

BUT NOT QUITE

Many of us dream of a villa by the sea, perhaps like this ramshackle spindly-legged old boathouse (fifteen feet above the rocks) near Ventnor, Isle of ~~Wight~~^{WIGHT}. It's the permanent home of Miss Olivia Parkes.....

Known as "Britannia" by local inhabitants and visitors alike, the little old lady of 76 never worries about Channel gales - she just lets them dry out her washing.....

Every day Miss Parkes, who likes her own company, waits till no one's looking, before going into town for food, fresh water, and an evening paper. When the Island was fortified during the war, she was evacuated to the North of England - She didn't like it and walked most of the way back.....

She's been offered a good home by the Council, but "Britannia" refuses to leave her boathouse-cum-villa by the sea. / S....

No one has ever been known to enter her rugged stronghold - but in these days of unwelcome intruders, it's just as well to be prepared /.