

PORTSMOUTH: THE GOOD OLD DAYS REPRINT

Compiled by Anthony Triggs

Portsmouth in the 1890s and up to the First World War teemed with bustling service and commercial life. Those were the days when all the men wore hats and every woman carried a parasol, and the ships still smelled of rope, yarn and tar. This fascinating book from the city's popular author, historian and journalist Anthony Triggs, is based on the writings of his great-uncle, Richard Esmond, who was born in Portsea in 1887. As a child and young man Esmond fixed razor-sharp memories of the old city – the Saturday evening markets in Charlotte Street (where you could buy anything from bottles of cure-all and slabs of freshly-sawn French nougat, to pups and kittens with advice as to their care thrown in); the Queen Victoria birthday reviews on Southsea Common; boys stealing rides from horse-drawn vans in Portsea; the Musketeers concert party performing on the old pier at Southsea; and hundreds of priceless recollections of a world that changed forever with the coming of the Great War.

Anthony Triggs has selected over thirty of the richly-evocative articles written by Esmond in later life, and added to them 250 historic and nostalgic photographs and illustrations. Together they capture the spirit of Britain's naval capital at the zenith of Empire, when six-pence used to buy an ounce of baccy, a pint of beer and a dozen boxes of matches, and the cries of the street-sellers of winkles and watercress were the only sounds to disturb the Sabbath calm of a Sunday afternoon.

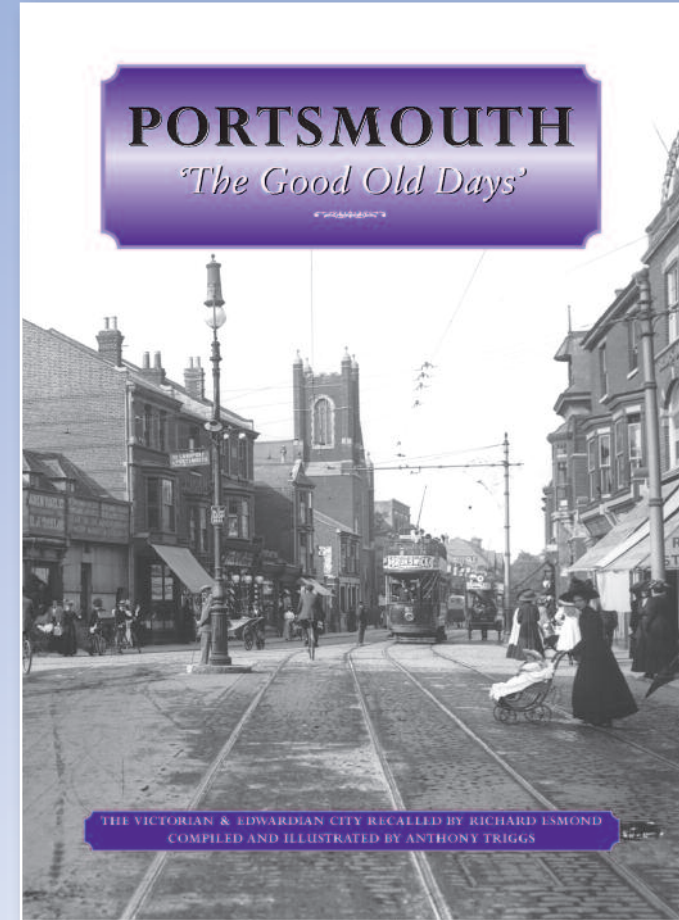
ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Anthony Triggs is the author of eleven previous books on the history of the Portsmouth area. He is the great-nephew of 'Richard Esmond' – the nom de plume of Frederick Thomas Triggs – and is a retired journalist who now lives at Portchester with his wife Sue.

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Left: *The gateway to the Royal Naval barracks.*

Below: *A French onion seller prepares his wares in before going out to sell his wares around the streets of the city.*



Right: *The market at the Unicorn Gate.*

Below: *The floodlights in this picture from 1934 enhance the splendid lines of the Guildhall.*



Above: *Vento's Theatre in Lake Road later became a cinema and was known as the People's Palace. The building survived until 1980 after seeing service as Blundell's store.*

Below: *Dancing around the bandstand was a popular pastime. After the war the bandstand was converted to a roller-skating rink, and today serves as a skateboard park.*



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In 1812, a portion of the great 18th-century building was destroyed by fire. The new building was erected on the site of the old one. It was designed by the architect Robert Adam, and was completed in 1814. It is a fine example of the classical style, and is one of the best preserved buildings in the city.

The first 18th-century building in the city was destroyed by fire in 1812. It was replaced by the present building, which was designed by the architect Robert Adam.

WHEN THEY CALLED IT THE TOWN HALL SQUARE

Queen Victoria made a visit to Portsmouth in 1857. She was accompanied by the Duke of Devonshire and the Duchess of Devonshire. She was met by the Mayor of Portsmouth, and she was taken to the Town Hall Square. She was very much interested in the square, and she was very much pleased with the view.

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Example of a double-page spread.