

THE HIDDEN PLACES OF THE

ISLE OF WIGHT

PLACES OF INTEREST

ACCOMMODATION

FOOD & DRINK

SHOPPING

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THE HIDDEN PLACES OF THE
ISLE OF WIGHT

Edited By
Hilary Weston and Jackie Staddon

FOREWORD

This is the 9th edition of the *Hidden Places the Isle of Wight* but the first time we have published a guide to the Isle of Wight as a separate edition. This title is also published as an e-book which reflects the significant growth in the demand for travel information in digital form.

The *free-to-download* digital edition is reproduced in full colour and reflects many of the changes made to the printed version with an attractive new cover and redesigned page layouts. The changes will significantly improve the usefulness, accessibility and appeal of the guide. As an e-book of course readers are able to quickly browse the guide on a page-by-page basis, search for, and locate places of interest using the index and find out more information on our advertisers by clicking on their website or email address. In addition, any part of the guide can be printed off for readers who want information on specific places.

Editorially, the guide continues Travel Publishing's commitment to exploring the more interesting, unusual or unique places of interest in the Isle of Wight. The island has been described as "The Garden Isle" and "England's Madeira" and about half of its 147 square miles have been designated as Areas of Outstanding Beauty. Regular visitors to the island have included Queen Victoria and Prince Albert who built an Italianate mansion named Osborne House, and the Poet Laureate, Alfred Lord Tennyson who lived in Farringford. In addition to its natural beauty and famous past residents the Isle of Wight is a peaceful place with 60 miles of coastline and many miles of footpaths, bridleways and cycle paths. Definitely a place worth exploring!

The Hidden Places of the Isle of Wight contains a wealth of information on the history, culture and plenty of interesting places to be found on the island. But it also promotes the more secluded and little known visitor attractions and advertises places to stay, eat and drink many of which are easy to miss unless you know exactly where you are going. These are cross-referenced to more detailed information contained in a separate, easy-to-use section to the rear of the book. This section is also available as a free printed supplement.

We include hotels, bed & breakfasts, restaurants, pubs, bars, teashops and cafes as well as historic houses, museums, gardens and many other attractions throughout the area - all of which are comprehensively indexed. Many places are accompanied by an attractive photograph and are easily located by using the map at the beginning of each chapter. We do not award merit marks or rankings but concentrate on describing the more interesting, unusual or unique features of each place with the aim of making the reader's stay in the local area an enjoyable and stimulating experience.

Whether you are travelling around the Isle of Wight on business or for pleasure we do hope that you enjoy reading and using this e-book. We are always interested in what readers think of places covered (or not covered) in our guides so please do not hesitate to use the reader reaction form provided to give us your considered comments. We also welcome any general comments which will help us improve the guides themselves. Finally, if you are planning to visit any other corner of the British Isles we would like to refer you to the list of other *Hidden Places* titles to be found to the rear of the book and to the Travel Publishing website (see below).

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website: www.findsomewhere.co.uk

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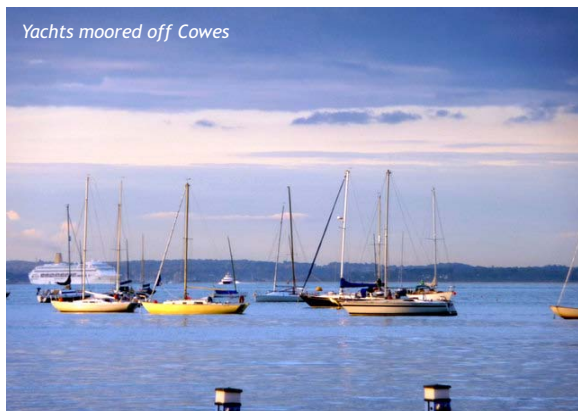
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ISLE OF WIGHT

Yachts moored off Cowes



designed and built an Italianate mansion he named Osborne House. A few years later, the Poet Laureate, Alfred, Lord Tennyson, bought Farringford on the eastern side of the island. Socially, the Isle of Wight had arrived. Tourists flock here in their thousands, and at peak times there are some 350 ferry crossings every day.

Most of the island's 140,000 residents live in the northeast quadrant of the island, with its main resort towns of Sandown and Shanklin strung along the east coast. The rest of the

The Isle of Wight has adopted a motto which declares: 'All this beauty is of God'. It echoes the poet John Keats 'A thing of beauty is a joy for ever', the first line of his poem *Endymion* which he wrote while staying on the island in the hope that its crisp country air would improve his health.

Other distinguished visitors have described Wight as 'The Garden Isle', and 'England's Madeira' and about half of its 147 square miles have been designated Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. But it was quite late in the day before the island became popular as a resort. This was partly because for centuries, right up until the 1600s, the island was a first port of call for pestiferous French raiders who made the islanders' lives a misery with their constant incursions. These attacks ceased following the Napoleonic wars but the turning point came in the 1840s when Queen Victoria and Prince Albert bought an estate near East Cowes. They demolished the existing house and Albert

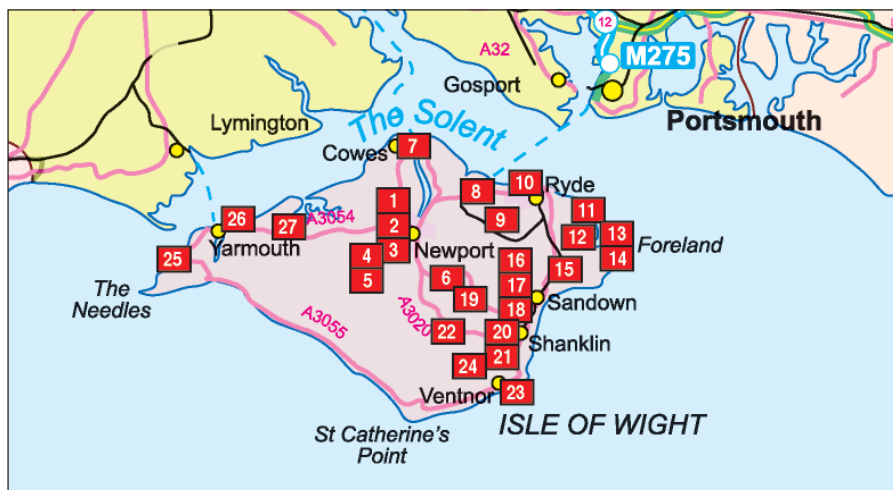
island is wonderfully peaceful with a quiet, unassertive charm all of its own. There are many miles of footpaths, bridleways and cycle paths, making it easy to explore - and more than 60 miles of coastline.

Popular annual island events include the Isle of Wight Festival, a huge music festival held in early June and attracting around 60,000 people and the Isle of Wight Walking Festival, which takes place during two weeks in May. For those keener on two wheels, the Isle of Wight Cycling Festival takes place during a week in mid-late September.

The Needles Lighthouse



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NEWPORT

Set around the River Medina, Newport has a history going back to Roman times. In Cypress Road, excavations in 1926 uncovered the well-preserved remains of a **Roman Villa**, a 3rd century farmhouse in which one side of the building was given over entirely to baths. Visitors can follow the bather's progress - from April to October - through changing room, cold room, warm and hot rooms with underfloor heating systems, and integral cold and hot plunge baths. A Roman style garden has been re-created in the grounds and provides an interesting insight into the wealth of new plants the Romans introduced into Britain.

Newport received its first charter back in 1190 but the growth of the small town received a severe setback in 1377 when it was completely burnt to the ground by the French. Recovery was slow and it wasn't until the 17th century that Newport really prospered again. Indirectly, the new prosperity was also due to the French since the island was heavily garrisoned during the Anglo-French wars of that period. Supplying the troops with provisions and goods brought great wealth to the town.

Some striking buildings have survived,



River Medina, Newport

amongst them **God's Providence House**, built in 1701 and now a tea room; John Nash's elegant **Guildhall** of 1816 which is now occupied by the Museum of Island History with plenty of hands-on and interactive displays; a charming Tudor **Old Grammar School**, and the parish **Church of St Thomas** whose foundation stone was laid in 1854 by Queen Victoria's consort, Prince Albert. The church contains the tomb of the tragic Princess Elizabeth, daughter of Charles I, who died of a fever at the age of 14 while a prisoner at nearby Carisbrooke Castle.

There's also an 18th century brewer's warehouse near the harbour which now houses the **Quay Arts Centre**, incorporating a theatre, three galleries, a craft shop, café and bar; another old warehouse is home to the **Classic Boat Museum**. Among the highlights here are a 1910 river launch and *Lady Penelope*, a fabulous speedboat once owned by the 1950s socialite Lady Docker. Other exhibits include beautifully restored sailing and power boats, along with engines, equipment and memorabilia.

Next door to the Boat Museum is the **Isle of Wight Bus Museum** which displays an impressive array of island buses and coaches

1 ISLE OF WIGHT LAVENDAR

Newport

A beautiful lavender farm where visitors are encouraged to watch the lavender oil being distilled, have a bite to eat in the cafe and also take a look at the items available to purchase in the gift shop.

See entry on page 26



2 THE PRINCESS ROYAL

Newport

Welcoming pub offering fine food, well kept ales and warm welcome to all who visit.

See entry on page 27



3 THE OLD STAG

Newport

This welcoming pub offers fantastic home-made food using local produce, a warm welcome and a well stocked bar.

See entry on page 28



in a former grain store warehouse. Established in 1997, a collection of vintage buses and coaches display the Island's road transport heritage. Among the exhibits are a former Ryde tramcar dating from 1889 and a 1927 Daimler. There are also several vehicles under reconstruction and a wealth of photographs and memorabilia.

Church Litten Park in the town, on the site of an old churchyard whose Tudor gateway still remains, is a peaceful spot and interesting for its memorial to Valentine Gray, a 9-year-old chimney sweep whose death in 1822 as a result of ill-usage by his master caused a national outcry.

To the northwest of Newport, **Parkhurst Forest** offers miles of woodland walks, while a mile to the northeast (on the Newport-Wootton Common road) is **Owl and Monkey Haven**, which has created a safe environment for primates and birds of prey that could not have survived in the wild. With plenty of space, this fascinating place, which also offers fine views, a gift shop and tea rooms, makes for a good family day out. A little further along this road near Wootton Common, **Butterfly World and Fountain World** is home to hundreds of exotic butterflies flying free inside a beautifully landscaped indoor garden with ponds, streams, fountains and waterfalls. Other attractions include an Italian water garden, a Japanese water garden with koi carp, a restaurant, garden centre and shop.



Carisbrooke Castle

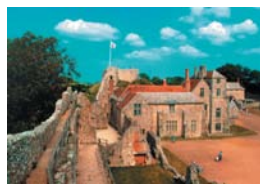
quite a steep climb up from the picturesque village to the massive gatehouse. This was built in 1598 but the oldest parts of the castle date back to Norman times, most notably the mighty keep which, apart from Windsor Castle, is the most perfect specimen of Norman architecture in Britain. Archaeologists believe that the castle stands on the site a Roman fort built some thousand years earlier.

Entry to the castle is by one ticket that entitles visitors to see all the different displays and attractions. In the Guard House a 15-minute film gives an introduction to the castle and its history. Among stories about the castle one poignant tale concerns Charles I and his youngest daughter, Elizabeth.

4 CARISBROOKE CASTLE

Carisbrooke

Dating from Saxon times, Carisbrooke Castle was once prison to Charles I
see page 29



AROUND NEWPORT

CARISBROOKE

1 mile SW of Newport, on the B3323/B3401

Another quote from John Keats: 'I do not think I shall ever see a ruin to surpass **Carisbrooke Castle**'. The castle is set dramatically on a sweeping ridge and it's

5 THE EIGHT BELLS

Carisbrooke

This outstanding village pub offers a fantastic menu using local produce, a warm welcome and beautiful surroundings.

See entry on page 30



Charles was imprisoned here in the months before his trial and the guides will point out the mullioned window through which he unsuccessfully attempted to escape. After the King's execution, Cromwell's Council of State ordered that his daughter Elizabeth, 'for her own safety', should also be incarcerated at Carisbrooke. The 14-year-old implored them not to send her to her father's former prison, but they were adamant. Elizabeth was a sickly child and less than a week after her arrival at the castle she 'was stricken by fever and passed away, a broken-hearted child of fourteen. 'The story touched the heart of Queen Victoria who set up a monument in St Thomas' Church in Newport where the Princess was buried. The effigy, in pure white Carrara marble, bears an inscription stating that it had been erected 'as a token of respect for her virtues, and of sympathy for her misfortunes by Victoria R 1856'. The royal connection with the Island goes back much further: in the 11th century Odo, half-brother to William the Conqueror, sought sanctuary here after being accused of committing a treasonable act; he was soon caught and arrested by William himself.

More cheerful aspects of a visit to the castle include the famous Carisbrooke donkeys. Donkeys walking a treadmill were once used to turn the huge 16th century wheel in the Wellhouse to draw water from a well 161 feet deep. A light at the bottom of the well gives some idea of its depth. Before donkeys were trained to raise the water, prisoners performed the task and nowadays visitors are invited to have a go at walking the treadmill themselves and also see demonstrations of the donkeys working the wheel. Other highlights include the Carisbrooke Museum, the Edwardian-style Princess Beatrice Garden and the castle wall walks. Refreshments are available in the Coach House tea room. There are a series of events planned every August.

In Carisbrooke village, St Mary's Church contains the elaborate canopied tomb of Lady Wadham, an aunt of Jane Seymour. The Perpendicular tower is covered with carvings, including a clearly discernable group of singers.

ARRETON

3 miles SE of Newport on the A3056

From Downend, it's less than a mile to **Arreton Manor** which claims, with some justification, to be 'the most beautiful and intriguing house on the Isle of Wight'. There was a house on this site long before Alfred the Great mentioned Arreton in his will of AD 885 and the manor was owned by successive monarchs from Henry VIII to Charles I. The present house was built during the reigns of Elizabeth and James I and it's a superb example of the architecture of that period, with mellow stone walls and Jacobean panelling complemented by furniture from the same era. Perhaps the most appealing aspect of Arreton is that indefinable atmosphere of a house that has been lived in for centuries. Other attractions here, open in the summer months, include an Elizabethan-style garden with a miniature maze and water terraces, rose garden, tea rooms and children's play area. The manor offers bed and breakfast accommodation between April and October.

In Arreton village, there's a 12th century church and, right next door, the **Island Brass Rubbing Centre** where visitors can learn this simple skill. On the main road between Sandown and Newport, **Arreton Barns** describes itself as a traditional working craft village and offers a wide selection of crafts including ceramics, glassware and canework. There's a craft shop, lavender and lace shop, a medieval carp pond, pub and tea rooms, plus a range of events throughout the year. It is also the home of the **Isle of Wight Shipwreck Centre & Maritime Museum**, which between 1978 and 2006 had been located in Bembridge. The larger premises

6 ARRETON MANOR

Arreton

As you enter the manor there is an overwhelming feeling of history and as a visitor to the manor you are in good company as other v have included Charles 1, Queen Victoria and Queen Mary.

see page 29



within an established tourist attraction allow for expanded displays and a separate Lifeboat Museum. Other highlights include a fine collection of agricultural and dray carts, a working blacksmith's forge and a working brewery. A mile or so southwest of Arreton Manor stands another grand old house, the superbly restored **Haseley Manor**, which is no longer open to the public and used as a wedding venue.



COWES

Cowes' origins as the most famous yachting resort in the world go back to the early 1800s. It was then a rather shabby port whose main business was shipbuilding. In 1811, the Duke of Gloucester came to stay and as part of the rather limited entertainment on offer watched sailing matches between local fishermen. The duke's patronage led to amateur gentlemen running their own race and founding a club. The Prince Regent joined in 1817 and on his accession as George IV it was first re-christened the Royal Yacht Club, and then the Royal Yacht Squadron with its headquarters in one of Henry VIII's castles. Nowadays, **Cowes Week** has become the premier yachting event of the year and also a fixture in the aristocratic social calendar.

Shipbuilding was for centuries the main industry of East Cowes, spanning ships for the Royal Navy, lifeboats, flying boats and seaplanes. Many of the seaplanes took part in the Schneider Trophy races, which brought great excitement to the Solent in the inter-war years. Sir Donald Campbell's *Bluebird* was built here, and the hovercraft had its origins in what is now the home of GKN Westland Aerospace. Westland's factory doors were painted with a giant Union Jack to mark the Queen's Jubilee in 1977 - a piece of patriotic paintwork that has been retained by

popular demand. Two museums in Cowes have a nautical theme. The **Sir Max Aitken Museum** in an old sailmaker's loft in West Cowes High Street houses Sir Max's remarkable collection of nautical paintings, instruments and artefacts, while the **Cowes Maritime Museum**, located in Cowes Library, charts the island's maritime history and has a collection of model racing yachts that includes the Uffa Fox pair *Avenger* and *Coweslip*. (Uffa Fox, perhaps the best known yachtsman of his day, is buried in the Church of St Mildred at Whippingham.). If you are more interested in military history, the Military Museum can be reached just 2 miles south of Cowes, adjacent to the county showground on the Newport road. Here are displayed tanks, armoured cars and guns in a former World War II barracks. There are also displays of working vehicles and the opportunity to ride in a Saracen tank.

Across the River Medina, linked by a chain ferry, East Cowes is most famous for **Osborne House** (English Heritage), a clean-cut, Italianate mansion designed and built by

7 THE CALEDON GUEST HOUSE

Cowes

The Caledon Guest House in Cowes offers friendly Isle of Wight B&B accommodation with tasty, filling breakfasts.

See entry on page 31



Prince Albert in 1846. Queen Victoria loved 'dear beautiful Osborne' and so did her young children. They had their very own house in its grounds, a full-size Swiss Cottage, where they played at house-keeping, cooking meals for their parents, and tending its vegetable gardens using scaled-down gardening tools. In the main house itself, visitors can wander through both the State and private apartments which are crammed with paintings, furniture, ornaments, statuary and the random bric-à-brac that provided such an essential element in the décor of any upper-class Victorian home. Osborne House possessed a special place in the queen's affections. It had been built by the husband she adored with an almost adolescent infatuation: together they had spent many happy family days here. After Albert's premature death from typhoid in 1861, she often returned to Osborne. Her staff had instructions to lay out the Prince's clothes in his dressing-room each night, and the queen herself retired to bed with his nightshirt clasped in her arms. In 1901 she returned to Osborne for the last time, dying here in her 83rd year, her death co-incidentally signalling the beginning of the slow decline of the British Empire over which she had presided as Queen-Empress. New for 2011 is the Palm Terrace, one of Prince Albert's original terraces that overlook the Solent.

Osborne House and its grounds featured prominently in the film *Mrs Brown* (2001) starring Judi Dench and Billy Connolly, which

explored the controversial relationship between the queen and her Scottish ghillie, John Brown.

AROUND COWES

WHIPPINGHAM

2 miles SE of Cowes on the A3021

Queen Victoria also acquired **Barton Manor** at nearby Whippingham, a peaceful retreat whose grounds are open just four days a year in aid of the Earl Mountbatten Hospice. Prince Albert had a hand in the design of the gardens and of the ornate **Church of St Mildred**, where the contractor and co-designer was AJ Humbert, who was also responsible for Sandringham House in Norfolk. The royal family regularly worshipped at St Mildred's, which is predictably full of royal memorials, including a monument to Victoria's son-in-law Prince Henry of Battenberg, who succumbed to malaria in Africa at the age of 38. Alfred Gilbert's wonderful art nouveau screen in the chancel arcade is a unique work of art, and other notable pieces are a bronze angel and font, both of them designed by Princess Louise, a daughter of the queen; a memorial to Albert, and a chair used by the queen.

WOOTTON BRIDGE

4 miles W of Ryde on the A3504

Wootton Bridge was established as a separate village based at the crossing-point of the creek, but it has now merged with the village of Wootton centred around the old parish church of St Edmund. The two villages have grown together and are currently one settlement, which is often referred to as simply 'Wootton'. However, the official name for this community is 'Wootton Bridge. Wootton is notable for its ancient bridge and millpond, which is located at the eastern boundary of the village at Wootton Creek. The millpond is



Osborne House, East Cowes

home to a variety of wildlife including herons, egrets and kingfishers, and red squirrels can be found in the surrounding countryside. Wootton is also the western terminus of the Isle of Wight Steam Railway, with an old wooden booking office and signal box moved from elsewhere on the island. Just under two miles to the west towards Newport is **Butterfly World and Fountain World** (see also Newport).

FISHBOURNE

2 miles W of Ryde on the A3054

Fishbourne is the port where the car ferry from Portsmouth docks and may well be the first sight visitors have of the Isle of Wight. Adjacent is the Fishbourne Inn, a good watering hole before or after walking along the bridle way to nearby **Quarr Abbey**, a handsome redbrick Benedictine monastery built around 1910 near the ruins of a 12th century Cistercian Abbey. The old abbey, founded by a certain Baldwin de Redvers, enjoyed 400 years of prestige and influence, owning much of the land and many of the grand houses, before its destruction in 1536.

HAVENSTREET

3 miles SW of Ryde off the A3054

Royal patronage and the growth of the island as a holiday destination went hand in hand with the development of a comprehensive railway system. Between 1862 and 1900 the whole Island was criss-crossed by railways, which in 1923 became part of the Southern Railway and after came under the aegis of



Quarr Abbey, Fishbourne

British Railways. As car ownership increased, the railways declined, and by the 1960 only the Ryde Pier- Shanklin route remained, currently operated by trains that previously ran on the Northern Line of the London Underground. 1971 saw the re-opening of a preserved line from Wootton to Havenstreet, extended in the 1990s to Smallbrook Junction, linking with the Ryde-Shanklin line. Havenstreet is the Headquarters and nerve centre of the **Isle of Wight Steam Railway** which has a small workshop and museum, gift shop and refreshment room here. The locomotives working the line date back as far as 1876 and include a tiny A1X class engine acquired from the London, Brighton & South Coast Railway in 1913 and named *Freshwater*, and a W24, named *Calbourne*, which was built in 1891 and came to the island in 1925. The carriages and goods wagons are of a similar vintage and have been lovingly restored. Trips through some five and a half miles of scenic countryside take place daily from late-May to mid-September, and on other selected days in all the other months.

8 BLUEBELLS AT BRIDDLESFORD

Wootton

Fantastic café based on a working diary farm, offering home-made food using fresh, local produce from the Island.

See entry on page 32



9 ISLE OF WIGHT STEAM RAILWAY

Havenstreet

The Isle of Wight Steam Railway operates a five mile stretch of historic railway, recalling the days when most of the Island was served by steam trains.

see page 33



RYDE

Ryde is the largest town on the island and its attractions include a huge expanse of sandy beach and a half-mile long pier, one of the first to be built in Britain. Passenger ferries from Portsmouth dock here, the hovercraft service settles nearby, and the car ferry from the mainland disgorges its cargo a couple of miles to the west. The town is essentially Victorian, a popular resort in those days for affluent middle-class families. Then, as now, visitors enjoyed strolling along the elegant Esplanade with its sea views across Spithead Sound to Portsmouth.

Reminders of the town's Georgian and Victorian heyday are still there in abundance, among them a fine arcade in Union Street opened in 1837, the year of Queen Victoria's accession. The town has some important churches: **All Saints**, designed by Sir George Gilbert Scott, the Roman Catholic **St Mary's** with a Pugin chapel, and **St Thomas**, which is now a heritage centre featuring an exhibition of memorabilia associated with the transportation of convicts to Australia - many of the convicts left these shores in ships moored off Ryde.

In the middle of Appley Park stands **Appley Tower**, built as a station for troops guarding Spithead. Another public space is **Puckpool Park**, a leisure area behind the sea wall between Ryde and Seaview. It surrounds what was once a battery, built in the 19th century; its last gun was removed in 1927. At the Westridge Centre, just off the A3055 road to Brading, **Waltzing Waters**

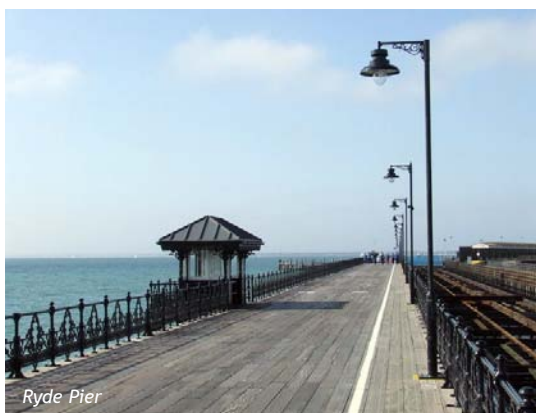
offers an indoor water, light and music spectacular performed several times daily in a comfortable modern theatre.

To the southwest of Ryde lies Rosemary Vineyard, which was established in 1986, and produces a selection of estate-bottled wines, fruit juices and liqueurs. Visitors can learn about the wine-making process and enjoy refreshments in the café that overlooks the estate.

SEAVIEW

2 miles E of Ryde on the B3330/B3340

To the east of Ryde, the aptly named resort of Seaview has a good, gently sloping beach with clean firm sand, ideal for making sandcastles. There are little rock pools where small children can play in safety while trying to catch the abundant crabs and shrimps. Lines of clinker-built wooden dinghies bob about on the waves, and out to sea rise two of 'Palmerston's Follies' - forts constructed in the 1850s as a warning signal to the French to keep away.



10 KING LUD

Ryde

A traditional, family run pub, at the foot of Ryde pier, its heavily beamed façade makes it hard to miss!

See entry on page 33



11 DELL CAFÉ

Seaview

A cosy eclectic beachside café with a cosmopolitan feel, offering freshly prepared food and a fabulous selection of hot and cold drinks.

See entry on page 34





St Helens Village Green

A short distance west of Seaview, on the B3330, is one of the Island's chief visitor attractions, the **Seaview Wildlife Encounter**. Previously known as Flamingo Park, the site has been at the forefront of bird and wildlife conservation for 40 years and was winner of the Best Tourism Experience of the Year in the Beautiful South Awards for Excellence 2010. Among the most favourite inmates are the wallabies, the otters, the meerkats and the seriously endangered Humboldt penguins, and the Tropical House has proved an instant success. The centre is open from 10am to 5pm (last entrance 4pm) from April to the end of September and from 10am to 4pm (last entrance 3pm) during October.

ST HELENS

3 miles SE of Ryde on the B3330

Famed for its picturesque harbour and magnificent village green, St Helens straggles down the hillside above the mouth of the River Yar, a quiet spot beloved by yachtsmen. It must be the only English village to be named after a Roman Emperor's wife - the

Helen who was the wife of Constantine and in whose honour a church was erected here in AD704. Another 'royal' figure, the Queen of Chantilly was actually born in the village, and if the name is unfamiliar to you, seek out **Sophie Dawes' Cottage** which bears a wall plaque stating that 'Sophie Dawes, Madame de Fouchères, Daughter of Richard Dawes, Fisherman and Smuggler, known as the Queen of Chantilly, was born here in 1792'. As a young girl, Sophie left St Helens to seek her fortune in London where she worked

(non-professionally) in a Piccadilly brothel for a while before ensnaring the exiled Duc de Bourbon and becoming his mistress. The duke paid for her education and when he was able to return to France, took her with him, marrying her off to a compliant baron. Eventually, she married her duke, now Prince de Condé and having made sure that his will was in order, contrived his murder. Although she was tried for the crime, political considerations led to the case being quietly dropped. Sophie returned to England with her ill-gotten gains but in her last years she seems to have been stricken with remorse and gave lavishly to charity.

BEMBRIDGE

4 miles SE of Ryde on the B3350

The most easterly point of the island, this popular sailing centre was itself an island until the reclamation of the huge inland harbour of Brading Haven in the 1880s. The story of that major work was told from 1978 to 2006 at the **Shipwreck Centre & Maritime Museum**, which is now located at Arreton

12 THE VINE INN

St. Helens

Representing all that's great about the traditional English pub with a friendly service and community atmosphere.

See entry on page 34



13 CAFE MAYA

Bembridge

Café Maya is a good place for a light lunch, with commendably fresh, simple and wholesome food.

See entry on page 35



Barns (see also Arreton). A fascinating exhibition of life in Bembridge, past and present, is portrayed in photographs and artefacts at the **Bembridge Heritage Centre** in Church Road. Also well worth a visit is the **Bembridge Windmill** (National Trust). Dating from around 1700, it is the only windmill to have survived on the island and much of its wooden machinery is still intact. There are spectacular views from the top floor.

There are some excellent walks starting from the village, especially the coastal path from Bembridge to Sandown. On top of **Bembridge Down** (National Trust) stands an early-Victorian fort, a reminder that this downland was used by the military as a vantage point for the defence of Sandown Bay and Spithead from invasion.

BRADING

4 miles S of Ryde on the A3055

For what is little more than a large village, Brading is remarkably well-stocked with visitor attractions. Amongst them are a diminutive **Town Hall** with whipping post and stocks outside, and a fine 12th century church housing some striking tombs of the Oglander family. The most ancient of the village's sights is the **Brading Roman Villa** which in the 3rd century was the centre of a rich and prosperous farming estate. Discovered in 1880, the villa covers some 300 square feet and has fine mosaic floors with a representation of that master-musician, Orpheus, charming wild animals with his lyre. Open all year, the award-winning Exhibition and Visitor Centre gives an excellent insight



Breakwater at Bembridge Point

into Roman life in Britain and facilities include a café and shop.

The oldest surviving house on the island, opposite the late-Gothic parish church, was formerly home to The Brading Experience, a waxwork attraction that closed in 2010. Close by, **The Lilliput Antique Doll & Toy Museum**, established in Brading in 1974, exhibits more than 2,000 dolls and toys, ranging across the centuries from around 2000BC to 1945. The collection also includes dolls' houses, tinplate toys, trains, rocking horses, and some very rare German and French bisque dolls.

On the edge of the village **Adgestone Vineyard**, planted in 1968 and the oldest on the island. Tours of the vineyard are popular as are the subsequent wine tastings and the excellent cream teas served in the café. Bed and breakfast accommodation is also available.

A mile or so northwest of the village of Brading, **Nunwell House & Gardens** should definitely not be missed. The picturesque house has been a family home since 1522 and is of great historic and architectural interest. It was here that Sir John Oglander, an ancestor

14 ST. VERONICA'S

Bembridge

A real home from home offering the highest standards of comfort and personal service.

See entry on page 36



15 DARK HORSE

Brading

One of the finest public houses on the Isle of Wight offering home-made food, well kept ales and a warm welcome to all who visit.

See entry on page 36



of the present owner, was host to Charles I on his last night of freedom and modern day visitors can still see the Parlour Chamber in which they met. The house is beautifully furnished, there are exhibits recalling the family's military connections, and Nunwell is surrounded by 5 acres of tranquil gardens enjoying views across the Solent.

Some of the grandest views on the island can be enjoyed from **Brading Down**, just west of the village on the minor road that leads to Downend.

Sandown Beach



SANDOWN

'A village by a sandy shore' was how a guide-book described Sandown in the 1870s. Since then, its superb position on sweeping Sandown Bay has transformed that village into the island's premier resort. Now a lively town, Sandown offers its visitors every kind of seaside attraction, including a Blue Flag beach. There are miles of flat, safe sands where a Kidzone safety scheme operates during the season; a traditional pier complete with theatre; colourful gardens; a Sunday market; abundant sporting facilities, and even pleasure flights from the nearby airfield.

16 FLANAGAN'S

Sandown

A family-friendly restaurant & bar with excellent food, real ale, freshly ground coffee and an outside eating area with spectacular views of the beach and Sandown Bay

See entry on page 37



17 THE OCEAN DECK INN & NAUTICA HOUSE

Sandown

A friendly, family run inn offering wholesome home-cooked food, well kept ales and 3 self catering holiday flats.

See entry on page 38



On the edge of town, the **Isle of Wight Zoo** specialises in breeding severely endangered exotic species and highlights two particular species - tigers and lemurs - and is also totally dedicated to the preservation of these animals in the wild with their overseas conservation projects. In addition to eight tigers (four of which came from circuses across the world), the zoo is home to jaguars, lions, monkeys and much more, A special area is dedicated to familiar pets, such as guinea pigs and rabbits where you can get up close and handle several species including bearded dragons. 2011 sees the launch of zoo tours with guides showing visitors around the zoo, stopping off to speak to the keepers and meet the animals. They will also inform visitors of the conservation projects the zoo is involved with in India and Madagascar. When you need a break, coffees, lunches and teas are served in the Zootique café and there is also a children's play area. The zoo is 20 minutes walk from Sandown.

On Culver Parade, the **Dinosaur Isle** is especially popular with children who love its life-sized monsters - the Isle of Wight is

18 BARNABYS LICENSED RESTAURANT

Sandown

Eat with confidence and peace of mind at this 5 star food hygiene rated restaurant.

See entry on page 39



renowned for the number and quality of the dinosaur remains and other fossils that have been discovered here. Life-sized replicas of the island's five dinosaurs – Neoventaur, Eotyrannus, Iguanodon, Hysilophodon and Polacanthus – are set in a recreated landscape with pterodactyls flying above. The museum, '120 million years in the making', has excellent displays on all aspects of the island's geology. As part of its educational programme, museum staff will advise you on the best places to look for fossils and, when you return with your discoveries, will identify them for you. The centre is open every day from 10am.

Throughout the season the Sandown Bay area hosts a wide range of special events – from the Regatta in August to Sunday markets, from the 3-day Isle of Wight Power Boat Festival over the August Bank Holiday to the Catamaran Open in mid-August.

ALVERSTONE

2 miles NW of Sandown off the A3055

A couple of miles west of Haseley Manor, the secluded and picturesque village of Alverstone sits beside the tiny River Yar. It has everything you expect of an English village – except for a pub. The deeds of the estate's owner, Lord Alverstone, specifically forbid the sale of intoxicating liquor within the village.

NEWCHURCH

2 miles W of Sandown on the A3056

Amazon World Zoo Park is a popular family attraction that tells the story of the rain forest with the help of a large number of exotic animals and birds – conservation is the

name of the game here. There are many diverse habitats here, all specially created so that the exotic animals, birds and reptiles can live in as near natural landscapes as possible. Chose from loveable marmosets, otters and meerkats or rare examples such as the Tamandua anteater and Guira cockatoo. There is probably the largest collection of toucans in the UK here, too. Insects, spiders, fish, amphibians and reptiles are represented as well.

One of the highlights in Newchurch is the annual **Garlic Festival**, held on a weekend in August and attracting some 25,000 visitors. You can sample the aromatic root at the Garlic Farm where it is used in such products as garlic ice cream, 'Cheeky Monkey' banana chutney and 'Vampire Relishes'.

SHANKLIN

2 miles SW of Sandown on the A3055

Like Sandown, Shanklin was just a small village a century or so ago. The old village has survived intact, a charming little complex of thatched houses standing at the head of the **Shanklin Chine**. The famous Chine is a spectacular ravine some 300 feet deep, 180 feet wide, noted for its waterfalls and rare flora. There's a Nature Trail to follow, – you can pick up a map at the kiosk or gift shop.

20 LEAFY BEAN TEA AND COFFEE HOUSE

Shanklin

With an exceptional range of teas and coffee, home-made cakes and freshly prepared snacks, this cafe is well worth a visit.

See entry on page 40



19 CLEMATIS

Newchurch

A large semi-detached cottage which has been converted into self-contained apartments, offering an ideal base in which to enjoy the island.

See entry on page 38



21 PENCIL COTTAGE

Shanklin

Specialists in antiques, collectables and gifts. Plus a lovely fully licensed tea garden offering delicious homemade fayre.

See entry on page 40





Shanklin Chine Beach

The **Heritage Centre** in the Victorian Shanklin Chine Lodge contains an interesting exhibit on **PLUTO** (the Pipeline Under The Ocean) secretly constructed during World War II to transport fuel from the island to the continent during the D-Day landings. There's also a memorial to the soldiers of 40 Commando who trained in this area for the disastrous assault on Dieppe in 1942. There are also displays on the history of the Chine, the growth of Shanklin as a resort, the coming of the railway and local industries. To round off your visit visit the tea room or the unique thatched Fisherman's Cottage pub on the beach, which was built in 1817.

The old village stands on a 150 feet-high cliff from which the ground slopes gently down to the safe, sheltered Blue Flag beach, with its long, seafront esplanade. With its scenic setting, many public gardens, and healthy climate, Shanklin has appealed to many celebrities. Charles Darwin was particularly fond of the town, the American poet Longfellow fell in love with it, and John Keats was a familiar figure in Sandown throughout the summer of 1818. The grassy

open space known as **Keats Green** commemorates his stay here during which he wrote some of his best-known poems.

GODSHILL

4 miles W of Shanklin on the A3020

A short drive inland from Shanklin leads to the charming village of Godshill, which with its stone-built thatched cottages and its medieval **Church of All Saints** is one of the most popular stops on the tourist trail. The double-naved church, whose 15th century pinnacled tower dominates the village, contains some notable treasures, including a 15th century wall painting of Christ crucified on a triple-branched lily, a painting of Daniel in the Lions' Den and many monuments to the Worsleys and the Leighs, two of the leading island families.

Godshill has much to entertain visitors, including the magical **Model Village** with its 1:10 scale stone houses, trains and boats, even a cricket match taking place on the green, and the **Natural History Centre** with its famed shell collection, minerals and aquarium. The miniature village was built with the help of model-makers from Elstree film studio and after two years' preparation was opened to the public in 1952. The models are made of coloured cement and the detail is quite incredible. Real straw was prepared in the traditional way for thatching; the church on the hill took 600 hours of work before being assembled in its position; each house has its own tiny garden with miniature trees and shrubs. The airfield is in the style of small landing strips of the 1920s and 1930s, and the little railway is modelled on the older Island systems. Things get even smaller in the model garden of the model Old

22 THE GRIFFIN

Godshill

Spacious inside and with a large garden at the back, this is a great place to feed the family. And the real winner for the kids is the hedge Maze shaped like a Griffin!

See entry on page 41



Vicarage, where there is another (1:100 scale) model village with yet another Old Vicarage, and within its garden another (1:1000 scale) model village - a model of a model of a model!

BONCHURCH

2 miles S of Shanklin on the A3055

The poet Algernon Swinburne spent some of his childhood in Bonchurch, and is buried in the churchyard of St Boniface. Charles Dickens wrote part of *David Copperfield* while staying in this quiet village. His first impressions of the place were very favourable - 'I think it is the prettiest place I ever saw'. He seemed likely to make it his permanent home, but he soon grew to dislike the weather and the place and returned to his familiar Broadstairs.



Dawn at Ventnor Harbour

VENTNOR

Along the south-eastern corner of the island stretches a 6-mile length of ragged cliffs known as **Undercliffe**. Clinging to the slopes at its eastern end, Ventnor has been described as 'an alpinist's town' and as 'a steeply raked auditorium with the sea as the stage'. Promoted as a spa town in the 1830s, its distinguished visitors have included a young Winston Churchill and an elderly Karl Marx, and the town retains much of its Victorian charm.

Ventnor Heritage Museum houses a fascinating collection of old prints, photographs and working models relating to the town's history, while **Ventnor Botanical**

Gardens shelters some 10,000 plants in 22 acres of grounds, amongst them many rare and exotic trees, shrubs, alpinists, perennials, succulents and conifers. In the gardens' Visitor Centre the exhibits include an interactive display called The Green Planet. The exhibition includes a stunning statue of the Green Man made from the trunk of a Monterey cypress. The gardens are on the site of the former Royal National Hospital for Consumption and Diseases of the Chest and old photographs of the hospital and Ventnor town are also on display. Many unusual varieties of plants are on sale here and there is also a gift shop and the excellent Royal Garden Café, which uses ingredients sourced locally. There are exhibitions of arts and crafts held between March and October. There's also a picnic area and children's playground. A rare vine, *Strongylodon macrobotrys*, native to the tropical forests of the Philippines is a recent addition to the gardens. With its striking jade green flowers, the plant is only found in three other places in the UK - Kew Gardens, the Eden Project and Cambridge Botanic Garden. It came to Ventnor as part of a plant exchange with Cambridge.

Back in town, the **Coastal Visitor Centre** provides a fascinating and educational insight into the island's coastal and marine environment, with special features on animal and plant life, coastal defences and living with landslides a problem very familiar to the island as well as to many parts of England's

23 BESTY AND SPINKY'S

Ventnor

Great location, fantastic breakfasts, delicious specials menu and lovely social atmosphere with a really friendly service.

See entry on page 42



south coast. The centre is now open only by appointment (tel: 01983 857220).

Above the town, **St Boniface Down** (National Trust), at 785 feet the highest point on the island, provides some dizzying views across coast and countryside.

WROXALL

2 miles N of Ventnor on the B3327

Owls, falcons, vultures and donkeys all call Wroxall their home! The **Owl & Falconry Centre**, in what used to be the laundry and brewhouse of Appuldurcombe House, stages daily flying displays with birds of prey from around the world and holds courses in the centuries-old art of falconry. The facilities include picnic areas, children's indoor and outdoor play areas, well-stocked shop and a café. Special indoor barn flights are arranged in wet weather.

Appuldurcombe House itself was once the grandest mansion on the whole island with gardens laid out by 'Capability' Brown, but the house was badly bombed in 1943 and has never been lived in since. The building has been partly restored and visitors can stroll in the 11 acres of ornamental grounds landscaped by 'Capability' Brown which provide an enchanting setting for picnics.

Heaven for 200 donkeys and many other animals is the **Isle of Wight Donkey Sanctuary** at Lower Winstone Farm. The rescue centre is a registered charity relying entirely on donations, and visitors have several ways of helping, including the Adopt-a-Donkey scheme.

24 APPULDURCOMBE HOUSE

Wroxall

Visitors can stroll in the 11 acres of grounds designed by Capability Brown and maybe enjoy a picnic.

see page 42



Cliffs at Blackgang Chine

ST LAWRENCE

2 miles W of Ventnor on the A3055

Nestling in the heart of the Undercliff, the ancient village of St Lawrence has a 13th century church that once laid claim to being the smallest in Britain. It was extended in 1842 but remains diminutive, measuring just 20 feet by 12 feet. Lord Jellicoe, hero of the Battle of Jutland, lived for some years in St Lawrence and often swam in Orchard's Bay, a small cove where Turner sketched.

The coast road continues to **St Catherine's Point**, the most southerly and the wildest part of the island, in an area of Special Scientific Interest. Steps lead down to St Catherine's lighthouse (guided tours by arrangement; each tour lasts 35 minutes) and a path leads up to the summit of St Catherine's Hill, where the remains of a much older lighthouse, known as the Peppopot, can be seen. Close by is the Hoy Monument erected in honour of a visit by Tsar Nicholas

A little further west, **Blackgang Chine** has been developed from an early Victorian scenic park into a modern fantasy park with dozens of attractions for children, ranging from thrill rides to a giant maze. New for 2011 is Fairyland, especially aimed at younger children, complete with houses, toadstools and lots of fairies. Also new is the Rolling Barrel challenge set inside The Sailor's Return. The Disappearing Village includes an

exhibition called BBC Coast, based on the TV series. Within this area is The World of Timber, set in and around the reconstruction of a water-powered saw mill. In the Wight Experience you can watch a 15-minute aerial film of the island and its heritage. There is certainly plenty here for all the family. The coastline here is somewhat fragile, and a large slice of cliff has been lost to storms and gales in recent years.

Just west of St Lawrence, old farm buildings have been converted into Isle of Wight Studio Glass, where skills old and new produce hand-made glass of the highest quality. There's an extensive showroom and shop.

SHORWELL

5 miles SW of Newport on the B3323

Pronounced 'Shorell' by Caulkheads, as Isle of Wight natives are known, this village of thatched stone cottages has no fewer than three venerable manor houses within its boundaries. West Court, Wolverton, and North Court were built respectively during the reigns of Henry VIII, Elizabeth I, and James I. They possess all the charm you would expect from that glorious age of English architecture but sadly none of them is open to the public. However, you can visit **St Peter's Church** to gaze on its mesmerisingly beautiful 15th century wall-painting and admire its 500-year-old stone pulpit covered by an elaborate wooden canopy of 1620. The church also has a real oddity in a painting on wood of the Last Supper, brought from Iceland in 1898.

BRIGHSTONE

7 miles SW of Newport on the B3399

One of the prettiest villages on the island, Brighstone was once notorious as the home of smugglers and wreckers. Today, the National Trust runs a shop (selling legitimate goods) in a picturesque row of thatched cottages, and there's a little museum depicting village life down the years.

The island has long been known for its fossil finds, especially relating to

dinosaurs. It was on a clifftop near the village that the bones of a completely new species of predatory dinosaur were recently unearthed. The 15-ft carnivore, which lived in the cretaceous period about 120 million to 150 million years ago, has been named *cotyranus lengi* after Gavin Leng, a local collector who found the first bone.

On Military Road (A3055) near Brighstone, the **Dinosaur Farm Museum** came into being following the unearthing in 1992 of the skeleton of a brachiosaurus, at that time the island's largest and most spectacular dinosaur discovery. A mile or so west of Brighstone is the National Trust's **Mottistone Manor Garden**, a charming hillside garden alongside a privately owned Elizabethan manor house. The garden is particularly known for its herbaceous borders, terraces planted with fruit trees, and a restored organic kitchen garden. On Mottistone Common, where New Forest ponies graze, are the remains of a Neolithic long barrow known as the Longstone.

CALBOURNE

5 miles W of Newport on the B3401

The most enchanting part of this picturesque village of thatched cottages is Barrington Row, usually known as Winkle Street. This row of charming old dwellings stands opposite the village stream (the Caul Burn) and an ancient sheepwash. The village's **All Saints' Church** dates from the 13th century and its treasures include a handsome 16th century brass of William Montacute, son of the Earl of Salisbury. The grandest building in



Calbourne Water Mill

the area is Swainston Manor, now a luxury hotel. It stands on the site of earlier buildings owned by the bishops of Winchester. The 12th century Bishop's Chapel can still be seen next to the hotel.

To the west of the village is **Calbourne Water Mill**, a 17th century water mill in working order with milling taking place every day at 3pm during the summer season except on Saturdays. You can see potters at work in the Water Mill Pottery, and there is a small war museum and several little rural museums., Visitors can also enjoy the spacious grounds, complete with a 18-hole putting green, have a go at croquet or petanque or take a boat or pedaloe out on the millpond. A licensed café and a gift shop rounds off the visit.

FRESHWATER

11 miles SW of Newport on the A3055

Freshwater and the surrounding area are inextricably linked with the memory of Alfred, Lord Tennyson. In 1850, he succeeded Wordsworth as Poet Laureate, married Emily Sellwood, and shortly afterwards moved to **Farringford**, just outside Freshwater. The house, set in 33 acres of parkland, is being painstakingly restored to its original and several cottages in the grounds have been converted for holiday lets where visitors can relax and enjoy the grounds and the views. There is an excellent restaurant, swimming pool, golf course and children's play area.



Tennyson was an indefatigable walker and however foul the weather would pace along nearby High Down dramatically arrayed in a billowing cloak and a black, broad-brimmed sombrero. As Tennyson grew older, he became increasingly impatient with sightseers flocking to Farringford hoping to catch sight of the now-legendary figure. He moved to his other home at Blackdown in Sussex where he died in 1892. After his death, the area he loved so much was re-named **Tennyson Down** and a cross erected high on the cliffs in his memory.

There are more remembrances of the great poet in the **Church of All Saints** in Freshwater town where Lady Tennyson is buried in the churchyard and a touching memorial inside commemorates their son Lionel, 'an affectionate boy', who died at the age of 32 while returning from India.

About a mile south of the town, **Freshwater Bay** was once an inaccessible inlet, much favoured by smugglers. Today, the bay is the start point of the 15-mile Tennyson Trail, which ends at Carisbrooke and its scenic beauty attracts thousands of visitors every year. They also make pilgrimage in their thousands to **Dimbola Lodge**, one of the most important shrines in the history of early photography. It was the home of Julia Margaret Cameron (1815-1879) who bought the house in 1860 to be close to her friend Tennyson. Three years later, she was given a camera and immediately devoted herself with her usual energy to mastering the technical and artistic aspects of what was then called the 'Black Art'. (Because handling the chemicals involved usually left the photographer's hands deeply stained). The coal-house at Dimbola Lodge was turned into a dark room and within a year, Julia had been elected a member of the Photographic Society of London. She photographed most of the leading lights of the artistic community of the time including Thackeray, Darwin, GF Watts and his wife the actress Ellen Terry, who all at some time lived locally.

Perhaps the most famous of her images is the classic portrait of Tennyson himself, a craggy, bearded figure with a visionary gaze. Dimbola Lodge was acquired by the Julia Margaret Cameron Trust in 1993 and it has been converted into a museum and galleries devoted to her photography. There's also a gift shop, selling a wide range of books relating to photography and local history, cards and gifts, and a restaurant.

From the bay itself, there are regular cruises around the island's most spectacular natural feature, the dreaded **Needles**. The boat trip takes you through the swirling waters around the lighthouse, and past the line of jagged slabs of gleaming chalk towering some 200 feet high. The sea has gouged deep caves out of the cliffs. Two of them are known as Lord Holmes' Parlour and Kitchen, named after a 17th century governor of the island who once entertained his guests in the 'Parlour' and kept his wines cool in the 'Kitchen'.

The Needles are undoubtedly at their most impressive when viewed from the sea, but they are still a grand sight from the land. There are some particularly striking vistas from the **Needles Old Battery** (National Trust), a Victorian coastal fort standing 250 feet above the sea. Visitors pass through a 200-ft long tunnel and emerge onto a platform with panoramic views. The **New**

The Needles



Battery further up the headland has an exhibition on the secret British rocket tests held there during the Cold War.

In the car park at **Alum Bay** is a monument to Marconi, who sent messages to a tug in Alum Bay and set up the first wireless station here in 1897. The first paid Marconigram was sent in the following year by Lord Kelvin.

The Needles Park at Alum Bay has good views and offers a wide range of family entertainments, a breathtaking chairlift from the clifftop to the beach, boat trips to the lighthouse, a glass-making studio and many other attractions. Among the latest additions are the Victorian swingboats and the vintage car rides for children.

YARMOUTH

9 miles W of Newport on the A3054

A regular ferry links this picturesque little port to Lymington on the mainland. Yarmouth

25 BROADWAY INN

Totland Bay

Sumptuous full English breakfasts, affordable quality lunches, satisfying evening meals, home baked cakes and plenty of beverages to accompany. The Broadway has it all.

See entry on page 43



26 THE BLUE CRAB RESTAURANT

Yarmouth

Make your trip to Yarmouth complete with The Blue Crab Restaurants freshly caught and prepared seafood dishes.

See entry on page 43



was once the principal port on the island which was why Henry VIII ordered the building of **Yarmouth Castle** (English Heritage) in 1547. It was garrisoned until 1885 but is now disused, though much remains. Visitors can view rooms recreated in the 16th-century style and an exhibition about shipwrecks. The castle affords magnificent views over the Solent. The town also boasts a quaint old

Town Hall, a working pier, and a 13th century church rather unhappily restored in 1831. It's worth going inside to see the incongruous statue on the tomb of Sir Robert Holmes, Governor of the Island in the mid-17th century. During one of the countless conflicts with the French, Sir Robert had captured a ship on board which was a French sculptor with an unfinished statue of Louis XIV. The sculptor had been on his way to Versailles to model the king's head from life. Sir Robert decided that the elaborate statue of the king (in full French armour) would do nicely for his own tomb. The sculptor was ordered to replace the royal head with Sir Robert's. No doubt deliberately, the artist made a poor fist of the job and the head is decidedly inferior to the rest of the statue. A mile west of Yarmouth, **Fort Victoria Country Park** is one of the major leisure complexes on the Island and uses the area around one of Palmerston's forts. Attractions for all ages include unspoilt sandy beaches, woodland walks, a huge model railway, a state-of-the-art Planetarium and astrodome theatre, an



Yarmouth Quay

aquarium, underwater archaeology centre and a café.

NEWTOWN

5 miles W of Newport off the A3054

Founded in the 13th century by a Bishop of Winchester, Newtown once had a large, busy harbour, but silting led to its decline as a maritime centre and the harbour is now a nature reserve. At its height, the town was the most important on the island and regularly sent two MPs to Westminster; among them were John Churchill, later the 1st Duke of Marlborough, and Prime Minister George Canning. The town's most notable building is the **Old Town Hall**, erected in 1699 and now owned by the National Trust. A small, unassuming building of brick and stone, it contains many interesting documents and memorabilia. The records include the exploits of Ferguson's Gang, an anonymous group of benefactors who gave donations to save selected properties. It is not recorded why this building was chosen, but in 1934 one of the gang went into the National Trust offices and discreetly dropped £500 on the secretary's desk to save the town hall.

At Porchfield, 2 miles east of Newtown, fun in the country for the whole family is promised at **Colemans Animal Farm**, where visitors are encouraged to stroke and feed the animals. Children will also love the huge wooden play area, the sandpit, the straw maze and the mini-farm with pedal tractors.

27 HORSE & GROOM

Ningwood

The first pub off the Yarmouth to Lymington ferry route on the main road to Newport.

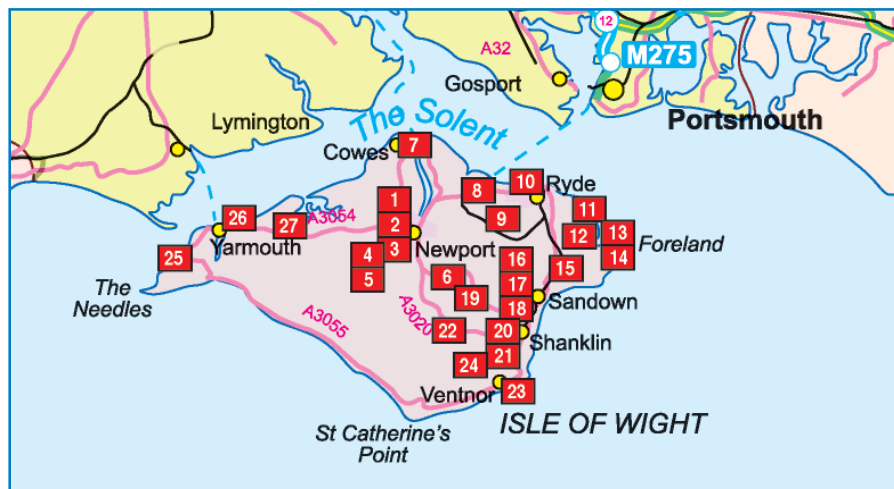
See entry on page 44



Accommodation, Food & Drink and Places to Visit

The establishments featured in this section includes hotels, inns, guest houses, bed & breakfasts, restaurants, cafés, tea and coffee shops, tourist attractions and places to visit. Each establishment has an entry number which can be used to identify its location at the beginning of the relevant county chapter.

In addition full details of all these establishments and many others can be found on the Travel Publishing website - www.findsomewhere.co.uk. This website has a comprehensive database covering the whole of the United Kingdom.



1 ISLE OF WIGHT LAVENDER

Staplehurst Grange, Newport, Isle of Wight PO30 2LU
Tel: 01983 825272 e-mail: info@lavendar.co.uk
website: www.lavendar.co.uk

Situated in Newport and priding themselves on producing the highest quality Lavender cultivars is **Isle of Wight Lavendar**. The Lavender is grown on the farm and the Lavender oil is distilled to produce Lavender products sold in the gift shop. The farm is open to the public all year round and visitors are encouraged to have a look round and see the lavender being distilled in the distillation barn at the end of July. After all the exploring, why not relax and enjoy a bite to eat in the Old Dairy Tearoom with its famous lavender ice-cream and cakes.



2 THE PRINCESS ROYAL

25 Cross Lane, Newport, Isle of Wight PO30 2JL

Tel: 01983 522056

e-mail: theprincessroyal@btconnect.com

website: www.theprincessroyaliow.co.uk

For those visiting the island, this pub is a must see! Friendly hosts, good food and well kept ales, accompanied by a relaxed atmosphere.

Only a short drive from the centre of Newport is **The Princess Royal**. This outstanding property is full of character, charm and a wonderful welcome is assured to all that visit.

Nigel and Christine took over the premises in December 2010, and through their hardwork and talent, they have really put the place back on the map as well as giving it a new lease of life.

Open all day everyday, there is a good selection of draught ales available as well as the usual selection of wines, spirits and soft drinks that you would expect to see. The bar also boasts one of the best kept pints of Guinness on the island.

Christine is in charge of the kitchen and has introduced light bites between 12 - 4pm Tuesday through to Saturday. Throughout the summer (May -September) a Sunday BBQ with live music takes the place of the normal Sunday roast. The Sunday roast returns to grace the table in late September with a choice of meats accompanied by all the trimmings available from 12 - 4pm. The vegetables and meat are all sourced from the island assuring your meal is made from fresh, locally sourced produce.

The garden to the rear has been extended, and there's a sun trap terraced seating area where visitors can enjoy their chosen meal or beverage during the warmer months.

Nigel and Christine have organised entertainment to keep their guests happy with live music and karaoke on Friday and Saturday evenings. Children and dogs are welcome and all methods of payment are accepted.



3 THE OLD STAG

2 Cowes Road, Newport, Isle of Wight PO30 5TW

Tel: 01983 522709

e-mail: theoldstag@hotmail.co.uk

A traditional public house that offers more than your typical pub. With its relaxed atmosphere, complemented by quality draught beers, traditional ales, lagers and food, the pub holds the promise of an enjoyable experience.

Located within the centre of Newport, **The Old Stag** has plenty to offer. Built originally as a coaching inn, the premises went through a series of name changes and finally became known at the The Old Stag in 1999.

Attentive tenants John and Janet have been here since 2004, and along with the help of their family, they have created a fabulous place in which to drink and dine. Hospitality, delicious food and well-kept ales are what the Clevetts pride themselves on, and the food on offer here will not let you down. As well as retaining much of the charisma and charm that this inn is so loved for, the family have also improved the inn by adding a conservatory. This has created a light, airy and pleasant space for diners to enjoy their meals and an ideal location for large parties to eat together.



The food here is outstanding and offers generous portions of home-made treats. Dishes such as steak and kidney pudding, lamb shank, whole-tail scampi, lasagne, nut roast and plenty more adorn the menu. The 100 % beef burgers are also extremely popular and are served with salad and onion with the option of adding chips. For those who are looking for something lighter, there is a range of sandwiches, salads and warm baguettes to choose from. On Sunday there is a tasty Sunday lunch available, and due to its popularity it is advisable to book. Food is available between 12 - 3pm & 6 - 9pm.

The well stocked bar offers a tipple for everyone, including one real ale - Ringwood 49er. Children and dogs are both welcome and there is a good disabled access.



4 CARISBROOKE CASTLE

Carisbrooke, Isle of Wight PO30 1XY

Tel: 01983 522107

website: www.carisbrookecastlemuseum.org.uk

Dating from Saxon times, **Carisbrooke** is the Isle of Wight's foremost castle. Once prison to Charles I and home to Princess Beatrice, the castle is also famous for the donkeys that work in the well house. Throughout the summer costumed guides and colourful events bring the castle alive and its remarkable history is told in the museum and castle exhibitions. Open daily except 24-26 December and 1 January.



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Places to Stay

6 ARRETON MANOR

Main Road, Arreton, Newport, Isle of Wight PO30 3AA

Tel: 01983 522604

e-mail arretonmanor@mac.com

website: www.arretonmanor.co.uk

The present house was built in the late Elizabethan/early Jacobean times although the east wing is considered to be 14th century and is constructed on part of the much older Manor, which belonged to "Alfred the Great" and was left to his

younger son Etherward in his will of 885. The manor was later endowed to the Monks of Quarr in the 12th century and farmed by the abbot's steward, but was snatched back by Henry VIII around 1536 during the dissolution of the monasteries. There is still a monastic screen in the Hall erected in 1396. As you enter the manor there is an overwhelming feeling of history and as a visitor to the manor you are in good company as other visitors have included Charles 1, Queen Victoria and Queen Mary. The ancient stone steps heavily worn must have seen the passing of hundreds of thousands of feet to be in this condition.



The interior of the manor gives you an insight of how the wealthy lived in the 17th century. There is also a much older part of the manor to explore where you can follow in the footsteps of the monks, you may also find one or two surprises on the way. In the grounds you will find one of the largest Horse chestnut trees in England and the conifer, which Queen Victoria planted on the south lawn. There are many new areas under construction including Elizabethan-style gardens with miniature maze and water terraces.

5 THE EIGHT BELLS

31 High Street, Carisbrooke, Isle of Wight PO30 1NR
Tel: 01983 825501

Situated in the village of Carisbrooke, surrounded by the beautiful countryside is the treasured Eight Bells. Extremely popular with families, walkers and cyclists, the listed building housing this public house is a beautiful premises, serving great food and great company. The village itself is famous for Carisbrooke Castle, making the Eight Bells the perfect location to visit after a historical outing or brisk walk in the near by areas. The property is traditional, withholding many original features, such as the lovely beams adorning the ceiling.

There is exposed brickwork throughout the pub, creating a rustic feel to the building, however the lighting provides a very homely atmosphere.

Business partners Ian and Kevin took over the premises in March 2011 and have brought a wealth of knowledge and experience both in catering and licensing. They set about making their mark on the premises by undergoing a tasteful refurbishment and introducing a new menu.

Kevin has been a chef for many years, and the food here reflects that. The restaurant, with covers for 100 inside, and 100 outside in the beautiful garden offers a fantastic place in which to dine. The food here is hearty and delicious and presents dishes such as home-made chilli con carne, gammon steak, home-made pie of the day, wholetail Whitby scampi and home-made curry, leaving guests spoilt for choice. There are also snacks available at the bar throughout the day for those who prefer a lighter and more informal bite. Breakfast is served from 8.30, when the property opens, until 10.30am and it really is great. All meals are served daily from 11am-10pm and there is a carvery on a Sunday.

The garden is tremendous and features a children's play area and a delightful duck pond, making it the perfect setting to eat on a warm summers day. There is also a balcony overlooking the garden and during warmer months, seating is provided here as well.

There is adequate parking at the Eight Bells and the property also has wheel chair access, making it suitable for everyone. This pub really is a pleasure to visit and in the summer months, the garden is absolutely beautiful. There are a bountiful number of ducklings that bathe in the outside pond, which is a great hit with children and the atmosphere really is top notch.



7 THE CALEDON GUEST HOUSE



59 Mill Hill Road, Cowes, Isle of Wight PO31 7EG

Tel: 01983 293599

e-mail: stay@the-caledon.co.uk

website: www.the-caledon.co.uk

The Caledon Guest House in Cowes offers friendly Isle of Wight B&B accommodation with tasty, filling breakfasts. The Guest House is ideally located just a seven-minute walk from Cowes High Street with its superb selection of pubs, shops, restaurants and cafes.

All bedrooms at The Caledon are modern, clean and comfy, individually decorated and include free Wi-Fi, TV with CD/DVD player, quality hairdryer, Fairtrade tea, coffee & hot chocolate and white waffle bathrobes. Some rooms have en-suite facilities, some share bathrooms, and some have fantastic sea views!

Owners, Andrea and Mark are always complimented on their tasty breakfasts. Take your pick from Mark's Nearly Famous Fry Up, The Caledon Stack, scrambled egg & crispy bacon, boiled egg and soldiers and cereal. The choice is yours. And of course all the tea, coffee, juice and toast you can eat! *The guest house also boasts a 5 star Food Hygiene rating.*

"Excellent! Wonderful hosts & really tasty breakfasts made our stay something to remember. Hope to come again"

Mr & Mrs Rackham, 25th July 2010

"Thank you for a lovely stay. A warm welcome, immaculate room and a hearty breakfast to start each day. Will definitely be back."

Peter and Renata, 15th August 2010

"Great stay. Very well run guest house, you went out of your way to look after all our needs, we appreciate it!"

John Varney and party, 23rd August 2010



8 BLUEBELLS AT BRIDDELSFORD

Briddlesford Lodge Farm, Briddlesford Road, Wootton, Isle of Wight PO33 4RY
Tel: 01983 884650 cafe: 01983 882885
e-mail: chris@briddlesfordlodgefarm.co.uk
website: www.briddlesfordlodgefarm.co.uk

Located in Wootton on the Isle of Wight, and extending to 280 acres is a very special find indeed.

Briddlesford Lodge Farm is a working dairy farm with a herd of award winning pedigree Guernsey cows. The Griffin family have farmed the land since 1923 and have since added a bed and breakfast, farm shop, café and an area where you can get close to the calves.

Bluebells at Briddlesford is an award winning licensed café and education facility housed in a converted barn. Catering for over 60 people, it offers an ideal place to relax with friends, host a party or enjoy some time out with loved ones. Paul and Chris are in charge here, and the couple are always on hand to offer a friendly welcome. The emphasis is on fresh, quality food supplied from the best of the island's farmers and is expertly prepared by a team of talented chefs. Visitors can enjoy breakfasts, cream teas, tasty sandwiches, fresh salads, home-made pie of the day, home-made gourmet burgers and plenty more.



Open 7 days a week 9.30am to 5pm. Breakfast is served from 9.30am till 11.30am, lunch from 12 noon until 4pm and dinner is served from 7pm on Friday and Saturday - booking advised.

For larger bookings or functions the café is also available on weekday evenings.



9 ISLE OF WIGHT STEAM RAILWAY

The Railway Station, Havenstreet, Isle of Wight PO33 4DS

Tel: 01983 882204 Fax: 01983 884515

e-mail: havenstreet@iwsteamrailway.co.uk

website: www.iwsteamrailway.co.uk

The Isle of Wight Steam Railway operates a five mile stretch of historic railway, recalling the days when most of the Island was served by steam trains. Travel aboard delightfully restored carriages dating back to 1864, often hauled by a 19th century steam locomotive. Drive to Havenstreet Station with its large car park, or travel in by train via Smallbrook Junction. At Havenstreet Station you will find our well stocked railway shop, licensed cafe, museum, woodland walk and children's play area. Trains operate selected days March - October (daily June - Sept) Talking Timetable 01983 884343.



10 KING LUD

2 The Esplanade, Ryde, Isle of Wight PO33 2DY

Tel: 01983 562942

e-mail: info@kinglud.co.uk

website: www.kinglud.co.uk

The King Lud is a traditional, family run, seaside pub, at the foot of Ryde pier, gateway to the Isle of Wight. Its heavily beamed façade makes it hard to miss!

The King Lud has been given a new lease of life. Landlord Sam, his wife Suzy and their extended family have given The King Lud some much needed love and care in the last year or so and have already made a really positive impact.

There are four hand pumps, one permanently featuring a local ale from Goddards; HSB at the second pump, plus a guest ale and a scrumpy cider. Sam has made a name for himself as an excellent cellar man and celebrates the real ales at least twice a year with a Mini Real Ale and Cider Festival.

Music features heavily on the menu at The King Lud, from Trad Jazz to Liquid Drum and Bass and everything in between, Sam and Suzy are always willing to try anything once! Open Mic every Wednesday, Live Bands every Friday and Saturday as standard and all other music genres in between. An upright Piano, Scalextric, Darts, Wii, Crib, Poker, an assortment of board games including a vintage bar skittles set and a large wooden Rocking Horse combined with very good homemade pub grub always featuring Vegetarian Specials- plus new for 2011 The Moules-Frites Menu, means that The King Lud really has opened its doors for everybody to enjoy and has at last embraced its unique location. The King Lud welcomes families and dogs, and serves food all day.



11 DELL CAFÉ

**Puckpool Sands, Seaview,
Isle of Wight PO34 5AR**
Tel: 01983 812947
website: www.dellcafe.com

A cosy eclectic beachside café with a cosmopolitan feel

Family run since 1988, the admired Dell café prides itself in providing high quality fresh food and refreshment. It is ideally located on the beach front in Puckpool Park with idyllic views over Puckpool Sands and the Solent.

Attentive owners Alison and Jason took over the premises in 2001 and have been welcoming customers ever since. The friendly couple have created a varied and healthy menu with regularly changing specials, often influenced from their travels abroad. The dishes which are freshly prepared to order include specialities such as home-made fishcakes, local seafood, fresh filled baguettes, wraps, ciabattas and fresh exotic salads. The café also serves some of the best coffee, cappuccinos and frappuccinos on the island, making it the perfect place to enjoy a morning coffee with friends.

The café has a full licence, adding cold beers and fine wines to the menu. Beautiful glass open fronted french doors means you can feel like your outside even when you're inside and still enjoy the extensive view.



12 THE VINE INN

Upper Green Road, St Helens, Isle of Wight PO33 1UJ
Tel: 01983 872337

A modest Victorian hostelry set amongst the houses looking over the Village Green, **The Vine Inn** has a bit of the town-pub look about it and yet it represents all that's great about the traditional English pub. The atmosphere is very much that of a comfy village pub, warm and sociable. With homely villagers certainly using it, popping in for a drink at the bar, even a game of darts. Its ideal location overlooking the Village Green makes for an excellent spot in the summer months to sit at one of the bistro tables and enjoy watching a game of cricket.

The well stocked bar has an extensive array of beers, wines and spirits and expertly cared for real ales, Ringwood 49er is the regular with two other rotating ales. There is an extensive menu featuring delicious home cooked dishes and daily specials. Professional chefs prepare everything on the premises and local produce is sourced wherever possible. Children are well catered for and highchairs and baby changing facilities are provided. Booking is advisable on weekends and over the busy summer months.

The Inn is close to several holiday campsites and only a short walk away from St. Helens Duver (sand dunes) and its stunning natural beaches. It's also on the route of many coastal walks in the area so you can drop in and enjoy a well earned pint!



13 CAFÉ MAYA

9 Forelands Road, Bembridge, Isle of Wight PO35 5XN
Tel: 07971 250957

There is no where else on earth like it. Come down, take a seat, relax and enjoy the love and warmth of homecooked food, wonderful people and a good time.

This charming little café is located very near the centre of Bembridge and has a rich earthy red frontage, which is matched inside with warm colours and a warm welcome. Owner, Sarah has travelled the world extensively and especially loves South America; she created Café Maya in 2007 and designed the interior as an expression of her travels. The walls are adorned with images of life in these countries and were all taken by Sarah herself.

A delicious menu of breakfasts and simple lunches are freshly prepared at the little open kitchen. It is recommended that you stop by on the way to the beach in the morning for a cup of coffee and the Greek Yoghurt with fresh fruit and honey. A popular choice for the locals. Looking for something to satisfy that sweet tooth? There's a tempting selection of delicious homemade cakes and scones to enjoy.

The café is open 10am - 4pm everyday during the summer months but closed on Sundays and Mondays during the winter.

During the evenings from 6.30pm (please call to confirm days) the café offers a superb selection of Tapas, which bring an authentic and vibrant taste of Spain to Bembridge.

Please note payments made by cash only.



14 ST. VERONICA'S

Lane End Road, Bembridge,

Isle of Wight PO35 5TB

Tel: 01983 872872

e-mail: theresa@stveronicasiow.co.uk

website: www.stveronicasiow.co.uk

Making its home in the quiet and idyllic coastal village of Bembridge, is the very special **St. Veronica's**. This privately owned Bed and Breakfast offers the highest standards of comfort and personal service, ensuring every guest enjoys a welcoming and relaxing stay.

Built in the early 19th century, St. Veronica's was given its name by the nuns who ran it as a retreat from the 1920s to 1950s. The property has since been lovingly restored in keeping with its heritage, but with stylish modern interiors.

Host Theresa is always on hand to offer help where needed, and makes sure that guests leave planning their next visit. Her hospitality, attention to detail and cooking has earned her a 5 star Silver Award and Breakfast Award.

There are four ensuite bedrooms, each beautifully presented and offer sea views. Three have king sized beds and the fourth can be offered as a twin or super king room. The tariff includes breakfast and guests can choose from a hearty home-cooked full English, a healthy selection of fresh fruit, cereals and yoghurts.



15 DARK HORSE

High Street, Brading, Isle of Wight PO36 0DG

Tel: 01983 407985

The Dark Horse situated in Brading is one of the finest public houses on the Isle of Wight. Dating back to the 1700's, the premises was formerly a coaching and posting inn which explains the fantastic olde worlde atmosphere. Inside, the pub is full of character and has been superbly decorated combining original features with modern facilities.

Friendly host Hayley is in charge here, and having been in the trade for over 6 years, she makes sure her customers leave planning their next visit.

The menu here is second to none and the majority of the produce is sourced from the island. All dishes are cooked to order and include home-made spaghetti bolognese, home-made Thai green chicken curry, home-made shortcrust steak and ale pie and 10" rump steak to name but a few. Food is available Mon - Sat 12 - 2.30 & 6 - 9.30pm and Sun 12 - 9pm, it is essential to book at weekends. The bar offers 3 real ales all kept in top condition, along with the usual choice of wines, spirits and soft drinks.

During the summer months there is a live acoustic night every Friday to keep locals and visitors entertained. Children are welcome and all credit/debit cards are accepted.



16 FLANAGAN'S RESTAURANT & BAR

7 Pier Street, Sandown, Isle of Wight PO36 8JR

Tel: 01983 408851

e-mail: flanagansiow2@btinternet.com

website: www.flanagansiow.com

For a family-friendly restaurant and bar with excellent food, real ale, freshly ground coffee and an outside eating area with spectacular views of the beach and Sandown Bay, you can't do better than Flanagan's on Pier Street.

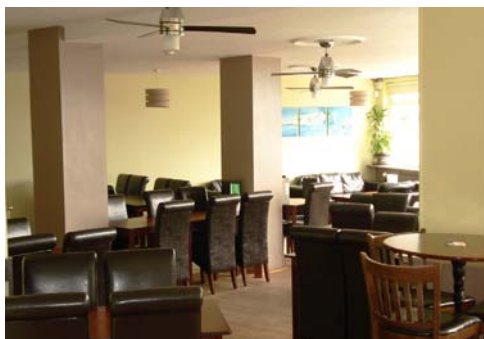
Brian and Jan Crayton took over at Flanagan's in November 2009 and with daughter Donna as manager, the business has gone from strength to strength.

It is increasingly popular with locals and visitors alike, providing plenty of opportunities to watch sports of all sorts (football, rugby, Formula 1, darts, snooker, athletics - they can all be viewed on HD screens) and occasionally a favourite TV programme (so you don't have to miss the X Factor results). Local entertainers appear almost every weekend all year round. Among the most popular Isle of Wight entertainers at Flanagan's are Lewis Berry and Kelly Burke. For an up-to-date line up of upcoming events be sure to visit their website at www.flanagansiow.com.

Flanagan's offers over 70 perfectly prepared, fresh to order menu items from the regular menu and also the Chef's Specials Board. Jamie Govett remains as head chef ensuring the continuity of quality food from Flanagan's kitchen. The extensive menus offer everything from sandwiches and omelettes to sirloin steak on Fridays and a full roast dinner on Sundays. The hard part will be deciding what to order.

Flanagan's welcomes families of all ages, people with dogs of all sizes, groups of any sort including stag and hen parties and people on their own who just want a quiet evening out.

Open Monday - Wednesday 11am-11pm, Thursday - Saturday 11am-midnight and Sunday 11am - 10.30pm.



There's always something going on at Flanagan's, so go along and join in the fun.

17 THE OCEAN DECK INN & NAUTICA HOUSE

Sandown Esplanade, Sandown

Isle of Wight PO36 8AE

Tel: 01983 403960

e-mail: colinbav@yahoo.co.uk

**website: www.oceandecksandown.co.uk
or www.nauticahousesandown.co.uk**

Making its home on Sandowns Esplanade with stunning panoramic views of the ocean, The Ocean Deck Inn is a 'must see' for all those who visit the Isle of Wight. This stylish pub restaurant with a nautical theme, offers regular live entertainment and a warm atmosphere which makes it popular with couples and families alike.

The Bavington family are in charge here and are always on hand to offer a friendly welcome. The food is scrumptious and with dishes such as home-made chilli con carne, fresh crab and lobster, beef curry, 12oz gammon steak and much more, visitors will be left spoilt for choice. The bar offers three real ales; Ringwoods Best, 49er and Old Thumper which is very popular.

The inn also offers 2 self catering flats adjacent to the premises, which are available all year round. The flats sleep up to six people and there is a minimum of 3 nights stay required. The flats overlook the esplanade and seafront, providing spectacular views.



19 CLEMATIS

*The Laurels, High Street, Newchurch,
Isle of Wight PO36 0NJ*

Tel: 01983 867613 / 07974946738

e-mail: alistair.jupe@btinternet.com

website: www.clematisiw.com

Making its home in the picturesque village of Newchurch, between the 900 year old church and 400 year old pub, is **Clematis**. Dating in parts to the 17th century, Clematis was converted in 1998 and is a large semidetached property retaining much of its original character. The views are spectacular and the accommodation offers an idyllic retreat for those wishing to escape the hustle and bustle of everyday life.

The two self-contained apartments in the main house each have three large bedrooms, a large lounge with TV, two bathrooms and a kitchen with all the much needed essentials. The smaller detached unit, known as The Dairy, is situated at the rear of the garden and has one bedroom, a bathroom, sitting room with galley kitchen and french doors which open out onto a private patio. There is also a bed settee in the lounge.

Gas, electricity, bed linen and towels are all included in the tariff. Pets are accepted at no extra charge but advance notice is essential.



18 BARNABYS LICENSED RESTAURANT

4 Pier Street, Sandown, Isle of Wight PO36 8JR

Tel: 01983 403368

Fax: 01983 400110

e-mail: oceanrestaurants@aol.com

website: www.barnabysrestaurant.co.uk



Located on Pier Steet with views of the sea and pier, Barnaby's Restaurant provides stunning surroundings in which to enjoy a traditional British menu of sensational locally sourced food, freshly cooked to order.

A genuine and friendly welcome awaits you at Barnaby's in Sandown. With its own locally brewed beer and extensive menu; it's a special place to kick back, relax, read the newspaper and enjoy...it really is one of the best places to eat in Sandown and has been coined "the restaurant the locals use"!

The delicious menu will tempt your taste buds and delight your senses, created around fresh, quality and wherever possible locally sourced seasonal ingredients. There's plenty to choose from at any time of the day since Barnaby's offers breakfast, snack, lunch and dinner options.

With over 100 items on the menu there's something for everyone and the sort of items you can expect to find include a selection of freshly made hot and cold sandwiches (with fillings such as prawns in seafood sauce or fried egg), 11" freshly filled French baguettes with a good selection of fillings (all served with salad garnish and crisps), griddled burgers, homemade coleslaw jacket potatoes, ham omelette, Ploughman's lunches, griddled T-Bone steak...plus many many more.

Open all year round and 7 days a week,
from 6am to 11pm during the summer
and from 6am to 5pm during the winter.



20 LEAFY BEAN TEA AND COFFEE HOUSE

7 Falcon Crossroad, Shanklin, Isle of Wight PO37 7LA

Tel: 01983 865858

e-mail: c.stone712@btinternet.com

Making its home in the heart of Shanklin, **The Leafy Bean Tea and Coffee House** is loved by many. Owner Colin and his loyal team of staff have created a community business where the locals visit daily and the tourists visit every time they return to the island. What it lacks in size, it more than makes up for in hospitality, quality cuisine and probably the finest choice of differing blends of teas and coffee on the island. There is up to 60 different blends to enjoy.

There is a printed menu and also a daily specials board, with hot and cold dishes including home-made quiche, jacket potatoes, baguettes, toasted sandwiches and plenty more besides. If guests are after something sweet, there is a choice of fabulous home-made cakes to indulge in. The home-made jam is also very popular and is available to purchase.

The cafe seats 20 inside and a further 15 outside, which enables customers to enjoy the sunshine during the summer months.

Open 7 days a week Monday - Saturday 9am - 5.30pm and Sunday 10am - 4pm.



21 PENCIL COTTAGE GIFTS, ANTIQUES & TEA GARDEN

Pencil Cottage, Shanklin Old Village,

Shanklin, Isle of Wight PO37 6NU

Tel: 0787 2619876

e-mail: derick@pencilcottage.co.uk

website: www.pencilcottage.co.uk

Pencil Cottage is a 17th Century thatched cottage nestled in the heart of Shanklin Old Village on the Isle of Wight.

Situated just above the entrance to the famous and popular Shanklin Chine, Pencil Cottage is owned by Derick and Lisa and offers visitors an unusual and interesting array of gifts, collectables and antiques sourced from around the world.

Derick and Lisa were lucky enough to move here in 2007, which fulfilled a dream held by Lisa who fell in love with the cottage when visiting the island as a small child. The cottage is very much their home and visitors are guaranteed a warm welcome and a smile when visiting the shop or just spending time in the tranquil tea garden.

Set behind the cottage and overlooking Chine Hollow, the tea garden has been described by customers as 'an oasis of tranquility'. The menu offers homemade fayre and everything is made fresh to order from a wide range of local produce including fabulous locally caught crab.

The shop is open April-December and the tearoom and garden are open April-October.



22 THE GRIFFIN

**High Street, Godshill,
Isle of Wight PO38 3JD**

Tel: 01983 840039

e-mail: thegriffin2010@hotmail.com

New landlords, Steve and Ceri, welcome you to **The Griffin** - a large popular family pub in the delightful picture postcard village of Godshill.

Spacious inside and with a large garden at the back, this is a great place to feed the family. Superb home cooked food is served all day, which includes pub favourites, daily specials, vegetarian options and an excellent children's menu. A free novelty gift is given with each childrens meal, please ask at the bar for more details and to choose your selection. The bar menu has a great selection of freshly made sandwiches, baguettes, pasta bowls, burgers, jacket potatoes and salads. If you fancy something sweet then see the desserts board for the Chef's delicious delights - the perfect end to your dining.

Real ales, including local brews are on offer as well as a good selection of wines and soft drinks for the children.

In addition to the good food and first class service, The Griffin is full of family attractions. There is a large beer garden with an adventure playground, a mini football pitch, basketball hoop and a Wendy House. But, the real winner for the kids is the hedge Maze shaped like a Griffin!

This unique Isle of Wight pub is a former winner of Southern Family Pub of the Year and was a Best Pub for Kids runner-up. The Griffin also has a pool table, dart board and will be hosting live music and quiz nights throughout the year.

The Griffin is also the last stop on an undulating pub walk on the island. Passing through woodland, downland and pasture, this walk has many interesting historic features. Small diversions off the route will take you to Appuldurcombe House or Godshill village.

Open 11am - 11pm Everyday
Food served 12 - 8.30pm Everyday



23 BESTY & SPINKY'S

*Ocean Blue Quay, East Esplanade,
Ventnor, Isle of Wight PO38 1JR
Tel: 01983 857444*

Besty & Spinky are the privileged owners of Ventnor's newest and shiniest purpose-built restaurant at the bottom of the Cascade overlooking the paddling pool and Ventnor Haven. Having relocated in April 2011 from a café on Ventnor's Esplanade, which they ran for over half a decade, the duo have a good local reputation and are now expanding their menu to suit their new premises.

The menu has a good range of typical café fodder: eggs cooked in a multitude of ways, burgers, catch of the day fish dishes, vegetarian meals and real homemade dishes, soup served with crusty bread, cakes and cream teas. Although there is a good range of specials, the all-day breakfast remains the firm favourite with visitors and locals alike who simply cannot resist the bargain-priced Full English, a range of pork products served with eggs, tomatoes, hash browns, beans, tea or coffee and toast - which also comes with jam and marmalade.

They also have WiFi and the daily papers so it's a great place to have breakfast while you catch up with your mail and news. Besty and Spinky are the official booking agents for Sea Safaris that leave from the Haven, contact them if you fancy a trip down the coast or if you want to catch your own, mackerel fishing starts in May.



24 APPULDURCOMBE HOUSE

*Wroxall, nr Ventnor, Isle of Wight PO38 3EW
Tel: 01983 852484 Fax: 01983 840188
e-mail: enquiries@appuldurcombe.co.uk
website: www.appuldurcombe.co.uk*

Appuldurcombe House was once the grandest and most striking house on the Island, and its 18th century baroque elegance is notable still in the partly restored building (it suffered bomb damage in 1943 and has not been lived in since). Visitors can stroll in the 11 acres of grounds designed by Capability Brown and maybe enjoy a picnic. The Owl & Falconry Centre is set up in the imaginatively restored servants' quarters and brewhouse. It puts on daily flying displays, featuring owls and other birds of prey from around the world. There is an excellent shop, a café for light refreshments, a photographic exhibition of the history of the house and a newly restored barn for indoor flying displays in poor weather. Open daily.



25 BROADWAY INN

*The Broadway, Totland Bay, Isle of Wight PO39 0BL
Tel: 01983 755333*

e-mail: info@thebroadwayinn.co.uk

website: www.thebroadwayinn.co.uk

Situated in Totland Bay and dating back to 1870, this outstanding premises comes with a wealth of history and charm. The Broadway Inn not only offers everything you would expect from a well established pub, but also doubles as the village post office; so you can collect your pension, send a letter and have a meal all at the same time. Hospitable couple Kim and Dave have been in charge here since 2003, and with the help of their family the pub has gone from strength to strength.

Open every session, the bar offers a minimum of two real ales, along with the usual wines, spirits and soft drinks. One of the real ales is brewed especially for them called Goddards Special Delivery at the Broadway Inn.

The food here is delicious, home-made and affordable and visitors can expect to see dishes such as steak and ale pie, spinach and lentil cottage pie, chilli con carne and plenty more. The menu is available from 11 - 2pm & 6 - 8pm Monday to Saturday and on Sunday there is a fabulous Sunday lunch which is highly recommended. Private functions can be catered for and Kim and Dave can accommodate groups of up to 65 (full house) or 30 (restaurant). Whether you are looking for a sumptuous full English breakfast, an affordable quality lunch, a quality, satisfying evening meal or just a cup of tea and a slice of home baked caked, The Broadway has it all.



26 THE BLUE CRAB RESTAURANT

*High Street, Yarmouth, Isle of Wight PO41 0PL
Tel: 01983 760014*

The Blue Crab, found nestled in the heart of Yarmouth, offers fresh fish and shellfish prepared daily by chef proprietor Cliff McDonald. Cliff was born and raised on the Isle and together with his lovely partner, Ruth, they opened the Blue Crab back in 2006.

The menu provides a varied selection from bass and sole, to crabs & lobsters, with the popular choices of chef's luxury fish pie and fishermans platter for two. The delightful selection of desserts are all homemade on the premises. An interesting daily specials board ensures there's something for everyone.

The Yar Bar opened within the restaurant 4 years ago and has proved a hit with locals and visitors alike, selling fresh fish every Thursday and seafood and shellfish throughout the week and weekend. Our popular beer battered fish and chips are also available to take away.

Experienced staff are always on hand to advise on menu selection, the choice of wines, and all other services needed to make sure that "The Blue Crab Restaurant" provides the very best for your lunch, special occasion or evening entertainment.



27 HORSE & GROOM

**Main Road, Ningwood,
Isle of Wight PO30 4NW**

Tel: 01983 760672

e-mail: info@horse-and-groom.com

website: www.horse-and-groom.com

The Horse & Groom is a friendly Isle of Wight family pub located in Ningwood on the main Newport to Yarmouth road. It offers a superb experience for the whole family and includes a paved outside garden and a secluded quiet area by the conservatory. There is also an impressive children's play area called 'The Paddock' next to one of the gardens, which features a Bouncy Castle, Football, Crazy Golf, Noughts and Crosses, Tyre Trails and loads more.

There is a varied menu available at The Horse & Groom, with food available all day from 12 - 9pm (limited menu between 2.30 - 5.30pm). Typical dishes include, the popular Bills locally made sausages with mash and onion gravy and Homemade fish pie topped with mash and served with peas. The Specials Board includes local and seasonal produce, plus there is a good selection for children or those with smaller appetites. For the very young, a free jar of baby food can be obtained with your meal.



Our easy-to-use website contains details and locations of places to stay, places to eat and drink, specialist shops and places of interest throughout England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland.



Places to Stay:

Hotels, guest accommodation, bed & breakfast, inns, self-catering accommodation



Places to Eat and Drink:

Restaurants, pubs, inns, cafes, tea rooms



Places of Interest:

Historic buildings, gardens, art galleries, museums, nature parks, wildlife parks, indoor and outdoor activities



Specialist Shops:

Fashion shops, art and craft shops, gift shops, food and drink shops, antique shops, jewellery shops



Gardens:

Garden centres and retail nurseries

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRES

COWES

*The Arcade , Fountain Quay , Cowes , PO31 3AR
Tel: +44 (0) 1983 813 818*

NEWPORT

*The Guildhall , 136 High Street , Newport , PO30 1TY
Tel: +44 (0) 1983 813 818*

RYDE

*81-83 Union Street , Ryde , PO33 2LW
Tel: +44 (0) 1983 813 818*

SANDOWN

*The Esplanade , Sandown , PO36 8DA
Tel: +44 (0) 1983 813 818*

SHANKLIN

*67 High Street , Shanklin , PO37 6JJ
Tel: +44 (0) 1983 813 818*

VENTNOR

*34, High Street , Ventnor , PO38 1RZ
Tel: +44 (0) 1983 813 818*

YARMOUTH

*The Quay , Yarmouth , PO41 4PQ
Tel: +44 (0) 1983 813 818*

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