

## Newport Reform Wharf.



Built into the parapet of the pedestrian crossing at the bottom of Newport High Street are stones bearing the inscription:

*“NEWPORT REFORM WHARF. The land on which this wharf is erected was given by the CORPORATION of this Borough TO THE CHURCH wardens & Overseers For the benefit of the Poor For the term of 30 Years*

*First Stone laid 1832. R. CAPLEN & S. PRING - Church wardens”*

The Reform Wharf allowed coal to be landed there and sold free of harbour dues - one wonders how many of the ‘poor’ would have seen this advertisement in the local newspaper?

**REFORM.**  
**NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT.**  
**COALS** are now delivering at Pring's Reform Wharf, near Coppin's Bridge, at the following low prices:—Stouber's prime Walls-End, at 26s. per Chaldron, and 9d. per Bushel; very superior Lambton's Primrose, at 29s. per Chaldron, and 10d. per Bushel.

*Advert from Hampshire Telegraph 23 January 1832*

The stones, originally, on the west side of the river, had been obscured for many years until they were uncovered in 1961 during flood prevention work being carried out in the river between Coppins Bridge and Ford Mill (at the bottom of Pyle Street).

The stones would have been obscured when the footpath on the bridge was widened in the mid 1960's so they were moved and built into the new parapet of the bridge.

Robert Caplen (buried at Carisbrooke Cemetery 11 February 1881) was a draper in Newport High Street, while Samuel Pring (buried at Newport Cemetery 29 March 1865) was a coal merchant and ship owner, also of Newport, High Street.

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