months. There was also a Poor House in the village recorded since 1737 and in use until the House of Industry was built.

Richard GARDE was buried in the church porch; he left a bequest to the poor. Outside in the churchyard, together with an old preaching cross, which is now a sundial. There are many ancient and interesting stones, the earliest legible one is to Anne GARDE, 1592.

From the churchyard there are fine views of the surrounding countryside and the remains of the WORSLEY obelisk are visible. Said to have been

70 feet in height it was struck by lightning in 1831. The tower of the church has been struck and badly damaged several times.

Appuldurcombe House can be reached from the village along footpaths via the Freemantle Gate. Sir John LEIGH had leased the property from the Nuns of St Clare in 1498 and through his daughter, Anne, it came into the possession of the WORSLEY family. Sir Robert WORSLEY demolished the Tudor house and boasted that he had not left one stone standing of the house he had inherited in 1690. The new house was very impressive and came to hold the collection of Sir Richard WORSLEY.

In his *Tour of the Isle of Wight* (1790), HASSELL states that tickets to view the house could be obtained at the Bugle in Newport.

The visitor was admitted through the servants' hall into the great hall, with its eight ionic pillars, to see paintings by such artists as VAN DYKE, HOLBEIN and LELY, as well as various sculptures.

From the dining parlour they would go into the drawing room, which had beautiful furniture and then on to the library, with its painted ceiling. In the inner library there was a full-length portrait of Sir Richard by REYNOLDS.

There was another painting by him in the vestibule. and paintings in the organ room included one by REUBENS.

Visitors until recently could only see the shell of the house but it is now being restored by English Heritage.

Sources: IWFHS Journals 19 (November 1990) and 64 (February 2002)



## Island Parishes – Kingston

Kingston, one of the Island's smallest parishes, nearly surrounded by that of Shorwell, had an average population of about 70 in the middle years of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. NELSON's *Handbook of the Isle of Wight* (1864) says it contained ten inhabited houses, with a population of 65 souls, 35 males and 30 females.

The parish church, dedicated to St James, was built as a chapel for the nearby manor house. It is out of sight of the road, up on a hill, surrounded by a small churchyard. The monumental inscriptions have been recorded by the Record Office. Within a few years the church was being restored and HILL's *Directory of the Isle of Wight* (1871) describes how it was having a new roof and internal fittings. A new vestry was also to be built, for use as a Sunday School. The total estimated cost to subscribers was to be £800. The registers date from 1625.

From the churchyard one can look down onto the manor house, with its huge chimneys. One of the oldest manors on the Island it has been little altered and was owned for centuries by members of the MEUX family. In 1441 Lewis and Alice MEUX were granted free warren for deer and coneyes in Kingston and Shorwell. Another member of the family, Sir William, was a friend of Sir John OGLANDER. A look at the Hampshire Genealogical Society's Census Index for 1851 shows a total of 18 different surnames in the parish, with a dozen members of the MORRIS family.

WHITE's Directory (1859) lists Mr William BARTON at Brook Cottage, with Andrew MORRIS at Bucks Farm and Henry Stark MORRIS at Kingston Farm. HILL's Directory of 1871 still shows Andrew MORRIS at Bucks Farm, as well as landowner of Dungewood Grange in Brighstone and Sibdown in Godshill, while Henry Stark MORRIS has added Ramsdown in Carisbrooke to Kingston Farm. Also, at that date Charles SPANNER was carrying on his business of shoeing and general smith in the parish, although he resided at Chale. By the time of the First World War Hilton MORRIS was at Bucks Farm, while David BROWN farmed Kingston Manor Farm and W BRIGHT was advertised as a dairyman.

Sources: IWFHS Journals 20 (February 1991) and 64 (February 2002)

## **Island Parishes – Lake**

*Ed: for reasons unknown Lake was not included in the series of articles written about Island Parishes in Journals of the 1980s, 1990s and 2000s. Some of the text below, except where indicated, has been copied from Wikipedia.*

Lake, which is situated between Sandown and Shanklin and to the east of the hamlet of Apse Heath, is a seaside village situated above the cliffs on Sandown Bay. The cliff path leads to Welcome Beach, with cafés and beach huts and golden sands. Lake has two public parks and is well connected for public transport, on three bus routes and with its own Island Line rail station. The village has seen investment and development in recent times, with new supermarkets, food outlets and hotels arriving in the last few years.

There are several stories as to the origins of the district named Lake, one being that a cottage built in a hollow near the corner of New Road and Sandown Road was often surrounded by water, hence the name Lake. The other coming from circa A.D 1280 when a William atte LAKE was a landowner at nearby Black Pan Farm.

High Street, Lake, that runs through the village has not changed much since the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century. However, the village war memorial, constructed in 1920, has been relocated behind the Fairway Bus Shelter due to having been run down twice by carelessly driven lorries. The thatched cottage at Merrie Gardens dates from the 17<sup>th</sup> Century and is the oldest surviving building in Lake.

A large public park called Los Altos starts at the boundary between Lake and Sandown. Another large park called Lake Cliff Gardens borders the cliffs that back onto the beach and stretches between Lake and Shanklin.

Local wildlife includes Pipistrelle bats at Los Altos, kestrels along the Cliff Path and Common Toads which spawn in the disused reservoir behind the Mall. The wetlands of the River Yar are a Site of Special Scientific Interest supporting newts, voles and wildfowl.

The village has the Broadlea primary school at Blackpan and The Bay School (Church of England primary and secondary) at the north end of the Fairway. There are several pubs including The Stag, plus The Porter Club (formerly Lake Working Men's Club) and a Town Guild.

Local businesses include Downer & White undertakers, Swinton Insurance, Allegri accountants, RSPCA charity shop and a veterinary practice. The village also features an Indian and Chinese Restaurant plus two Chinese takeaways, a kebab shop and Lake Fish Bar. There is a doctor's surgery and pharmacy. The disused medical clinic at the corner of Lake Hill and the Fairway is now a Co-operative funeral parlour.

There were recently two pubs in the village - The Stag and the Manor House. The Manor House was closed and has since reopened as a Tesco Metro. However, another pub, "The Merrie Garden" has recently opened near the Morrison's store. Alongside The Merrie Garden pub, a new Premier Inn has recently been built. It opened in late 2015. A branch of KFC opened in December 2018 nearby.

The Church of the Good Shepherd in Lake Road was built in 1892 by the architect, Temple Lushington MOORE. Its distinctive feature is the twin aisled nave with single aisled chancel. The stained-glass windows were designed by Francis SKEAT in the mid-20th Century. The church has a small three manual pipe organ by J. W. Walker & Sons Ltd from 1901. There are no interments at this church.

*<https://www.shepherdandsaviour.org/good-shepherd>*

Lake Methodist Church in Sandown Road was originally opened in 1877. A school room was added in 1923 which later became the back hall. The present church building was opened in 1956. In 2009 both halls were sold and converted into dwellings. A new kitchen and disabled toilets were added and the pews replaced with chairs. The new hall was opened officially in 2011.

*<http://www.lakemethodist.org.uk/history/>*

Lake Green Christian Mission in Percy Road began in the early 1970s. When the late Clive and Thelma COOPER purchased a furniture store from Downer and White to house their Sunday School. Activities were expanded in the new building.

*<http://www.lakegreenchristianmission.org.uk/index.php?page=history>*

## **Island Parishes – Mottistone**

Mottistone is a small parish on the southwest of the Island. In 1851 it had a population of 74 males and 69 females. At that date there were 32 houses, four of which were empty.

The largest house by far was Mottistone Manor. It was said to be the birthplace of Sir John CHEKE, the first Greek professor at Cambridge University.

The CHEKE family owned the manor for 300 years and had the present manor house built. Over the main entrance is the date 1567, between the initials T and C. The house was sold to the DILLINGTONS and the Hearth Tax records show Mrs DILLINGTON paying for eleven hearths in 1664 and 1665.

The later Hearth Tax Returns show Matthew ARNOLD (1673) and Mathew ARNOLD (1674) paying for the eleven hearths. No other house in the parish had more than five hearths. In later years the manor was farmed by tenants, in 1871 by Charles BROWN.

To one side of the manor house a footpath leads up through ancient trees and bluebell woods to the Longstone. Originally said to have been a burial chamber, there is a standing stone of about twelve feet in height with another stone lying alongside, later it is thought to have been a meeting place, which could have given the parish its name.

The parish church of St Peter and St Paul originated as a chapel for the use of the manor. It was restored twice during the Victorian period. The ceiling of the chancel was constructed of planks taken from the wreck of the *Cedarine*.

The ship came ashore on the nearby coastline in 1862 and is well-known for its cargo of convicts drinking the pubs of neighbouring Brighstone dry.

Another earlier wreck off the Mottistone coastline was that of the *Carn Brae* in July 1829. Although the East Indiaman sank, her passengers, crew and most of the cargo were saved.

Later it was used by the DEANE bothers when they dived on the wreck in their air-filled suits. The small churchyard surrounding the church was the site of many burials of those lost at sea. The parish registers date from 1680.

WHITE's Directory of 1859 notes that, as there was no school in the parish, three free scholars could be sent to Brighstone School.

Later on the children were able to go to Hulverstone School which was in the parish of Brook.

Looking at various directories there does not appear to have ever been a pub, shop or any tradesmen in the village.

The Parish Clerk in 1859 was HENRY RACKETT and in 1914 was Edward DOWNER.

In 1864 Pitt Place, just outside the village was described as a commodious mansion occupied by S E WALMISLEY, Esq.

In 1871 John PECK was farm bailiff to G.BENNETT, and Andrew JACKMAN was miller and farmer at Mottistone Mill.

Sources: IWFHS Journal 21 (May 1991) and 65 (May 2002)

## **Island Parishes – Newchurch**

The entrance to Newchurch is up a hill, rather steep and without any pretensions to those picturesque beauties we expected to find there. The church is old but not interesting; nor is there anything out of the common line in the appearance of the houses, which are chiefly inhabited by tradesmen and labourers. So HASSELL described arriving at the village of Newchurch in his *Tour of the Isle of Wight* (1790).

At that date it lay in the centre of the Island Its second largest parish (after Brading), which stretched from the north coast some 11 miles to the south-west coast, being just 1½ miles in breadth.

In 1851 the parish had the Island's largest population of 11,539, an increase of over 6,500 in 30 years. This was due to the development of Ryde and Ventnor which lay in the parish.

Other villages and hamlets within the parish included Apse Heath, Havenstreet, Knighton, Princelett, Queenbower, Wackland, Winford and Wroxall. Also in the parish was Ashey Down, with its sea mark erected in 1735. Legh RICHMOND described one of the Island's finest views from the summit, with a circle of hills, some six miles distant, which encompassed a rich and fruitful valley, filled with cornfields and pastures. To the east could be seen the sheep-covered downs and glimpses of the sea, while to the north the Solent appeared as a noble river.

The Newchurch Parish Act of 1866 divided this large parish into three, Newchurch, Ryde and Ventnor, for both ecclesiastical and civil purposes. NELSON's guidebook of 1864 describes the village of Newchurch itself as a long dull street of insignificant buildings.

At the head of the street, sited on a near perpendicular cliff, is the parish church of All Saints, with the road winding below it. It was one of the churches in the gift to the Abbey of Lyre. There are traces of Norman work in the building but the weatherboard cladding to the tower is a relatively recent addition.

NELSON's guidebook quotes some interesting examples from the parish registers: in 1687 Sir Robert DILLINGTON had to pay a fine of 50 shillings his father not being buried in woollen and also 50 shillings to Mr David URRY, the informer. The registers date from 1692.

Inside the church in the north transept are memorials to the DILLINGTON family. Apparently, George PLAYER ordered his tomb at Newchurch to have iron bolts to prevent body snatchers. Most of the tombstones have been cleared away from the churchyard, hastily recorded by the IWCRO, leaving just a pedestal with the sundial from Knighton Gorges, dated 1678, in the centre, from which there is a fine view of the valley.

The poor parishioners received annual doles from Thomas DAVIS, 1786; Richard GARD, 1617; Mary DILLINGTON, 1749 and William BOWLES, 1745. The free school in the village was said to have been built by the latter's widow, circa 1760, under the terms of his will.

In 1859 18 free scholars were taught. In 1875 Edwin Samuel INGRAM was the master of the National School. 20 years later John Brayshaw SPENCER was in charge. In the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century the headmaster was Henry CLARKE, followed by George MILLETT in the 1920s.

The village pub, the Pointer's, is close to the church and in 1859, was run by George GALE, followed by Mrs Hannah GALE. By the mid-1890s Emanuel GILBERT was landlord and later ones included William HUGHES and Arthur HOLLIS.

The local post office and shop, now in a very attractive wisteria covered building, was run in 1859 by Thomas WHEELER, then Mrs Frances WHEELER, and JOHN WHEELER at the turn of the Century. By the 1920s it was run by Mrs PAUNCEFORT.

Of course, in such a fertile valley many of the residents were involved in market gardening. Kelly's Directory of 1895 lists the following:

Frederick ALDERMAN, Winford  
William BALLARD, Lyells  
Enos BARTON, James and William CORNEY, Queenbower  
George FRY, Woodses  
William Albert KENT, Bartlett's Farm  
Joseph MABEY, Walled Garden Knighton  
George Henry. PLUMBLEY, Mersey  
Alfred John and Robert REED, Smokey Hole  
Harry RUSSELL, Langbridge  
William RUSSELL, Vine Cottage.

In 1847 a Congregational Chapel was built at Langbridge, at the bottom of Newchurch Shute. There was a Wesleyan Chapel built at Apse Heath in 1873. An iron Temperance Hall was erected in the village in 1903.

The Isle of Wight Central Railway opened a line through Newchurch in 1875. William FROUD was an early station master, and William WHITTINGTON occupied the post for many years at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

Close to the village, at Knighton, is the site of the waterworks. In 1885 a watermill was converted by the Ryde Water Company and other buildings erected. New gas engines were installed just before the First World War, when John HARVEY was the engineer. Later electric pumps were installed.

Knighton was the site of an Elizabethan manor house. Described at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century by ENGELFIELD as a large and venerable mansion half mantled with ivy up to the roof. He also produced an engraving showing the house rising above a lake. (*Ed: this is Knighton Gorges*)

The estate was owned by the DILLINGTON family from the 1560s to the death of Sir Tristram 1721. It then eventually came into the ownership of George BISSETT. Rather than let his daughter inherit after she married against his wishes, he had the house demolished. All that remains today is an overgrown walled garden, the lake and the gate posts.

Anyone who is interested in the village of Newchurch could not do better than to obtain a copy of *Newchurch Remembered*, which contains reminiscences of the parishioners collected by the local Women's Institute and published in 1988, It is packed with local names and details of local events all of which give an excellent idea of the village life during this Century.

Sources: IWHFHS Journal 22 (August 1991) and 66 (August 2002)



## **Island Parishes – Newport**

In *Vectis Scenery*, of 1826, George BRANNON described Newport: The shops are numerous, many of them elegantly fitted up and amply stocked with the choicest goods in every branch of business. The town also supports five respectable inns, two assembly rooms and a handsome theatre.

PIGOT's Directory of four years later shows the busy market town could cater for all the Islanders needs. There were over a dozen grocers and tea dealers, some, such as WAY and MOORMAN in the High Street, were tallow chandlers as well.

Among the dozen butchers listed were three MURSELLs, John, Nicholas and Thomas. Over 40 shopkeepers and dealers in sundries were listed. John DUKE of St James Street, being included amongst the 18 bakers as well. Jane ATKEY of Node Hill, Mary DALLIMORE of Quay Street and Harriet THEARLL of Orchard Street, were among 20 milliners and dressmakers.

In addition, there were five hatters and four straw-hat makers. The four stay-makers included Martha DRAKE, Quay Street and Mary MEAGER, Cornmarket. Some of the 19 tailors were drapers as well, such as William URRY in Lugley Street and John PINHORN, High Street, then ten others were listed as linen and woollen drapers.

There were three breeches-makers and glovers, and about 30 boot and shoemakers. Of the nine perfumers and hairdressers, John ARNOLD and William GALPINE were in the High Street. William UPWARD dealt in cutlery as well. Thomas HILLIER of High Street was among five saddlers and harness makers.

Also in High Street were the two hardware dealers, Charles AMBROSE who was also a jeweller and Samuel LELLI who also sold toys. One of the seven ironmongers, Isaac NOBBS, also made guns. Peter CHRISTENSEN had a circulating library, and there were three bookbinders and three booksellers and stationers.

James NICHOLS in the Cornmarket was one of the eight watch and clockmakers. Samuel PRING made brushes and army accoutrements in High Street and William DABELL dealt in snuff. John JONES made pipes in Orchard Street and in South Street.

Barnabas EXTON was a carver and guildler. For those who fell on hard times Thomas WHITCOMB ran a pawnbroking business in Church Passage.

For the better off there was Sir Richard BASSETT's or James KIRKPATRICK's banks or the Savings Bank at the Guildhall, open from 9 until 10 o'clock every Monday morning. Secretary William YELF. Francis PITTIS was one of the town's auctioneers. He was also the postmaster. Letters arrived at a quarter past ten and were despatched every afternoon, at three in the winter and half past three in the summer.

As well as the inns and hotels there was a good selection of taverns and public houses in PIGOT 's Directory. The Star, run by William NEWNHAM in St James Street and Henry MEW's Bugle, in High Street were posting and commercial inns.

Other names reflected the proximity of Albany Barracks to the town, the Trooper of Robert WILLIS in St James Street and the Valiant Solder, Mary COATES, in South Street or there was always Ann DENNESS' Pig and Carrot.

The Borough Jail and County Bridewell was situated in Holyrood Street, although, according to BARBER, it was merely an old house adapted for the purpose. In 1830 William ALLEN was its keeper with Rev George RICHARDS as Chaplain, and Thomas LAWRENCE as Surgeon.

By 1864 the Borough Police had an Inspector, at £75 a year and four Constables, at 18 shillings a week. The Hampshire Constabulary had an Inspector at £120 a year, three Sergeants and 37 Constables at 17 shillings weekly. *(Ed: prior to 1890 the Isle of Wight was part of Hampshire. It shared the Lord Lieutenant with Hampshire until 1974.)*

In the same year the Fire Brigade, consisting of a Superintendent, three engines, three Foremen and five Firemen, was costing £60 annually.

In 1814 building started on Newport's new Town Hall, designed by John NASH, it cost £10,000. A few years previously he had designed the Isle of Wight Institution. This housed a good library, a reading room and a museum. The annual subscription, in the 1830s, was 2 guineas.

The tradesmen of the town used the Vectis Library. In 1904 the Seely County Free Library opened.

The Blue School, founded in 1761 in Lugley Street, was for the maintenance and education of 20 poor girls born in Newport. It was supported by voluntary subscriptions, including money bequeathed by Benjamin and Martha COOKE. Each girl was trained to go into service and on leaving the school was presented with a bible, prayer book and clothing and given a sovereign if she remained in the same situation for one year.

The Free Grammar School was established in the town in 1614-1619 by Island gentlemen, for the education of about 15 to 20 boys, as well as about 30-day scholars. A school was built in Upper St James Street in 1812, first known as the Lancastrian and later as the Royal British School. A few years later a Church of England School was opened in Carisbrooke Road.

WORSLEY's Alms Houses, founded in 1618, provided one room each for six poor widows. Daniel SERLE, of Westmill, Carisbrooke, in 1623, established four tenements for deserving families. In 1752 Widow ROMAN's Alms Houses were built.

The Parish Church of St Thomas is a Victorian building, although the registers date from 1541. Inside there is a marble monument to Charles I's daughter, Princess Elizabeth, whose burial place had been re-discovered in 1793. There is a carved pulpit dated 1636.

The previous church had been quite an ancient building, with a low square tower and said to contain little of interest. Bones had occasionally been found nearby which indicated that it had probably had a churchyard. In time the church had decayed into a dangerous state and the last sermons, preached on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> July 1854 by Rev. E D SCOTT and Rev. G H CONNOR, drew congregations from all over the Island.

The following month the foundation stone of the new church was laid. Also, before a large crowd, 500 of whom sat in a gallery. The town and the ruins of the old church were decorated with flags. At 11 o'clock a guard of honour of 200 troops of the garrison formed at the Town Hall and were joined by the mayor, town councillors, the Bishop of the Diocese and 20 clergymen. The Band of the Royal Marines played. Members of several Masonic Lodges met at the Guildhall. The National Anthem was played on the arrival of Prince Albert at 1 o'clock. His open carriage, pulled by four greys, led the procession to the church. Before he laid the stone coins and a parchment roll contained in a bottle were placed underneath.

During the banquet that followed, at the Town Hall, the Rev. E D SCOTT, vicar of Carisbrooke and patron of Newport, gave his consent to Newport becoming a separate parish.

As well as the Roman Catholic Church in Cowes, Elizabeth HENEAGE was also responsible for the building of St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Church in Pyle Street in 1791. There were various Non-conformist chapels in the town over the years: the Congregational Church in Lower St James Street was founded in 1662; the Unitarian Christian Church in High Street in 1728; Castlehold Baptist Church was built in 1809; there were Wesleyan, Primitive Methodist and United Methodist Chapels.

Today the market is held on Tuesdays but it is many years since animals were brought into town on market days. There used to be a cattle market on Wednesdays and a general market on Saturdays in the 1820s.

The annual fair was held over three days at Whitsun and at Michaelmas there were three Bargain Fair Saturdays, when country servants would come into town to find new situations.

From the 1820s to the 1860s many local people found employment in Mr NUNN's lace factory at Broadlands to the east of the town. The building was later used as a training school for female servants. Today it is incorporated into government offices.

In 1623 Andrew JAMES sought permission to establish a waterworks in Newport but water continued to be brought into the town in handcarts from Carisbrooke and it was not until 1846 that a proper scheme to bring in water was carried out.

The town was being lit by gas by 1821 when the Newport Gas Light Company was registered.

The town was first linked by rail to Cowes, in 1862, other lines to Ryde and Sandown opened in the 1870s and finally to Freshwater in 1889.

Sources: IWFHS Journal 23 (November 1991) and 67 (November 2002)

## **Island Parishes – Niton**

The parish of Niton is at the most southerly tip of the Isle of Wight. WHITE's Directory of 1859 describes it as an area of 1,300 acres of hilly land with a population of 684.

In 1808 COOKE said in his description of the village itself, "The houses of Niton, sufficiently numerous to form two streets, are only roughly built of the common stone and thatched, with the exception of the Parsonage, an excellent house, lately built by the present Rector, the Rev J BARWIS." He goes on to say of the Undercliff, "This district alone would reward a visit to the Island."

In the early years of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century many villas were built in and around the undercliff. Puckaster was a cottage home of James VINE. Mrs BENNETT of Northcourt owned Beauchamp and it was her daughter, the wife of Sir Willoughby GORDON, who lived nearby at the Orchard and was the pupil of TURNER. Mirables was the home of the ARNOLDS.

According to NELSON's guidebook of 1864 there were several sites of great antiquity within the parish. The remains of Celtic earthworks near the northern boundary were called Bury. The remains of another near the centre of the village was known as Old Castle. In one of the fields of Beauchamp Farm was the remains of a camp or tin-mart. Also, traceable was an old road said to be the route of the tin trade, the metal probably being shipped from Puckaster Cove.

The Parish Church, dedicated to St John the Baptist, was one of the six Island Churches in the gift of William FITZOSBERN to the Abbey of Lyre. The registers begin in 1559.

In 1675 the landing of CHARLES II at Puckaster Cove is recorded, after a great and dangerous storm at sea.

Unfortunately, some of the gravestones have been laid as paths through the churchyard. In days gone by it was said that smugglers used the tabletop tombs to hide their contraband in or themselves when the need arose.

The Baptist movement had been active in the village for some time before a chapel was built in 1847. It was not until 1864 that a Wesleyan Chapel was built, it cost £327 and sat 110 people.

The coastline around Niton was notorious for shipwrecks.

There had been an oratory on St Catherine's Down erected in 1322 and work nearby on a lighthouse was abandoned when it was realised the light would be obscured in foggy conditions.

50 years later in 1836, the wreck of the *Clarendon* in Chale Bay prompted the building of a new lighthouse down on St Catherine's Point. This cost £13,000. The lantern was approached by a spiral staircase of 172 steps and was 180 feet above the sea when finished in 1840 but this proved to be still too high and was lowered in 1875. In 1859 at the lighthouse was run by R CUMMINGS, assisted by James TYLER. By the First World War Stanley CHARLTON was engineer in charge.

There was also a Coast Guard Station, with a rocket apparatus for ship rescue, with chief officer Frederick BOXALL, chief boatman W H LINTERN and five men. Tragically at the end of the Second World War three lighthouse keepers were killed in an enemy bombing raid.

Near to the lighthouse was the Niton Radio Station, which was a relay point for communications during the D-Day landings. Another enemy target was the radar station on the Downs above the village.

A National school was built in 1822, by 1859 the master was Alfred WILLIS, member of a well-known local family.

Harriett WILLIS ran the local shop at that time. It was probably Alfred's grandfather who wrote the letter reproduced in *Niton Calling*. It was written in 1793 to Robert WILLIS, of Crab Niton, when a prisoner of the French and signed, your Dutiful Son, Jeremiah WILLIS. In the letter he asks to be remembered to Woodman DORE and that they give news of his fellow prisoners to their wives and families, naming Joseph EDGRIDGE (sic), John BEAVIS and John DYER. Incidentally whether the name Crab Niton referred to the abundance of crabs on the shore or the crabby nature of the inhabitants is not known.

In 1859 there were three inns in the village, the White Lion, Charles BRIGHT: the Star Inn, James HILLYER and the Buddle Inn, Mary Ann BRIGHT. The Royal Sandrock Hotel (destroyed by fire in the 1980s) was described as a large and commodious hotel, with beautiful pleasure grounds. It had been visited by the Duchess of Kent and Victoria in 1834, when they came to take the waters of the chalybeate spring nearby, that had been discovered by Dr WATERWORTH, a Newport surgeon, in 1807.

He had built a thatched dispensary, which was later enlarged to form a hotel. At the turn of the Century MARCONI stayed at the hotel while experimenting with wireless signals at Knowle Farm.

Many other well-known Island surnames appear in the White's Directory of 1859. Of the ATTRILLS, Thomas was at Eade's Farm, William at Jobson's Farm and Jacob provided lodgings at Well House. Ann KINGSWELL was the schoolmistress, Edwin was a tailor and William a blacksmith. Abraham and Isaac COLENUTT were carpenter and painter respectively.

By 1914 the Council School, built in 1906 for 150 pupils, was under the charge of Wilfred HADDOCK.

There was a reading room in the village, open from 2pm to 10pm daily.

Edward ATTRILL was at Jobson's Farm and Samuel COLENUTT was a plumber and glazier.

Harry HUDSON was at the White Lion, while at the Star, George HIBBERD was a baker as well. Down at the Buddle Inn John COTTON was the licensee.

The railway did not reach the village, the nearest station being a mile and a half away at Whitwell.

Sources: IWFHS Journal 24 (February 1992) and 68 (February 2003)

## New Members

It is courteous to respond to any messages from other members but please do check your Junk / Spam folders regularly as we have had reports that some messages passing between members have been flagged as Spam.

*Only IOW surname interests will be listed in Journals.*

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ROACH	IOW	All Areas	All Centuries
URRY	IOW	All Areas	All Centuries
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CALCOT	IOW	All Areas	16 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup> Centuries
JOLLIFFE	IOW	All Areas	16 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> Centuries
MORRIS	IOW	All Areas	17 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> Centuries
OSBORNE	IOW	Freshwater	15 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup> Centuries
PRATT	IOW	All Areas	17 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> Centuries
STONE	IOW	All Areas	16 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup> Centuries
WILLIAMS	IOW	Freshwater	16 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> Centuries
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- |         |     |           |  |
|---------|-----|-----------|--|
| BULLOCK | IOW | All Areas | 15 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> Centuries |
| NEWNHAM | IOW | All Areas | All Centuries                                |
| STAY    | IOW | All Areas | All Centuries                                |
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- |             |     |           |  |
|-------------|-----|-----------|--|
| BASTIANI    | IOW | All Areas | 17 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> Centuries |
| SANBASTIANI | IOW | All Areas | 17 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> Centuries |

## Returning Members

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## **Some Useful Addresses**

Isle of Wight County Record Office (closed on TUESDAYS)

26 Hillside, Newport, Isle of Wight PO30 2EB

Email: [record.office@iow.gov.uk](mailto:record.office@iow.gov.uk)

Website: <https://www.iow.gov.uk/Council/OtherServices/Record-Office/>

Isle of Wight Register Office

Seaclose Offices, Fairlee Road, Newport, Isle of Wight PO30 2QS

Email: [registrars@iow.gov.uk](mailto:registrars@iow.gov.uk)

Website: <https://www.iow.gov.uk/Residents/Democratic-and-Registration-Services/Registration-of-Births-Deaths-Marriages-and-Civil/>

Bembridge Heritage Society

Website: <http://www.bembridgeheritage.org.uk/>

Brading Community Archive

Website: <https://www.bradingcommunityarchive.com/>

Freshwater and Totland Archive Group

Website: <http://www.fatag.co.uk/>

Friends of East Cowes Cemetery

Website: <https://www.friendsofeastcowes.co.uk/>

Friends of Newport & Carisbrooke Cemeteries

Website: <https://foncc.org.uk/>

Friends of Northwood Cemetery

Website: [www.friendsofnorthwoodcemetery.org.uk](http://www.friendsofnorthwoodcemetery.org.uk)

The Isle of Wight History Centre

Website: <https://www.iwhistory.org.uk/>

Ryde Social Heritage Group

Website: <https://www.rshg.org.uk/>

Shalfleet Local and Family History Sources

Website: <http://www.sources.shalfleet.net/>

Ventnor Heritage Centre

Website: <https://ventnorheritage.org.uk/>

Family History Federation

Website: <https://www.familyhistoryfederation.com/>

The National Archives

Website: <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>



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