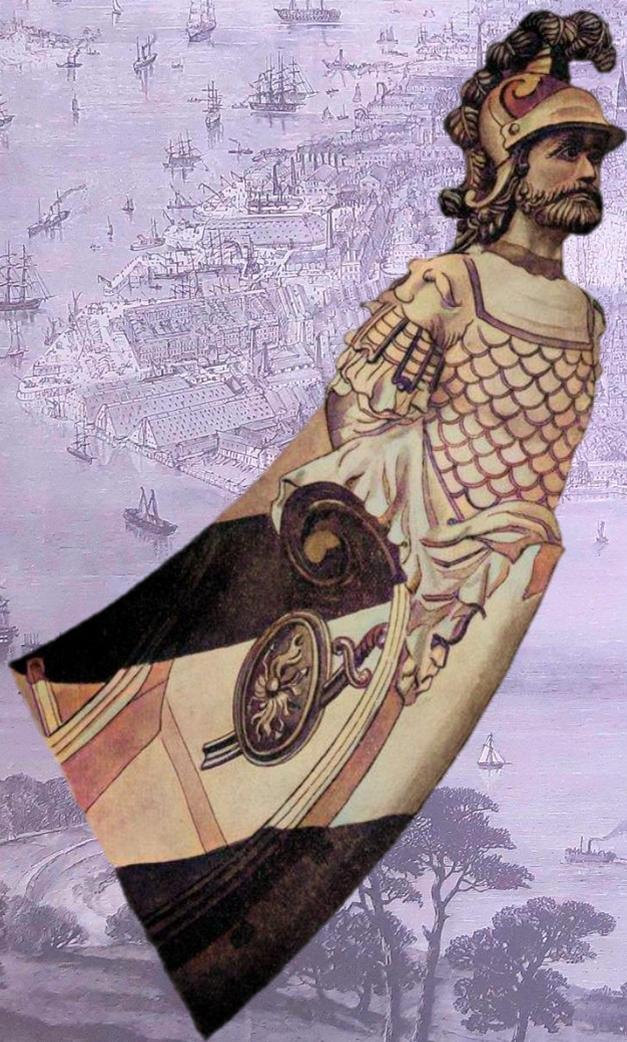


SALTASH HERITAGE

Newsletter No. 79

April 2021



Information

Because of the ongoing situation with the Museum closed to the public Saltash Heritage present their second on line newsletter

Saltash Heritage produces a newsletter three times a year to keep our members updated and informed. A short film of the new exhibition can be seen at:- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wipkY4ovGP8&t=11s>

Enjoy - and come and see us when we finally open.

Forthcoming events

Opening of museum	Saltash Heritage	Hopefully soon
Saltash Heritage AGM	T.B A.	Delayed

Contents

Acting Chairman's report	3	The Colin Squires Collection	28
Postcards from the past	4	Future-proof!	31
Neil McLaren	5	The Devonport Torpedo School	32
A postscript to Frederick Williams	6	Valentine's Meal Reminiscing	36
Bob Munro looks forward	8	Things I did during lockdown	38
HMS Defiance figurehead	10	Martin Lister goes wondering	39
Roller Coaster railway	14	Too early for Christmas	40
Update from the archives	15	Lockdown hobbies	41
Victorian attempts at decimalisation	16	A Scholar	42
Symbolism of St Stephens headstones	18	John Edward Tamlin	43
How many ships	25	Jordan Hirst	44
Saltash heritage members Secretary	26	A trio of firsts	45
Lizzy Moodles	27	Trenches and Bore holes	46
		Spring with Lauris	48

www.saltash-heritage.org.uk e-mail info@saltash-heritage.org.uk

Editorial

The newsletters seem to be coming round quicker and quicker and it seems to be getting harder to fill the pages with a balanced mix of articles where everyone will find something that is of interest them. If you have information or memories on a subject that that we haven't covered please jot them down and send them to me.

Bruce

Front Cover

The Figurehead from HMS Defiance which spent the whole of its working life as a training ship off Wearde Quay, Saltash

Bruce

Acting Chairman



Bob, our chairman for the past five years set his 80th birthday as the date he would retire from all commitments. Lizzy and I popped round to see him and delivered a hamper of selected wines and to wish him all the best for the future. Bob has kept in touch and we include his thoughts and words of wisdom in this issue.

A year ago when I produced the first newsletter under lockdown, little did I imagine that a year later this would be the fourth newsletter under similar circumstances, but at least now there seems to be light at the end of the tunnel.

For some the time has dragged, waiting and hoping for the day when things will get back to normal. For others it has been a welcome break from routine and

the chance to step back, re-evaluate life and set new priorities. Talking to people it seems to be about 50/50, with me firmly in the second group. For me time has flown by, I am quite convinced that the re-cycling has to be put out every other day.

Before Covid I would jump in the car for the shortest of local journeys, not out of laziness but if I walked I was always thinking about what I could be doing instead. At the beginning of lockdown I didn't put fuel in the car for four months and really enjoyed having the time to walk and go back to hobbies that had gradually taken a back seat. I am now much better at organising my days, prioritising and allocating time. It is something that I will continue into the future. The one thing that I can't seem to change is the time

spent on the computer. When it recently refused to work for a week it was like losing a limb but at least the decking and the shed had three coats of paint.

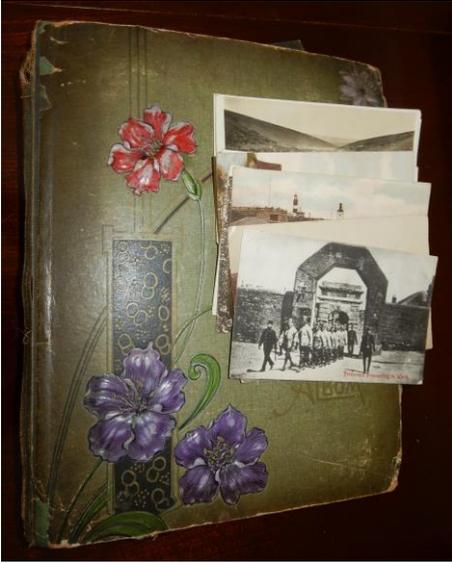
The spring newsletter is usually the easiest to produce. The museum opening and plans for the year ahead can be usually relied on to fill a number of pages but not this year, although plans are in place for as soon as the opportunity and restrictions allow. In the meantime many people are 'working from home' with a variety projects progressing behind doors but hopefully one day soon..... but I remember saying that a year ago.

Regards Bruce Hunt



Bob with his goody box and our thanks for his time as chairman.

Postcards from the past



Saltash Heritage have recently been given a collection of old postcards and albums. I have been asked to sort through and identify any which may be of particular interest for us. The collection consists of eight albums and a box full of loose postcards, amounting to over a thousand items in all. The albums are extremely fragile and have to be treated, like all objects which come to us, with extreme care.

Sorting through these items is quite time consuming, not least because I find them so fascinating to look at and read the messages on the reverse. The postcards are from all corners of the globe, some of the countries that they were sent from now have new names, and some of the subjects of the pictures are not acceptable in these times.

They do, however, show a glimpse into the way people lived in the past. Nowadays, if we want to send a message, or arrange a delivery, we either pick up a phone, or sent an e-mail or text. In the past, people sent a postcard, in the certainty of it reaching the recipient in time for the arrangements to be carried out. One example of this is on this postcard of a piano shop in Devonport, which was sent, about the collection of a piano the next day.



Lauris Richards

Neil McLaren



Neil McLaren was born in Cornwall and studied at Trinity College and the Royal College of Music, where he was awarded the E.F. James Prize for the most outstanding wind player. Scholarships enabled him to study in Paris, after which he returned to London to commence a freelance career.

He has worked with all the capital's major symphony, chamber, opera and baroque orchestras. He has appeared in recital at the Wigmore Hall and the Purcell Room, and performed concertos at the Queen Elizabeth Hall and St John's Smith Square, playing flutes ranging from the Renaissance to the present day.

Neil McLaren gave the British Premiere of Halil for Flute and Orchestra by Leonard Bernstein at the Barbican Centre, and is a member of the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment and the Orchestre Révolutionnaire et Romantique.

Highly regarded for his performances on instruments from the Renaissance to the present day, Neil is a valued long-standing member of the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment and Sir John Eliot Gardiner's Orchestre Revolutionnaire et Romantique. Neil has performed with the English Baroque Soloists, The English Concert and the Academy of Ancient Music. With all of these renowned ensembles he tours extensively, and records with the major record labels. His solo recording of rare baroque flute concertos with the Cambridge Baroque Camerata attracted significant critical acclaim and is broadcast frequently round the world.

Also an accomplished performer on the modern flute, Neil's British premiere of Halil for flute and orchestra by Leonard Bernstein was recorded live by the BBC at the Barbican Centre. He has given numerous concerts at London's prestigious Purcell Room and Wigmore Hall, including a recital of 20th Century Dutch and English works which featured the British premiere of Serene for flute and soundtracks by Ton Bruynel and the world premiere of David Osbon's The Creatures of Freitman.

Neil works with many of the major opera companies, orchestras and chamber ensembles in the UK, with conductors including Sir Simon Rattle, Sir Mark Elder, Vladamir Jurowski, Sir Roger Norrington and the late Gustav Leonhardt and Charles Mackerras.

Future solo engagements for 2018 include a piccolo concerto with the Age of Enlightenment, a recital in the Valletta International Baroque festival and recitals and masterclasses in Melbourne and Sydney.

Neil's mother 'Betty' age 90 still lives in Saltash

A Postscript to the story of Frederick Williams

In an earlier edition of our newsletter I related the story of my father's half-brother and how he came to win the Military Medal in World War Two. A couple of months ago I was forwarded an email from the Saltash Heritage email address, which read as follows:-

Dear Sir,

I came across your very informative newsletter whilst researching Frederick John Williams, who my grandfather recommended for the Military Medal.

I was hoping you might be able to tell me his date of birth, as my grandfather described him as being a young soldier and I believe there might have been some doubt about his actual age and the date of birth he gave for enlistment. Looking at his photograph, he might just have appeared to have looked younger than his actual age.

My grandfather was attached to 2nd D.C.L.I. Because he had been posted back to England from India to the machine gun depot at Gosport. He was then posted to the D.C.L.I. As they were deployed to Flanders and therefore would not really know the men under his command.

My interest in Frederick Williams, is that I believe he was the first soldier he put up for a gallantry award and that Frederick set a very high bench mark.

My grandfather went on to Command the 3rd Parachute Battalion in North Africa and General Eisenhower, instructed him to be more generous in his recommendations for medals.

He then commanded The 7th (Light Infantry) Parachute Battalion for the rest of the war, taking part in D-Day and Operation Varsity (the Rhine drop), he only made a few more recommendations for gallantry awards.

Could I also have permission to use a copy of his picture, as I am attempting to try and put a book together about D-Day. Only one Victoria Cross was awarded to all the British Forces on D-Day. Three of my grandfather's men's actions might have been considered worthy of a V.C. On D-Day.

*Yours faithfully
Michael Pine-Coffin*

I replied to Mr. Pine-Coffin giving permission to use Fred's photograph and although I couldn't give him the exact date of Fred's birth I did find a note from my mother stating that he was born in 1920. Mr. Pine-Coffin then sent me a copy of the citation written at the time.

In another email he stated:-

I have not managed to fully resolve the age matter. A small number of boys were allowed to join the army as burglars etc from the age of 14 Norman Wisdom being a famous example.

An act of Parliament in 1939 stated conscripts could not be sent abroad under the age of 20 and I think this is why Fred was considered to be under age.

I have spoken with many ex members of 70th Battalions who were called Young Soldier battalions, they joined up for adventure and ended up guarding an aerodrome in the middle of nowhere, that is why many volunteered for the Paras and Commandos.

Still trying to establish at what age the army sent soldiers abroad, it was also different for the Far East.

Brigade <u>4th</u> Division <u>2</u> Corps		Date recommendation passed forward Received _____ Passed _____	
Schedule No. _____ Unit <u>Para B Coy</u>		Brigade _____	
Army No. and Rank <u>5498518</u> Pte.		Division _____	
Name <u>WILLIAMS P</u>		Corps _____	
(Christian names must be stated)		Army _____	
Action for which commended (Date and place of action must be stated)		Recommended by	Honour or Reward
<p>During the run of the carrier platoon at WIJTSCHATE on 25th May, 1940, this young soldier displayed initiative, devotion to duty and courage of very high order. Enemy were lying in the ditch on the side of the road, and formed a difficult shot owing to their proximity. Quickly taking in the situation, Pte. Williams prepared grenades for throwing (more than the usual number were available on his carrier) and, in all, threw sixteen grenades among the enemy as his vehicle passed up the road. His action must have increased considerably the number of casualties inflicted by the Platoon. Later when his carrier was struck by a shell from an anti-tank gun, and his arm had been blown off, Pte. Williams informed the driver of his casualty, urged him not to stop and to attend to him and continued with his duties for the remainder of the run (as far as he was able with only one arm). I understand that Pte. Williams correct age is under eighteen, and to display such qualities at such a young age stamps him as an excellent soldier.</p>		Captain R.C. Mine- Goria.	M.M.
			(To be left blank) 524

During the run of the carrier platoon at WIJTSCHATE on 25th May 1940, this young soldier displayed initiative, devotion to duty and courage of a very high order. Enemy were lying in the ditch on the side of the road, and formed a difficult shot owing to their proximity. Quickly taking in the situation, Pte. Williams prepared grenades for throwing (more than the usual number were available on his carrier)) and, in all, threw sixteen grenades among the enemy as his vehicle passed up the road, His action must have increased considerably the number of casualties inflicted by the Platoon. Later when his carrier was struck by a shell from an anti-tank gun, and his arm had been blown off, Pte. Williams informed the driver of his casualty, urged him not to stop and to attend to him and continued with his duties for the remainder of the run (as far as he was able with only one arm). I understand that Pte. Williams correct age is under eighteen, and to display such qualities at such a young age stamps him as an excellent soldier

It is really interesting to see that our newsletter is read all over the country and can provide additional research information for budding authors!!

Jackie Austin

Bob

2020 and onwards.....



Well now, this is better late than never. The last few weeks have been extraordinarily different. That's not an excuse, but a fact, and I have been wondering what to fill this page with, without boring you all witless.

First off, I am now officially 100% retired. The church has wiped my name from its list of clergy with permission to officiate, and the good people of the churches I serve have showered me with kind words and generous gifts. Saltash Heritage now has my erstwhile deputy the ever reliable Bruce Hunt in the chair, whilst awaiting the arrival of my successor in the spring, and the committee members have been embarrassingly generous both with tributes and with things eminently quaffable. My days of being in charge of various types of church services are behind me, as are committee meetings. What

remains are the important things in life – everlasting friendships forged over the years.

The original plan had been to travel quite a lot, but obviously that has been put on hold. I've just been putting essentials into the calendar for 2021. You will be unsurprised to learn that – apart from marking birthdays, anniversaries and the like – there are lots of spaces now unfilled. So, once we are released from the current restrictions, lots of time to get out and about locally with Fran.

I am an incurable optimist, so I do firmly trust and believe that we will survive and ultimately prosper. This is not me going on about Brexit v Remainers. That argument is now done and dusted. It has taken more than the equivalent of the length of the entire First World War to negotiate our way out of the EU, and many of us hold views about the quality of the end result, but we are where we are, and it behoves us to make the best of it, to come together to make it work for everyone.

It was in the year that I was born (1940) that Winston Churchill made a speech which basically said that we first needed to defeat the forces of evil that opposed us so that we

could then and only then reach and enjoy “the broad sunlit uplands” that awaited us, or some such rhetoric. Well, it took another five years to defeat the forces of evil.....and I’m not sure that I recall the immediate postwar years as essentially jolly ones. There are obvious parallels with our current struggles with coronavirus. Our political leaders are trumpeting our world-leading vaccines, but I don’t hear Mr Johnson drawing our attention to the number of coronavirus deaths in the UK that we currently have per 1 million inhabitants. You may find that particular statistic of some interest. You can find it on the Worldometers coronavirus webpage, which is produced by the prestigious John Hopkins University in the USA.

2020 was a challenging time for us all, and we still have challenging times ahead – for how long I do not know. Nor can I even begin to imagine the extent, variety and depth of those challenges. But I do have faith that the world will eventually find a way through all of this. Who knows, we might even manage to actually **do** something about climate change before it is too late - instead of just waffling on about it. For, make no mistake – the future of our world is going to depend far more on what we do about climate change than what we are doing about coronavirus. We will beat the latter. We need to do much more – and quickly – if we are to beat or even reverse global warming.

Oddly, the past year seems to have flown by for me. During the first lockdown I succeeded in reading all the books in the house which I had previously put on one side, and acquired a tan from sitting on our balcony. During the second lot of restrictions I discovered that there is more to Saltash Library than just books (and I note with satisfaction that lots of hard work by town councillors and officials has secured its future). And more recently I have discovered a fun way of keeping boredom at bay. My days simply whizz by. I don’t understand why, but they do. Perhaps it’s something to do with my use of landline, mobile, email and Skype. One of our daughters has done a deal for us which gives us free ‘phone calls, for which we are most grateful. Family and friends remain scattered far and wide, so any visits have to be virtual, save for our youngest who lives locally and is the third member of our bubble. We were able to spend Christmas Day together at her place and she came to us for my birthday. All great fun.

Right, that’ll do for the time being. You might be hearing from me again next month. Will our new year end up by being a happy one? We shall see.

Ever Bob

Contributors

Jackie Austin, Carly Bennett, Bob Munro, Lizzy Sharpe-Asprey, Ken and Rita Wasley, Bruce Hunt, Terry Cummings, Mo Cummings, Lauris Richardson, Martin Lister, John Pearn, Sharon Lambert, Peter Clements, Andrew Barrett.

Thanks to

Andrew Davy, and Mo Cummings for proof reading

Defiance Figurehead

To Conserve, Restore, Rebuild, Repair?

Artefacts donated to the museum come in all different shapes, sizes and condition. We can't do anything about the shape or size but we can do something about the condition. But what?

Leave alone, and let the deterioration continue.

Conserve, to stop the deterioration so it stays as it is.

Restore, to revert it to an earlier or original condition.

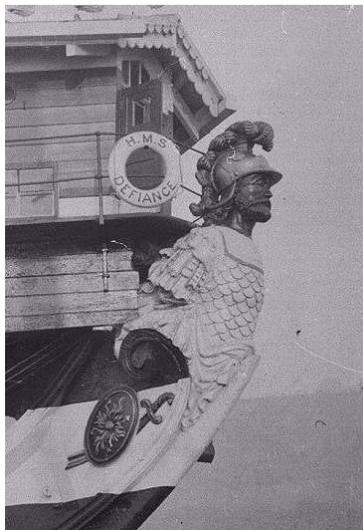
Repair, so that it looks OK but is no longer original.

While researching the article on HMS Defiance I became aware that its figurehead had changed in appearance over time so I started to look at it at different times and this is the result.

Hellyers of Portsmouth had submitted a design in the form of warrior bust with an estimate of £40. The Surveyor's office was reluctant to approve this warrior figure as a similar one had been carved in 1855 for HMS Repluse but had not been fitted when her name changed to Victor Emanuel. Hellyers were asked how much it would cost for the Repluse carving to be altered to fit HMS Defiance and their estimate of £4 was accepted. The rather softer design that had been submitted in 1855 wearing a beard and with a shield in the trailboards was fitted

HMS 'Defiance' was a screw driven 2nd rate, 81 guns, 'Line of Battle' ship launched at Pembroke Dock in 1861. She became a torpedo school in 1884 and was acquired by Castles for breaking up in 1931.

Although the shape of the figurehead has remained the same over the last 165 years its appearance has changed over time.

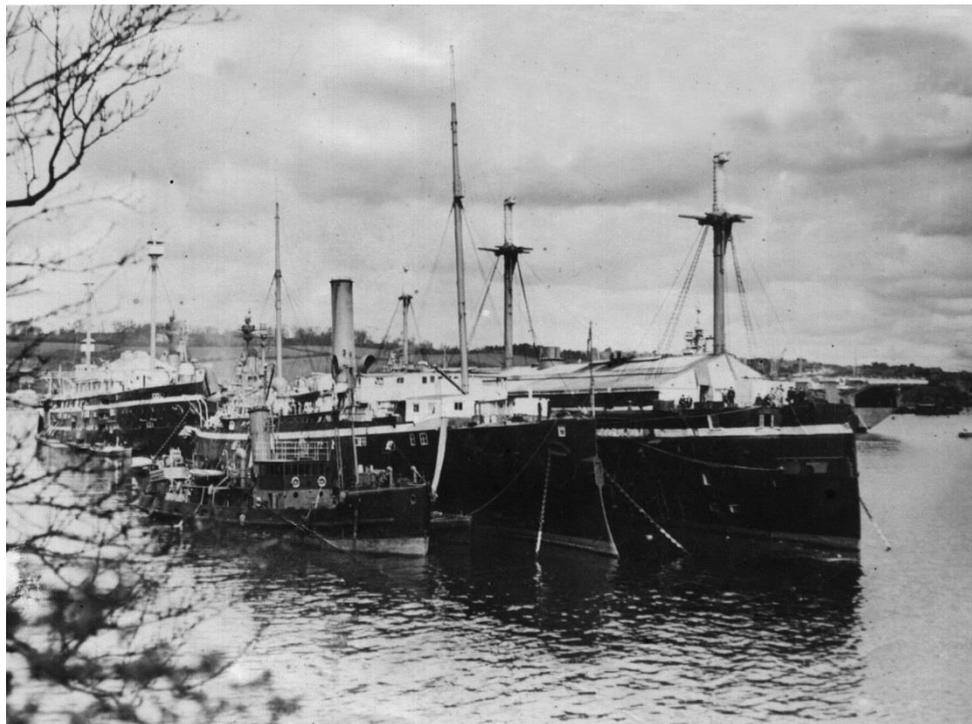


Two photographs of the figurehead taken before 1930 when the ship was at Wearde Quay.

There are noticeable differences in the colour scheme the most noticeable being the upper chest plate and applets.

Many figureheads were modelled on warriors real, fictitious and mythical. They looked after the ship

Although HMS Defiance was a single ship, the name 'Defiance' was also the collective name used for all the ships that made up the training establishment. By the end of the 1920's Defiance was becoming unfit for purpose and its berth at Wearde was too shallow for bigger and heavier steel ships. A collection of ships under the mane of HMS Defiance was established at Wilcove. Before the original Defiance went to scrap the figurehead was removed and refurbished before being erected on the quarterdeck of the new Defiance.



Above
HMS Defiance at Wilcove. 1949



Left
A party of WRNS under training on Defiance in 1940 on the quarterdeck with the figurehead. It can be seen the paint scheme has changed, most noticeably its face is now white

The Figurehead was again saved when the vessel was scrapped c1955, but in 1972 the Depot ship HMS Forth was renamed Defiance and became the base for the Fleet Maintenance Group (FMG) and the Second Submarine Squadron.

In 1978 the FMG along with the name Defiance was transferred to a purpose built building at North Corner in the dockyard. The figurehead was mounted on the exterior wall of the main block.

In 1994 Defiance was closed as part of a major defence shakeup and absorbed into HMS Drake. The figurehead was moved to the Dockyard Museum where it was refurbished with a new colour scheme.



Above

The figurehead in the Dockyard Museum before and after another coat of paint.

Note the colour and lack of detail, left on what was a heavy handed overall.

With the opening of 'The Box' in Plymouth a number of figureheads were shipped of ffor refurbishment and another paint job ready to form part of a new display.



Above

Defiance having his makeup done before being raised into position in the 'Box'

The colour scheme chosen is completely different from any previous colours scheme. I note that their publicity describes them as....

"Victorian naval figureheads re-imagined in a unique suspended display".

I can just imagine what our curator or Lizzy would say if I 're-imagined' some of the 160 year old artefacts upstairs in our storeroom!



Bruce Hunt

Roller Coaster

I was recently looking through some old newspapers when I came across the small cutting from 1967. My first thought was 'how silly', then Andrew Davy came up with this photograph

NOT A SCENIC RAILWAY

AN old lady of 80-plus who lives at Exeter has been in the habit of paying an annual visit to relatives in Cornwall.

In the past, she has always been taken down by train, but this year she made the journey by road.

As she was being driven over the Tamar Bridge, she pointed towards the Brunel Bridge with its arched superstructure, running alongside and asked what it was.

"Why, granny," was the answer, "you must remember that, You've crossed it often enough in the train."

The old lady looked incredulous, "But I never remember going up and down like that," she said.



So maybe it's just a matter of perspective!

Heavy traffic over Brunel's Bridge

Mr. J. S. P. PIERSON, district traffic manager, British Railways, Millbay, stated at Plymouth Art Gallery last night that one day last month 153 trains passed over the Royal Albert Bridge.

It was a "thousand pities" that Brunel, the engineer, had never been able to get the authorities to grant his demands for a double railway line over the bridge.

Mr. Pierson was presiding at a lecture on "Brunel and the Royal Albert Bridge" given by Mr. Gordon Monk. Plymouth Railway Centenary Exhibition, now being held, attracted 9,000 people yesterday.

Update from the archives

As we approach the end of lockdown (fingers crossed!) it's perhaps time to reflect on what has been happening with the Saltash Heritage archives over the last twelve months or so.

The museum itself closed for the winter in December 2019 and has remained closed since. It should be ready to re-open in May. The Local History Centre was open until we were forced to close for the first lock-down. We did re-open by appointment only in September and had a few successful visits. We're now looking forward to welcoming visitors again – strictly by appointment only until we feel it is safe to re-open properly.

Lockdown might have closed the buildings but the work of the archivist never stops! Kevin Hale and I have continued to add entries to the Modes database and are now approaching 25,000 entries. Enquiries are still coming in on a fairly regular basis and we have continued with listing what needs scanning or transcribing. The team of volunteers has continued working at home sorting photos, listing documents, scanning newspaper cuttings and transcribing documents. I would like to thank all of you for continuing with this important work and I hope that you will want to continue as there will be lots more to come...

There are several large accessions that we are currently dealing with and I thought I would mention a few. Firstly we had a donation of many albums and loose photographs from the Saltash St John Ambulance Brigade. If we had not taken these it is likely that they would not have remained in the local area and would have been lost to the people of Saltash. We are part way through sorting and listing them prior to scanning and entering on the database.

The next large accession was a number of boxes of photos and documents from the family of the late Sir Vernon Seccombe. Again we are part way through the process of sorting what is suitable to add to the collection. One of the difficulties is having to check that we don't already have the items in the collection.

Another recent acquisition has been a number of documents from the estate of the late Warwick Jones. Like many people he collected things relating to Saltash and we are grateful to have received them so that we can add to the history of our town. We have only just started sorting these documents and are looking forward to finding some previously unknown and unseen items.

Finally, and largest of all, is the collection left to us by our late president, Colin Squires but more of that elsewhere.

Terry Cummings

The Victorian attempts at decimalisation that didn't quite go to plan...

The 15th Feb this year marked the 50th anniversary since the UK switched to decimal currency, leaving behind the old Pounds (£), Shillings (/-) and Pence (d) and introducing the decimalised coins we know today. You might even remember Decimal Day in 1971 yourself, using conversion charts and rhymes to learn the new currency and the excitement of seeing the new coins in your change.

In the 1820s, discussions for a new decimal currency had already begun, and in 1849 a new decimal coin was introduced in the UK. But its introduction didn't quite go as planned and decimalisation was delayed for almost 130 years!

The Florin

The Florin first entered circulation in 1849 and had a value of 1/10th of a pound, or 24 pence (in old money). Supposedly, the name came from a similar coin issued in the Netherlands to help with decimalisation there. The Florin (or Two Shilling Coin) featured a special portrait of Queen Victoria in a medieval gothic style. It was the first time since Charles II that a monarch was depicted on a portrait wearing a crown.

Blamed for famine and sickness

The Gothic portrait was featured on the Florin when it was first introduced in 1849. Because the bust was larger than the previous Young Head portrait, the design omitted ten important letters. The words "DEI GRATIA" had been removed from the coin's inscription. In a deeply religious society, the fact that the words meaning "by the grace of God" no longer appeared on the coin caused outrage.

Many people believed that the lack of the inscription had angered God and caused famine and sickness at the time, leading many to avoid the coin altogether.

One of the shortest-lived coins in UK history



1849 Victorian Florin, nicknamed the 'Godless Florin'

The public outrage meant that the design was altered to include a shortened version of DEI GRATIA (*d.g.*) by making the diameter of the coin 2mm bigger. This coin soon became the Gothic Florin and was better received by the public, but it's safe to say that the disaster with the Godless Florin tainted the idea of decimalisation for many years. It also meant that the Godless Florin circulated for just a few years, making it one of the shortest-lived coins in our history!



1851 Victorian Florin with D.G inscription, nicknamed the “Gothic Florin”

A second attempt

The Victorians made a second attempt at decimalisation in 1887 in the form of the Double Florin (equivalent to 1/5th of a pound, or 48 pennies), issued with a new portrait of Queen Victoria for her Jubilee. But this coin also wasn't received well and was withdrawn from circulation completely by 1890.



1887-1890 Victorian Double Florin, nicknamed “The Barmaid’s Ruin”

One of the features that makes the Double Florin stand out in history is that it was almost indistinguishable from the crown coin. Neither carried the denomination, and the only difference between the two (apart from the value) was that the Double Florin was 2mm smaller – not something that was easy to spot by eye. Because the two coins were so easily confused, the Double Florin became infamous for causing barmaids to lose their jobs after they short-changed pub owners!

The Victorians are famed for their innovation and sweeping changes in technology, industry, and culture. The Florin as a denomination did circulate until 1993 when it was eventually demonetised, and whilst there were countless experimentations with coinage and new denominations under Queen Victoria, it seems that the UK wasn't quite ready for a change as big as decimalisation.

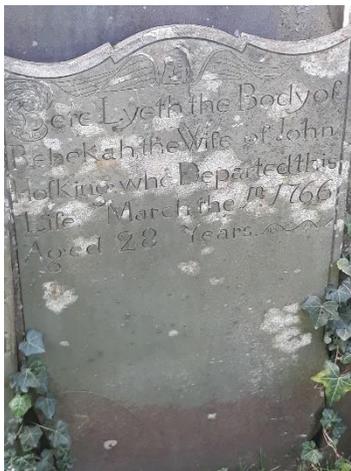
Symbolism of St Stephen's Victorian headstones

The last lockdown forced me to get creative with my social distanced walks! Especially when the weather was nicer, my local streets were full of families, dog walkers and runners all getting in their exercise. Getting fed up with constantly crossing the road and squeezing myself into small spaces to allow a couple to safely pass, I found myself in St Stephen's churchyard. The peace and tranquillity it offered gave me space to think and more than fulfilled the 2-meter rule! As I walked, I began to think about my present company. A graveyard can offer us an abundance of information about their residents and can be much more than a marker of a person's final resting place. On a simple level they show us names, dates and, sometimes, other family members. However, if you look closer, they can reveal a deeper insight into the lives and deaths of the Victorians.

If you stand in the middle of St Stephen's cemetery, and look up and down you can literally see the evolution of history. You can track ideologies, beliefs, traditions, and fashion of our local people over the last 300 years. This can all be done with just a casual sweeping look across the land. There are not many places in the world where one can do this.

During the Victorian era, there was monumental economic and societal change due to the industrial revolution. A rigorous class system and strict religious beliefs dominated the day to day lives of most people. This was also the time where notions around death changed. In 1861 Prince Albert died, sending Queen Victoria into 40 years of mourning. This sent ripples across the country leading to many of the rituals we know of today, such as mourning etiquette, a rise in spiritualism, post-mortem photography, pet cemeteries and elaborate headstones.

Before this time, people were often buried close to home, with simple markers such as stones or flowers. Those who were buried in consecrated ground within the boundaries of a graveyard with markers, were done so based on social or religious standing. Others were placed in mass graves, which were regularly dug up and refilled. Out of town burial sites became popular due to overcrowding and unsanitary conditions and the legalisation of cremation in 1902 changed the makeup of the cemetery to what we know today.



St. Stephens is home to these early comparable simplistic headstones from 1766 and 1770. They are much smaller, thinner, and less informative than their Victorian relatives.



Victorian headstones became more expensive and more elaborate than their predecessors. They represented not only a memorial for the dead, but as a symbol of social status and beliefs. People would save up money through their lives to pay for a fitting memorial for themselves and their family. And elaborate markers were no longer just for the upper class. As well as the adorning symbols, poems and bible verses appeared, engraved into the stone alongside the traditional names, dates. These could be favourite pieces or poignant messages. Luckily for us the Victorian fascination with death has left us with a wonderful collection of information we can use today to find out about the people, and their families lying in our local cemeteries.

Firstly, as I mentioned before, the Victorians were deeply religious people, and their cemeteries are littered with religious symbols. Images depicting bible scenes, crosses, and the symbol IHS. (The first three letters of Jesus' name in the Greek alphabet. It has also been interpreted to stand for 'In hoc signo' which is Latin for 'by this sign we conquer') There are many styles to be found, some simple and some incredibly intricate. This is one of the oldest symbols used and was first recorded in the 12th century. It became a popular choice for 18th and 19th century Christian and Catholic headstones alike.



There are many styles of crosses in St Stephen's. Some are carved onto headstones and others act as the marker themselves. The variety of crosses just in St Stephen's is incredible. One beautifully carved cross includes a representation of "the messengers of god" which are shown escorting the deceased to heaven. Another has been carved to look like wood, covered in ivy and leaves, and there are even a variety of Celtic crosses. I could write a whole piece just on cross styles and meanings!



Victorians were pioneers in Floriography; the language of flowers. Using flowers to express feelings and send messages. Each flower had its own meaning and use in communication. This, of course, transpired onto their headstones. As well as serving a decorative purpose, these flowers and plants have hidden meanings. There are flowers related to the person's qualities such as daffodils to represent grace and beauty, Buttercups for cheerfulness, oak leaves for strength and honour and ivy symbolizes friendship and faithfulness. They also act as religious symbolism. Palms for peace and eternal life, wheat for resurrection and mistletoe for immortality. Also, the symbols can represent the living's feelings. The weeping willow clearly indicates sadness and perpetual mourning of the ones left behind.



The most prolific and easy to read flower symbol is the rose. A full bloom shows a full and long life, a partially opened rose show a teenager or young adult, and a bud for a baby. Due to high infant mortality at that time, there are many headstones with this symbol. A popular scene shows two intertwined roses which found on couple's graves show a strong bond. Cut roses show untimely or sudden death, which was something sadly common. These headstones really do tell a story of family relationships and the fragility of life.



These full bloom roses, which intertwine, adorn a man and wife's grave, who both died in adulthood.



This heads the stone of a woman and her baby, who passed 11 weeks after. The sickle cutting the bloom and the bud emphasises the tragic event and reveals the feelings of the husband left behind.



A 22 year-old woman's grave. With some research I found she was recently married and had a baby. There is an uncut bud which could represent the young one.

Hands are largely featured on headstones. If you spend some time looking you may come across clasped hands. These show a husband and wife's bond in life and into death. These can often give us information about the deceased, without reading the names. Depending on the wear and quality of the carving you can see which of the couple passed first. By looking for clues in the hands and the sleeves you can decipher the gender of each hand. The hand on top represents the first to pass in order to lead the other into heaven, when the time comes.



Some of the more interesting symbols on the headstones nestled between their more common counterparts are those of masons. The curious symbology catches one's eye and with a little research we can pull out a wealth of information on those memorialised below.



The All Seeing Eye is synonymous of the mason community. With a little research, I found this individual has his occupation named as Stone Mason



This one also features the All Seeing Eye as well as a Set Square and Compass, which are known as Masonic symbols, but could also indicate the tools of a stonemason. This also includes a star, of which the five points represents five Biblical women and their virtues.



This illustrates the emblem of the Ancient Order of Foresters: This headstone shows the owner was a member of Pride of the Tamar court 3859, group in Saltash. And the eye makes its appearance here too!



Being close to the water, and with Saltash being such an important port, there were many seafaring people with strong links to the sea. It is unsurprising that there are many anchors to be found in St Stephens. Broken chains can symbolise a life cut short and life lost at sea. Early Christians used the anchor as a secret symbol for the cross during the Roman persecution to show others in the know of their faith. This anchor found in St Stephens is unfortunately not a secret Christian code, but for the boys who died during their service on the Mount Edgcumbe training ship anchored in the Tamar.

And last, but not least, if you are very lucky, you may come across this rare design hidden in the ivy. You may be mistaken in thinking this is a grave of a 18th century pirate or a plague victim. I use the word rare, as this stone is engraved with the date 1747. These “memento mori” skull and crossbones were common in the 16th century. During the Neo-classical movement along with the age of enlightenment in the 18th century saw the skull substituted by a cherub’s face and the bones with wings, to suit the newly fashionable ancient Roman and Greek style. So, by the time this stone was erected it would have been very out of fashion! Maybe he was a pirate after all?



So, next time you visit a graveyard, take a moment to look out for some of these most popular Victorian symbols. By taking time to read and decipher the stones you can get to know more about our 19th century neighbours. At first glance it is a stone, with a list of names and dates. Look deeper, and their social standing, personality, family, religion, loss and even jobs are revealed. What other historical remnants can offer all this?

I have only covered a handful of symbols in this article, so why don’t you go out and find some of the other popular Victorian symbols. Such as urns, fingers, and birds. What else can you find?

Carly Bennett

How many ships!

In February 1817 the Royal Navy instructed every naval ship moored in the Hamoaze to measure the depth of water under the ship at low tide so that charts could be updated.

The table below, which is much easier to read on a computer screen, lists the name of every ship and type of ship that was in the Hamoaze on that day. The list contains details of 116 naval ships.

A TABLE
Exhibiting the Number of Vessels of the Royal Navy Moored in Hamoaze, February, 1817,
 THE DEPTH UNDER EACH SHIP TAKEN AT LOW WATER.

No. of Moored mgs.	WEST SIDE.			No. of Moored mgs.	MIDDLE.			No. of Moored mgs.	EAST SIDE.			No. of Moored mgs.	SMALL MOORINGS.		
	Ship's Names.	Rate.	Depth of Water.		Ship's Names.	Rate.	Depth of Water.		Ship's Names.	Rate.	Depth of Water.		Ship's Names.	Rate.	Depth of Water.
1		im. 11.	1		im. 10.	1		im. 10.	1		im. 10.				
2	Beowick	3	6 3	2		13 3	2		2		3 0				
3	Prince Frederick	3	6 0	3		17 0	3		3		3 0	1	Inoague	6	3 0
4	Hornet	6	4 11	4		6 3	4	Virginie	7	0 3	3	2	Zenobia	6	3 0
5	Hibernia	5	7 0	5	Rippon	3	11 0	5	Sans Pareil	9	0 1	3	Pleasant	6	3 0
6	Atchates	6	10 0	6	Catolonia	1	12 3	6	Intrepid	10	0 0	5	Bittern	6	3 0
7		11	0 7	7	St. Vincent	1	11 0	7	Duelin	10	3 6	6	Zsneur	6	3 2
8	Loire	5	12 0	8	Hibernia	1	7 3	8	Captain	9	2 2	7	Engine boat	3	0 0
9	Moleay	3	9 0	9	Supper	3	10 3	9	Egyptienne	6	0 6	8	Fairy	6	3 4
10	Bourbonnais	5	1 0	10	Ocean	2	9 0	10	Petrel	6	3 9	9			
11	Wanderer	6	5 0	11	Sau Joseph	1	11 2	11	Sea Horse	3	3 10	10			
12	Meda	3	17 0	12	Royal Sovereign	1	9 0	12		4	0 12	11			
13	Royal George	1	15 0	13	Ville de Paris	1	7 0	13	Amazon	5	1 0	12	Ferret	6	6 0
14		15	3 11	14	St. George	1	12 0	14		5	0 13	13	Cephalus	6	5 5
15	Caesar	3	12 3	15	Spencer	3	7 3	15	Phoebe	5	7 0				
16		9	0 6	16	Neptune	2	10 0	16	Ceylon	5	7 0				
17	Abercrombie	3	9 3	17		9 0	17	New Cambrian	5	7 2					
18		10	3 16	18		9 0	17	Midford	3	7 2					
19	Hannibal	4	3 1	19	Coutour	3	9 0	19	Windsor Castle	3	4 0				
20	America	4	7 5	20	Duport	3	10 0	20	Keat	3	4 0				
21	Romana	3	6 0	21	Tenetaire	2	9 0	20	Union	2	11 0				
22	Atmada	3	7 0	22	Alexander	3	9 0	21	Vanguard	3	6 0				
23	Bodiera	5	4 0	23	Mont Blanc	3	9 0	22	Nisus	5	6 0				
24	Invincible	5	10 0	24	Gibraltar	5	7 3	23	Ariadne	6	7 0				
25	Astra	5	7 0	25	Eadyuion	5	7 3	24	Chesapeake	5	6 11				
26	Indus	3	9 3	26	Tigre	3	7 3	25		5	0 0				
27	Implicable	3	11 3	27	Essex	5	7 3	26	Surprise	5	4 3				
28		11	0 23	28	Saturn	3	6 0	27	Topaze	5					
29		5	3 29	29		6 0	28								
30	Dublin	3	9 0	30	Gloire	5	6 0	29	Repubse	3					
31	Canopus	3	3 0	31		6 0	30	Jupiter	3						
32	Rose	6	6 3				31								
33	Slaney	6	1 0		Valorous	6									
34	Fawn	6	1 0												

It's that time again

"It's that time of year again when our memberships are due for renewal.

If you already pay by standing order, there is no need to do anything, but if you normally pay by cheque or cash, please send it in to the museum for the attention of the membership secretary.

Thank you very much for your continued support of Saltash Heritage."

Regards, Sharon

Saltash Heritage Membership Secretary



The Saltash Heritage Committee would like to send enormous thanks to Sharon Lambert, who has been our Membership Secretary since 2012 and done the most exceptional job. Today we socially distanced visited Sharon with a bouquet of roses and a Garden Centre voucher to thank her in a very small way for her support. However not only was Sharon our membership secretary but a valued

member of the committee, offering many wise words over the years. She is a very talented musician and along with friends has entertained us at many of our openings, parties and events. She is also a talented crafter, and there have been many of her enterprises displayed in our annual exhibitions, the Cat, the mole and this year the rabbits. She has made bunting and banners, flags and aprons, she has silk printed items and designed cards. She has sung and has shown superb talents at negotiating acceptable prices for items we have purchased. We have had a lot of laughs and fun and will miss her greatly. We extend to her luck with her future enterprises playing her old English instruments with like-minded musicians all around the country.



Val Singleton, new membership secretary

Today she kindly gave a mini training session to our new Membership Secretary, who as one of our loyal stewards has now joined us in taking on more responsibilities. So, a big welcome to Val Singleton, who many of you will already know.

Please remember now is the time to renew your membership in order to receive your amazing newsletters, three each year. Please send your payments to the Membership Secretary,

Mrs. Val Singleton, at the Museum at 17 Lower Fore Street, Saltash and Val will deal with your membership. We do value your support, particularly at present with not being able to open to the public. We still have to pay all the bills accrued during the year, the insurance, the heating, the rates etc. We do appreciate you all continuing to support our museum and we really hope that this summer we will be able to open our new exhibition 'War and Peace - the 1940's' which has been sitting waiting for nearly a year now.

Our Archivist is eager to open the research room, and he has been working hard from home along with other members of the Committee, so none of us have been idle. Please check the website, our Facebook page and the museum window for opening times as this might change in order for us to follow new guide lines laid down for social distancing.

Please stay safe.

*Lizzy Sharpe-Asprey
Hon. Secretary.*

Dear Lizzy,

First please accept my thanks to you and the committee for the lovely flowers, garden tokens and beautiful handmade card.

It has been fun working with you all. The more I learnt about Saltash Heritage, the more I began to appreciate what a truly special organisation it is.

The amount of work, time, effort and expertise that volunteers put into the running and expansion of the museum and centre is outstanding.

Prior to becoming actively involved I had no idea what a vital and lively group you all are.

Kind regards Sharon

Lizzy Moodles



Moodling is the art of doodling and day dreaming. It is the animation of images creating an illusion of movement. During lockdown, it's all about your hand moving around a piece of paper moving with your mood and creating small images full of movement and colour. An ideal way to while away time during lockdown. Everyone will do this in a very different way.

The Colin Squires Collection

As mentioned elsewhere I have now started to work on the collection left to us by Colin. A few years ago Colin had briefly shown me his collection of books and documents and at the time referred to it all eventually coming to Saltash Heritage. I didn't think too much of it at the time, thinking it will be years before anyone has to deal with it. Sadly that time came all too quickly.

We learned quite soon after Colin's death that he had left his collection of local history documents, books and artefacts to Saltash Heritage. The solicitor invited a couple of us to have a look around to get an idea of what we were going to have to deal with. Hmmm – looks like quite a lot of stuff! Oh well, never mind, we can get a team in and have a good blitz of everything.

Probate has taken a very long time to sort and, as yet, is still not finalised. We were informed shortly before Christmas that Probate had been partially granted and we could have a key to the house so that we could sort out the 'artefacts'. OK, well we can now get on with it – BUT we're in lockdown and having a team in is impossible. So, Mo and I decided that we would have to deal with everything ourselves – fortunately we are only two minutes' walk away. Our first thoughts were OMG what have we let ourselves in for!

Colin was a local historian for his whole life and many people have referred to his depth of knowledge of "everything Saltash". His research was second to none and many times I have said that if Colin says it was so then there is no doubt as to accuracy. Having looked around the house we could see where all that research came from. We are still amazed at

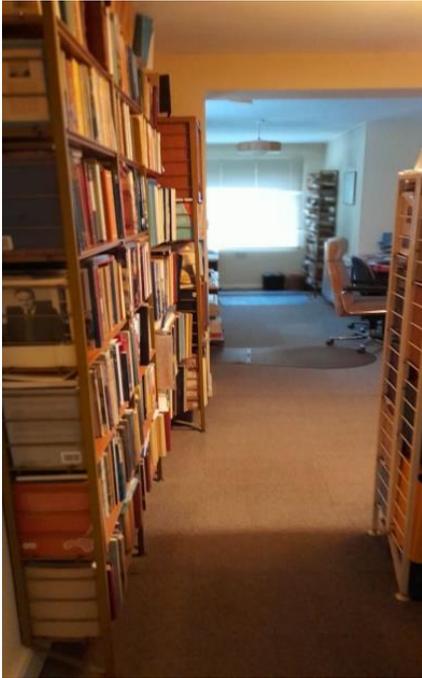


Dining room



"Front" office

the amount of stuff that was fitted into a three-bedroomed bungalow. Of course, being Colin, it was not just randomly spread around, everything was themed, sometimes in more than one location but it has made sorting a lot easier than it could have been. The pictures give a glimpse of what we faced.



The office furniture would be enough to fill any ordinary office space – four desks, five 4-drawer cabinets, three steel cabinets and a wardrobe converted into a filing cabinet, plus who knows how many bookcases and shelves.

Our objective has been to sort out everything that is suitable to add to the Saltash Heritage collection. Once that has been achieved we (and here I mean the Management Committee) can decide what to do with the rest. So Mo and I decided to bite the bullet and start one room at a time boxing up everything that was remotely likely to be wanted for the collection. As the boxes were filled we moved them into the lounge for temporary storage (that being the largest space available!).

They have all been moved again since, but that's another story. This next picture shows a few of the boxes – we added nearly as much again before we finished.

Colin was an avid book buyer – he calculated that he had over 3,000 books in his collection. His shelves would make a reference librarian envious. After removing everything that was likely to be needed for Heritage purposes we embarked on a programme of listing the details of all the books. It currently runs to over 80 pages of A4.

Once we had emptied every drawer, cabinet and shelf of its paper it was time to sort it all out into categories and decide whether it was suitable to add to the collection. Not just whether it was suitable but whether we already have the item – that's going to be a job for several months.



The main office



The first 25 boxes.....

So, what sort of thing did we find? Firstly we have over 800 photographs, the majority of which we do not already have. Then there were hundreds of maps, in fact it took us a week to sort out the map cabinet (and that's yet another item of furniture!). Next are press-cuttings, enough to fill a large plastic crate (all contained in wallets for each topic). Finally there are many hundreds of documents and historical notes.

I have only made a cursory look at the documents etc. so far but a detailed sort out can be done in slow time over the next few months. The priority has been to ensure that we can move it all relatively quickly should we have to.

The photographs are a different matter as they have been easier to take home to deal with. Colin was an Area Surveyor for the council highways department and had access to many records. Apart from his own photographs he had copies of the road improvement works that took place in the early 1960's following the construction of the Tamar Bridge. I'm just old enough to remember some of the roads as they were (as a passenger in my father's motorbike and sidecar). There's no way that they would have been sufficient for modern traffic levels. I think that I have enough material now for several more articles.

We might have had a lot more work than we anticipated but dealing with this during lockdown kept us sane. It provided us with a daily routine for the past three months and has also given us a change of scenery. It will be nice to get back to some semblance of normality though.

Terry

Future-proof!

One of the 'in' words at the moment is "future-proof", (I would call it planning ahead) but when I took the time to look it up in a dictionary I found that the term meant something different when applied to different industries, and the time period of the future varied from 5 years to 200 years depending in individual industries .

This may be new terminology but it is not a new practice.

When the Cornwall Railway in the 1850's built the broad gauge line from Plymouth to Truro, via Saltash and the Royal Albert Bridge financial constraints, in part, forced the company to build the line as a single track and use timber viaducts,. they knew that at some future date the line would have to be dual track and the viaducts replace with stone.

In many places between Plymouth and Truro cuttings, embankments and bridges were constructed with dual track in mind.



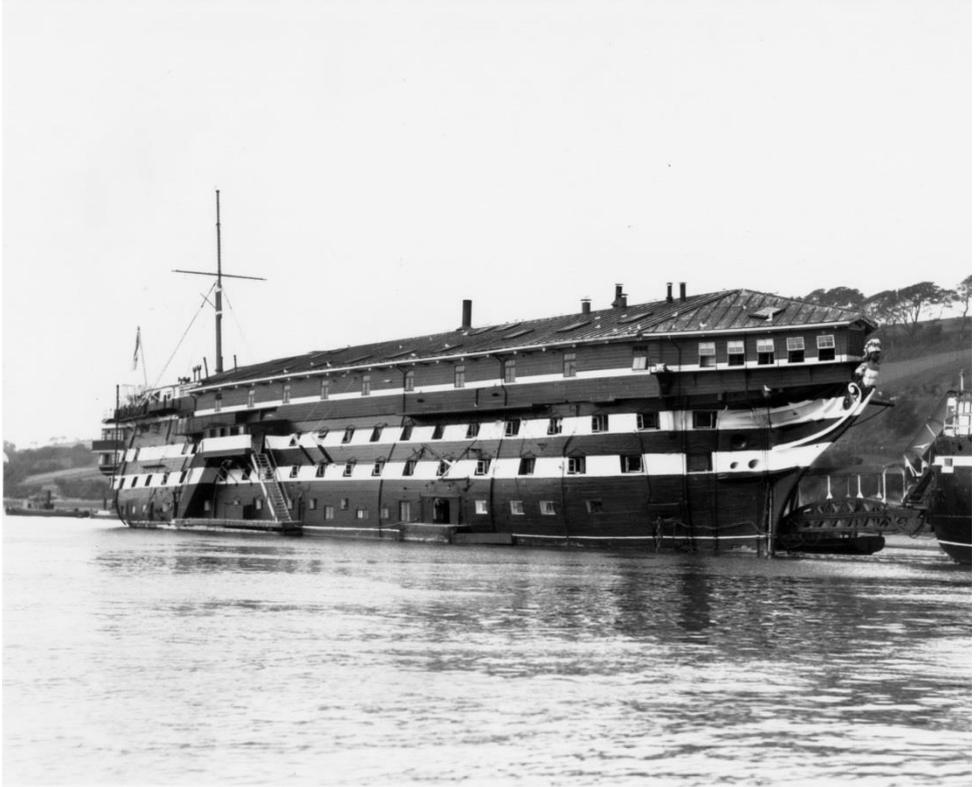
This is very noticeable at Wearde where Defiance Halt was built. The bridge on the left was built in the 1850's to accommodate two broad gauge track but only ever had one laid. This was converted to Standard gauge in May 1892 A second bridge was built alongside to accommodate two standard gauge tracks as it was decided to move the main line inland between Saltash and St. Germans. This had the advantage of fewer viaducts having to be built and those that were required were shorter as the inlets reduced in width further in land. The new route opened on 29 May 1908 and all the timber viaducts were demolished but many of the original bridges still exist and are in use today and can easily be recognised by their generous proportions.

Bruce

The Devonport Torpedo School

H.M.S. Defiance, Wearde Quay, Saltash

HMS *Defiance*. Launched in 1861 was the last wooden [line-of-battle ship](#) built for the [Royal Navy](#). Designed to carry 81 guns with a crew of 860 she was the 10th ship to bear the name but never saw service.



Built along traditional lines *Defiance* was never fitted with masts and was powered by a Maudslay steam engine. On trials in 1862 she achieved a speed of 11.88 knots, (13.7 MPH). The navy saw its future in steel ships so after its trials *Defiance* was laid up and that would probably have been the end of the ship. After 22 years as a hulk the navy found a use for her. She was refitted and commissioned as *H.M.S. Defiance* in 1884 for service as the Torpedo School of the Western Port. The limited amount of instruction that was given in this subject was imparted by a Torpedo Lieutenant on board the *Perseus*, a vessel then attached for this purpose to the *Cambridge*, the Gunnery School of those days. Lecture rooms having been built on her upper deck and the ship equipped with two boilers, a dynamo, the necessary air compressing plant and small workshop accommodation, the *Defiance* was in the early part of 1886 moored in the St. Germans River off Wearde Quay, in the berth vacated by the *Conquistador* (powder hulk) and the *Perseus*, that was moored close to the *Cambridge*, moved and connected to the *Defiance* by a bridge.

In 1892 the *Flamingo* was similarly added to the Establishment, chiefly as a coal and water hulk.

From 1902 to 1905 the *Dreadnought*, a third-class battleship with a Lieutenant in command, served as a tender, principally for submerged torpedo tube practice, being moored in the mouth of the St. Germans River.



HMS Defiance was the collective name used for all ships that made up the training establishment seen here with ships used in 1905-1907

The introduction of the system of commissioning ships in reserve with nucleus crews led to the placing of the *Dreadnought* on the ineffective list and ended her connection with the *Defiance*; to replace the accommodation thus lost the *Cleopatra* was added to the establishment.

In 1906 the life of the boilers of the *Defiance* having almost expired, it was decided to add the comparatively modern second-class cruiser *Spartan*, primarily as the source of power and to meet the requirements of W/T instruction, whilst retaining the *Cleopatra* and disposing of the *Perseus* and *Flamingo*; this change was effected in 1907.

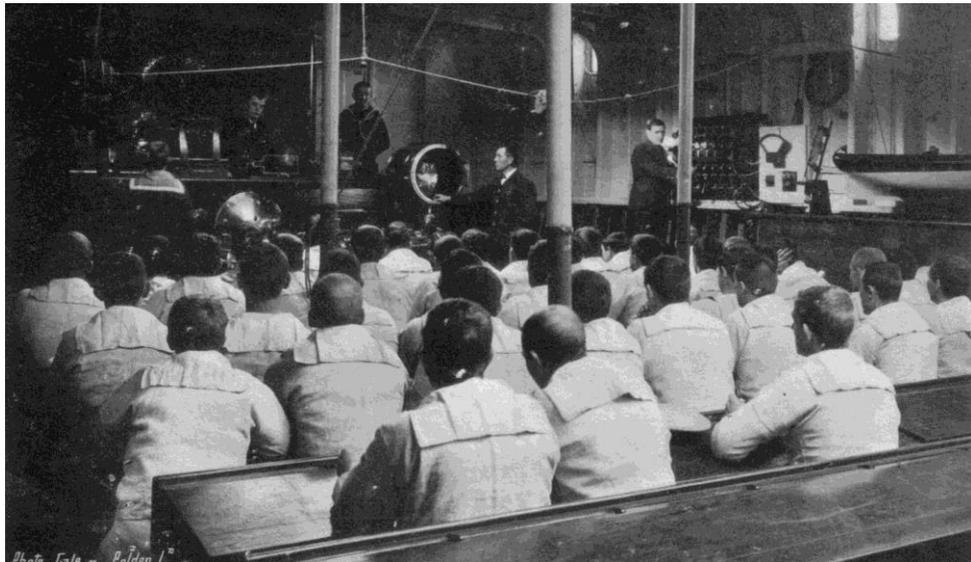
No further important change occurred for some years, but, in 1920, shortly after the substitution of the *Powerful* and *Andromeda* for the *Impregnable*, *Black Prince*, and *Inconstant* as the Boys' training establishment, the latter ship was added to the *Defiance* to provide the additional accommodation needed to meet post-war requirements.

Not only did this additional hulk relieve the *Defiance* of considerable congestion by providing living accommodation for a large number of Officers and the great majority of Petty Officers, but her spacious upper deck made possible the building of adequate billiard and reading-rooms for Petty Officers and men and the provision of a permanent stage and other recreational facilities.

In connection with the growth of the School, in 1884 the lease of a plot of land abreast the ship was sanctioned for the setting up of a D.P.F. This land proved of great benefit as it has given scope for the enterprise of those who have served in the *Defiance* to construct a pier, install a boat-house, and erect a slip, foundry and smithery in addition to developing

an attractive garden on ground suitably prepared by the use of explosives.

The main line of the Great Western Railway skirting this land, a platform was built from the ship's resources, and the Railway Company induced to stop a number of trains and ultimately to establish a halt, named after the ship, for the convenience of officers and men.



Typical class room on *Defiance*. These are Torpedo men being trained in electrical theory 1908



A pinnace, run electrically, between the ship and the shore, on a whip so rove as not to obstruct the fairway, came into being shortly after the conclusion of the arrangements with the Railway Company and is one of the features of the *Defiance*.

The Torpedo Depot in the Dockyard and the Torpedo Range established in the Sound in 1888, were, for a number of years, under the direction of the Captain of the *Defiance*. The Torpedo

Engineer Officer took direct responsible to the Admiral Superintendent for the former, and the latter, which became inadequate as the range of torpedoes increased, has been closed.

In addition to the *Dreadnought*, the establishment has had several other tenders at different times, but none for so long as the *Confiance*, which has rendered yeoman service in that capacity since 1889.

In 1924 a recreation ground in St. Stephens, was provided by the Admiralty, which remained to be fully developed, and a year later Beggars Island was again acquired for

practical demonstrations in demolition work.

At the outset, with the exception of qualifying Gunners who took the S.G.T. course, ratings only were trained in the *Defiance*, and it was not until 1894 that the instruction of Officers was commenced by the introduction of short courses for Lieutenants and Reserve Officers.

In 1896 the first class of qualifying Gunners (T.) passed through the school, and on the abolition of the rating of Torpedo Artificer, a torpedo course was introduced for Chief Armourers.

The establishment of the Royal Fleet Reserve in 1901 further increased the numbers under instruction and from 1903 for a year or two, alternate classes of acting Sub-Lieutenants were qualified for the rank of Lieutenant: a year later a class of Senior Officers and another of Emergency Officers underwent a course in *Defiance*.

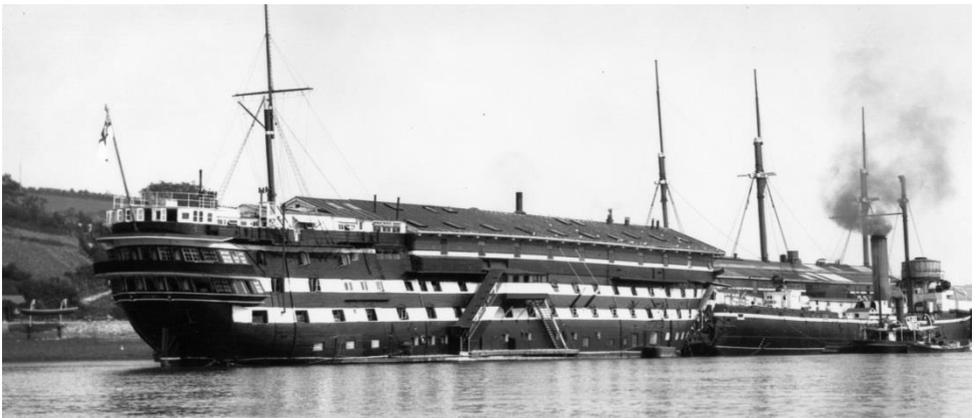
The introduction of the rating of Electrician, now Electrical Artificer, in 1901, again added to the size of the class lists.

For many years the school has been organised to give all the prescribed courses in Torpedo, except the qualifying course for Lieutenant (T.); 400 officers and men can undergo their various courses at any one time.

It fell to the lot of the *Defiance* also to train all Schoolmaster Candidates on their entry into the Navy.

In the matter of instructional apparatus the School has always been kept well abreast of development, and not a few of the methods and appliances now to be found in the parent school had their origin in the *Defiance*.

From the foregoing brief notes on the development of this establishment from its small beginnings in 1884, to its later position, it will be seen that the work has largely been a labour of love.



The School has a record of which all who have served in it may be justly proud. It is for us, appreciating our inheritance to the full, to ensure, by our utmost endeavour, loyal and whole-hearted service, that those who succeed us, will be able to trace further development, and record continuous improvement, so that *Defiance*-trained Officers and Men may continue to enjoy the high reputation so deservedly possessed by our predecessors.

L.A.D. Sturdee
Commander, Royal Navy 1926

Valentine's Meal Reminiscing.



We enjoyed our salmon meal for Valentine Day which started us to think about how in times past, salmon, had helped to provide the family with extra income.

My father Harry, born in 1920, always spent his holidays netting salmon on the Lynher and Tavy rivers from when he was a young man right up to the 1960's. It was always expected this would help with extra income so we never experienced holidays as a family.

Ken remembered how when in his late teens in the 1960's, he was offered a chance to join a group of friends to net salmon in the Tamar and Tavy rivers.

"It was a very interesting pastime, which was hard work but could also be quite rewarding.

Each 'team' of fishermen consisted of four people. One person, normally the boat and net owner held the licence and the others fishing with him had to be named on the licence.

Salmon fishing started in March, Monday to Thursdays only and then in June through to September, Monday to Friday. No fishing after 6am on Saturday until 6am on Monday, (weekends were for poachers!!!!)

Salmon caught were sold to a local dealer and the income was split six ways – *one share for the net owner, *one for the boat owner, * one share for the licence holder (* normally the same person) and one share each for the remaining members of the team.

A separate licence was held for each of the three rivers – Tavy, Tamar and Lynher.

In March we fished up at Halton Quay, the boat, including the net was moored up there from March until June and we fished evenings as we all had full time jobs. We drove there in an old Austin Cambridge from Saltash and fished the incoming tide. March in particular was very cold and some evenings were fished in the dark – one year we didn't catch a fish for seven weeks!!! "

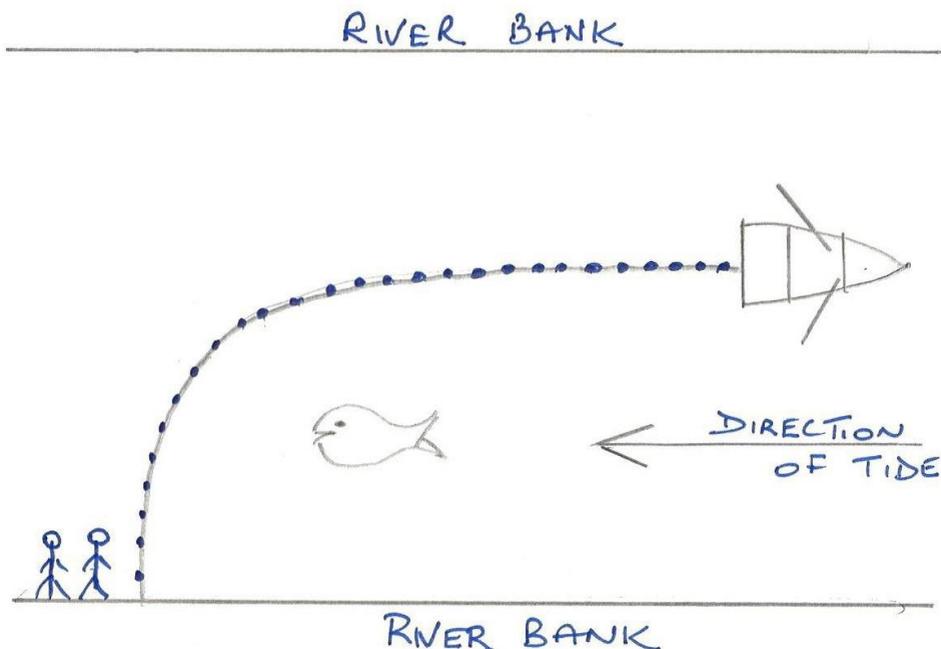
Method of Fishing

One person rowed the boat, another stood in the stern and cast the net and the remaining two stayed on the shore, one holding onto the net.

The net had lead weighting on the bottom rope and corks on the top. The boat was rowed out into the river and the net formed a trap for the fish. After waiting for a few minutes the boat pulled around to the shore and the net was pulled in. Two men pulling the bottom rope, keeping it down on the beach and the other two pulling the top rope in. Any fish in the net would be gradually pushed into the 'bunt' of the net and hauled onto shore. Sometimes you knew there was fish in the net as it would swim around the inside and the corks would go down as it probed the mesh looking to escape.

Halton Quay usually had two or three boats there in the winter fishing so you had to wait your turn to 'shoot' the net but hopefully you would get two or three opportunities during the evening. It could be very exciting and very frustrating –equal amounts of knowledge and luck to catch salmon even with a net that could be 150 metres plus long!

"My lasting memory of Halton Quay was one year, fishing a very fast running tide and whilst holding onto the rope on the beach, the rope slipped and I fell back onto the mud, I couldn't get up as every time I pushed my hand down it just sank into the mud, I had to lay there until the net was hauled in because there could have been a fish caught in it, I was very wet and very cold but provided much amusement for my 'fishing friends'.



June was welcome and trips by boat up to Maristow were much better, good fishing, warmer weather, and a busier beach to fish with many more boats. Salmon fishing in the past could be quite lucrative and men gave up their day jobs to fish full time and then get re-employed at the end of the season. "For a few years I used one of my week's holidays to fish full time. We camped in an old army bell tent, pitched near the beach, taking a supply of food and shared the cooking. No fresh milk so the tea was made with condensed milk – disgusting!! Butter melted, as I can remember opening a tin of corned beef to make a sandwich and it was like soup! One of the team would come back to Saltash mid-week to bring back any fish caught (the fish had been kept under the floor boards of the boat, in water, it was all very secret and no one ever revealed how many fish they had caught) We fished every tide in the week and usually packed up our kit early on Saturday morning to make our way back down the river.

It was good to get home for a decent pot of tea and soak in a hot bath, first wash and shave for a week! Happy Days!!!

Ken and Rita Wasley

The things that I did during lockdown.



The last year has been very strange. Overnight I went from having a very busy and active life, volunteering at the Museum and activities with the U3A. I went to an Art Group once a week, visits with the Garden Group and a Photography Group and Family History Group once a month.

All these were put on hold, with no idea when they would be allowed to begin again. Fortunately, through the wonders of modern technology, the Photography Group was able to continue. The group had a different topic every month, covering such diverse subjects as Isolation (very topical), Contre Jour, which was taking photographs against the light, insects, which could be done in the garden, and free choice.

I enjoyed getting out and taking photographs when it was allowed, and improvising at home, from my collection of natural items.

Hopefully, the end of the pandemic is in sight, and soon we will be able to get out and about, meet up again, and take up our hobbies and interests with our friends again.



Top. *Winter sun.* Above. *Seed heads*
More photographs from Lauris on the back cover

Lauris.

A wander to Wisewandra and a climb to Cadsonbury

We are re-entering spring, always a season of renewal and hope, and especially so this year. Though to me, every season has its delights as I get out to explore the idyllic corners of Cornwall and Devon and to walk the moors, coast and countryside.

The last twelve months, while we have been limited to walking only from home, has set its own challenges. And challenge equals opportunities to explore the myriad of paths, tracks and lanes, by starting from my doorstep.

The aptly named Paradise Lane for example, a green lane leading to the ancient church, holy well and bird filled marshland at Landulph, proved an ever changing panorama of primroses, bluebells, foxgloves and autumnal colourings. While above Cargreen the gated riverside lane to a tidal mill was and is now again, lined with daffodils, remnants of past market gardening.

Further afield I have walked from Saltash via Pillaton along the path down to Clapper Bridge, then along the Lynher Valley as it transformed from brown to pale green, lush summer emerald, then rusty autumn. A clamber up to Cadsonbury was rewarded by the view over Cornwall as I perambulated the banks of the iron age fort accompanied only by soaring skylarks above and perhaps the ghosts of ancient Cornishmen who built these earth fortifications.

Then it was onward along wooded riverbanks to ancient New Bridge and homeward over where sheep graze on the heights of what old maps show as open common land, Amy Down.

Yet across the Tamar Bridge equally splendid walking opportunities from home opened up, Budshead Woods, where the saplings that my mother saw planted post World War 1 deforestation, are now mighty trees. I discovered also a magical wooded pathway to Roborough. And beyond Tamerton Foliot a Tavyside pathway leads to Lopwell Dam across which I rediscovered deep in woodland the old ferryman's cottage and a lost mine. Even in metropolitan Plymouth, there is hidden charm. Beyond Weston Mill village, which is much as it was when trading barges moored here, a multitude of paths climb through birdsong filled Ham Woods. There are other lost villages in Plymouth waiting to be discovered at Lower Compton, Kings Tamerton, Honicknowle and elsewhere. Even between the vast post war developments at Whiteleigh and Southway, I could still lose myself in birdsong within otherwise silent woodland, out of sight of habitation. It was here that I discovered beside the woodland path a miniature railway track. Such walks are full of discoveries.

But perhaps my favourite walk from home led beyond Landrake to Tideford Cross where an ancient trackway would once have borne produce from the medieval settlements, of Wisewandra and Trewandra to the riverside quays. As I paused on a bridge over a fast flowing stream, was it the trees that I heard creaking in the breeze or a hay wain, driven by a smock clad yeoman gazing curiously down at me?

Now as spring returns, a wider mild South West should soon re-open. I look forward to continuing to discover the wonders of our countryside and I murmur my mantra from T.S. Eliot, 'We shall not cease from exploration.....'

Martin Lister

Lockdown hobbies

Lizzy sent out an email that contained the following text:-

Bruce is endeavouring to bring some light hearted relief to our next newsletter and we thought perhaps you would like to share your hobby with us, with a picture and a sentence or two about it.

For example, Bruce plays with trains, I have been moodling and Martin has been walking. What about you, I know amongst you we have expert embroiderers, puzzle builders, musicians, knitters, readers, gardeners, photographers,

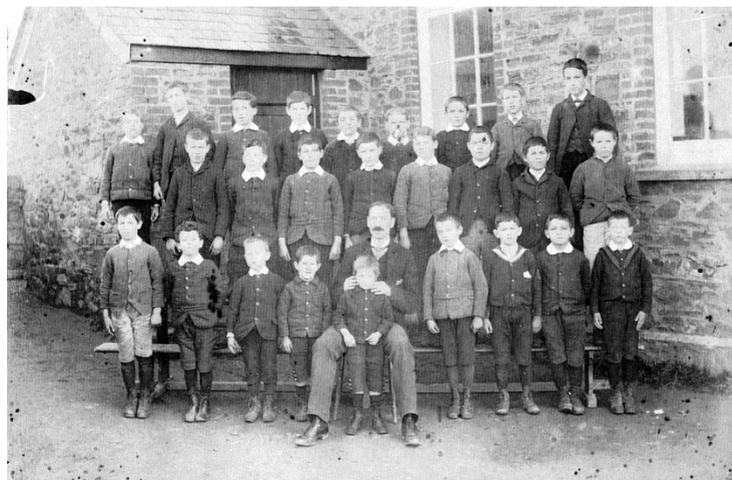
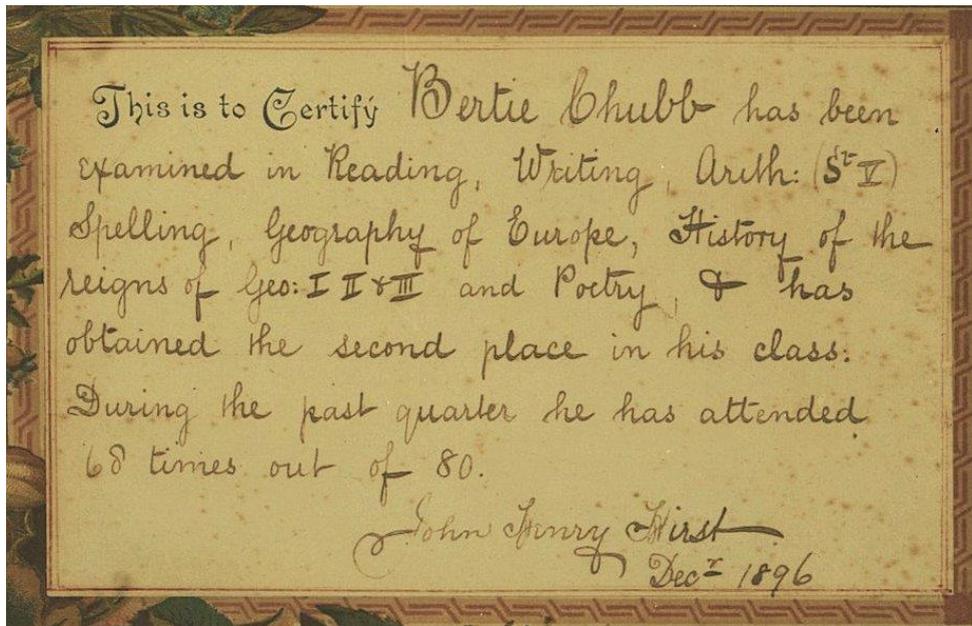
Of course she is totally wrong.... hobbies are a serious thing. As for **playing with trains**. I just had to correct her....

You mean engineering in miniature which encompasses multiple skills including research, precision engineering, electrics, electronics, woodworking, painting (of the artistic type), planning, metal work, sculpting in multi-media, soldering, photography, computer graphic skills and lots of patience, combined with a keen eye for detail and perspective and a skill of hand to create a 3D work of art that captures a moment in time.



A Scholar

My Great Grandfather Bertie Chubb was born in Forder in 1884 and lived most of his life in St Stephens and Saltash.



Boys class Longlands School c1890

He went to school at Longlands and St Stephens and would pay a penny a week to attend. In 1894 Bertie received this school report from St Stephens School, which he must have been proud of and kept framed. Bertie passed away at his home in Wayfield Terrace, Saltash in 1959 and I am pleased that his treasured report has now been passed to me.

Andrew Barrett

John Edward Tamlin

Recently someone pointed out a grave in St. Stephens-by-Saltash Churchyard as they thought it could be a Saltash Civilian WW2 Blitz Casualty who would possibly be missed during the proposed Saltash Civilian WW2 Casualty Commemoration.



**IN LOVING MEMORY OF
OUR DEAR SON
JOHN EDWARD TAMLIN,
WHO DIED BY ENEMY ACTION
APRIL 21ST 1941, AGED 43 YEARS
ALSO CATHERINE, MOTHER OF
THE ABOVE, DIED JULY 1ST 1946
AGED 82 YEARS. R.I.P**



Research shows a Civilian John Edward Tamlin ‘Commemorated in perpetuity by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission’ as:

JOHN EDWARD TAMLIN

Civilian War Dead who died on 21 April 1941 Age 43
Home Guard; Firewatcher; of 4 Osborne Villas, Stoke, Devonport.
Son of John Edward and Catherine Tamlin, of Ardnaree,
Belle Vue Road, Saltash, Cornwall.
Died at junction of Exmouth Road and Devonport Park.
Remembered with Honour
PLYMOUTH, COUNTY BOROUGH.

He was a Plymouth, not Saltash, WW2 casualty. Probably was buried at St. Stephens-by-Saltash because his parents lived in Saltash.

His Death Certificate gives his cause of death as **“due to war operations”**.

If he died whilst on Home Guard duty, then maybe he should be commemorated in perpetuity as a Home Guard member, not Civilian casualty and his grave recognised as a War Grave. Enquiries are ongoing.

Peter Clements

Jordan Hirst



Originally from Cornwall, Jordan Hirst studied piano with Leith Kassier before attending Cardiff University and graduating with first class honours. After receiving scholarships from both Cardiff University and the Ralph Vaughan Williams Trust, he completed his master's degree at the same university the following year. In 2017, he began studying for his PhD in composition at Bristol University as a result of being offered a full scholarship by the university focusing on the incorporation of folklore from Canada and Cornwall studying under Michael Ellison and John Pickard.

He has worked with professional ensembles

such as Psappha, The BBC National Orchestra of Wales, Royal Northern Sinfonia, Kokoro ensemble, Bristol University New Music ensemble, Carducci Quartet, Marsyas Trio, Lontano, BBC Singers, and has had works played in Hoddinott Hall, the National Museum of Wales, Kings college London, and Sage Gateshead. Jordan has been commissioned by the Bristol Contemporary Music Venture, Bristol New Music Festival and Ty Cerdd. Jordan was awarded a residency at Endelienta, St Endellion, for one week last year, and has recently taken part in Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra Composer's Day working with Sally Beamish. Jordan is currently working with Psappha again towards a Youtube video of a piece for solo bassoon, as well as a commission for solo viola da gamba due to be premiered in St David's Hall in May. Jordan is also this year's recipient of the Paul Mealor Award for Young Composers and following an award ceremony in June, will have a commissioned piece premiered by Jeremy Huw Williams in October.

F J Pearn

A trio of Firsts

The first woman recorded as having been issued the General Service Medal (1793 – 1840) was Jane Townsend serving on board HMS DEFIANCE, a 74 gun, ship of the line engaged in the battle of Trafalgar 21 October 1805. It is not explained what she was doing in a King's ship,

Mrs McKenzie was on board the first rate HMS TREMENDOUS during a battle in the Atlantic against the French Fleet ('The Glorious First of June' 1794), gave birth to a son. The baby was later baptised Daniel Tremendous McKenzie! His application for the Naval General Service Medal, clasp '1st of June', was not made until 1848. Daniel must have been, and no doubt still is, the only person in any white ensign navy to have been awarded a medal for a battle fought on the day he was born.

The first clergyman in the history of the Royal Navy ever to receive a medal was Thomas Morgan who served in H.M.S. ALFRED, also in 'The Glorious First of June' action. In 1798, he was in the 74-gun 'Mars', under Captain Alexander Hood, when she was involved in a fiercely fought single-ship action against the French 74-gun 'Hercule' off the Brittany coast. This had only just been built and was intercepted making its way north to join the French fleet at Brest. 'Hercule' eventually surrendered after losing more than 300 men. When the French captain came on board the 'Mars' he presented his sword to Morgan, who took it below to the mortally wound Hood.



The victory of Lord Howe 1st June 1794

Trenches and bore holes

Early this year a number of trenches and bore holes were dug at the Waterside between Ashtorre and the Sailing Club after the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government awarded a grant of £50k under the Coastal Revival Fund to examine redevelopment improvements for the waterfront.



The map that was produced showed the locations of the proposed test pits and bore holes along the shore side of the beach so I nipped down to watch (you never know what's lurking below the surface in a historical area). The first test pit went in at the location marked on the map near to the Sailing Club. Chatting to the man with the clip board he told me that they were ascertaining the depth and structure of the sea wall for future flood defences and were quite happy for me to take photographs.



I knew that the second test pit dig, (TP01) was planned for the corner of the green close to the beach so nipped into town for an hour then popped back to see how the second trench was progressing. Digging was progressing well but not where I expected it. This test pit was not in the planned location but on the other side of the green adjacent to Tamar St. (*bottom picture*). I took a few pictures and mentioned that I thought this test pit was supposed to be on the opposite side of the Green close to the sea wall.



The chap with the clip board was quite chatty and explained to me that to get the digger there it would mean driving it across the green and as the ground was soft after recent rain the digger would churn up the grass and they would have to put right any damage so they were digging the test pit where the digger could stand on hard ground i.e. a parking space in Tamar St.

Well I suppose one hole looks very much like another!



Map showing the location of the proposed test pits and bore holes along the side of the river. TP01 being on the river side of the green. The red arrow points to the location where the test pit was actually dug.

Bruce



Lauris Richards