

# Cowes Historic (Pub) Walk



Cowes Heritage



IW Branch CAMRA



*An historic stroll through the social history of Cowes, in its rise as a significant and important sea-port town during the early 19<sup>th</sup> Century, marked by its social development in its pubs, breweries, and in the growth of the marine industry based around, both, commerce and leisure.*

# Contents

## Introduction

Welcome to the first Cowes Pub and Brewery walk. We do hope that you enjoy the day and we would welcome feedback so that we can improve it for the future. This walk has been prepared by members of The Brewery History Society, Cowes Heritage and the Isle of Wight branch of CAMRA, all of whom would be happy to receive any questions that you may have.

## Cowes

Today Cowes is a world renowned sailing venue, its history being closely linked to the Royal Yacht Squadron, which celebrated its bicentenary in 2015 and founded the annual sailing regatta which evolved into Cowes Week. The supposed health giving properties of sea-bathing had already attracted the well-to-do to Cowes, evidenced by the large houses overlooking the Solent, and this was further boosted by Queen Victoria's purchase of Osborne House in 1846. In the past Cowes had a major ship building industry and was a busy port with ships heading to the new world stopping for victuals, all creating a demand for beer giving rise to a number of breweries and many public houses.

## The Route Described

The following pages describe the various buildings and sites that we shall be talking about on our route.

## Recommended Reading

For much more detail on each of the many public houses that once graced Cowes see -

The Pubs of Cowes, Gurnard & Northwood, David Jones, published by Cowes Heritage and now in its 3rd edition

## The Brewery History Society – ([www.breweryhistory.com](http://www.breweryhistory.com))

Formed in 1972 to research and record the history of brewing, the BHS has around 500 individual and corporate members who enjoy a range of visits and meetings throughout the year. The Society publishes Journals, Newsletters and a range of books

## Cowes Heritage – ([www.CowesHeritage.co.uk](http://www.CowesHeritage.co.uk))

A voluntary group dedicated to recording and publicising the history of Cowes through exhibitions and publications.

## The Isle of Wight branch of CAMRA – ([www.wightwash.org.uk](http://www.wightwash.org.uk))

CAMRA – The Campaign for Real Ale, was formed over 40 years ago and has since become one of Europe's most successful pressure groups with almost 200,000 members. The Island branch holds social meetings, surveys pubs and publishes a quarterly magazine, Wightwash.

## Walk Compilers

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## **Cowes Breweries**

### **The MALT and HOPS**

Brewery and ale house on the Newport Rd, today it is known as Myrtle Cottage. In 1849 Robert Dore's occupation was given as "brewer", as it had been in 1841, whilst other information has him as a preventative officer for a while. Today, Island Brewery has planning permission to move their brewery to this site.

### **Medina Brewery**

Thomas Blake - entries appear from 1815, when he bought the White Hart in Cowes, through 1819 when he went bankrupt, 1848 when he received a Royal Warrant admitting him "into the place of Purveyor of Ale and Beer in Ordinary to her Majesty", to 1861 when he was 81 and listed as employing 3 men. In 1862 the brewery was for sale after his death. His son in law, Timothy Huffam then appears at the brewery until he moved to New Zealand at the end of 1868 – he had been a brewer in the West Country. By 1871 the site is listed as Mew Langton store.

### **William Douglas Hewitt**

Listed in 1842/44 as brewing at 121 High Street

### **St. Mary Street Brewery**

John Newell is listed in the 1842/44 Pigot as brewing at 100 High Street and in 1861 aged 57 as a brewer living at 113 High Street East Side - I think south of the Albion and that these buildings were replaced after War time bombing. Bankrupt 1862

J Newell had been at the St. Mary Street Brewery when E Wyatt announced in 1864 that he had taken this enterprise over 'formerly J Newell, ales at 9d, 1/-, 1/4 and 1/8.'

Wyatt and Purdue were listed as brewers at St. Mary St Brewery in 1867.

John Collins was at the St. Mary Street Brewery and beer house in 1878

William Waterman was there in 1886 and 1892 however in 1889 William Norman of the St. Mary's-Street Brewery was prosecuted for using undeclared sugar in his brew.

By 1906 Alfred Ketchell was listed, although this was by then owned by Friary, Holroyd & Healy of Guildford who sold it, and the Granville Hotel, to Brickwoods for £7,500 in 1919.

### **Queens Brewery, 46 Cross St**

The 1851 census lists WHITE, James Head Married M 39 1812 Tailor & Brewer

Burns Place was demolished to create *The Cut* and reputedly housed a brewery

Charles AIRS was listed as wine and spirit merchant, and brewer, *dolphin family hotel* and posting house, High St. Rebuilt and moved slightly from Fountain parade

### **John Eames & Son**

The firm of John EAMES & Son is listed in 1828 as brewing in the High Street and again, at number 88, in 1842/44. He is also listed in the Northwood Apprentice Book as a brewer, the only master so marked, with entries between 1813 and 1840. Sept 1845 fire, owner Mr Eames a brewer

4th Jan 1848 Eames and Son, West Cowes, brewers, partnership dissolved - they also had a coal business in Newport and at the West Cowes Wharf.

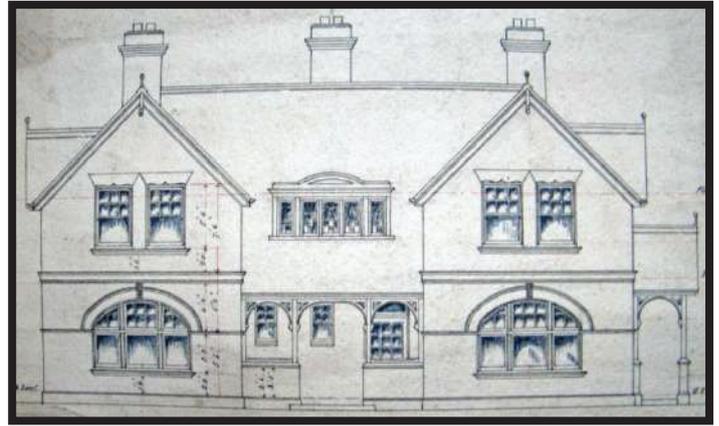
Will of Robert William Eames, Brewer of West Cowes, dated 26 July 1849

# Kingston to Duke of York

## Kingston Arms. Newport Rd

The 1898 Stratton & Millgate plan, note how close today's building matches these plans.

See the marvellous Mews stained glass window panel inside the lounge bar.



Kingston Arms FC. Winners of the Victory Cup 1918-1919. So close to the end of the Great War, some of the players must have seen active service.

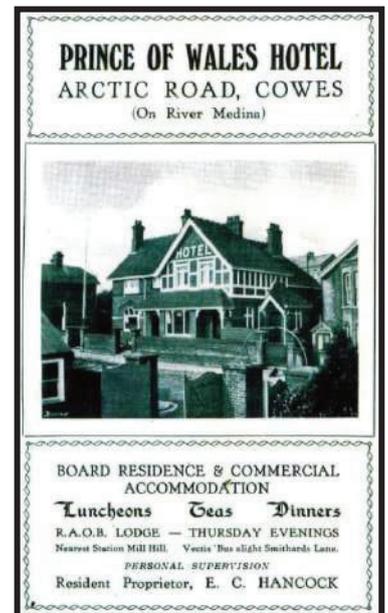
## The Dry Dock, Arctic Rd

Coles Yard a grade II listed shipyard. Yacht building and fitting yard. Constructed by George Henry Marvin in 1885. Note the Engine chimney of stock brick, square in section about 50 feet high, this is attached to a stone segmental arch with stock brick voussoirs, the arch 2 C19 industrial windows and unloading doors. Attached to the arch is the slipway constructed of local stone blocks with 4 steps at each shore end and flights of 13 steps two thirds of the way along ending in a wooden pier each side with mainly chamfered concrete supports. The floor of the dock is made of large concrete slabs on which lie three railway tracks to support the cradles. At the end of the C19 this was probably the single largest yacht building and fitting enterprise in Britain, its importance shown by its work on King George V's racing cutter "Britannia". In World War I the slipway was used to convert large yachts and pleasure boats into patrol boats. In World War II Coles Yard was the base for Free French naval patrol boats.

## Prince of Wales Hotel (former)

Now used as residential for UKSA. A report of the 1893 Licensing Sessions showed that Mew Langton had applied for the removal of the licence of the Cutter Inn in Shooters Hill, proposing to transfer it to a new hotel in Arctic Rd. The hotel opened in 1898 with Robert Charles Holbrook the hotelier he was still there in 1907, possibly moving in that year to the Kingston Arms.

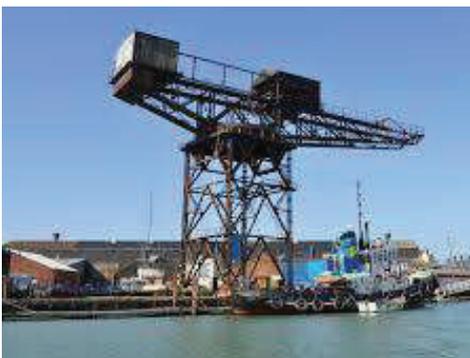
Barry Cass landlord of the Duke of York ran the business from 1970 through to the 1980s renaming it **COWES HOTEL**.



## UKSA, Arctic Rd

An important training centre for aspiring sailors. To quote them:

*"We provide transformational opportunities for young people on the water to change their lives. We do this as a youth charity and a centre of excellence for nautical professional development."*



## Hammer Head Crane

The 1912 80-ton hammerhead Crane was ordered by Cowes shipbuilder J.S. White in 1911 and came into use the following year. It was the key element of a new fitting-out quay, as part of White's increased capacity for the production of naval warships. The Crane was designed by Babcock and Wilcox and engineered at their Renfrew plant, but it was the only giant cantilever Crane they ever built. This type of Crane would eventually dominate the skyline of shipyards throughout the world. The Cowes structure falls within the first decade of their development and the Crane is probably the earliest example in existence beyond the Clyde, and the only remaining pre-WW1 hammerhead crane in England. Two warships

that were built under the crane are still in existence; HMS Cavalier preserved at Chatham, and the Polish Navy's destroyer 'ORP Blyskawica' preserved in Poland.

## Brickwood's Sign, Smithards Lane

An 1888 directory list Gordon House 84 Arctic Rd as an Off-Licence. It continued to operate as a local shop and off-licence until 1980s. This 1997 picture shows the original sign and brickwork.



Now Arctic Park. The entrance to the tunnel that goes through to St Mary's Rd is still visible.

## Arctic Rd

Walking along Arctic Rd. The 1950s maisonettes on the right replaced these houses damaged during the blitz on Cowes May 4/5<sup>th</sup> 1942.

## Mill Hill Station



**Granville Hotel (former), Bridge Rd**  
Opened in the 1880s. Perhaps like Granville Rd.

the name related to Granville Ward of Northwood House. During the war as his contribution to "Dig for Victory" landlord Henry Nobbs grew prize winning runner beans in the Granville's very small front garden. His success was attributed to liberal watering with beer dregs. This March 1989 County Press cutting records a failed attempt to save the pub during Whitbread's ruthless closure programme. "Petition ignored as pub closes its doors" appeared in the County Press (5-5-89) confirming their failure.

## William IV (former), St Andrew's Rd



Now part of Brunswick Rd car park. In 1831 John Skitch, victualler of the White Hart, built numbers 1 to 11 Mary St. (it was later re-named St Andrew's St). Number 6 later became the William 4<sup>th</sup>; it could have been an unnamed beer house prior to this. This picture shows Mrs Marshall and her son, the family bought the property as a residence when it closed in 1910. The façade gives an idea of just how small this and many other drinking establishments were. In 1905 the Winchester Brewery sold this small pub to Longs of Southsea together with an adjoining cottage. They must have known something because it closed shortly afterwards. In 1906 the William IV sold 131 barrels of beer 137 gallons of wine and spirit, £359 4s 5d was paid to Long's the brewers, plus a considerable amount of minerals and tobacco was sold. John Pratt the landlord said in a sworn statement "I do a very good class of trade, I have no rough people at all, and we get a fair amount of billiard playing (there was a billiard room on the first floor). I consider my house



supplies the needs of the neighbourhood". Despite this plea, it closed and was sold in 1910.

### **Victoria Arms (former), Brunswick Rd**

Victoria Arms on the right play area on the left. This early C20 building replaced the Victoria Shades a few doors away; described while waiting to be demolished as “--broken into at night and inhabited by women of bad character, thieves, monkeys and organ grinders—“ When the area was flooded J S White’s foundry workers, unable to work, used boards to reach the pub for some rehydration.



### **Floating Bridge**

A new Floating Bridge is coming into operation this year (2017). A vital link between the two communities since 1859. The recent decision to charge pedestrians created some fierce local opposition.



### **Bell Inn (former), Medina Rd**

A rare picture of the Bell when open, it captures an on-going problem for the landlords. Boards and clay putty was the usual method of keeping the water at bay.

Joe and Enid Mitchell were at the Bell in the 1950s. Joe was an ex-navy man, very tall with only one leg while Enid was very short. Doug and Joan Wyles moved into the Bell Inn in October 1961 Unfortunately their

tenancy was short lived unlike William and Gladys Robertson who moved into the Bell during the terrible winter of 1962/63 and staying until 1986. William (Robbie) had been in the army prior to running a popular and welcoming public house. The Bell suffered the indignity of being transformed into a disco before closing in 1986. This was the last pub to close in Medina Rd.

### **Ratsey & Laphorn Sailmakers, Medina Rd**

Established in 1796 becoming the world leader in the sail making art. This fine listed building was purchased by Dame Ellen MacArthur in 2009. The production of sails of the highest quality continue to this day.

### **J Samuel White Co Ltd, Medina Rd**

At one time the largest employer on the Island with yards on both sides of the river. Behind the listed building which housed the offices is a sad reminder of past achievement. The hammerhead crane, listed and being preserved will be the only reminder of Cowes shipbuilding legacy.



### **Falcon Inn (former), Medina Rd**

A wartime photo, although closed as a pub in 1930s the building, one in from the corner survived, was damaged in the war and replaced by the present extension to White’s Offices.

The posters on the wall advertise films in the Royalty Cinema in Birmingham Rd and the Kings in East Cowes; both long closed.

### **Olive Branch (former), Medina Rd**

No pictures of this small house. The first mention of the Olive Branch was in 1857 a year after the Crimean War ended perhaps the name celebrates a welcome peace.

In 1906 despite being the meeting place of both the Buffalo Lodge and the local branch of the Society of Tool Makers & Engineers and the licence holder being “a very respectable man” the licence was referred for compensation, and one more Cowes pub closed. This was the only house Messrs Gale & Co. brewers of

Horndean had in Cowes; Joseph Clifford, manager of Gales, made no comments to the meeting, perhaps Gales were not sorry to be compensated for what would most likely have been an uneconomic business.



### **Alexandra Tavern (former), Medina Rd**

The then Prince of Wales, later Edward VII married Princess Alexandra of Denmark in March 1863. Her beauty and elegance made her instantly popular. this small house was named in her honour. This post World War I picture of landlord J W Atkinson with family & regulars outside the Alexandra was prior to its closure in 1924. This was a Mew Langton House.

### **Medina Tavern (Dust Bowl - former), Medina Rd**

No pictures of this fairly short-lived tavern which was situated on the right-hand side as you enter Langley Terrace from Medina Rd, now Rope Walk Flats. It is registered as Medina Inn in the 1861 and 1871 censuses; William Gill Follett, a Somerset man, was licensed victualler in both entries. He is also described as a carver and cabinet maker, it is possible that he was employed by George Henry Marvin, famed for yacht building and furnishing, who lived next door

### **14 Medina Commercial Tavern (former), Medina Rd**

Known by locals as "Aunty Maggie's" when Ted and Margaret Arnold were at the pub in the 1950s and 60s this was quite a lively pub. Contractors working at J S Whites were regular customers, as were Scandinavian sailors, complete with knives in their belts, whose ships were moored in the Roads. Ted was one of four local landlords with wooden legs. This picture shows the closed tavern and entrance to Medina Commercial wharf, both demolished to allow the Shepard's Wharf development.



### **Duke of York, Mill Hill Rd**

Of the eleven pubs in the Medina Rd area, this is the only one still trading. The earliest mention, I can find, of this large and imposing public house in the



1830 edition of Pigot's Directory, Today's "mine host" Barry Cass can claim to have been the youngest licensee in the country when he took over in 1969 and now possibly the longest serving.

See the marvellous Mews stained glass panel inside. One of a pair, with that held at the Kingston.

### **"Lost" Gents Toilet**

Prior to road widening work an underground gents' toilet was conveniently available situated roughly outside the entrance to the Duke's car park. Its origins stem from an unsuccessful scheme for a tunnel under the Medina, use being made of a trial borehole. Uffa Fox whose Medina Yacht building premises were at the bottom of the hill used to direct both men & women to use this as a tunnel to East Cowes.



# Duke of York to Anchor Inn

## Blake's Brewery (former)

AKA Medina Brewery, operated in the early to mid-19<sup>th</sup> Century, the proprietor be one Thomas Blake, who may have been related to Samuel Blake, the Gosport brewer commemorated in the recent Oakleaf Brewery's Blake's Gosport Bitter.

## Thomas Arnold

Note the plaque on the house opposite, birthplace of Thomas Arnold, headmaster of Rugby 1828 – 1841.

## Cowes Police Station, Birmingham Rd

Observe the name and date on these purpose-built police station. Now closed with an uncertain future.

There was talk of a Weatherspoons opening here but conversion costs proved too costly.



## Eagle Tavern (former), Birmingham Rd

A reference to the Eagle can be found in "Memories of a Cowes born Lad." by Harry S Guy. (IW County Press 1932.) "I would like to mention that during the winters of my young days the Baltic would freeze up, in consequence of which a great many large and small foreign ships would come to Cowes to seek shelter up the river Medina until the Baltic was free from ice. My word what a lively scene we used to have outside and inside "The Eagle Tavern"

and the "Dust Hole"!" Another short-lived establishment also known as the Birmingham Arms it closed in the 1860s. This picture shows volunteers returning from the Boer War marching past where the Eagle would have stood.

## Royalty Cinema (former), Birmingham Rd

Now a block of flats, many older Cowes residents still hold fond memories of the local "flea pit" the Royalty.

## Alexandra House, Birmingham Rd

Unfortunately, mostly hidden by the unsightly y barrier this fine building started life as a chapel later becoming the home of Cowes Amateur Operatic & Dramatic Society (CAODS) in 1911. Today it is a private residence.



## Beken's marine photographers, Birmingham Rd



Now trading on the other side of Birmingham Rd this snowy scene shows their first premises where Frank Beken observing the huge yachts from his bedroom window developed what was to become a world renown marine photography business. The building's exterior is largely unchanged; look up and note the name and date. Alexandra House is in the background.

## Shooters Hill

This early photo looking down Shooters Hill captures an earlier age.

The wooden building at the bottom was replaced post 1900 while many of the building either side are original.



### Cowes Ale House, Shooters Hill

Halleluia! A new pub in Cowes and it sells real ales. This cosy pub has proved very popular, with musicians on a Monday, and quiz aficionados on Wednesdays.

### Cutters Inn (former), Shooters Hill

Just a couple of doors down from the Ale house and now the lower section of Chiverton's newsagents, once stood the Cutter's Inn. The earliest reliable reference to a pub being here is the 1851 census which lists widow, Mrs Ann Richardson, aged 66, as the licensed victualler; she was assisted by her unmarried daughter Sarah. To supplement

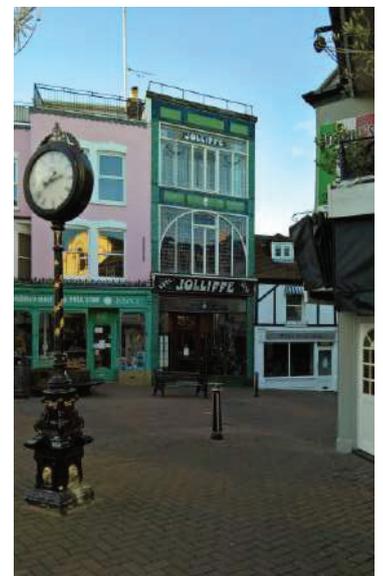
their income, they had 3 lodgers, including 2 labourers; one, Charles Haward was just 13, the other, William Rundiman was 72: not many labourers so young or so old today! The alternative in 1851 was probably the workhouse.

An inventory on behalf of Mew Langton's in 1907, indicates that Mew's still owned it, even though it had not been licensed premises for many years. Included in this inventory were bar equipment comprising; 4 pewter spirit measures, 5 stamped quart jugs, 5 stamped pint jugs, 2doz +11 stamped pint mugs and 7 spittoons, (then an essential item of bar furniture now, thankfully long disappeared).

### Jolliffes

For around 150 years the Jolliffe family ran a shoe business, appointed Royal Warrant, in Shooters Hill, Cowes, with Queen Victoria amongst their customers. When the original shop burned down in 1915, this handsome Art Nouveau replacement was built.

This amazing Grade II listed building now houses Jolliffes of Cowes; an exciting new venue where you can enjoy great breakfasts, light lunches or champagne cream teas, Jolliffes is the perfect place to grab a coffee and relax in this historic setting in the heart of Cowes



### Painters Arms, Cross St

Leaving the High St by Corries Cabin Fish & Chips the Painter's Arms is straight ahead. Note on the right the rear of the Anchor the stables block is still identifiable. Replacing an earlier building the Painters There is written evidence relating to the building of the present structure. The 1903 General Annual Licensing Meeting held on the 7<sup>th</sup> of March, features an application by Mr Wooldridge on behalf of Messrs Long & Co of Southsea Brewery for sanction of the board for the rebuilding of the Painter's Arms. It once had a bad reputation but is

now a pleasant establishment, lucky to have Francki Place for customers use in the summer,

### Francki Place (Town Square – outside the Painters)

Named after Captain Wojciech Francki PN, DSC. Commander of the Polish destroyer ORP Blyskawica (lightning) built in the shipyard of JS. white, Cowes in 1936. On the night of 4th/5th may 1942 whilst ORP Blyskawica was in Cowes for repairs captain Francki, of his own volition, ordered his ship to remain armed to defend Cowes in anticipation of an enemy attack. The initiative and leadership of captain Francki enabled the brave polish crew to repel The Luftwaffe's intensive aerial attack throughout the night

## Spencer Rigging

Founded in 1958, occupying the former Empire Cinema building in St Marys Road, Spencer Rigging made its name through its specialist ability in the craft of rigging through such projects as the complete re-rigging of the Bounty for the film starring Anthony Hopkins and Mel Gibson.

## Mayflower (former), St Mary's Rd

This is now a private residence; fortunately, the Brickwood's façade has been retained. It only became the Mayflower after it had been acquired by Brickwood's in 1919; Brickwood's Minutes book note the purchase of this property together with the Granville Hotel for £7,500. Previously it had been a Brewery with a retail outlet at one time known as the Brewery Tap.

## Antelope (former), St Mary's Rd

Local historian Charles Taylor alerted me to the existence of this short-lived beer outlet. It is mentioned in the 1861 census; the twenty-seven-year-old head of the household and his wife aged 21 are both, unusually, listed as Mr and Mrs Hollis without Christian names. The only other occupants were Joshua Taylor aged 15 and Amelia Nash who was just seven years old. By 1871 the Antelope seems to have closed and a boat builder, Charles Gregory is living at number 54 St Mary's Rd. Unless the numbering has changed (which is quite likely) this building is on the right-hand side going up St Mary's Rd, just 4 doors away from the Mayflower, which would have been a brewery in the 1860s.



## Solent Inn (former), Cross St

Now Bay Tree florists it has retained some of its outer appearance of this small but popular inn. This line drawing is by the late Bernard Taylor.

On 7<sup>th</sup> June 1921 Charles Frederick Hill entered into a tenancy agreement with Mew's, paying a weekly rent of £1 8s 6d. From this date until the Solent closed Charles Hill and his son; both known as Fred were the landlords. Fred the younger ably assisted by his wife Joan ran this popular hostelry until it closed when Fred and Joan moved to the bigger, rather more up market Harbour Lights, (later the Waterside, now demolished.)

**Queens Brewery (former) - this small brewery was situated in Cross Street.**

## Thrunge Alley (Middelton Terrace)

Slang for sewer drain, this was one of the first in the growth of speculative building to house the fast-growing population in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, as Cowes transformed from a village to a significant port town. You were said to take your life in your hands to venture down an ally like this, a refuse for criminals and unsavoury characters – this

reputation survived until quite recent times; within living memory.



## Cowes Station (former)

Opened in 1862, Cowes was said to be the prettiest station of the 'Garden Isle'. It was, regrettably, closed in 1966 in the Becham dissolution, although, opinion holds that the preservation of the railway would have served the Island well, right to the present day.

## Royal Oak (former), Terminus Rd



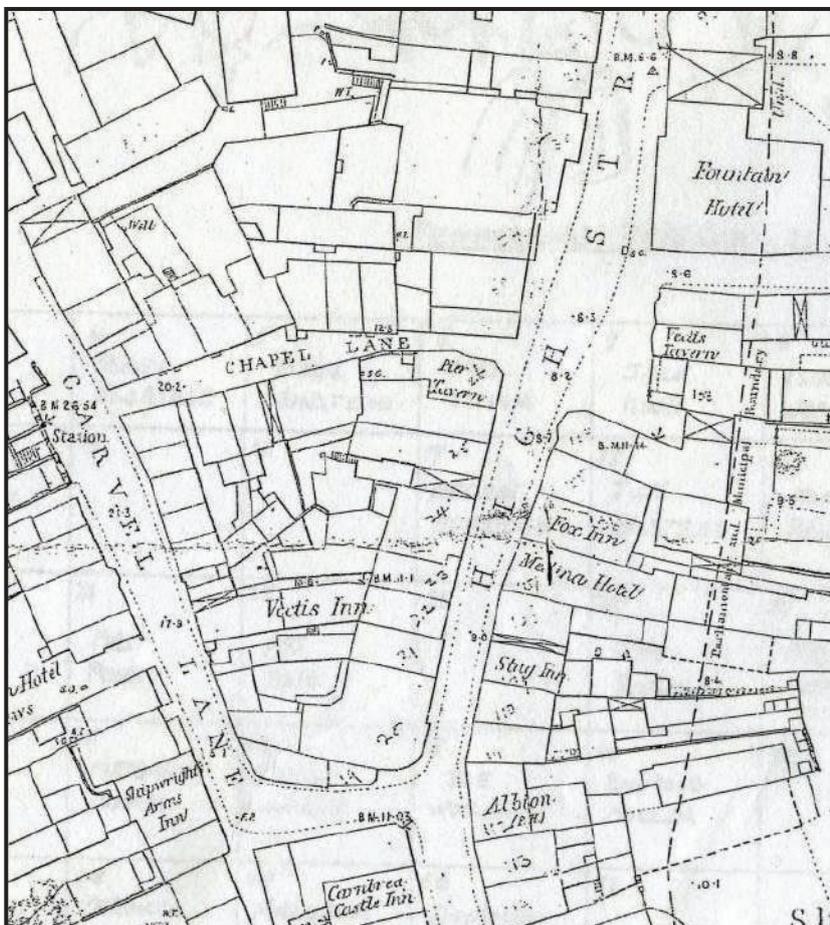
Demolished between February and April 1973 the Royal Oak was situated on the left-hand side of Terminus Rd going up the hill. It was just above where the Co-op goods in entrance is today, almost directly opposite another pub; the Wheatsheaf. As seen in the photo this was a Long's house, later taken over by Brickwood's in 1933. Its days were numbered when the last train left Cowes in 1966.

## Wheatsheaf (former), Terminus Rd



Note the Mews sign on the lower wall. In 1900 Cowes District Council, approved Mew's application to rebuild the Wheatsheaf. Plans held by the Record Office match the resultant building replaced an earlier building opened possibly with the arrival of the railway in 1862. Landlord in 1875, William Butts White only had to walk across the road to report for his other job as a railway guard. His widow Harriet inherited the tenancy in 1895 when William died. She was followed by her son Ernest Edward; the licence was transferred from mother to son in November 1906. Ernest continued the transport link being a railway clerk.

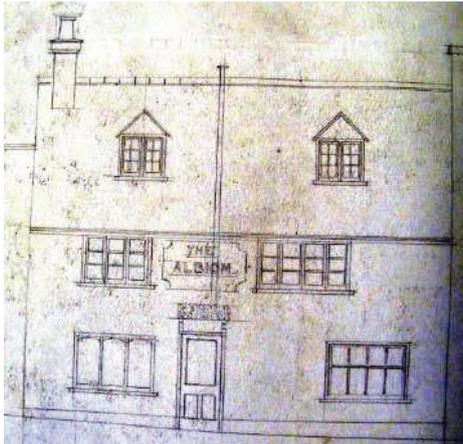
## Shipwrights Arms Inn (former), Carvel Lane



This 1866 map shows 8 pubs in the area between Hurst's and the Fountain, The Shipwright's is bottom left roughly where the buses stop today. 1786 is the earliest mention I have found when it was bought by brewer, Richard Cooke. Coincidentally an early licensed victualler, Charles Miller, was a shipwright by trade. It was bought in 1845 by Benjamin Mew. The Shipwrights was a significant building with a large garden and orchard. Described in 1906 by Inspector Bignell as a very old house. At the General Annual Licensing Meeting he gave precise measurements. "Front bar 7'2" high 11' 6" long and 5'9" broad, a Tap room 7'2" x 17' x 6'6", a Smoking room 7'2" x 11'6" x 11', a Side room 6'9" x 10'6" x 8'." There was back entrance from Cross St, (a 49-yard walkthrough the orchard.) which proved difficult to supervise. Wit

### **Carnbrea Castle (former), 17 High St**

This pub traded where the left-hand side of Hurst's is today. The building has a brick dated 1833 on the side wall, the pub was one of three businesses. A long-time landlord William Parsons lived here with his wife, 3 sons and 2 daughters aged 17 and 19 plus 7 lodgers all seamen and all aged in their 20s; a potentially interesting household! Fourteen people in what was not that big a space, but then cramped conditions were quite normal in those days. Legend has it that William supplemented his income by smuggling, there is an exit at the back which still leads into "Thrunge" (Middleton Terrace), a real no-go area for law enforcement in those days and a handy escape route. A Mew Langton house it closed in 1900.



### **Albion (former), 112 High St**

Previously known as the George IV the name being changed in 1837, coinciding with the accession of Queen Victoria. It is now Costa coffee and there is nothing left of the earlier building. This poor-quality plan suggests what it would have looked like.

A Mew's house with access to the sea it suffered the fate of many drinking

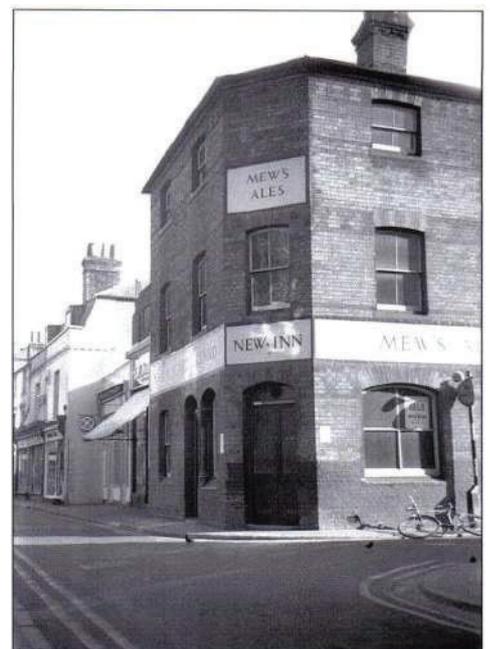
outlets post 1900 when classed as a rough house doing little trade it closed in 1912. It became the International Tea Company. Any trace of the original building was destroyed by a bomb in 1942.



### **Luncheon Bar (former), 13 High St**

Although it does not sound like a pub it was described by the police in 1913 when closure was imminent as "Formerly the worst in Cowes, used by the worst class of person.". Much of the information regarding the establishment, the earliest reference I found was in 1871 when it is listed as

an alehouse and restaurant selling Burton Ales; Albert Edward Tyler retailer. When closed E Baker a baker took over, and, more recently was Olivers shoe shop, with the name still in the mosaic paving to the shopfront. Today, White Stuff trade here.

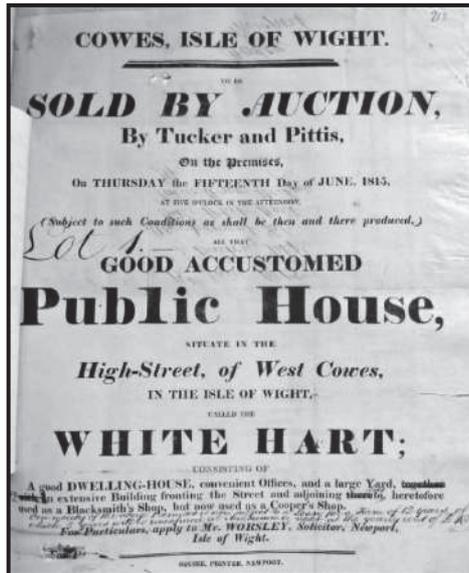


### **New Inn (former), 7 High St**

Formerly the Star Inn which when it burnt down in 1859 was replaced by the New Inn. The site is now filled by Day Lewis chemists It closed in the early 1960s & the site was empty for several years.

## White Hart (former), 5 High St

Heading back along the High St on the right roughly where M & Co & Decker's are today, was an old house, the White Hart. An auction held on 26<sup>th</sup> September 1787 includes the White Hart Public house, a very good building, two rooms in front, with lay builders shed adjoining, and a yard. Reserved Rent 5/- Annual Value £12.00. The auction advertised (left) resulted in it being purchased by George Ward of Northwood House who seemed intent on buying the whole of the Isle of Wight.



An order for the reception of a pauper patient, William Henry Cooke age 33, of the White Hart Inn, issued in 1864. It is likely to have included his wife and 5 children, all housed separately in male, female and children's wards. He had been licensed victualler at the Star in 1855 so this was some fall from grace. The workhouse was not a good place to end up in.

The pub closed in 1899 when Mew's applied for removal of a full licence in exchange for new licensed premises on the outskirts of Cowes (the Kingston Arms).

## Anchor Inn, 1 High St

Possibly the oldest of the surviving public houses in Cowes. It was established in 1704 under the sign of the Three Trumpeters; the name is more likely to relate to a local name for bullocks, (bugle or trumpet,) rather than a musical connection. An early landlord was Lodowith or Ludwyche Brandenburg, in 1704



he was granted a 99-year lease for land at St Mary's Mead, it is unclear whether he moved into an existing building or one built from scratch. During the 18<sup>th</sup> Century had its own quay with access directly to the sea, the seaward side of the High St is mostly reclaimed land and it is still susceptible to flooding. When it comes to bragging rights for famous visitors the Anchor wins hand down after an unannounced and totally unexpected visit by Princes William and Harry in April 2008 as part of their Cousin Peter Phillip's stag do. Apparently other local establishments turned them down as they did not "do Stag nights" their loss I feel.

In April 2014, the Anchor was voted best Island pub by members of CAMRA, Real ale drinkers will know just what is required to win this accolade.



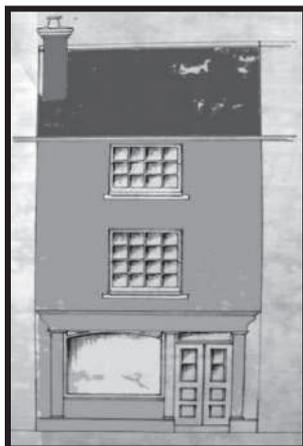
## Sainsbury's

Why this supermarket? Notice the 1<sup>st</sup> floor which has retained something of the original building. Once Wilton House home of the Days a very prominent family in Cowes in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. It was Stephen Day who in 1729 started the saltern in the marsh south of the road to the ferry. It extended up as far as the salt house where the water was boiled off to get the sale, which stood roughly just below the Duke of York. It later became Brown's, pictured here.

# Anchor Inn – Union Inn

## Cowes Marina

Cowes Marina, as the Cowes Yacht Haven is known, is on the site of the old Groves and Gutteridge working boat-yard and provides berthing in addition to the lifting and repair services to meet the demand that grew from the international yachting activity that has put Cowes at the fore of the sailing world.



## Vectis Inn (former), 22 High St

Not to be confused with the Vectis Tavern this long narrow house, just 12ft 6in wide, was situated roughly where Hamilton's is today with a back entrance in Carvel Lane. It did not become an inn until the 1850s. Prior to which, in 1841 Charles A Pinhorn, a coal merchant, resided here, followed by cordwainer Thomas Lee and his family, in 1850. Known, for a spell, as the Railway Tavern; its back entrance being opposite the station entrance, it was favourably situated as a short cut or stopping place between the ferry terminal and the trains. How many travellers alighting from ferry or train would have used a short cut that included a pint or two of Mew's finest.

## Stag Inn (former), 107 High St

A *shot lived outlet* which stood where Shorelines is today, about which there is little information. Elizabeth Ratsey who had previously been at the Albion with her husband Linn is recorded as a widow and tavern keeper in the 1861 census living here with her two sons, both unmarried. Edward, 37 was an ironmonger's assistant, Linn, 28 a ship's carpenter. The name is identified by the 1864 map. This map is the only time listed I have found it referred to as the Stag inn. Smith's directory of 1866/67 refers to the occupier R Spencer as a beer retailer. By 1871 it seems as if beer retailing had finished, carpenter William Taylor lived here and by 1879 Taylors the jewellers; the oldest family firm still trading in Cowes, owned and ran the property.

## Medina Hotel (former), 106 High St

Now Saffron this was another short-lived outlet, in an area awash with drinking places. In 1864 John Savery Webber was in trouble with the law. The Hampshire Telegraph describes affray and illegal gambling. Webber, describes as an innkeeper & auctioneer, was charged with assault on George Corke, a local butcher. The Magistrate dismissed the charges; parties to pay their own costs. Unfortunately for the landlord the trouble stemmed from a card game This 1942 picture shows the devastation in the area following the blitz on Cowes and he was also charged with suffering gambling in his house without a license. He was fined 40/- plus costs.



## Commercial Inn (former), 105 High St

his Inn was often referred to as "**the Bird Cage**". I have heard two explanations for the name. One is that the bow window looks like a birdcage; the one I prefer was that this establishment was the haunt of local "ladies of ill repute", who could be viewed through the barred windows by the many sailors visiting the town. In the 1960s and early 1970s this was a popular "local" run by Albert and Rene Sivier. Albert was in his youth goalkeeper for the Island football team. ^From 1966 until 1973 Eddie & Joan Green kept this small but popular pub. In 1976 Murray Dixon, a nephew of that well-known yacht designer, Uffa Fox, took over the empty Commercial and transformed it into a world renown fish restaurant.

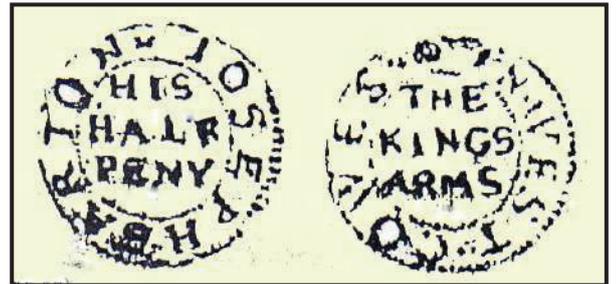
## Pier View Hotel, High St.



Today the Pier View Hotel is a popular place for both locals and visiting yachtsmen to quench their thirst. Passage along the High St during Cowes Week evenings is impeded by the overflow of happy drinkers from the Pier View and the Anchor. Previously the Pier Tavern, a small awkward house replaced by today's building in 1906. At this time, Messrs Scrase & Co of Southampton were leaseholders. (Scrase's, brewers were founded in 1829 at Upper Back of Walls, 29 High St, Southampton. The company were acquired by Strong & Co. Ltd in 1927 and brewing ceased in 1947.) Strong's continued run what was, I believe, their only Cowes outlet until the Whitbread takeover.

## King's Arms (former), 27 High St

Long gone this was a very old inn set on the corner opposite to the Pier View. This 1669 Trade Token belonged to Joseph Barton; it is the earliest evidence concerning the Kings Arms I have found. Trade tokens formed a convenient substitute for coin of the realm, in short supply during periods of rapid



growth. The obverse side reads: The Kings Arms in West Cowes; the reverse: Joseph Barton, his half penny (sic).

## Vectis Tavern, High St.



Printed on the wall it states this house has traded since 1757; while I have no cause to dispute this I have found no reference to the Vectis Tavern before 1861. It does not appear in either the 1830 Pigot's directory or in any of the Magistrates Licensing Books between 1832 and 1844. Clearly though it is a very old building, possibly trading as a coffee tavern rather than licensed premises. A point of interest is the line well up the inside road showing the highest point reached by flood water, once a regular occurrence. Still open an inviting.

## Fountain Hotel, High St.

The Fountain can be described as the centre of Cowes; both geographically and socially. Here peers and potboys rubbed shoulders as they passed through the archway that linked the town to the steamer service to Southampton. Situated at one of the gateways to the Island this impressive building was a major hostelry in the town even before it was rebuilt in 1803. It dates back to the 17<sup>th</sup> Century original known as the Fleece or Golden Fleece. To

those who think Cowes is unsafe at night read on and feel thankful. November 5<sup>th</sup> 1869 saw the last bonfire held in Cowes High St. The guy was an effigy of Tom Jones, proprietor of the Fountain Hotel. The effigy was paraded all-round the town by a rowdy crowd. The procession ended outside the Fountain where the effigy of the unfortunate landlord was set on top of a huge pile of wood and shavings, made even more flammable by the addition of Stockholm tar barrels stolen from Ratsey's yard. Apparently, the Fountain's landlord was chosen for this ignominy because he had upset local men who chose to parade through the town of an evening instead of using the Fountain Tap. The police attempted to intervene and a real riot ensued. The whole area was like a slaughter-house, or worse, you could not find a whole square inch of ground that was not covered in blood.



## Pascal Atkey & Son Ltd

Claimed to be the oldest yacht chandlers in the UK. The last member of the Atkey family sold the business in the 1960s. An ironmongery business was established in Cowes by Pascall Atkey's father Joseph Atkey (1771-1813). Joseph Atkey had married Christian Larkins Pascall who came from a very influential family of Dover – hence the origin of Pascall's name. Pascall Atkey (1808-1882) was just five when his father died but his mother kept the business going. Then in 1840 Christian 'retired' and Pascall Atkey, at the age of 32, took over sole control of the business: Pascall Atkey & Son, Est 1799. That same year Pascall married Helen Ratsey who was the daughter of George Rogers Ratsey, the founder of the internationally famous sail making firm of Ratsey & Lapthorne of Cowes. In 1844.



## Britannia Arms (former), Fountain Yard

The building part of the Arcade still stands but the Britannia closed in the 1990s. This was a real old-fashioned drinker's pub; Monday night was men's darts, Tuesdays, ladies' night and Wednesday it was cribbage. The Britannia belonged to all three Cowes & District leagues. Tragedy struck in 1973 when landlady, Mrs Batchelor was killed by a fall down the wooden spiral staircase at the rear of the building. Her son Gary helped his father through the difficult period taking over the licence for 6 weeks, in order to preserve the licence for Mews, following his father's death in 1974. Gary who later became managing director of Southern Vectis recalls a lively few weeks. Irish labourers working on the new Crossfield Estate worked like navvies all week then drunk in the Britannia all weekends. Regular fights on Saturday evenings in this very small pub were a real headache, in more ways than one.

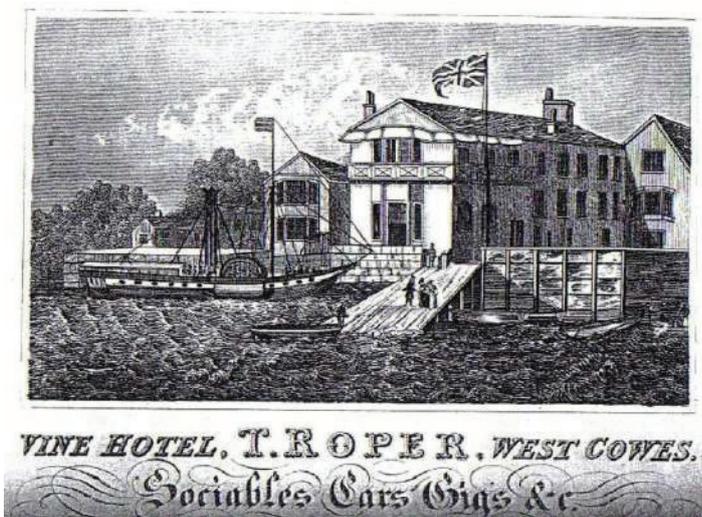


## Red Funnel

1861 to date. The Southampton Isle of Wight and South of England Royal Mail Steam Packet Company Limited was formed in 1861. The Company is the original operator to the Isle of Wight and has a distinguished and colourful history spanning over 146 years.



## Vine Hotel (former), 95 High St



An 18<sup>th</sup>

century building it was in 1782 conveyed by John Harvey to Richard Cooke a Newport brewer. By 1787 the Vine was clearly an important building when on September 26<sup>th</sup> the Star Inn, Anchor, Bell, and the White Hart were all sold by auction at the Vine. Possibly the last person to run the business as a hotel went by the rather grand name of Gibson Le Touzel; a British subject born in what was then Cape Colony (South Africa). Gibson and his wife Miriam followed the Victorian habit of large families; they had seven children under 14 when the census was taken in 1891. The Vine ceased trading as a hotel round about 1898 and this fine building was demolished.

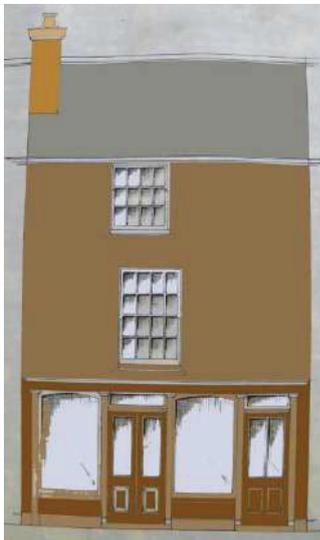
### Red Lion (former), 35 High St

This inn is almost certainly from the 18<sup>th</sup> century. David Corke was licensed victualler in 1830, he was also a ship's master employed by George Ward and William Fitzhugh's Isle of Wight Royal Mail Steam Packet Company (later to become Red Funnel). Records show that in 1857 he had been promoted to manager of the company. Purchased by Benjamin Mew in 1843 it was not transferred to W B Mew Langton & Co until 1881. Older citizens might remember the last landlady, Mrs Rose Cleary who died aged 83 in 1960, Following its use as a temporary base for the Royal British Legion in the 1950s Eddie Brown had his off-licence here for several years; it was still owned by Mews. Today it is just another marine clothing outlet. The Dolphin Hotel/Restaurant sign projects into the road on the right



### Britannia Inn (former) 37 High St

Not to be confused with the Britannia Arms it was a beer house in 1850s prior to it being named. Frederick Kamm is an interesting licensee. German born, but a British subject he was only twenty when the licence was transferred from Harry Cutler in 1898. He married a Cowes girl, Minnie. They continued to run this small house until 1907 when I believe they moved next door to the Victoria Bar (see later) when this inn became redundant. It stood where the Red Duster is today.



### Victoria Arms (former), 39 High St

This enhanced Stafford & Millgate plan shows a narrow building. It possessed something unique, not found in any other Cowes' pubs, a miniature rifle range, (miniature being the operative word given the size of this pub). Apparently, an old skittle alley had been converted by the enterprising Frederick Kamm who had moved from the Britannia in 1907. Despite this innovation little trade was done, the landlord being a yacht steward and frequently absent. It was enough to ensure the license was revoked, Mews receiving compensation the 'Kamm's losing their livelihood and probably their home.

### Dolphin Hotel (former), 93 High St



In 1817 the last recorded death through duelling in Cowes started with a disagreement between parties staying in the Dolphin, the victim John Sutton was buried in St Mary's, the killer one Major Lockyer found guilty of wilful murder fled possibly abroad. It evolved into more of a restaurant than hotel





### **Sloop Inn (former), 89 High St.**

The only evidence that an inn once traded on this site is a plaque “The Sloop” on the white gates where the High St widens slightly. This picture shows Walter Tombleson, the last landlord round about 1900. He held a pedlar’s licence and judging by very low customer figures not that successful a landlord. These figures were used by Mew Langton’s to seek closure and compensation with a view to open a pub on the Moorgreen estate. No pub was ever built, however Mew’s owned a plot of land which for many years was used as a bowling green, Cowes boxing club was on the site, today it is part of the Seaview Rd Estate. The Sloop closed in about 1909.

### **Brewery & Mews Store (former), 88 High St.**

One of Cowes’ oldest houses, it was originally built

out of ship’s timbers, then brick faced in the Georgian style – a very handsome house. The adjoining shop was taken over by Mew Langton’s the Newport brewers in the 1850s and they exported beer to the mainland from the quay behind the shop (and imported it to Cowes from Newport



### **True Blue (former), 2 Sun Hill**

Leaving the High St and just a few paces up Sun Hill on the left, roughly where Moira House is today, stood the True Blue. Early references to the Sun Inn suggest that at one time an inn by this name stood on this site, Charles Corke being the landlord. An entry for 1839 shows Thomas Corke as licensed victualler for what is by now the True Blue. A tale of decline can be deduced from the Mew’s sales ledger for the period 1876 to 1879. 45 barrels of beer sold during the first year and only 18 barrels by 1879; hardly an economic enterprise which closed shortly afterwards.

### **Prince of Wales (former), 6 Sun Hill**

Formerly the Little Dolphin this long narrow building laid back on the right going up Sun Hill, roughly where the car park for Crown Court is today. No trace of its existence remains. The Little Dolphin was purchased by Richard Cooke in 1794. In 1844 the name change to the Prince of Wales is recorded. Victoria and Albert’s first son, Albert Edward, (later Edward VII) was born in 1841 and made Prince of Wales just one month later; maybe this name change marked this event.

### **Grapes Inn (former), 30 Sun Hill**

I believe this to be a very old building, possibly built as a farmhouse in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century. When it became, the Grapes is unclear, but well before it is listed under Inns and Taverns in an 1830 directory. An interesting landlord was George King Whitmarch who not only ran the inn he was also the Registrar for Births and Deaths (not sure about Marriages) and vaccination officer for East and West Cowes; a busy man. He was assisted by his wife Mary and barmaid, Ellen Lillywhite. Ten years later George, now 82, has a new wife Fanny, 40 years his junior, (Mary died in 1878). Even at the age of 82 he is still the Registrar.

He died the following year, from exhaustion maybe! Now trading as Rawlings Hotel, it recently underwent a change of ownership, the new owners also acquired the old Forester’s Hall next door and have upgraded the hotel.



## Three Crowns (former), 47 High St



Sadly, gone never to be restored; naively optimistic in the Pubs of Cowes book about planning approval to restore the original façade of a building which it could be said “did it fall or was it pushed?” The present structure is classed a “temporary” which satisfies the planners.

Legend has it that original name for this inn was the Plough & Furrow, and that it dates back to the 1600s. The name was changed when three foreign princes, stranded off Cowes, sought shelter here. I have no evidence to support this; however, it is a nice story. The most likely explanation for this pub name relates to the Magi. In 1843 this inn was one of the properties purchased by Benjamin Mew from John Cooke. Reference is made to this in the Title of Trustees to the late Benjamin Mew in 1851. The firm that was to become W B Mew Langton Co Ltd was busy acquiring pubs, although the official transfer of title did not occur until 1881. The County Press on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 1974 recorded the funeral of Mrs Ruth “Dot” Bartley. Born in Birmingham she came to the Island in 1944 and

had been licensee of the Three Crowns for 17 years. Over 200 people attended the funeral; among them were Robin Knox-Johnston and many visiting yachtsmen. This was the local for many Cowes Week participants. Dot even, as a joke, started her own “yacht club” with its own burgee and ties, worn by “members all over the world”. Local charities were close to her heart; she was Cowes organizer for the King George’s Fund for Sailors and a founder member of the Molly Webster Memorial Fund. Anne Bartley who married the incumbent James Bartley in 1976 was for many years a well-known and very popular landlady. Perhaps best remembered as “Shanghai Lil”, so called because, like the original, she was known to help sailors (and others) down on their luck. She was so proud of this sobriquet that she took the name plaque “Shanghai Lil” from the bar to place on the front door of her new home just up Sun Hill.

## Prospect Max Aitkin Museum

Originally, in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the sail making loft for Ratsey and Lapthorn, the building was bought by Sir Max Aitken in 1947, and, now, houses a collection of historical and nautical artefacts.

John William Maxwell Aitken was born in Canada in 1910, he was the eldest son of Lord Beaverbrooke, the owner of the Daily Express newspaper group. Sir Max was educated at Pembroke college, Cambridge, where he joined the Auxiliary Air Force and flew in the Battle of Britain, to be awarded the Distinguished Service Order and the Distinguished Flying Cross and he was Knighted in the 1940s.

A keen yachtsman, he had several boats built by local yards Clare Lallow and Souter’s’. He, also, started the Offshore Powerboat Race in 1961.

## Bolton Yacht Inn (former), 79 High St.

Another interesting High St inn long gone; buildings next door now housing Max Aitken museum & the Prospect are largely unchanged. One-time owner, brewer William Baron Mew who was also a Harbour Commissioner, his ownership and connections meant that a succession of landlords of this pub were also Harbourmaster’s. One harbourmaster and licensee was William Lawrence, he and his wife Mary Ann, also referred to as a Harbourmaster and Publican, occupied the Bolton Yacht from 1877 until 1885. A sad tale can be found in the August 2013 Friends of Northwood Cemetery Newsletter

“In January 1884 Mary Anne Lawrence, the landlady of the *Bolton Yacht Inn* at Cowes, was found dead on the tiny piece of beach at the rear of the pub. It was well known that her husband had treated her badly for more than 20 years and the day before she was found he had thrown a tin of fat and hot sausages at her, hitting her in the throat. When the funeral cortege left the house a crowd of local people booed and hissed at the husband as he joined the procession.

At Northwood Cemetery around 1,000 people turned up and, following the service, they rushed to the Cemetery gates to once again hiss and catcall at the husband. Friends, it was learnt, had applied to two magistrates to investigate further the cause of Mrs Lawrence’s death as they were not satisfied that she had died of natural causes. However, Mary and William, her Harbour Master husband, were buried together in Northwood Cemetery in Grave 325 on Plot 12. Mary was buried on the 4<sup>th</sup> January 1884 (aged 44) and William on the 10<sup>th</sup> February 1915 (aged 77). We can only hope that they rest in peace together.”



## Crown Hotel (former), 53 High St



Today an upmarket baker's is trading on the spot where this hotel once stood. In 1851 it was probably a small, possibly terraced, house selling beer; George Smith is described as a beer shop keeper. Ten years later the occupant Thomas Haden was an innkeeper. In 1866 he was described as a wine and spirit merchant. I believe Thomas married the

incumbent licensee Sarah Smith. The present building probably dates from the 1870s possibly the new building and the new name coincided. Although called an hotel it did seem to make more profit from drinkers than boarders.



## Bedford Hotel (former), 59 High St

More a rather small inn than a hotel, (right in photo) I sense that this was always one step away from closure, indeed it was described as uninhabited in the 1881 census. There is nothing to suggest that liquor was sold here in 1841 or earlier, sometime in the next ten years Thomas Raynes became the inn keeper, living with him was his wife Helen, a domestic servant and a foreign mariner lodger. Aged 31 he was son of the late Thomas Raynes who had been at the Three Crowns. The final act is recorded by the County Press, 27<sup>th</sup> Feb 1932. "The demolition of the Bedford Inn in Cowes was almost complete. The dilapidated former pub on the corner of Market Hill, was taken in exchange by the district council for the former Town Hall on the opposite side of the hill. The district council had not decided what to do with the site but it was probable that a ladies' toilet would be put in its place." The Town Hall had become redundant because of the gift of Northwood House in 1929. No ladies' toilet was ever built and the whole area was severely damaged in the blitz of 1942.



## George Hotel (Plume of Feathers - former), High St

Joined in one article although the earlier Plume of Feathers might have been a few paces up the hill. Although I have not seen the evidence it is generally agreed that Charles I passed the night of the 13<sup>th</sup> November 1647 at the Plume of Feathers before he proceeded on to what was to become his imprisonment in Carisbrooke Castle. Apparently, he slept in an old bed of carved oak and in gilt letters over the headboard was the biblical text 'Remember thy end' which, not surprisingly he took as a bad omen.

The George Hotel captured in this busy scene probably built near 1800 & named after George III. Sat on this prominent corner, which in my view deserves a better replacement than the flats. Destroyed during the May 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> 1942 blitz this building familiar to generations of visitors to Cowes High was no more.

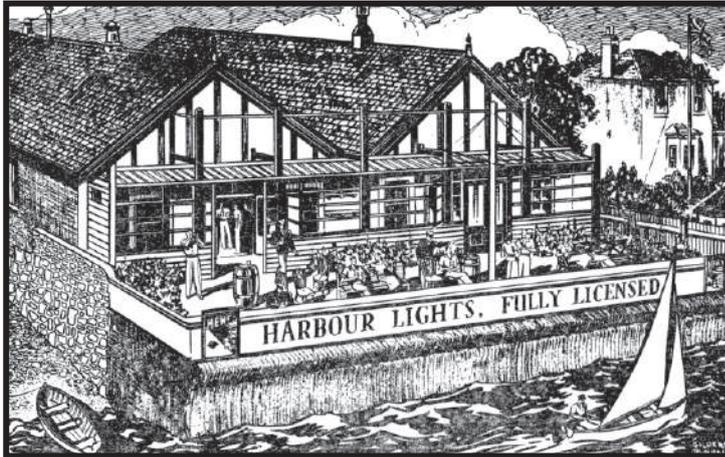


## Prince Regent (former), Market Hill

A short walk up Market Hill finds a private residence which retains the façade of the building which replaced an earlier premise. The first mention of the Prince Regent I have found is in 1830, where it is listed in Feather's Hill, (an earlier name for Market Hill; this relates to a very old inn the Plume of Feathers alternatively known as the Feathers Inn). In 1909 a damning report stated "It is a very old house, one of the oldest in Cowes, it is used by a very rough class, and by reputed prostitutes" fortunately Mews were allowed to rebuild the premises and create a better class of establishment. It closed in the 1950s.



## Harbour Lights (Waterside - former), 72 High St



The most recent pub lost to Cowes, it was also the youngest (prior to Cowes Ale House opening) In 1942 much of Cowes had been damaged or destroyed including the building where the Harbour Lights was to rise, a wartime rarity. These 1950s images supports evidence that it started life in two Nissan huts joined together. A not particularly building replaced the huts offering drinkers a superb view of the Solent; sadly, this is now limited to those who can afford the £1Million asking price for the flats that replaced it.

## Benzie, 61 High Street

Founded by Simpson Benzie, Esq. in 1862, the "Benzie Ball" (lost during the second world war) on top of the building, was dropped at the stroke of 1200hrs. GMT as the chief time-keeper for the Royal Navy in the Eastern Solent. Simpson Benzie was the first to design a clock to strike the ship's bells, and a Benzie clock hung on a bulkhead on the Royal Yacht, Britannia. The firm has held no fewer than eight Royal Warrants.

## Island Sailing Club

Founded in 1889 as a sailing club for other than the aristocracy, was notable for its progressive membership policy in allowing women members. In 1930, it stated the Round the Island Race. This refreshment stop offers a fine view of the Solent.

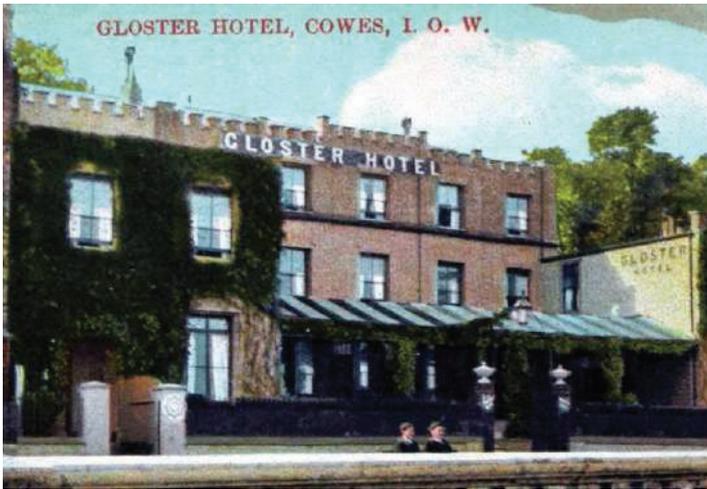
## Marine Tap (former), Bath Rd

Heading down Bath Rd, the listed building now Kirby of Cowes was once the Marine Tap. The Tap was for many years run separately from the Marine Hotel. In 1898 Charles T Rotherham is shown as licensee of the Tap and George Alexandra in charge of the Marine Hotel. An interesting manager ran the Marine Tap in 1901, he was 34-year-old Joseph Zund, a Swiss subject, he had married Ventnor born Elizabeth Annie Drake in 1893 and they had three young daughters; six-year-old Catherine, Margery aged 3 and Rosa who was not yet a year old. By 1915 William Bull is landlord of both the hotel and the Tap, He stayed through the war retiring in the 1930s.



The tap was converted into a café in order to catch the growing numbers of day trippers visiting Cowes, becoming the Copper Kettle, a cosy and welcoming little restaurant.

## Gloster Hotel (former), The Parade



Now a bland block of expensive flats where an important hotel once accommodated the rich & famous, before demolition it had evolved into a night club, in its last years, much loved by the youth of Cowes in the 1970s. This Hotel owes its name to a visit by the Duke of Gloucester and his sister, Princess Sophia (children of George 3<sup>rd</sup>) in 1811. It was the home for the Royal Yacht Squadron prior to its move to Cowes Castle in 1855. Among the important guests was Lord Randolph Churchill; he met Jenny Jerome in Cowes, Winston Churchill was the result of their union. In 1871, during his exile, Napoleon III, Emperor of France and his wife Eugenie stayed at this hotel.

## Osborne Court (& Yachtsman Bar)

This art deco block of flats, designed to resemble an ocean liner, replaced a row of terraced houses in the 1930's. Commandeered during the war as a military station, now private apartments, housing the town's newest pub, The Yachtsman.



## Royal London Yacht Club

Originally, founded in London, by a group of gentlemen who met regularly at the Coal Hole Tavern in The Strand, the club decided to move to the Island in 1882, and occupied the same two regency building it occupies today (right of Osborne Court).

## Royal Corinthian Yacht Club

Originally a fisherman's beer house, back in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the premises is held to have become a notorious house of 'entertainment' for gentlemen visiting the Royal Yacht Squadron, across the road. The Royal Corinthian Yacht Club, based in Burnham, bought the premises from Rosa Lewis's estate, and set up its Southern branch, with its ethos to promote amateur yachting. The club has now merged and is renamed as the Royal Ocean Racing Club.



## Royal Yacht Squadron



Henry VIII's castle, Cow Castle, built around 1540 along with a similar castle in East Cowes to protect the Medina from the threat of French invasion, the castle became redundant in the 1850s and was leased to the Marquis of Conyngham and then the Royal Yacht Squadron. The RYS originated as a London yacht club for founded by aristocrats in 1815, first basing themselves in local pubs, and, for 20 years in the Gloster Hotel, the castle became its home under the patronage of King William IV, also, the Squadron's first Admiral.

The 22 brass cannon, still used, today, to start Cowes Week races originated on William IV's model warship Royal Adelaide, which sunk in Virginia Water in 1834.

During WW2, the Castle and nearby buildings were offered to the admiralty. From 1942 as HMS Vectis, the castle became the HQ of J Force which was part of the D Day invasion fleet onto Juno Beach. The Parade was shut off to the public and patrolled by the military.



### Pavilion Hotel (former)

This wooden building offering fine views to its customers stood where the Bandstand is today. It was demolished in 1958 or 1959,

### Marine Hotel (former)

A prime site within sight of the prestigious Royal Yacht Squadron, this hotel for many years catered for a genteel clientele. Developers saw the potential of the site which had become rather run-down flats, building what they chose to call No.1 The Parade.



### The Globe

Nice to welcome the return of the Globe after a spell of it being China China for several years. This picture captures a bygone age of paddle steamers, the "lost" Victoria Piers and delivery by horse & cart of beer in wooden barrels.

### RNLI

Just along from the Globe, at the bottom of Watchhouse Lane, backing onto the Island Sailing Club, is the RNLI station, occupying the former Customs and Excise house.

### Union Inn



Still open and an award winning popular pub this is a very old building, it is believed that originally three fisherman's cottages stood here, possibly as far back as

the 16<sup>th</sup> century. The name could relate to either the Act of Union between

England and Scotland in 1706 or the later 1801 Acts

of Union between Great Britain and Ireland; probably the former. Here the Mursell family & regulars stand outside this inn; a fitting end to the Beer Walk.



