



## When Queen Elizabeth II visited Ventnor, July 1965



There are still many alive today who will recall the occasion when the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh came on tour to the Isle of Wight, paying a short visit to Ventnor as part of it. The main picture shows the Queen at the Winter Gardens, apparently casting an admiring glance at the *art deco* pavilion, but also the members of the public who had tickets to view the occasion from the pavilion's balcony. The gentleman standing to the left of the Queen is Mr A.E Payne, Council Chairman. Far left is his daughter, Mrs Doris Ross. Earl Mountbatten is to the far right, while the Duke of Edinburgh is just visible to his left, talking to the Town Clerk, Mr. C.E. Davies, whose back is to camera. This was the Queen's first visit to the Island and saw the royal party travel some 35 miles over the day, taking in Cowes, Ryde, Shanklin, Sandown and Yarmouth, as well as Ventnor. The Duke also went separately to Bembridge.

Arriving in Ventnor, the royal visitors went first to Ventnor Park where the Queen planted a tree to commemorate the occasion and met Mr Frederick Yelf of St. Lawrence, aged 105 (see image to the right).

The Queen and Duke then went on to the Winter Gardens via Belgrave Road. On the night before, the twenty-foot-long Rolls Royce, to be used by the Queen and Duke, had made a test run along Ventnor's narrow streets and there had been extensive police preparations. In fact, it was reported that 500 mainland police had been brought over to oversee all the tour arrangements.



If readers have any memories of this day, please write in to the Centre.

*Ventnor & District Local History Society*: Michael Freeman, from files in Ventnor Heritage Centre, especially the Fay Brown Index



Ventnor & District Local History Society is a registered charity, working to preserve and record the history of our area and make it available to the public in the Ventnor Heritage Centre. The Society and Heritage Centre are run and managed by volunteers.

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