

# Project preserves our precious memories

**CHURCHGOERS were among those whose precious memories were recorded as part of an Isle of Wight project.**

Students from the Island Free School researched what life used to be like on the island, based on the memories of older people living around Ventnor.

The Step Back in Time project aimed to bring older and younger generations together. Pupils interviewed locals as old as 98, using museum artefacts to help them reminisce.

The year-long project involved groups meeting in Holy Trinity church hall to chat, and culminated in the production of a short film, a book and a website.

Among those taking part was 89-year-old Ted Busbridge, from St Catherine's Church, Ventnor.

He said: "I was a housemaster at St Catherine's School in Ventnor for 40 years, so I do enjoy being with children and I'm interested



**Ted Busbridge with pupils from the Island Free School as part of the Step Back in Time project; (above right): Ted aged four in Ventnor**

in education. I got involved after I gate-crashed a meeting at an old people's home in Ventnor! I was very impressed with what they wanted to do, and so I met the pupils for four sessions in Holy

Trinity church hall.

"We talked about some of the fashions when we were younger, what games we played, our trips to the seaside and so on. It gave the children an insight into what life



was like."

Sandra Wood, 75, from Holy Trinity Church, originally came to serve refreshments, but ended up sharing her memories too, along with her husband Mike, aged 78.

"I'm island born and bred, so it was fascinating," she said.

"We had a different theme to each session, so we talked about wartime, clothes, play, domestic life and holidays.

"They used museum artefacts they had collected over years, and we also provided some things from our own homes and some photos. It was lovely to look back. The pupils produced a book with short paragraphs and photos of people's memories. It's such a lovely book that everyone wants a copy!"

The project was supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund Young Roots programme, and involved a partnership with the Isle of Wight Heritage Service and Carisbrooke Castle Museum.

All involved were invited to a presentation at the Island Free School, where the film was shown and books were handed out. Guests were also treated to a performance by the school's jazz band.

To see the film, and read some of the memories, see: <https://sites.google.com/site/iwfsintergen/home>.

## Somewhere or anywhere

ARE you a somewhere person or an anywhere person? My grandmother was a real somewhere person: living and working locally all her life, being a bit fearful of outsiders, and of travelling beyond Hartlepool.

When my mother moved to London at the age of 22, Grandma cried, saying "but you'll never come back!" A generation later, when I went to university, my own mother cried, saying, "You'll get posh and you'll never come back!" We'd moved from somewhere people to anywhere people in the space of two generations.

According to the sociologist David Goodhart, most of us are instinctively either somewhere or anywhere people.

Somewhere people value the local more, care more about national institutions and identity, the monarchy, reducing crime, and having more control over local resources. Anywhere people are more likely to vote for pro-European policies, be more relaxed about migration, and hold less authoritarian views. Neither position is better than



## the last word

by the Ven Joanne Grenfell  
Archdeacon of Portsdown

the other, but in (inter)national politics recently, we may feel the two sides are speaking in different languages.

St Aidan's Copnor marked 25 years of ministry in Anchorage Park last month. Their patron saint, originally from Ireland, had travelled widely, but then settled in Northumbria where he helped to build up a new community of Christians.

This anywhere person also became a somewhere person, as he lived out the universal gospel values of love, hospitality, and peace from his monastery. Aidan is known for refusing to get about on a horse, preferring to walk and talk to the people he met, friends and strangers

alike.

What is local has changed for many people in the past few years, and we all put more emphasis than we used to on relationships formed at work, in leisure, and online. Figuring out how the values of faith are lived out in community is more complex than it used to be. We will need local, somewhere people, as well as roaming saints, to take us on that journey into neighbourliness.

Both anywhere and somewhere Christians will want to get down off their horses, walk among their physical or virtual neighbours and find new ways of making new disciples. Somewhere or anywhere, the gospel is for everyone.

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