

Carisbrooke & Lukely Brook Historic Pub Walk



Newport & Carisbrooke
Parish Council



IW Branch CAMRA

An historic walk through one of the Island's most significant parishes, no less than the last place of residence albeit as captive, for King Charles I, before being beheaded. Carisbrooke was the centre of the Island for its rulers and defences for centuries.

Contents

An Introduction to Carisbrooke

Carisbrooke, the Island's capital for centuries and was once called Buccombe or Beaucombe - *fair valley*. The site of the old Carisbrooke railway station lies on the grounds of Christ the King College; an bank in the ground being all the evidence of the old line. When in 1917 the British royal family changed its name from the "House of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha" to the "House of Windsor" and renounced all German titles, the title of Marquess of Carisbrooke was created for the erstwhile German Prince Alexander of Battenberg.

Carisbrooke Castle

Originally the site of a Roman fort, the present castle was built in the decades following William the Conqueror's establishment in England by the FitzOsbern family and was granted to Richard de Redvers in 1100 by the newly crowned King Henry I. The castle remained in the de Redvers possession until the bloodline ended in 1294, except for a short period when Baldwin de Redvers, taking refuge in the castle from a dispute with the then King, Stephen, exchanged the castle for his life. At the time all the wells had run dry, with the exception of that in the castle. But, the very last of the de Redver line was by no means the least. Isabella de Fortibus, sister of Baldwin de Redvers, inherited his titles and land, which included Lord of the Isle of Wight. In 1262, she became one of the richest and most powerful ladies in the land, and the last independent lord of the Island, which she cared for and defended with passion and skill. After her death in 1293, the castle became the property of Edward I and the Crown.

Under the ownership of Edward II's daughter Isabel, the castle withstood the French invasion of 1377. Then, in 1647 King Charles I took refuge at Carisbrooke but the castle turned into his prison and his daughter princess Elizabeth died there aged 14. In the 19th century, it became the royal residence of Princess Beatrice, the 9th daughter of Queen Victoria, who established the museum in the bailey and formed the gardens, now recently restored.

Pubs with a Purpose, in Carisbrooke

Pubs and refreshment rooms flourished in the 19th century as visitors made their way from the station (NNE of St Marys church - near Kinchington Road) up to the castle. As motor transport took a hold in the 20th century rail travel faded, reducing visitors to the village as they were delivered to the castle doorstep.

The Route Described

The following pages describe the various buildings and sites that we shall be talking about on our route. There is a lot more to Carisbrooke and this Walk is designed to just give a flavour of the wealth of heritage that lies in the places many pass by without realising the depth of interest that surrounds them.

Recommended Reading

Newport Pubs (Kevin Mitchell). <http://www.islandrivers.org.uk/the-rivers/newport-rivers/lukely-brook/>; <http://www.newportwight.org.uk/projects/memories-of-newport/>; <https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/carisbrooke-castle/history/>; <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carisbrooke>

The Brewery History Society – (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

The Isle of Wight branch of CAMRA – (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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St Dominic's (Carisbrooke) Priory

The striking Grade II listed building situated to the south east of the castle on the Whitcombe Road, was designed by the Pugin (and Brunel) influenced architect Gilbert Blount in 1866.

The Priory was built for an order of Dominican missionary nuns, who sold the building to the current owners, a charitable Trust, in 1993, and have continued to run it as a place of refuge and tranquillity, with tea rooms open to the public.



Plais Meadows – Bowcombe Valley

Facing west, with your back to the priory, lies the Bowcombe Valley (Bowcombe; the original name for Carisbrooke). Straight ahead, to the left, Froglands Lane descends to the fords and the beginnings of Lukely Brook in Plais Meadows SINC (Site of Interest to Nature Conservation).

Before turning right at the three-way junction, note the uncommon array of accommodation at the Windmill Campersite, which includes a converted helicopter among other unusual forms.

Carisbrooke Paper Mill

Just past the junction, before the ford, on the right-hand-side, was the paper mill, the only one on the Island (1710). Nothing remains of the mill now, but the pond can still be seen through the hedgerow.

Shute Inn

The next junction with Clatterford Shute, is Millers Lane, which leads us on into Carisbrooke. A short detour above the ford (and watercress beds), halfway up the hill, on the left-hand-side, is Clatterford House, now a private dwelling, but a hotel in the 1970's and then the Shute Inn in the 1980s, eventually closing after unsustainable losses in 1997.



Millers Lane to Castle Street

Crossing the ford at the end of Millers Lane into Castle Street, you can see Carisbrooke Mill on the other side and to the left, now converted as a private house. The 250yd mill race is thought to be the longest in the South of England, and it is believed there may have been a mill there since Roman times.

Carisbrooke Brewery & The Bugle Hotel

On the right, as you cross the ford, alongside the Brook, was Carisbrooke brewery, now replaced by a terrace of houses, not to be confused with the brewery of the same name in Trafalgar Road, Newport. At the other end

of Castle Street, on the corner with the High Street, opposite the church grounds, is the building that once was the Bugle Inn (closed 1927), now also a private residence. Note the low entrance doorway in relation to the ground floor level, where the bar used to be. In its day, the door was higher, with some dodgy looking steps up to it.

The Waverly

At the top of the hill is the current Waverly Hotel which replaced the Old George Inn building which, named after George III, was sited behind the current establishment. It was built and owned by the Newport brewer George Wavell and originally called the Vine Branch Inn – he was owner of the Vine Inn public house in Newport, too, and renamed the pub as a play on words – don't be fooled by the paddle steamer of the same name on the current pub sign, that came about a long time after.



The Blacksmiths (Arms)

Even further up the hill to the West (about 1.3 miles/ ½hr walk) sits the Blacksmiths, a place of gruesome smuggling legends, murder and hauntings, Now an establishment reputed for high quality pub food, in the early years of this century it was under the champion reign of legendary Bavarian landlord Edgar Neighorn, a regular winner of local CAMRA Pub of the Year and one time runner up to CAMRA National pub of the year.

The Church and The Gelders Arms

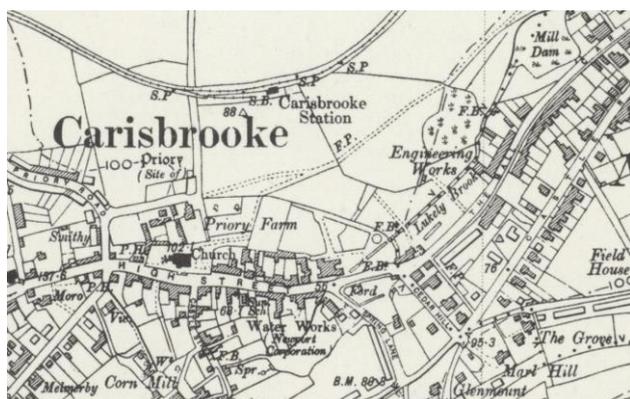
Across the road from the Waverly is St Marys Priory Church. At the main entrance to the church still stands the building once known as the Gelders Arms, later changed to the less eye-watering name, Cutters Arms until 1927, when it was closed.

The church was a cell of the Benedictine abbey of Lire, granted by William FitzOsbern in his tenure of lordship of the Isle of Wight (1067-70). It then became part of the Benedictine Priory of Carisbrooke, founded by Baldwin de Redvers (1156). The confirmation charter of Henry II to Lire Abbey lists their other possessions in the Island as the churches of Carisbrooke, Arreton, Freshwater, Godshell, Newchurch, Newtown and Whippingham



Priory Farm & the Site of Carisbrooke Station

A quick detour to the north side of the church will be rewarded in the sight of a hand print in the wall. There is also evidence of former buildings which may have formed part of the priory and included the Priory Farm still standing on the left-hand-side, where the N53 footpath crosses N64 footpath to Newport, which is well



used as a shortcut by locals traveling to and from the town.

The Priory Farm pond lies straight ahead of the junction and further on, where there are now school playing fields, was Carisbrooke Station, or Halt. The remnants of the old West Wight line can still be traced by foot, at least as far as Betty Haunt Lane bridge.

The Red Lion and Castle Hotels

Back to the church yard and down the stone steps leading to the High Street and the former Red Lion and Castle Hotels in the street below. The Red Lion (1852 – 1927), still had gas lighting in 1916, when it was a Mew Langton house.

Next door to its competitor, the Castle was opened in 1878 and carried on until closure in 1969. There are photographs from around the start of the 20th Century showing it as a 'Dashwood's Carisbrooke Brewery' house –

Charles Dashwood's brewery was in Trafalgar Road, less than a mile along the road to Newport, and shouldn't be confused with the brewery in Castle Street. It was later a Mew Langton house and is now the Coop store and Post Office.



There are stories of an ancient inn of this name on the eastern corner of Cedar Hill at its junction with the main road and where Lukely Brook passes under the road, beside the water works. It is now home to new housing.

The Eight Bells

On the opposite side of the road is the Eight Bells, with a splendid garden for children overlooking the mill pond. The name reflects the 8 bells in the church, although that was enhanced to 10 for the Queen's Jubilee.

The pub was listed in the Vectis Directory of 1839. It has long been a flourishing centre of village activities.

The Three Blackbirds



The Waterworks

From the mid 1880's the medical officer complained about the state of the water available in Carisbrooke and Newport and in 1894 there was a Typhoid epidemic in Newport. Road drains and sewers emptied into the Lukely Brook, which supplied water to Newport. Some thought the outbreak was due to contaminated milk or the foul smell, but by 1897 work on a new reservoir water works was underway, to open in May 1902.

The Trail to Newport

Before continuing along Recreation Ground Road, note, just beyond, at the junction of Castle Road with Carisbrooke Road, there is the Simeon Monument and a seat commemorating WWI. The Falcon was close to the start of Castle Road, closing in the 1960s, after around 100 years. It has now been restored as a house.

Further along the Carisbrooke Road, heading towards Newport, in times past you could have enjoyed a rest at the Bedford Arms on your right, or the rather box-shaped Bedford Inn further long on your left, opposite Bedford Row. The only remaining part being the post box in the wall (not the original wall).

The footpath from St Marys Church crosses Wellington Road on the north side of Lukely Brook, as the N58 and continues down to Recreation Ground Road, off the main Carisbrooke Road, where we pick it up to go along Wilver Road, into Westminster Lane leading straight into old Westminster Lane. The splendid gates to the Ground date from Queen Victoria's Jubilee. Off Recreation Ground Road is West Mill House, and the West Mill itself is now now converted into flats.



Old Westminster Lane

Westminster Mill, built in 1773, now a listed building, has been converted into flats.

Further along, where there is now a M^cCarthy & Stone development was the old Home Mill, demolished in 1935 and replaced with a Creamery, which survived until 2008, when it was in turn demolished for the present building.

Old Westminster Lane, until relatively recently (the end of 20th Century) remained a centre for industrial activity.

Crocker Street & Towngate

From Old Westminster Lane turn right up Mill Street then left into Crocker Street, where the Anchor Brewery and Brewery Tap used to be (built 1618).

Further along the street, on the opposite side is a small terrace of Worsley Alms Houses, built in 1618. The next pond, at Towngate (to the left, where the bridge crosses at the bottom of Hunnyhill) was used for watering livestock at the market town, and the Towngate mill received its water from further upstream.



St Cross Mill & The Viaduct Sculpture



On the northern side of Towngate bridge, off Hunnycross Way is a footpath (N34) that leads down past the old St Cross Mill and mill pond. The mill ceased in 1939.

Between the footpath and the bridge stands the sculpture work of local artisan mason Danny Stimson, in celebration of the old Towngate railway viaduct crossing.

In its day the brook served a number of industries centred around the oldest part of Newport, including Mew Langton brewery, tanneries, fellmongers, dyers and a cast iron foundry as well as serving the harbour docks and into what was the centre of the old Mew Langton Brewery Site, now the rear car park to Lidl



Crocker Street (east)

Entering Crocker Street via St Cross Lane, a short distance to the right is the former Blue School Foundation, at no 62, it schooled girls known as Blue Jenny's, for domestic service. Founded in 1761 in Lugly Street, the school moved to these larger premises in 1877 and closed in 1907. It became a memorial nursing home in 1921 and has hosted a variety of organisations since.

At no 57 was the Waggon & Horses and alehouse from 1769, replaced by modern housing. Back down past St Cross Lane, on the other side of the road is no 7 Crocker Street, reputedly the oldest house in Newport, and opposite the site of Mew Langdon Brewery, with the original cast iron window screens - look back over your shoulder to see the brewery vane on the malt kiln roof.

Pubs of Old Newport

The Lukely Brook, flowing down from Carisbrooke to join the Medina, was the lifeblood of old Newport, and beer was one of the staple components of a person's diet in those times. Unsurprisingly then that such a hive as Newport should have its proportionate share of pubs.

Just looking either side of the Brook and the streets that ran along it and across it: in Lower St James Street was The Trooper, The Lame Dog, Charles 1st, Star Hotel and Freemasons on opposite corners of Lugley Street. On the other side, up Hunny Hill was the Old Inn, Britannia, Halfway House and Castle and Banner on the corner of Banner Lane. In Holyrood Street was the Royal Oak and Albany Tavern, where Husrst now stands, and The Sun on the corner of Lugly Street, to give just a small selection of pubs that were - for more, see Newport Pubs by Kevin Mitchell.

The Station Area

Looking left as Crocker Street joins Holyrood Steert we look up towards the site of the Station, commemorated in the form of a blue plaque on the wall of the new building where it stood (currently an undertakers). Below the site of the station still stands the Medina Railway, known locally as the Railway Medina (ask anyone where the Medina Railway is and you will be met with a perplexed look).

The brewery extended along Holyrood Street straddling the Lukely Brook, with the maltings, that went up in flames in the 1970s, opposite the Railway Medina. What is now Quay Arts was a warehouse for the brewery and the position of the lock gate can still be seen from the bridge crossing inside Quay Arts. In the courtyard outside the café, you can still see the rail tracks used for rolling casks to be loaded by the crane still to be seen at the lock gate.



Sea Street

Along Sea Street there was a Coal Yard (the painted sign is still visible on the wall past the Medina Railway), and the location of a cast iron foundry in the yard area that is now a concrete car park.

Further along Sea Street, on the right, stands Seal House with the sign over the door dedicating the license to Frederick King.

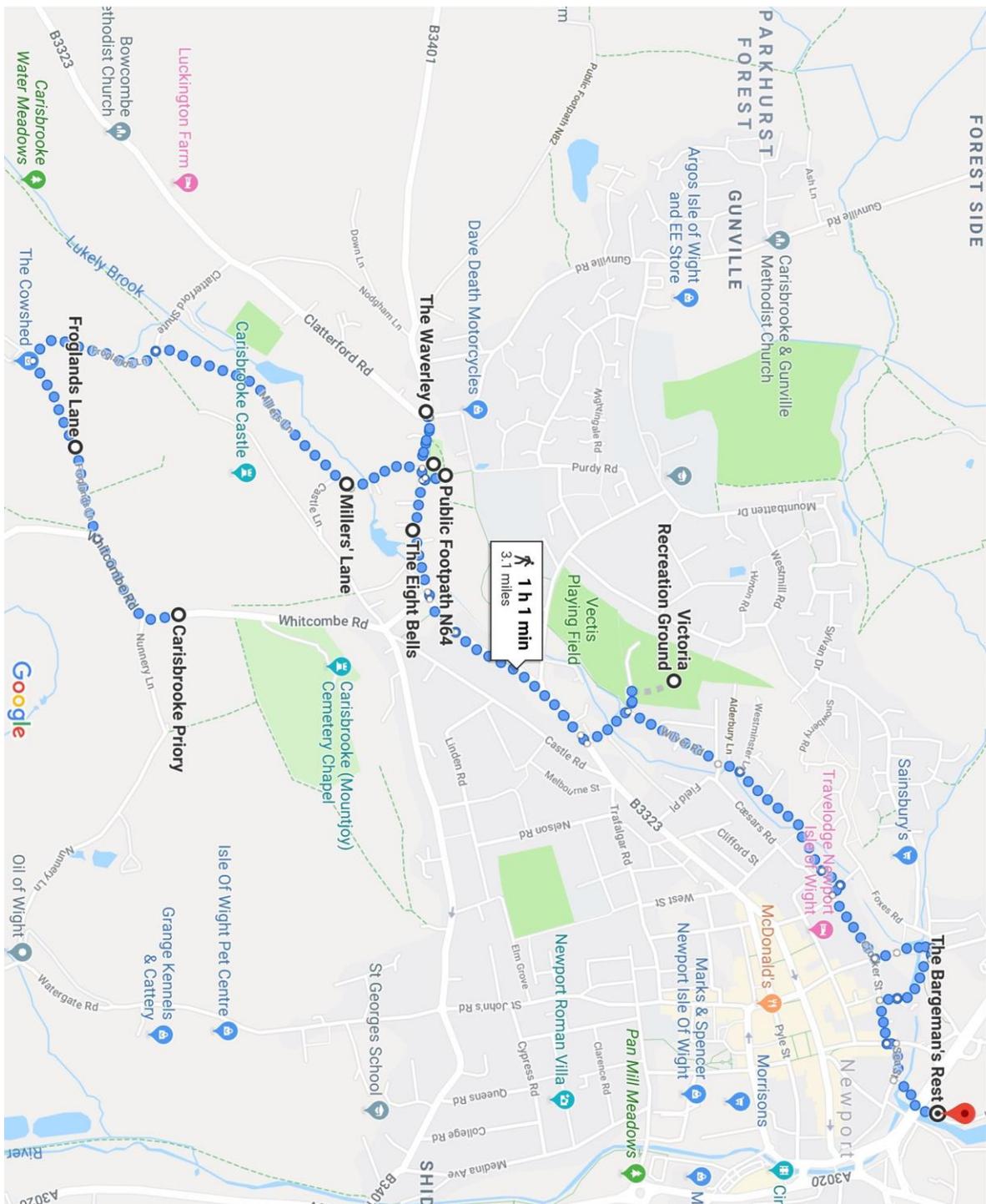
The Bargemans Rest & Newport Quay



In the 16th and 17th Centuries, the west side of the Medina was considered the prime bank for development as a quay, being opposite and closest to the warehouses and industrial area of Sea Street and that of old Newport as the Lukely Brook joins the Medina, earning the name of Little London, reflecting its business.

The Bargeman Rest was converted from warehouses (used as squash courts), dating back to the late 19th century, to open as a pub in 1999. Inside the pub is like a living museum, laden with marine artefacts and curious. It is a well-used and much enjoyed facility. Outside, the pub sign is mounted on the post that once formed part of the derrick (crane) that was used to service the barges that docked alongside <https://bargemansrest.com/>.

Carisbrooke Historic Pub Walk Route Map



Route Map

- Carisbrooke Priory Car Park
- Froglands Lane
- Clatterford Shute
- Millers Lane
- Castle Street
- The Waverly
- The Eight Bells
- St Marys Church
- Footpaths N53, N64
- Wilver Road
- Westminster Lane
- Crocker Street
- Towngate
- Footpath N34
- St Cross
- Crocker Street
- Holyrood Street
- Railway Medina