



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 for the bay.

A priest would say prayers for those lost at sea) and operate the lighthouse at his cost of water as Godetot. The light in the lighthouse was simply a fire that would be seen through the eight 'slits' in the building.

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English: Creative Writing Activity

The Isle of Wight is immersed in ghost stories. The history of smugglers and wreckers has appealed to many an imagination and visiting such an area while knowing some of the history is likely to stimulate creativity among young writers too.



Pre-visit:

- Research the history of St Catherine's Oratory, smugglers and wreckers etc. as background information for a ghost story.
- Draft ideas for a plot using St Catherine's Oratory as a key location.

On-site:

- Gather ideas for details within the story so that it links closely to the locations.
- Draft descriptions of places, views etc

Follow up ideas:

- Continue the writing process to complete a ghost story that is set in a real location.
- Write your own 'review' of the Oratory, and the walk up to it - what about it makes it worthwhile?



ART ACTIVITY

Joseph Mallord William Turner

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

Your teacher will be able to show you examples of this Chale image and other sketches and paintings he completed of Island locations. You might complete a research project looking at Turner's style in relation to his Isle of Wight images.

There is no record of a watercolour of Turner's Chale sketch, but you can see many other watercolour

paintings of locations such as Carisbrooke Castle, Bembridge Windmill and Cowes Castle.

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- ▶ 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 complete a sketch and keep some in pencil (like Turner's image of Bembridge Windmill).

