



### John Keats in Shanklin

The poet John Keats lived on the Isle of Wight during 1817 – 1819. His chosen places of residence were Carisbrooke and Shanklin.

He was very inspired by the Island, and Shanklin Chine in particular, and he wrote much poetry here.

The following extract from the poem, *To Autumn* was written by Keats after a walk on an autumnal evening:

#### From 'To Autumn'

In this poem, Keats addresses Autumn and describes his observations of nature during her season.

*Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness*

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#### TASK:

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After reading stanza 1 of Keats' poem, sit quietly somewhere in Shanklin (where you are surrounded by nature) and take a few notes, based on your observations:

Describe the natural things you see?

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What are the activities that are going on around you?

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What sounds can you hear?

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*With fruit the vines that round the thatch-eves run,*

*To bend with apples the moss'd cottage-trees,*

*And fill all fruit with ripeness to the core;*

*To swell the gourd, and plump the hazel shells*

*With a sweet kernel; to set budding more,*

*And still more, later flowers for the bees,*

*Until they think warm days will never cease,*

*For Summer has o'er-brimm'd their clammy cells.*





**ENGLISH WRITING TASK:**

- ▶ Write your own one-stanza poem, using inspired by Keats' 'To Autumn'.
- ▶ The title of your poem will be dependent upon the season of your visit.
- ▶ Try to use the same rhyming structure as Keats. You may, however, want to use your own – the choice is yours!

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## Artistry at Shanklin Chine!

Many artists are inspired by the beautiful surroundings at Shanklin Chine and the nearby parks and gardens. Will you be inspired too? Explore the area and complete the following activities.

### TASK:

- ▶ Sketch the landscape or close up features.
- ▶ Use pencil, paper and techniques previously looked at in class, one or more sketches can be drawn whilst you are in Shanklin.
- ▶ You could even photograph what you are sketching for follow up work or for display back in school!



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In 1791 Shanklin had a population of about 100 and like most coastal villages people made their living from fishing. Their thatched cottages were at the top and the bottom of Shanklin Chine.

Up the hill was the medieval church of St John and Shanklin Manor. After George III had popularised sea bathing, and the French Revolution of 1789 made travel abroad dangerous, resorts sprang up along the south coast. These are delightfully described in many

of Jane Austen's novels. People always wish to share their holiday experiences with those at home and before photography, people did watercolours or sketched what they saw.

Shanklin was always described as a place not to be missed for two reasons, firstly the Chine and secondly Shanklin was the gateway to the Undercliff. The climate of the Undercliff meant that the vegetation was lush and excitingly different: a place where people felt that they really have gone abroad.

By 1831 the population of Shanklin had risen to 255 and lots of holiday villas were being built. In the nineteenth century, families would rent a whole house and decamp there with some of their servants for anything between three weeks and four months. By 1851 the population of Shanklin had increased to 355 full time residents, but the population would be nearly double when all of the villas were occupied.

The next turning point in the history of Shanklin was the arrival of the railway in 1865. The railway did not go to Shanklin, but a point nearly a mile away from it. Regent Street was built to connect the railway station with what became known as the Old Village with its collection of thatched cottages.

The space between the two was rapidly filled with all manner of shops, schools, businesses, a theatre and more houses. By 1900 Shanklin had spread and joined Lake, which had spread and joined Sandown. The population is now near to 9,000.