

PORTSDOWN PANORAMA REPRINT

Anthony Triggs

The huge chalk ridge of Portsdown Hill stands like a protective barrier north of the city of Portsmouth, to be seen from almost every part. In ancient times it was home to early man, whose burial mounds were visible until the middle of the last century; in Victorian times the hill was a defence for the town, when Palmerston's great dream of a line of forts to beat a French invasion was constructed upon its ridge; and today the hill forms a viewpoint for visitors to enjoy the unrivalled vista of the Solent and the Isle of Wight and the great panorama from Fawley in the west to Chichester in the east.

In this timely re-issue of *Portsdown Panorama*, a collection of more than 130 images, renowned local author Anthony Triggs shows that Portsdown Hill has its own story to tell with an historic five-mile pictorial tour of one of the most interesting areas of downland in the South of England.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Anthony Triggs is the author of 15 previous books on the history of the Portsmouth area.

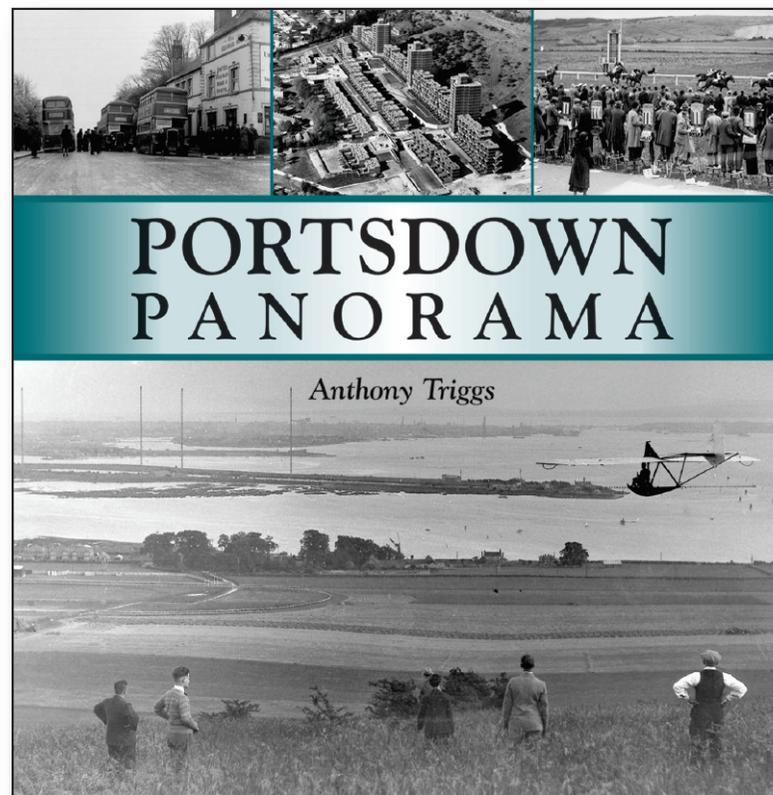
He is a retired News journalist and lives at Portchester with his wife Sue. In addition to local history, Anthony lists his interests as family history and photography.

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PORTSDOWN PANORAMA



Swing boats, roundabouts, ice cream sellers and puffs of steam from the traction engines in this picture of Portsmouth fair at the turn of last century.



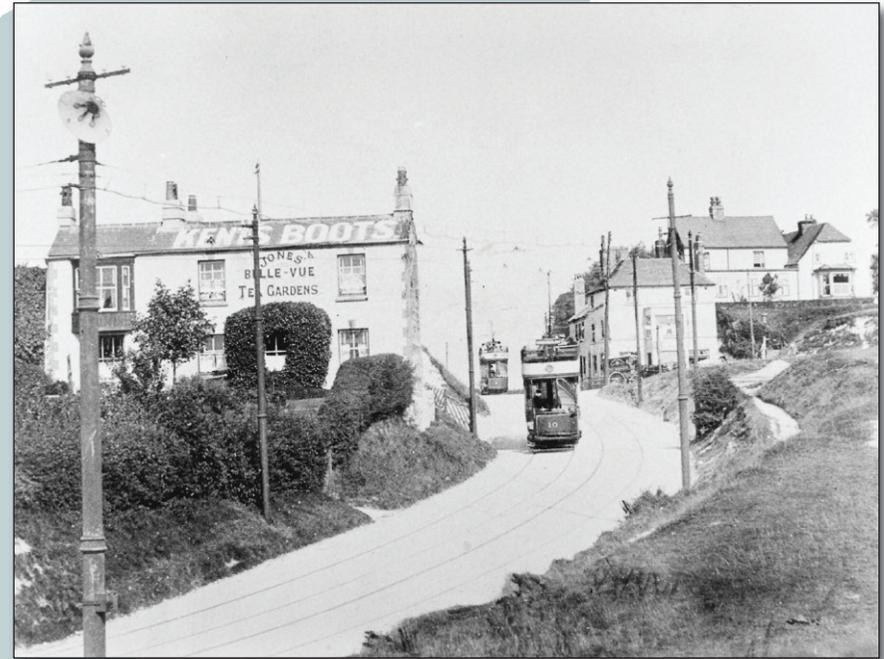
Backed by the chalk pits on Portdown Hill, bookmakers stand on their stools to get a good view of the race over the heads of punters at Portsmouth Racecourse.



The George is pictured here in those balmy days between the wars, with only two cars in sight at this present-day busy junction.



The old thatched cottage in Bell Pitt was a charming and popular place to stop as the owners operated it as tearooms.

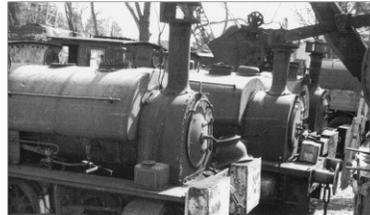


Two trams of the Portsmouth and Horndean Light Railway prepare to pass each other at the crossroads in those quieter days at the beginning of the last century.

□ PORTSDOWN PANORAMA □



Left: During the last war the chalk pit at the eastern end of the hill near Bellington was used for the storage of munitions. After the war the site was taken over by Southern Counties Demolition (Sullivan's) for the storage of scrap vehicles. This view, showing the large array of vehicles, was taken by author John Sadler in 1979.



Below: Four former Portsmouth Dockyard steam locomotives sent to be scrapped at Sullivan's scrapyard.

□ PORTSDOWN PANORAMA □



A redundant Portsmouth motorbus awaits its fate on the yard. This one, BV9152, came into service in 1956 and was originally No 96, but was renumbered in 1958. In the background are some bakelite single-deckers whose engines were removed in order for them to be used on local vehicles. Bruce Oliver took these two pictures in April 1961.

Left: Example of a double-page spread