



ISLE SPY: ANSWER FILE



Clue 1: **Solved**



The Castle Inn
Underground Tunnels

The Castle Inn was first licensed in 1550, making it the oldest public house in Newport.

The stone wall that runs along Mill Street dates from the 1300s, when the building was used as a haunt for thieves and criminals.

It is rumoured that an underground tunnel once linked the pub to Carisbrooke Castle. When he was being kept prisoner at the castle, King Charles I would apparently be escorted down this tunnel by his guards so that they could all enjoy a drink together!

Clue 2: **Solved**



St James Square
Runaway Cow

On the afternoon of March 19th 1871, as two cows were being driven to market, one of them rushed at a regimental sergeant in Lower St James Street and pushed him against a shop window.

Although one of the cow's horns smashed the window, the sergeant was unharmed. He dropped flat on the pavement and did not move until the animal was driven off.

The cow then ran to the High Street where it charged at a child. It lifted the child on its horns before throwing them at their mother, making them both mother and child fall to the floor. Luckily both were unharmed.

The cow fled to West Street, where it charged at a woman who protected herself with a box she was carrying. It then turned on a boy, who fell and broke his kneecap trying to escape. It was only then that the cow was finally caught.



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Clue 3: **Solved**



Gray's Walk
Valentine Gray

Valentine Gray came from a poor family and had been living in a Work House in Hampshire when he was selected to become an apprentice chimney sweep for Benjamin Davis. His job was to climb the winding Victorian chimneys to loosen the soot inside.

In January 1822 Valentine's body was found in an outhouse on Scarrot's Lane. Benjamin Davis and his wife, Elizabeth, were arrested on the charge of manslaughter. Neighbours reported having seen Benjamin Davis locking Valentine outside in the freezing cold and beating him.

Davis was found guilty and sentenced to just one year in prison. Elizabeth was allowed to go free. Valentine Gray was buried at Church Litten. He was only ten years old.

Clue 4: **Solved**



Church Litten
Railings for Tanks

In 1941 Britain was two years into fighting the Second World War and iron, needed for making weapons, was getting low. A call was put out for people to collect scrap iron and railings.

The County Press pointed out that:

"Newport has a wealth of such scrap, including the railings which border on the old cemetery in Church Litten, and although no one would like to see them go, they must if the nation requires them to build tanks."

The suggestion was unpopular. One writer called it "sheer vandalism" and others pointed out the amount of scrap metal in the marine yards and on the old railway. Despite this, the railings were taken down and sent off for the war effort.

The sacrifice may have been for nothing. More scrap was collected than was needed, but donations kept being accepted as it helped morale for people to feel they were helping. Much of the extra metal collected got dumped into the Thames.



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Clue 5: **Solved**



Red House Spa
Prime Minister of New Zealand

This building was once a solicitor's office known as Clarke and Sewell. Thomas Sewell was twice Mayor of Newport but lost a huge sum of money when a bank failed. He died shortly after, leaving his children to pay off his debts.

Four years after Thomas' death his son, Henry, also lost his wife at the age of 31. He left his six children in the care of his sister, Elizabeth Missing Sewell, who supported the family by writing religious moral stories for girls.

Henry moved to London and became involved with the Canterbury Association, dedicated to colonising the area of New Zealand known as Canterbury.

He eventually emigrated to New Zealand, arriving in February 1853. In 1856 he was appointed as the first Prime Minister of New Zealand, a position he held for just three weeks between the 7th and 20th May.

Clue 6: **Solved**



God's Providence House
Divine Assistance

The building that originally stood on this site was a bakery, which was established in 1524. Sixty years later, the plague swept through Newport. This bakery was the only place where all inhabitants were spared from illness and death.

This fortune was said to be due to God's providence, giving the building the name it carries to this day.

The bakery was destroyed by fire in 1699 and was rebuilt as a private residence in 1701. It is said to be haunted by the ghost of a ship captain whose spirit is tied to the timbers from a shipwreck that was used in the rebuild.