



On Ventnor Pier

This week we have two unusual and striking photographs of Ventnor Pier. Gone, but not forgotten!

The first was taken in about 1895 and shows Lucy Trueman, aged about eighteen, leaving the pier on a windy day with her sister Bertha and friend. The photograph was probably taken by a Belgian friend of Lucy, Paul Bribosa, who was an accomplished photographer. It was originally given the caption 'Sailor Beware!' but this was later scratched out; perhaps by an adult Lucy mindful of her dignity.



The second picture was taken by Amy Gray about ninety years later and shows the 'High Slide' which stood on the pier in the early 1980s. It may prompt a few memories from those who slid down (or jumped off) it thirty five years ago!

In 1985, a disastrous fire broke out on the pier, and attempts made to raise the money to repair it finally came to nothing. It was demolished in 1993. Even that was not a smooth operation; the demolition team had to be evacuated by helicopter at one point when a storm caused the demolition rig to break free from its moorings.



Lesley Telford, [Ventnor & District Local History Society](#); thanks to the family for the photograph from Lucy Trueman's Photo Album, and to Amy Gray for the photo of the 'High Slide'.