

House. Separate from the main house the observatory was recognised as the world's premier earthquake observatory until 1919 when the operation was transferred to Oxford University.



9. Shide Chalk Pit

We suggest that you walk up Burnt House Lane, where you will discover Shide Chalk Pit (9), which was quarried for chalk during the first half of the last century.



10. Pan Mill

The prominent west-facing slope is a major landmark on the skyline. The site is now a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and a Local Nature Reserve.

Walk down the slip road to St. Georges Way (A3020), cross the road and join the shared use path that runs alongside the river. This is a delightful walk that takes you back towards the town. When you have walked under St. Georges Approach you will find Pan Mill (10), a former flour mill and a Grade II Listed Building.

From here you can continue back to your starting point by travelling along Furlongs into East Street and along the western side of Coppins Bridge Roundabout back into Sea Street.

We hope you enjoyed your walk

This leaflet was produced by Newport Parish Council.

Thanks to Richard Smout, Isle of Wight Heritage Service Manager for assistance with the text and to Patrick Nott - historian and Giles Standing from Carisbrooke Castle Museum for advice.

Printed by Crossprint - www.crossprint.co.uk



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MILNE TRAIL



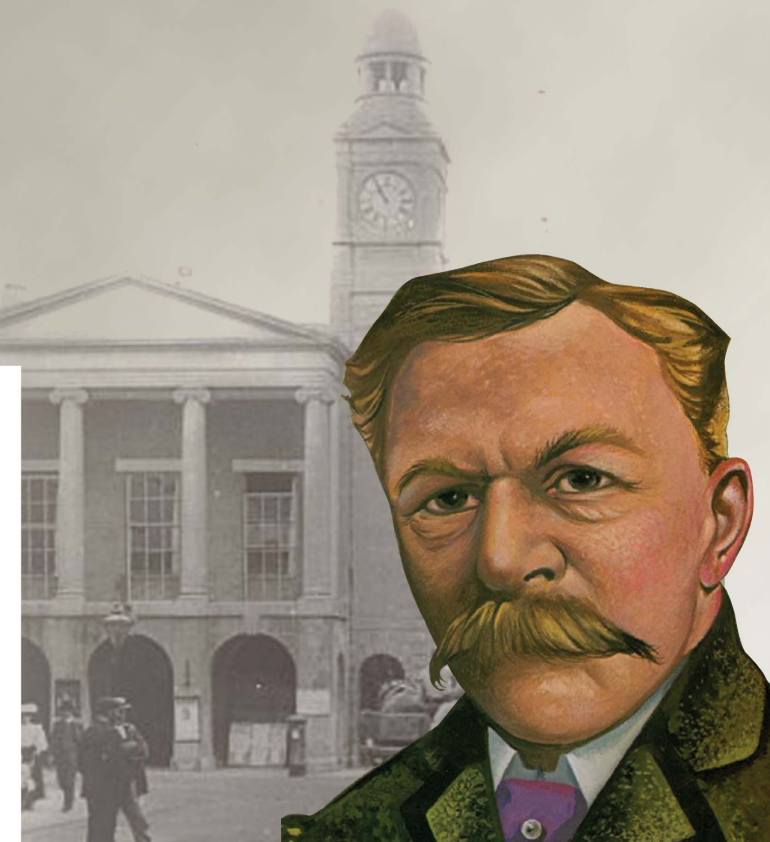
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MILNE TRAIL

A Brief History

This trail leaflet has been developed to commemorate the centenary of the death of John Milne, sometimes known as John 'Earthquake' Milne, renowned for his work on seismology, who died in Newport in July 1913. The idea of the trail is to literally track the later part of his life here, noting points of interest that he himself would have been familiar with more than one hundred years ago.

Born in Lancashire in 1850, he was to become a student of geology and engineering. In the early part of his career, having travelled overland for more than six months, he went to work in Japan where his focus gradually shifted to the study of earthquakes; a frequent problem in that part of the world. He worked out there for the University of Tokyo and the Japanese government until 1895, when a disastrous fire destroyed much of his valuable work and instruments, whereupon he returned to England and settled with his Japanese wife at Shide Hill House. On his return he learned that the Emperor had conferred on him the Order of the Rising Sun in recognition of his work and his contribution to the country.

The Trail

We estimate that your walk will take about 60 or more minutes.

Your walk starts down at the Quay Arts Centre (1), an impressive community facility, where you will find artworks commemorating John Milne on a nearby car park wall. Then follow Sea Street and



1. Quay Arts Centre

you will come to Holyrood Street, which was formerly the main link between the town centre and Newport Railway Station, which was closed in 1966 and demolished in 1971.



2. 30 Holyrood Street

Turning left, walk up Holyrood Street towards the town centre. With the station nearby the area would have been a hive of activity in Edwardian times. About 100 metres before the junction with the High Street you can branch off to your left into Watchbell Lane, a narrow alleyway, and then left again into Quay Street where you will see no.30 (2), which was the home of the Newport Literary

3. Stone Archway



Society, where John Milne was a vice-president and delivered lectures on his work.

Turn back into the High Street and cross the road and you'll come into St.Thomas Square. If you walk down the south facing side of the church you come to God's Providence House (now tea rooms), which is thought to have been the limit of the spread of the plague in the 16th century. Go down the passageway into Pyle Street, then cross the road into Town Lane.

4. Victorian Post Box



Walk the length of Town Lane (less than 100 metres) and cross at the controlled junction into Church Litten. On your right is a park (Litten Park) that at the time of Milne was still a disused cemetery where victims of the plague were buried. Proceed through the stone archway (3) and follow the path to Medina Avenue and cross into York

5. Clarence Road



Road, where you may spot a rare surviving Victorian post box (4). This is a short road and then you meet Clarence Road (5), which is a typical late-Victorian residential area. Walk down the hill and you will come into Medina Avenue.



6 & 7. Shide Path

than motor vehicles. After 500 metres to your left, you will note a narrow 'cut' known as Shide Path (6)(7), where properties back onto the river, and further along, again on your left is the former location of Shide Station (closed in 1956), which was on the line that ran from Sandown to Newport.

At the end of the path you come into Shide Road, to your right is the former Barley Mow (PH), now a popular restaurant, and opposite on the other side of the road alongside the shared use path that follows the former railway line, is the recently installed information board that gives detailed information about the life and work of Milne.



8. Shide Hill House

If you look across to the other side of Blackwater Road (A3020), this is where Shide Hill House, his home for almost twenty years, once stood. The house was sadly demolished in the 1970's. The nearest property to where you are standing is an attractive white painted Victorian cottage (8) and this is the former lodge to Shide Hill