

“Farming Memories” is an archive designed to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Isle of Wight’s Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty designation in 1963. The archive, a collection of sound recordings and photographs, has been gathered by Natural Enterprise on behalf of the Isle of Wight Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Partnership. Contributors include farmers, farm workers and people with fond memories of the Island’s wonderful countryside.

The archive has enabled us to produce a number of stories relating to farming on the Island in the last 50 years.

Newport Market



Newport Market, kindly contributed Alan Stroud

Newport Market closed in the 1980s, but it had been in decline for many years. Alan Stroud recorded the last day of Newport Market, and has provided us with a wonderful sound and photographic record.

The market was not just livestock. There was a vegetable market there too and also a number of non-agricultural stalls. The big companies like Hursts had sheds there. These were open on market day, and used for storage the rest of the week.

In the 1960s and ‘70s there were far fewer regulations regarding animal welfare. One farmer remembers putting calves in hessian sacks tied up to the neck to transport them to market. The RSPCA stopped this and said that they had to stand up. Another farmer would take bull calves in the back of their estate car.

Although not used greatly, it was a big blow to the smaller farms when it closed down. It was probably also a big blow to the landlord of the Prince of Wales pub, as this was always full of farmers having an after-market drink. John Reynolds of Marvel Farm said *“Grandfather would never miss the market”*



50 Years of Farming Memories in the Isle of Wight AONB



Newport Market, kindly contributed Alan Stroud

Whilst some of the farmers we spoke to had fond memories of Newport Market, the majority felt that it was destroyed by the dealers, and this wasn't unique to Newport, the same has happened at Salisbury and Shaftesbury. They had already stopped using the market well before it closed, having been 'diddled' on previous occasions. We were told by one farmer, "A lot of crooks I would have said ... we got caught once" and another said "I went to Newport Market once with a cow and calf ... and I never sent another animal there. The dealers who wanted the market destroyed it".

Opposite the market there was an Egg Packing Plant. It was well used by Island farmers, but also inevitably led to some unfortunate accidents. Jane Phillips remembers Bumble Hatcher banging into her minivan and breaking many eggs. Steve Cowley braked too hard when learning to drive and cracked a lot of eggs on Forest Road. We have no photographs of the egg packing plant. If anyone can help, please contact Carol Flux on (01983) 201563.

Further details of the Farming Memories Project can be found on the Natural Enterprise Website (www.naturalenterprise.co.uk) and the AONB website (www.wightaonb.org.uk).