

A CARTOON HISTORY

OF THE ISLE OF WIGHT

By Martin and Michelle Crowther



In prehistoric times our tale begins
With dinosaurs – such fearsome things!
With big sharp teeth they tore up prey.
We're glad they are not here today!

Then cold enough to knock your knees,
The Ice Age like a big deep freeze!
With mammoth, reindeer and brown bear...
And man to hunt them everywhere!

About 8,000 years ago the Isle of Wight was born
A result of rising sea levels and a really nasty storm!
For people on the Island, life at first was grim...
They were cut off from the mainland and they couldn't
even swim!

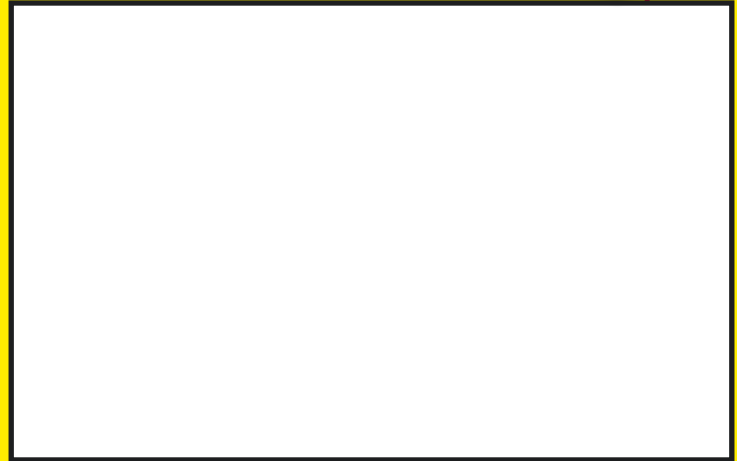
Then farmers came, and it was a great feat
When they planted and harvested barley and wheat.
But it wasn't so pleasant, there was quite a smell...
As the animals lived in their houses as well!

Bronze Age people came next, bringing metal to make...
Into spearheads, buckles and knives to cut cake!
They also invented some dangerous arrows...
Which killed lots of men who were buried in barrows!

What did the Romans do for the Wight??
Villas, mosaics and military might!
There was trade from abroad... and underfloor heating.
Things were much better... so stop all your bleating!

The Anglo-Saxon story can be told
Through barrows, burials, garnets and gold.
Although at first they came to raid
They liked the place and so they stayed!

In medieval times the Lady Isabella
Ruled all the Island stronger than a fella!
She built up castle walls, kept deer in parks...
Then sold the Island for 6,000 marks!



**RESEARCH AND
ILLUSTRATE YOUR
FAVOURITE VERSES**

PLEASE TURN OVER!

A CARTOON HISTORY CONTINUED

When 'French men' came to have a fight
They met the fearsome men of Wight.
A bloody battle raged until...
No Frenchman stood on Noddies Hill!

King Charles 1 had a lot of hassle
And got locked up in Carisbrooke Castle.
Climbing through a window, he almost fled...
But was caught by his guards and lost his head!

In 1814 Newport Borough gave cash
To a talented architect known as John Nash.
To build them a Guildhall as town hall and court
Where many a legal battle was fought!

In Georgian times, a wealthy few
Who hadn't very much to do,
Began to race in yachts quite sleek
And started what is now Cowes Week!

There were smugglers down at the Back of the Wight
Where contraband brandy was brought in at night,
And large profits were made on these gains so ill-gotten...
By men like James Buckett and old Rufus Cotton!

Then Queen Victoria and her spouse
Came to live at Osborne House.
She had a shower and flushing loos
And often said 'We are not amused!'

From Shanklin during the Second World War
Pluto was laid on the ocean floor.
A pipeline to pump out oil to France
It helped to secure the Allied advance!

The hippies came next wearing kaftans and flares
Attracting the Islanders comments and stares
They came to hear Hendrix, the Doors and the Who
To bring peace and love...and admire the view!

So, what of the Isle of Wight today?
There are tourists who come to Alum Bay...
And people who work doing high-tech things
Making radar, computers and aeroplanes wings!

And we hope this pandemic that's caused so much fear
and locked down our Island will soon disappear!
Due to NHS heroes, we all think are fab.
Let's consign it to history... when we've all had our jab!

FIND A PERIOD OF TIME THAT
MAY BE A MYSTERY!
WRITE YOUR OWN POEM AND
ADD TO HISTORY!

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FIRST NAME _____

AGE _____

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