



The Pepperpot at St Catherine's Down

HISTORY

St Catherine's Oratory - also known as 'The Pepperpot' - is an octagonal tower which was built in the 1300s.

The story is that in 1313, a ship called the 'St Mary of Bayonne' ran aground in Chale Bay. It is believed that the sailors sold the cargo (which was white wine) to the locals and the Lord of Chale Manor (Walter de Godeton) was later found in possession of many barrels.

As the wine had belonged to a religious community in France, he was fined for this misdemeanour and was ordered by the Catholic Church to build a lighthouse and an oratory as penance.



A priest would say prayers (for those lost at sea) and operate the light.

was simply a fire that would be set alight in the roof and this could be seen through the eight slits in the building.

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ART ACTIVITY

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TASK:

- ▶ Take photographs of the Pepperpot from different angles (you could lie down and point your camera upwards for a different perspective), you could create a 'lonely' effect for example.
- ▶ Complete sketches of the Pepperpot in pencil. You may want to focus in on specific parts of the building or complete a sketch which also incorporates the landscape.

Back at school...

- ✓ Use different media to reproduce the images which you have photographed (e.g. charcoal, pastel, watercolours).
- ✓ Write a newspaper report, detailing the shipwreck and subsequent punishment of de Godeton.



Joseph Mallord William Turner

The famous painter JMW Turner completed a sketch of Chale Church during one of his visits to the Isle of Wight. Your teacher will be able to show you examples of this and other sketches and paintings he completed of Island locations. There is no record of a watercolour of his Chale sketch, but you can see many other paintings of locations such as Carisbrooke Castle, Bembridge Windmill and Cowes Castle.

TASK:

- ▶ See if you can find the perspective from which Turner completed his sketch.
- ▶ Complete a sketch from the same place and compare it to Turner's.

Back at school...

- ✓ Either complete a watercolour (in Turner's style) of your own sketch OR reproduce Turner's sketch as a watercolour painting.
- ✓ You could do a sketch and keep some in pencil (like Turner's image of Bembridge Windmill).



Myths and Legends - An Introduction

Definitions

In the earliest times myths and legends were only spoken, as writing was first used for boring things like keeping accounts; myths were not written down until long after writing was invented. In more recent times, because few people could write, local legends grew out of things that had happened to them or their friends.

Some people are really good storytellers and they told stories as entertainment and these stories also created a sense of group identity. As a consequence of this there are often a number of variations involving the same characters. It is also true that as society changed, people's beliefs changed and so the legends evolved too.

Myth A story that was used to explain natural events and supernatural events or gods.

Legend A story which many people believed told some part of their history.

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Smuggler In the nineteenth century you had to pay a massive tax on sugar, tea and rum when you imported them increasing the price four times. This made them too expensive for almost everyone. So there was lots of money to be made from smuggling tea and sugar into the country without paying tax and there was no shame in buying smuggled goods. The priest got his brandy, the workmen their tea and the ladies their silk handkerchiefs through the smugglers. Lonely places like Blackgang Chine were ideal for doing this in secret because you were less likely to get caught.

Pirates Men who used their boat to steal from other boats at sea. Sometimes they just stole the cargo, other times killed the crew by making them 'walk the plank'.

The Myth of the Blackgang Giant!

This tale has many forms. But all agree that there once were two strange and very different creatures living in Blackgang Chine - a hermit and a flesh-eating giant. The two could not live with each other as they clashed - the hermit liked to protect others, and the giant wanted to destroy and eat them.

The hermit put a curse on the giant one day and a thick mist rushed through the chine, and when it had cleared, they had both disappeared. The reason the earth moves at Blackgang so much - even now - is due to the giant, buried beneath, trying to escape!



ACTIVITIES

- ▶ Imagine you are a giant, wrecker, smuggler or pirate. Write an story called 'One Night at Blackgang...' or create your own myth! Use the space on page 3.
- ▶ Back at school you could research smuggling and piracy and complete a project with your classmates.



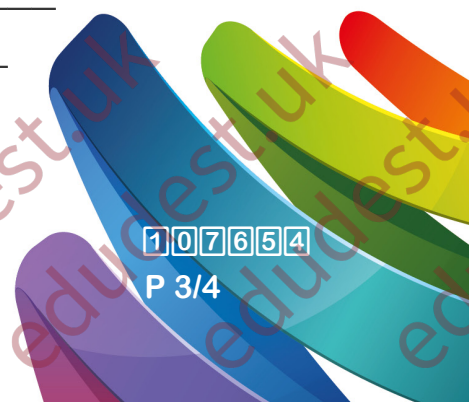
One Night at Blackgang...

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Smuggling: a step by step guide!

ACTIVITY

The Chale and Blackgang area was well-known as a smuggler's haven. In the dark of night they brought their ships and illegal wares ashore.

Have a look at this 'Smuggling Guide' (below) - use it to design your own 'Smuggler's Handbook and Diary'.

1. Choose your leader, someone who has experience in smuggling and can be trusted to share out the booty as agreed.
2. Plan to set off in the summer, when the sea is more predictable.
3. Find people to put up the money to finance the expedition. A group of farmers, squires and

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Brandy in France. Money is also needed when the boat gets back to pay people on shore to carry the barrels to the secret hiding place.

5. Enlist children, women, indeed anyone, to watch the movements of the coast guards.
6. You can then set off when the coast guards are not looking, or have been bribed not to look, at the time of the month when there is no moon.
7. Arrive in France, buy the agreed number of barrels. The captain of the boat might buy a few for his own profit.
8. Sail back, land the barrels under cover of darkness and carry them to the pre-arranged safe place.
9. Sometimes the next morning, sheep and cows can be herded over the route taken to the safe place to hide the tracks.
 - ▶ From this you can see that it took quite a lot of planning and money.
 - ▶ For smuggling to have gone undetected it must have had the support of most of the community.
 - ▶ Think of things today that are illegal: using your phone while driving, dropping litter, parking on the zig-zag lines by a pedestrian crossing. Do people follow the law today?

