

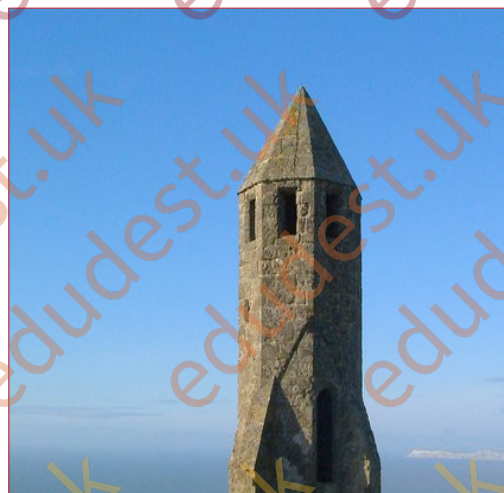


The Pepperpot at St Catherine's Down

HISTORY

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

The story behind its building 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 house) and the tower was built. The tower was simply Curriculum relevant materials supporting school trips to the Isle of Wight

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ART ACTIVITY

Joseph Mallord William Turner

The famous painter J.M.W. Turner completed a sketch of Chale Church during one of his visits to the Isle of Wight.

Online, you will find many examples of this and other sketches and paintings Turner completed of Isle of Wight locations.

There is no record of a watercolour of Turner's Chale sketch, but he did complete paintings of other Island 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.

POST VISIT ACTIVITIES:

- ✓ 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

Definitions

In the earliest times myths and legends were only spoken; writing was first used for tedious things like keeping accounts, so 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 so 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.

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was to put the light on a horse, but the horse had been tied together. As the horse was lead along the cliff edge it jumped and bucked like a light at sea, leading the captain to think the light was on another boat. Thinking it was safe the captain then steered his ship onto the rock and wrecked it. The wreckers then were able to steal the cargo.

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!

ACTIVITY:

- ▶ Is there a myth or legend that you know? If not, can you invent one that would suit the Blackgang/Chale area?
- ▶ Share it with your travelling companions!



Smuggling: a step by step guide!

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.

ACTIVITY

Have a look at this 'Smuggling Guide' - you could 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 the priest

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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?*



HISTORY

Blackgang & Chale - a place for Smugglers!

Smuggling in Britain: A General History

Archaeology provides evidence that trade between Britain and Europe began in the Iron Age somewhere around 200 BC. Traders from the Roman Empire travelled along the Channel in boats a bit bigger than a modern coach. There were larger boats but these needed a harbour and so were limited where they could go ashore and therefore trade.

Having been at sea for a few weeks the crew of the ship would need to get fresh water. Cliffs, like those behind Brading, were known to produce water that was safe to drink wherever they were found. Then in the case of Brading, when the traders got near the shore they would see that there were no defensive features so they would know that the people would not kill them.



This is how trading came to the Isle of Wight. More than a thousand years later in 1215, the Magna Carta gave the king the power to charge import duties. When they were charged on raw wool for spinning, it was easy to make sure it was paid because there was only a handful of

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because everyone wanted to buy what you had to sell: they were not going to tell the authorities. Smuggling flourished all over the country, but especially in the south. Foreign governments used smugglers to carry letters to and from their spies so the forces in favour of smuggling were far stronger than those opposing it.

Famous Smugglers of the Isle of Wight

On 12th March 1395, the Rector of Freshwater, Thomas Symonde, was charged with being an 'owler' or smuggler of wool.

In the 1720s Daniel Boyce from Stokes Bay on the west of the Island, amassed sufficient wealth to build Appley House in Ryde, which is now a hotel. He used the name David Boyes. Indeed, before the Registration of Births Deaths and Marriages Act of 1836, it was easy to have many names. And before photographs it was possible to pretend to be many different people.

The Smugglers Act 1731 increased the severity of the punishments for those caught. Smugglers caught with weapons could be sentenced to death; people found making signals out to sea at night received one month's hard labour.

Duties on Imported Liquor were put up so high by the Act of 1751 it made duty-paid alcohol unaffordable.

Between 1777 and 1801 William Arnold was customs collector at Cowes. He realised that many smugglers made enough money to bribe the officers who were meant to stop them to turn a blind eye. So he tried to identify and then sack corrupt officers. William Arnold's son became Dr Thomas Arnold of Rugby School and his grandson was Matthew Arnold the poet. William Arnold was able to achieve more because he had the support of the government and the Royal Navy, who were concerned about the consequences of the French Revolution of 1789.

George Morland was a talented and fashionable painter who lived beyond his means and fled to the Isle of Wight to evade his creditors. Between 1787 and 1789, he painted fishermen and smugglers in the Romantic style of the period. He lived at Freshwater where he painted 'The Wreck of the Haswell' depicting half submerged mariners with a look of horror on their faces knowing what awaits them. In 1822 a new Coastguard Force was founded to guard the coast against smugglers. By 1836 the coastguard commander at Cowes found that many of his men were smugglers or colluding with them.

On 22nd February 1836, Lieutenant Josiah Dornford was charged with the failure to do his duty by knowingly getting the coastguards so drunk they were unable to apprehend smugglers bringing goods ashore at Totland beach.

