

*This day in August in
Portslade History...*

August 3rd 1903 Portslade Fire Brigade held their sports day and competition at Victoria Park. The fire brigade was formed in 1900. It consisted of 13 members who were all volunteers.



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Portslade Fire Brigade in the early 1900s, at this time their fire appliances were stored in a council yard on the corner of Church Road-Vale Road before the new Fire Station was built in Church Road.

With thanks to Mr G. Osborne for granting permission for the reproduction of the above photograph from his private collection.

August 4th 1914 Britain enters the first world war. A total of 243 men from Portslade were killed in action. Their names are on the war memorial at Easthill park.



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Easthill Park War Memorial 11 November 2018

August 5th 1990 The remains of a henge dating back **2,000 BC** were discovered during A27 road building near Mile Oak farm. A henge is a Neolithic earthwork structure. The henge ditch was 35 metres in diameter plus an external bank. An upright sandstone block was found with a female body buried beside it.

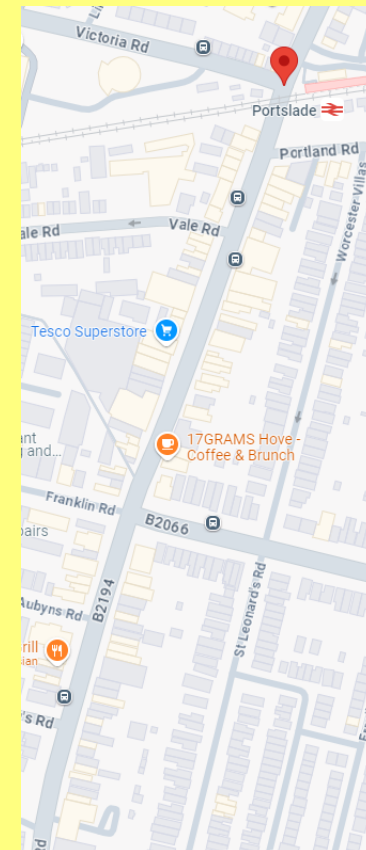


August 6th 1903 There was a local inquiry at Hove Town Hall which defined the boundary between Hove and Portslade as running down the centre of Station Road. The lamp posts on the Portslade side were painted blue whilst the lamp posts on the Hove side were painted green.



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Except for a few children the road seems deserted. This view was posted on 2 July 1905 although by that time the east portion of the road had been re-named Boundary Road.



August 8th 1834 The poor law amendment act was introduced. Any Portslade person deemed poor (not working, begging and living on the streets) would be helped. They were housed in workhouses, clothed and fed. Children received some schooling. In return for this care, workhouse families would have to work for several hours each day. Many Victorians called them 'Prisons for the poor'. The nearest one was in Shoreham.



August 10th 1911 British MPs voted to receive salaries for the first time. They would be paid £400. The average wage of a Portslade factory worker at this time was £157 a year.



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This photograph depicts a busy scene at one of the Ronuk packing rooms in around 1926.

August 11th 1902 Victoria park is officially opened. It becomes the first open space in Portslade. For the prior 50 years, the site has been used as a brickfield (where clay and chalk are dug up and mixed with ash in kilns to make bricks).



VICTORIA RECREATION GROUND. PORTSLADE

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The "new" playground

August 13th 2020 Restoration work on the Portslade's Norman Manor house commences.



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Portslade's Norman Manor House is a Scheduled Ancient Monument & Grade II* Listed Building
and the oldest secular building in the City of Brighton & Hove

August 15th 1987 Caning was
officially banned in Portslade
schools and across the land.



August 16th 1870 The Married Women's property Act of 1870 was passed. This allowed married women to be the legal owners of the money they earned and to inherit property. Before 1870, any money made by a woman (even via inheritance) instantly became the property of her husband once she was married. It was not until 1882 that women could own and control property in their own right.

'BEHIND THE HEADLINES'
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MMXVI 1882 No. 129

MARRIED WOMEN'S PROPERTY ACT

This year saw the triumph of one of the great women's causes of the 19th century: the right to control their own property

For most of the 19th century, married women had no legal identity separate from their husbands. They could not own property, sue or be sued, or enter into contracts. Their legal identity was merged with that of their husbands. This meant that any money they earned or inherited became the property of their husbands. This was a major cause of the 19th century, and the Married Women's Property Act of 1870 was a landmark piece of legislation that gave married women the right to own and control their own property.

The principle of separate legal identity, known as 'coverture', was a cornerstone of English law. It was based on the idea that a husband and wife were one person in the eyes of the law. This meant that the husband was the legal owner of any property owned by the couple. The Married Women's Property Act of 1870 was a landmark piece of legislation that gave married women the right to own and control their own property.

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Illustration of a woman in 19th-century attire, likely related to the Married Women's Property Act.

© The National Archives

August 17th 1930

The annual hospital Sunday service fundraising event was held at Victoria Park. Before the NHS, there was always a need for the public to raise money for local hospitals.



August 18th 1941

All individual local fire brigades were nationalised and became the National Fire Service, thus bringing to an end the 41 year service of Portslade Fire Brigade.



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The 'new' Portslade Fire Station in 1909

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August 19th 1903

Plans were submitted for the construction of Foredown Tower. The tower held water. The tank could hold 27,500 gallons of water -that is the same as three A320 airbus planes.



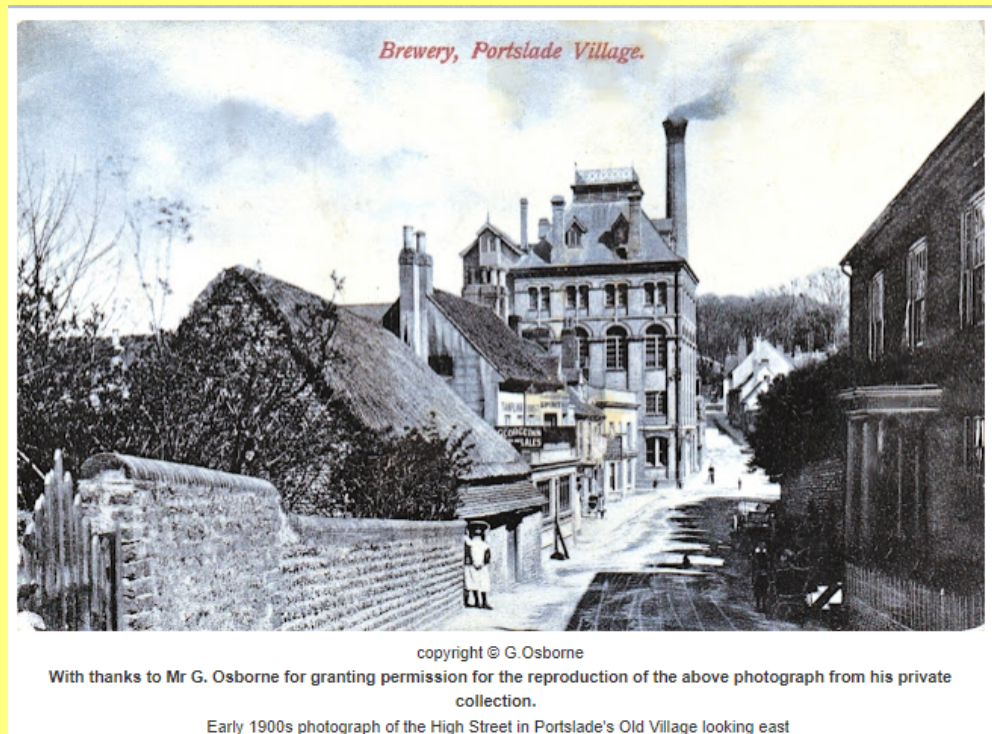
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This close-up of Foredown Tower was taken in April 2003. Today after 100 weather-beaten years, the brickwork is still solid



August 21st 1903

Portslade Brewery made its last pint after 81 years of brewing in Portslade Old Village. The brewery became a shirt manufacturer before eventually being taken over by Le Carbone (French enterprise) in 1947.



August 21st 1903

The death of Portslade sailor, Thomas Huntley Wood. He became famous as the seaman portrayed on the front of Player's cigarette packets. The image was first used in 1883 and was still used in 2016 when the brand finally ended. Thomas is buried in Portslade Cemetery.



August 26th 55BC

Julius Caesar crossed the English channel for his invasion of Britain (he landed in Kent). However, the Romans were later active in Portslade. Some academics believe the Romans built a major port here, hence the name 'Portslade'. It was important enough a place for them to build a road from here to what is now known as Croydon.



August 27th 1950

If you were one of the 20% of Portsladers with a TV, then you could watch the BBC transmit the first ever live television pictures from across the Channel. A 2 hour programme was broadcast live from Calais in Northern France. British viewers were able to watch the town of Calais "en fete" with dancing and a fireworks display.

August 29th 1983

Southern Sound went on air for the first time, broadcasting from Franklin Road, Portslade. In 2009 they were rebranded as Heart Sussex. In 2019, the Portslade studio closed with operations moving to Farnham.



August 31st 1898

The death of Gabriel McConnochie, aged 63. He was headmaster of St Nicolas school from 1863 to 1893 and was also organist and choirmaster at St Nicolas church for 30 years. In 1876, he founded Portslade Cricket Club which is still playing today.