

# BEACHES, BARS AND BLISTERS

## REPRINT

### OF THE ISLE OF WIGHT

David Yates

David Yates was first carried to the Isle of Wight as a baby when his love affair with the island began. Following service in the Royal Navy from 1976 to 2000, he moved to the island in 2006. *Beaches, Bars and Blisters* is a lighthearted travelogue of a three-day walk around the 72-mile coastline of the Isle of Wight that he conducted in the summer of 2007.

Starting at Steephill Cove, David makes his way via Dinosaur Isle to Ryde and on to East Cowes, Yarmouth, Freshwater and Chale before limping back to Steephill Cove, weary but enlightened.

This book captures the unique charm and eccentricity of the island and recalls the sights and personalities he encountered along the way as he passed a variety of beaches, visited a number of bars and developed several blisters on his feet.

The book is attractively presented, contains several beautiful watercolours by island artist Mandy Wheeler and is a must for both locals and anyone who has ever ventured to or considered visiting the Isle of Wight.

#### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

David Yates was born in Berkshire in 1957. He served in the Royal Navy from 1976 to 2000, and saw active service in the Falklands War of 1982 and the First Gulf War of 1991.

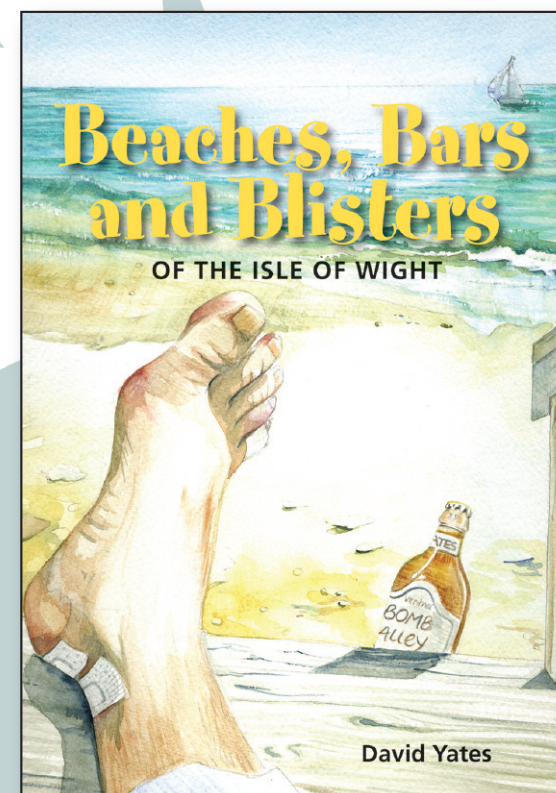
David's first book, *Bomb Alley*, his personal account of the Falklands War aboard HMS *Antrim*, was published in 2006, and he finally realised his dream of moving to the Isle of Wight in the same year. During the events held to mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Falklands War in the summer of 2007, David completed a circum-navigational walk of the island.

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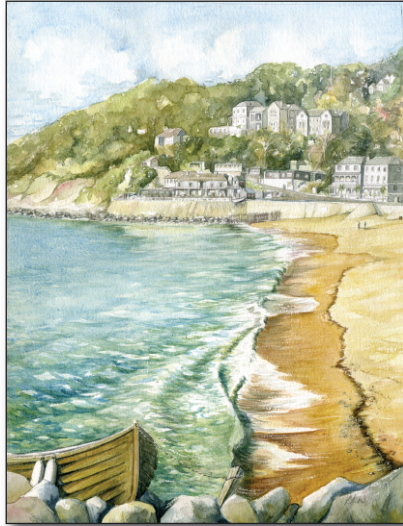


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DINOSAUR ISLE TO RYDE

CHAPTER TWO  
**DINOSAUR ISLE TO RYDE**

The long continuous promenade of Shanklin and Sandown ended soon after Dinosaur Isle and the Zoo. Leaving the faster, level ground I began to ascend the large rounded hill, Culver Down, overlooking Sandown Bay from the northeast. As the climb got tougher, the weather got rougher. No sooner had I stepped

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from tarmac onto grass than the clouds darkened and started shedding their contents all over me. I pulled out my light rain-proof jacket, though there was little point because I was still soaked through from my scramble in the sea. However, it did help to keep me a bit warmer, for as the rain fell so did the temperature. I was not the only person to be caught out on an exposed walk, as I soon met a family coming down the hill with no coats on at all. The mother followed behind at the back smiling sweetly at me, giving me one of those shrugs that said, 'I told him we should have brought our jackets.'

Culver Down was not too steep however. With the rain keeping me cool, I soon wound my way up the well-beaten track to the top where I found a large monument, erected in 1845, for someone called Charles Pelham, the Earl of Yarborough – in the lee of which two other walkers were sheltering.

"You walking round the island?" one of them called out as I moved closer to read the inscription.

"Yeah that's right," I replied. "I'm trying to go round in three days like I did a few years ago."

These two much more heavily-laden men sounded quite impressed by this bold statement of intent – especially when they saw the sparse amount of gear I had flung over one shoulder.

"Ah, but you're not roughing it like us are you lad," one of them taunted.

"No way," I responded, moving off down the track again. "That's far too much like hard work for my liking. I want a soft bed and a shower each night, not just a sleeping bag and a bird bath in a sink thanks very much."



Example of a double-page spread