

## Continued from page 2 – Time Travel Trail .....

First to speak at a Winter Gardens event was David Thornton, Chief Executive of Visit Isle of Wight, who said: "Ventnor has continued to thrive and, as a visitor destination, is currently enjoying something of a renaissance in popularity, not least of all because much of its Victorian architecture has remained unaltered.

*"The new Time Travel Heritage Trail will bring to life the best of Ventnor's rich history and help visitors get the most out of a visit to the town".*

The trail is the result of several years' work by the Ventnor and Undercliff Heritage Partnership and has been funded by the East Wight Landscape Partnership (EWLP). Representing the EWLP was Peter Fellows, who explained that their role was not just about 'all the green stuff,' but about our unique culture as well. They were delighted to have been able to help the project. He introduced Richard Downing, Chair of the Ventnor and Undercliff Heritage Partnership.

Richard gave us some history of how the idea for trail came into being, not without some setbacks, nevertheless with hard work and perseverance and help from a large number of sponsors the Ventnor and Undercliff Heritage Partnership had achieved their goal and provided the town with this fascinating new attraction.

*"Ventnor is a near perfect example of a small Victorian town, with a history going back to the Bronze Age. We have a thriving Heritage Museum, and by putting boards at key locations we can share our heritage with visitors, school children and Island residents in an accessible way".*

Richard went to thank his fellow partners, Anne Hutchins, Evelyn Knowles and John Allen with a special thank you to Councillor James Toogood for his practical help. He thanked the sponsors, the web designers, those who worked on the graphics of the boards as well as the National Trust and Red Funnel, who will be advertising the trail from their 'on board' video screens.

He then introduced the Mayor who said, "Clearly Ventnor is on the way up, from the Ventnor day held earlier in the



year, shown on Southern television, to Ventnor Park winning Gold last week in the South and South East England in Bloom Awards, we have proved the town is something special, this is all down to local people working very hard, not least concerning this new attraction, which he welcomed.

Maps showing the location of the boards are located in the Central Car Park, The Haven, La Falaise Car Park, the Botanic Garden and by the bus stop in the High Street, the leaflet outlining the trail has been distributed across the Island and there's a website at [www.timetravelventnor.co.uk](http://www.timetravelventnor.co.uk).