

Feock Trails - A History of Feock

Why Parish History?

Interest in local history may be sparked by any one of a number of personal triggers, perhaps research into family, fine buildings or heroic enterprise, but the axiom for these parish narratives which describe Feock's past has been the proposition outlined in the preface of A L Rowse's book "Tudor Cornwall". He encourages us to "*see the history of one's own parish as part of the history of Europe, a moment in the movement of the human spirit*". The history of Feock, and particularly the people who have lived here, often raises the Parish from relative rural obscurity into the vanguard of events which have formed our nation.

This is amply illustrated by the designation of parts of Devoran and Point within the Cornwall and West Devon World Heritage Site. This status acknowledges the pioneering technological advances which were developed in these areas and which supported the Industrial Revolution in Britain. They are considered significant for the whole of humanity and whilst Feock may seem remote from the world today, even a backwater, these and other national and international connections belie this stereotype.

Hosting these histories on the Feock Parish Council website, provides ready access for all our residents and also those further afield. The more detailed history essays which may be found under the QR Narrative links are intended to be reviewed and updated as more information comes to light and also augmented by audio and video as better formats are developed.

Restronguet Creek and the Carrick Roads taken from the footpath at Tregoose.



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The QR narratives available on the Parish Website

Feock Parish Council



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Feock Trails - QR: Explore the Past

Explore Feock Parish in a whole new way!

**** [Click here to start exploring an introduction to Parish history](#) ****

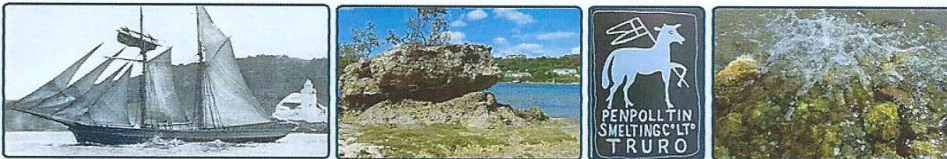
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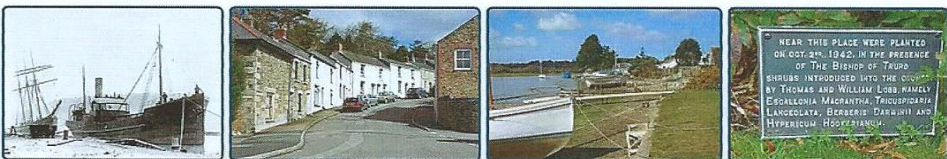
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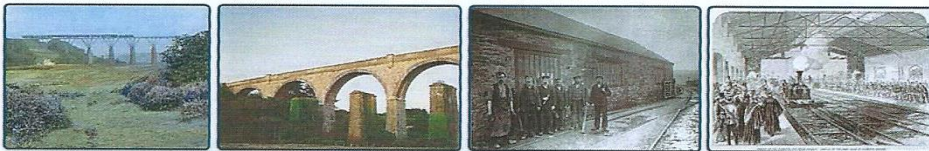
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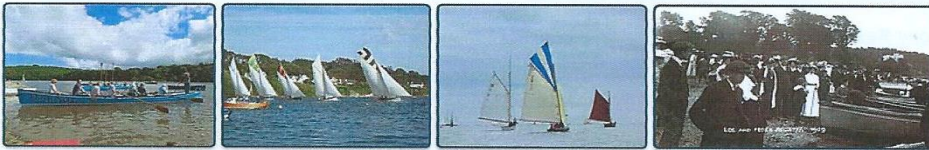
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Explore Feock's Wildlife

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Want to find out even more?

Explore original sources and past investigations in our [reference library](#), available both online and in our offices.

1. Feock's Landscape

Feock is first and foremost a place of landscape, much of the Parish is designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and three landscape types have dominated the parish until quite recently:

Estuary and shoreline

The important maritime highway provided by the River Fal and its sheltered creeks has been a focus for settlement from the earliest times. The Bronze Age roundhouse, discovered during the construction of the Carnon Gate roundabout at Devoran, will have nestled beside the water's edge at a time before the creek became clogged with mine residues.

These early residents would have gathered their food from the sea as much from the land and the Fal oyster has been harvested from time immemorial. In common with other estuarine fisheries in the UK the common oyster provided a staple food for people of the Fal and with Feock situated centrally to the main oyster beds it is small wonder that a hundred years ago Pill or Feock men held more than half the oyster licenses in the estuary.

The entire estuary complex is a vital nursery area for many fish including bass, mullet and pollack and the underwater meadows of beautiful green eel grass are a perfect habitat for the elusive seahorse. These and other important habitats within the Fal are the reasons for its designation as a Special Area of Conservation and it joins a network of areas protected as important on a Europe wide basis.

The magnificent fort at Roundwood is typical of settlements in Cornwall later in the Iron Age. Its situation as a fortified landing place beside the river is exceptional and emphasises the importance of trading connections with the sea. Shipping and local river craft have been integral to the parish's past and present and the Falmouth Pilot Gig perhaps epitomises better than any other this connection between ocean going and river craft, their slippery lines developed from the imperative to be first to meet incoming ships as they approached Falmouth and deliver their pilot aboard.

A Devoran pilot gig in the Carrick Roads.



QR Narratives:

The Wildlife of the River Fal - walk 9

The Seascape of the Carrick Roads - walk 7

The wildlife of our creeks - walk 4

The Fal oyster fishery - walk 8

Pill Creek - walk 7

Cowlands and Coombe - walk 8

Cornish Pilot Gigs - walk 4

Forest and woodland

From the earliest times the countryside inland from the river was heavily wooded and remained so until the twin agents of change, mining and agriculture, caused their demise. In the late 18th century a commentator bemoaned the fact that in his youth Carn Brea had been a forest of "prodigious oaks" but these had all been cut down to satisfy the insatiable appetite of the mining industry. It is fortunate indeed that the estates bordering the Fal took a more sustainable approach to their woodlands.

If you take a river trip up the Fal to Malpas through the woodlands of the Tregothnan estate, it is easy to imagine the landscape of Feock of one thousand years ago. The woodland you will see beside the river is not fully natural however, it is the product of planting possibly five hundred years ago and has been managed by coppicing ever since. Primarily native oak, the woods have been cut in rotation for centuries and taken for timber, firewood and making charcoal. Charcoal was an essential raw material for the tin smelting, or blowing, houses. Since the 17th century the bark has been taken as an essential material for the local tanning industry.

Our local place names in Feock make reference to these forests when early farmsteads were still characterised by their woodland surroundings, Tregoose and Chycoose being good examples. Tregoose Farm is one of a few older properties in the Parish documented far back early in the 14th century.

Woodlands beside the River Fal



QR Narrative:
The Wildlife of Fields and Hedgerows

Downs and Moors

The least well-known landscape within Feock today is that of open moorland, even though its presence is still recorded in the name Carnon Downs. Well into the 19th century the higher parts of the parish were extensive and open downlands. How these Carnon and Feock downs became devoid of trees is open to conjecture, they may possibly have been farmed in prehistory and been subject to the pattern of soil degradation which is thought to have caused the depopulation of the high moors in Cornwall in the later Bronze Age.

Penelewey, meaning "head of the downs", is an ancient place name first recorded in Norman times. It was then strategically sited at the threshold of the Feock Downs, which stretched almost to Feock village itself. Even in the late 1600s the Feock Downs were described as "*more smooth and even than any other piece of open ground in West Cornwall*", and the area was selected as a suitable site for a county race course, however the enterprise was never taken forward. To appreciate how these downs may have looked one might visit the Carrine Common, between Penweathers and Baldhu. This site of Special Scientific Interest contains many plant species now listed as rare or endangered.

As with many areas of England, the downs within Feock Parish were enclosed and brought into agricultural productivity in the 18th and early 19th century. Limestone and other imported fertilisers were then becoming readily available and Lime Kilns were constructed at nearly all ports around the coast where stone shipped from Devon could be landed. In 1843 the West Briton reported that, "*for the last twenty years there have been thirty vessels employed in carrying limestone from Plymouth to Cornwall to burn for manure and every harbour, nook and creek from Rame Head to Lands End has its lime kiln.*" The remains of a well preserved early 19th century Lime Kiln may be found at Point Orchard.

The effect of the lime manure was greatly assisted by new bulk fertilisers, particularly Guano, imported from South America. In 1845 the West Briton reported, "*just arrived, the barque Alchemist, direct from Ichaboe with about 260 tons of Guano. Apply to Foxes and Co. Perran Wharf or to their agents at Restronguet, Devoran, Tresillian or Carharrack yards.*"

There was some opposition to enclosure in Cornwall because of its potential effect on "Tin Bounding" and Tinnars' rights under Stannary Law. Such opposition may well have been the reason why Carrine Moor survived because of its long history of mining. This advertisement for enclosure of Feock Downs was reported in the West Briton on 30th August 1811; "*Notice is hereby given, that application will be made in the next session of Parliament for leave to bring in a bill for inclosing, dividing and allotting, and also for extinguishing all tin bounds, within or upon certain commons or waste lands commonly called Coisgarne Downs, Chicoose Commons, Cold-Wind Common, Trevarth Common, Killiwherries Common, Feock Downs and Pennance Common, situate in the several parishes of Gwennap, Kea and Feock in the County of Cornwall.*"

A vivid description of this transformation may be found in a further report in 1868, "*There are a dozen years since the traveller by the turnpike road from Lostwithiel to Liskesrd, as he ascended from hill yo hill, would gain from the summit of each successive eminence a monotonous moorland view, where furze and heather reigned supreme over a rugged down, bestrewn by rocks and stones and traversed by foot-worn paths and cut by numerous gullies. Here are now to be seen extensive farms, composed of many-acred fields that have all the appearances about them of agricultural prosperity.*"

By 1870, the local estate belonging to Lord Falmouth had enclosed all his "waste land" and throughout Cornwall a further 6,000 acres of land had been enclosed.

The enclosure of the Carnon downs provided small plots which were available for smallholders to feed the rapidly increasing population of mine workers. The best use made of much of Feock Downs however, was the creation of the Wellington, Waterloo and Exmouth woodland

plantations, which were established by the Trelissick Estate to provide work for soldiers returning after the Napoleonic Wars.

Carrine Moor, a heathland of furze and heather



2. Settlement patterns

The Cornwall County Council Historic Environment Service website “Flying Through Cornwall's Past” provides an invaluable insight to Cornwall's historic landscape. Examples of field patterns are described within the section dealing with “Decoding the Past” and, using these examples, it is clear that the fields around Higher Trevilla and the site of the old manor house are typical of very early settlements, as are the fields around Tregye and Tresithick. In contrast, the field patterns for land enclosed more recently in the 19th century takes the form of regular rectangular enclosures as can be seen in the area south of Penelewey.

This aerial photograph shows the fields surrounding Tregye. The irregular shaped fields fanning out from the central point indicate the likely presence of an early medieval manor house at Tregye.



This aerial photograph shows the fields surrounding Trevilla. The irregular shaped fields fanning out from the central point indicate the likely presence of an early medieval manor house at Trevilla.



This aerial photograph shows the fields surrounding Penelewey and Fourturnings. The straight sided fields are a product of much more recent cultivation.



3. Early place-names

The written records of Feock in past centuries have been relatively numerous and the different spelling of the name is recorded as:

- 13th 14th 15th century Feoce, Feoco, Feoca
- 16th century Feok, Feake, Feocke, Feock
- 17th century Feoge, Feake, Feocke, Feock

The current spelling of the name, Feock, has been commonly used since the 16th century when the Cornish language was the native tongue of the people of Feock.

The prefix Lann denotes the presence of a religious settlement and has also been commonly used throughout history to describe Feock village. In the 13th century a man called William Lamfeocke was recorded within Bishop Stapledon's register and areas of the village even today are called La Feock or La Vague. The latter name "Vague" corresponds with Canon Doble's interpretation of the pronunciation of Feock as "Fayge".

The translation of Feock village into the Cornish language as Lannfeock and the use of Pluwfeock for the Parish of Feock is fully consistent with the historical record of spelling within the Cornish language and this spelling is used by Feock Parish Council.

The names of settlements in the 16th century are still largely familiar to us today and their Cornish language roots were established over a thousand years ago in prehistory. Early names of other places within the Parish are tabled below, together with their current spellings and likely translations:

Trelesick – Trelissick – meaning farm within the bushes or bilberries

Penhal – Penhale – meaning head of the estuary or end of the moor
Trevelle – Trevilla – uncertain meaning, possibly similar to neighbouring Penhale
Nanscageyk – Nancassick – meaning valley of the mares
Harcrak – Harcourt – meaning house above the woods or possibly rocks
Stronguet – Restronguet – meaning valley with deep promontory
Pylle – Pill – meaning creek
Loo – Loe – meaning pool or pond
Porgwyn – Porthgwidden – meaning whitehaven
Tregoes – Tregew – meaning farm in the hollow or by the best field
Carnan – Carnon – meaning camp or perhaps rocky place
Tregoose – Tregoose – meaning farm in the woods
Tregie – Tregye – meaning farm of the dog or perhaps within the groves
Killinohan - Killiganoon – meaning house on the heath or within a grove of nut trees

4. Feock in past ages

A most useful guide to local historical sites can be found within the Cornwall Council Interactive Mapping system which is available on Cornwall Council's website. If one enables the "Historical" layer of the map and chose the "*Buildings, sites and monuments*" option, one is able to locate a wealth of specific sites with the associated fascinating information notes.

The Bronze Age: 2500 BC to 800BC

Both the Carnon and Feock downs are home to numerous small barrows or tumuli dating from **circa 4,000 years ago**. This was the period of the Middle Kingdom of ancient Egypt, a little after the building of the great Pyramids of Giza, and most likely contemporary with the building of the Palace of Knossos on Crete. Four tumuli are found at Carnon Downs and a further two in the area of Feock Downs. One tumuli, central to Carnon Downs, was preserved from destruction during the building boom of the 1960s and can be found on a small scrap of land beside the road in the cul-de-sac of Parc an Creeg (Field of the Barrow). Its shape and context gives the clues for the search of others which are more hidden in the landscape but may still be identified from Ordnance Survey maps.

The pattern our forebears used in siting tumuli mounds on higher ground continues along the ridge of land between Carnon Downs and Baldhu, and here a further ten tumuli can be found. These tumuli have long been interpreted as burial mounds, but excavation has established that many did not contain any burial material at all and their function might have been as special places for the living as much as the dead. Certainly, their situation in what would have been very prominent sites demonstrates both the importance of landscape to our early forebears, and also the capacity of these structures to endure as a striking physical statement over the centuries.

A further cluster of tumuli may be found on the high ground at Carclew, across the valley from Devoran. The name Carclew derives from Cruglew, which is translated as burial mound within the Cornish language. A little further down the creek, between the Pandora Inn and Weir Beach lies Crocknagodna which is translated as burial place of the chief. It is unfortunate that in very recent times numbers of these ancient structures have been lost to development and agriculture.

In 2006 a single Bronze Age roundhouse was revealed during the construction of the Carnon Gate roundabout at Devoran. It was excavated by the Historic Environment Service of Cornwall Council and found to have been well preserved under a protective layer of soil. The double stone-faced walls of the round hut were set within a hollow cut into the hillside. Radio carbon analysis of pottery sherds has provided a date of between **3500 - 3300 years ago**, just a little before Tutankhamun ruled in Egypt. Some of the pottery found at the site was formed from the distinctive Gabbroic clay found on the Lizard and the pots were decorated with incised zig-zag and herring-bone patterns in a similar fashion to pottery found at the extensive Trethellan site near Newquay.

A reconstructed Bronze Age hut at Chacewater



Tin and gold in the Carnon Valley

Bronze is used to describe a variety of alloys of copper and, whilst copper itself and many of the alloy elements are commonly found across the whole of Europe, the most durable Bronze requires the incorporation of approximately 10% tin, a metal which was not at all common in the ancient world. This type of Bronze was widely produced in Europe only after the establishment of the far ranging trade networks necessary for sourcing this illusive ingredient. These networks first developed around 5,000 years ago at the time of the first Pharaoh dynasty. Exactly when Cornish tin was first discovered and exploited is not known but is likely to have coincided with the first farming communities around 4,000 years ago.

In these early times the tin was found in the beds of rivers and streams flowing away from the tin bearing areas. The tin oxide (Cassiterite) is heavy and the natural sorting processes within the river flow allows it to concentrate within hollows in the river bed. The tin is won by the process of "tin streaming" which requires diversion of the river flow and digging and sifting of the river sands and gravels to reveal the grains and pebbles of brownish black ore. The Carnon Valley has been a centre for tin streaming since these very early times.

In recent years it has become possible to trace the origin of metal objects and new analyses of ancient gold artefacts from around Europe have suggested that possibly the majority of ancient gold in the Bronze Age did not originate from Iberia or Ireland, as traditionally supposed, but actually came from Cornwall. The Carnon Valley has been noted for small, but important, production of gold throughout its long mining history. A large nugget was dug out of workings within the Carnon Valley in 1808 and is now to be found in the Philip Rashleigh collection on display in the Royal Cornwall Museum.

The gold nugget in the Royal Cornwall Museum



The Nebra Sky Disc

In the year 2000 a bronze disc, the size of a dinner plate, was found by metal detectorists within a prehistoric settlement near Leipzig in Germany. The disc, which has been declared a World Heritage Status artifact, displays a picture of the heavens inlaid in gold. Initial dating suggested that the disc was created around **3,600 years ago**. Analysis of the constituent metals has indicated that whilst the copper was of local German origin the tin originated from Cornwall and the inlaid gold originally came from our own Carnon Valley. This provenance has been argued as demonstrating that strong trading links existed with mainland Europe far back in ancient times.

The Nebra Sky Disc



QR Narratives:

The Carnon Valley in the Bronze Age - walk 4

Ancient Mineral Workings - walk 1

The Iron Age: 800 BC to 43 AD

We have a number of Iron Age sites in the Parish and the largest, at Roundwood, remains an extraordinarily impressive structure which was originally constructed with high ramparts and deep ditches. This promontory fort sits upon the banks of the Fal overlooking the sheltered waters of one of the greatest natural harbours in the world. Above Roundwood Fort lie the remains of a slightly older settlement round on Kestle Hill. No archaeological investigation has been undertaken on either structure to determine their detailed age or use, however it is likely that, when taken together, the sites were occupied for up to 1,000 years from 500 BC and that Roundwood fort itself was occupied into the Roman period and possibly beyond.

A third enclosure round of similar age has been detected more recently at Tregoose Barton near Carnon Downs, following analysis of cropmarkings revealed by aerial photographs. The downs above the Carnon River held a strategic position above this important valley and might therefore appear to have been a favoured position for such a settlement.

Place names often provide clues to the past although their interpretation is fraught because the spelling and meanings have been corrupted over time. The first element, "Car", of the word Carnon might possibly be derived from Caer meaning camp (fort or castle) and the word therefore might be translated as "castle on the downs" or even "castle above the valley". In support of this possibility, one of the fields of the nearby Tregye estate was called Gear field, which is often interpreted as being derived from the same root, Caer. Also a former name of Higher Devoran Farm in times past was "Dennis" which can also be translated from the Cornish language as fort. These many references to castles or forts suggest that Carnon Downs was indeed the site of such a settlement.

The outer embankment and ditch of Roundwood Fort



Between the Roman and Norman conquests: 43 AD to 1000 AD

The Romans in Cornwall:

There remains speculation over why the Romans decided to go to the expense of conquering Britain and including it within their empire in **43 AD**. Britain was on the very edge of their known world and the foremost geographer of the time, Strabo, commented that sufficient taxes were derived from trading with Britain for its full subjugation to be unnecessary. Strabo recognised the lands of "The Cassiterides" (The lands of tin), which he believed to lie to the west of Britain off the Cornish peninsula. He described them as the lands where the Ancient World derived its tin, however he did not list tin amongst the current exports of Britain and at the time when Rome invaded Britain it derived this important metal almost exclusively from Iberia. Although the gold and silver that was to be found in other parts of Britain may have been sufficient incentive for invasion, the search for tin was almost certainly not. If the legends of St Piran's revival of the tin industry later in the 5th century are to be believed our Carnon Valley was passing through one of its long industrial depressions in early Roman times.

In the years after the invasion, Cornwall was pacified but was not directly occupied by Roman forces. The fort at Nanstallon near Bodmin is one of very few truly Roman sites in Cornwall and it was occupied for only a short period between **65 and 79 AD**. Cornwall only became important to Roman Britain towards the end of the **3rd century AD** when supplies of tin from Iberia started to fail and the area experienced a resurgence in the production and export of the metal.

The Age of Saints:

Julius Caesar's destruction of the Veneti fleet of Western Gaul and the subsequent scattering of the Veneti population in **56 BC** had disrupted the trade routes which existed along the Atlantic coastline and which connected the Celtic nations. Trade between Britain and the continent was shifted from these western routes towards the shorter channel crossings in the east of Britain. The Veneti had dominated the trade and shipping along the Atlantic coast and it revived only very slowly over subsequent centuries. By **500 AD** however the maritime connections between Ireland, Wales, Western Britain and across the channel to Brittany and Western Gaul were again strong and sea passages were common.

Cornwall held a central position in this trade route and the effect of this is clearly demonstrated by the range of nationalities represented within its pantheon of Celtic Saints. These monastic evangelists took full advantage of the routes, travelling at will along the Atlantic coastal highway, expounding their particular form of Celtic Christianity to all who would listen. Their stories are recorded in the "Lives of the Saints", which were treasured within early church archives. The oldest such record is "Vita S. Samsonis" (the life of Saint Samson) which was probably written between the years **610 - 615 AD**, possibly no more than forty years after the saint's death. The account was written for the church of Dol in Brittany and tells the story of Samson's childhood in Wales, his mission in Cornwall and his foundation of the great Abbey of Dol.

Brittany (Little Britain) had become a refuge for Celtic Britons escaping conflict with the Saxons in the east of the country, and at this time the Lords and Kings of Dumnonia (Cornwall and Devon) held authority over a common people on both sides of the channel.

The Roman world had become nominally Christian in **313 AD** when the Emperor Constantine made Christianity his religion of Rome. Although by **400 AD** the majority of neighbouring Gaul had accepted the Christian faith the same could not be said of Britain. It is likely that due to the relative remoteness of Cornwall it remained overwhelmingly pagan well into the **6th century**. At this time it was clearly fertile ground for evangelism, but the tensions between the saintly aesthetic monks and the local Cornish lords and common people, are well described within the histories of the lives of the saints.

St Just Church, situated on the Roseland shoreline.



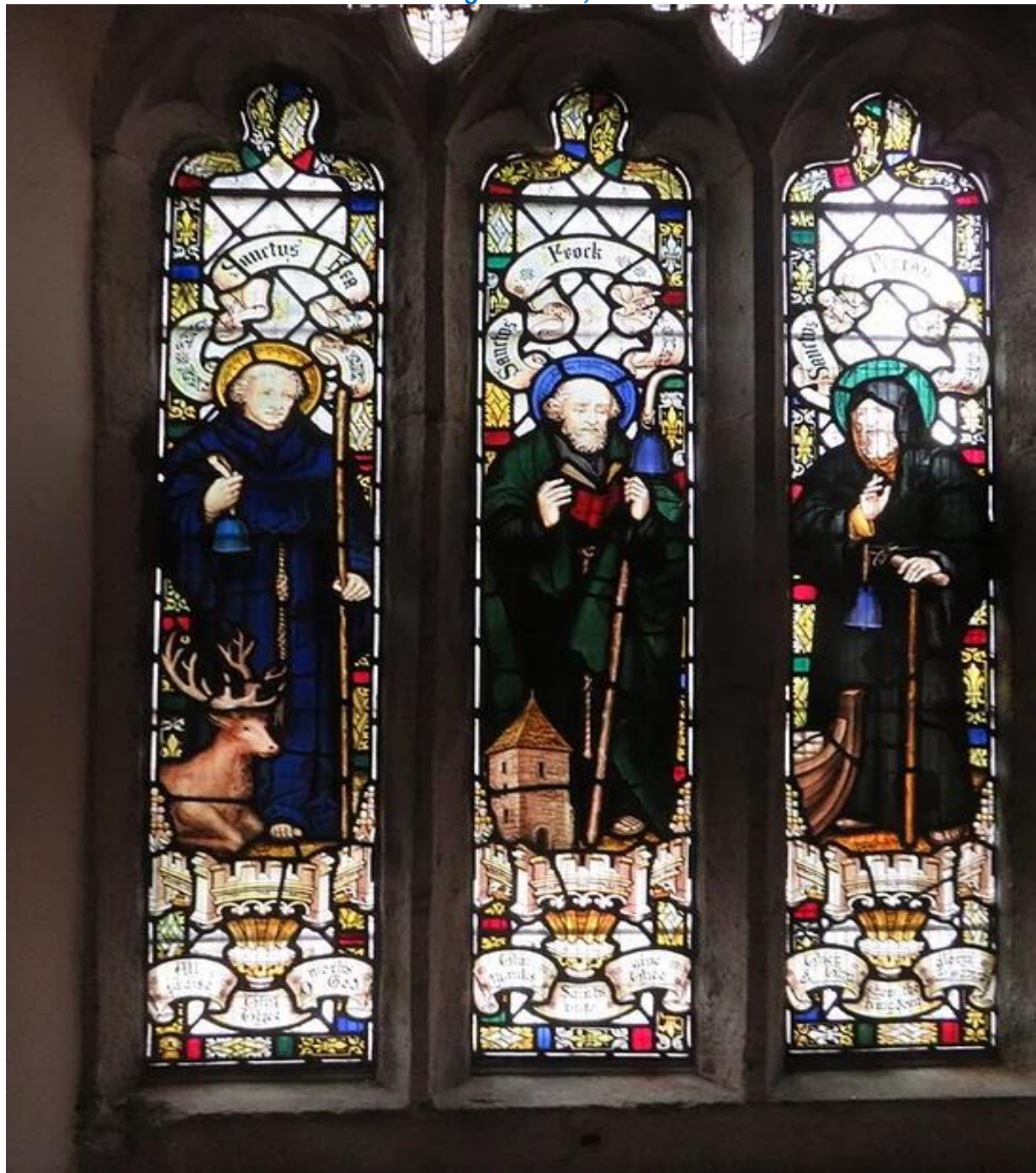
The life of our neighbouring St Kea is well documented and, in particular, was recorded by the monks of Glasney College at Penryn. A copy of their Miracle Play, "Beunans Ke", written in the Cornish language, now resides in the National Library of Wales. Beunans Ke tells the story of Kea's arrival and initial conflict with the local Lord Teudar. The story unfolds with St Kea giving sanctuary to a stag and protecting it from Teudar's hunting party, an action which led to him being assaulted by Teudar's men. Eventual reconciliation between Lord Teudar and St Kea led to him being provided with land at Old Kea in order to establish his monastery. The play would no doubt have been popular with the people of Kea and Feock when it was performed in the local round at nearby Playing Place

The origins of our St Feock are more obscure. The saint is thought to have also been a **sixth century** Christian teacher who established a religious settlement at what is now Feock village. Joseph Loth and Canon Gilbert Doble, the two leading authorities on the subject of our early Cornish and Breton saints, both held the view that S.Feock was one and the same as S.Maeoc of Brittany. The Fal contains numerous examples of Saints common to the two sides of the Channel, a feature which stands testament to the close links between Cornwall and Brittany and the maritime links across the channel.

The first record we have of Feock itself is within a document dated at around **1160 AD**. The reference states: "*Lanfloc – Floc nomen sancti illius est*", translated as: "*Lanfloc – this is the place of the saint named Floc*". Lan is the name given to a religious settlement, which was probably established near the current village centre during this period.

The west window of the modern Feock Church depicts our three local saints, each holding their evangelist bell. St Feock is shown with the early church building, St Kea is shown with the stag and St Piran is shown with the ship which brought him from Ireland.

Photo of Feock Church windows featuring St Feock, St Kea and St Piran



QR Narratives:

Early Churches beside the Fal - walk 7

Celtic Saints of the Fal - walk 7

Miracle Plays - walk 7

The Dark Ages:

In comparison to the light which shone on Cornwall during the Age of Saints, little was recorded in following centuries up to the Norman Conquest. This lack of information has been described as the Dark Ages.

The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle in **815 AD** reported that Egbert, Saxon King of Wessex, ravaged "West Wales" (as Cornwall was known at the time) from end to end. It would appear that this campaign marked the beginning of the end of Cornwall as a fully separate Celtic nation of

Britons, within the now predominantly Saxon controlled England. Just as was the case in early Roman times, Cornwall now appeared to be too poor to be of much interest to the ruling Saxons, however it was treated much as neighbouring Wales, and left as a client kingdom bound by oaths and duty.

These vows were broken in **838 AD** when a great fleet of Danish ships appeared off the Cornish coast and a Viking horde marched through Cornwall to attack Egbert's western flank. Local men joined with the Danes, but were met by a vigilant King Egbert and routed at Hingston Down on the border with England. This battle truly marked the end of Cornwall's resistance against the Saxon overlords.

The Welsh Chronicle recorded King Dumgarth as the last king of "Dumnonia" and reported that he was drowned at sea, possibly at Fowey, in about **AD 875**. The final border between Cornwall and the Saxon English was set along the River Tamar a full hundred years later by King Athelstan. Together with the border there appears to have been a forced clearance of Cornish people from Exeter and resettlement of British Celts to the west of the new frontier.

The Domesday record of **1085 AD** provides a comprehensive update on the economic situation of Cornwall at the turn of the first millennia. Cornwall was recorded as generally a place of extreme poverty and this perhaps confirms why the Saxons had taken little interest in the land. Only the east and extreme north of Cornwall were identified as possessing any degree of prosperity and these areas were most closely associated with Saxon lords, as their present day anglicised place names might suggest.

The estimated population of Cornwall recorded in the Domesday Book was around 27,000 souls, representing an average of only one family per square mile. One in five of the population was either a serf or a slave, the lowest of social classes in feudal society and this was over twice the average for the rest of Britain. No mention is made of tin in the survey and wealth appeared to be absent in the traditional tinner areas, it would be safe to say that Cornwall was again going through one of its long mining depressions.

Medieval Feock: 1000 AD to 1500 AD

Cornwall under King William 1

After the initial Norman invasion in **1066** a remnant of Saxon power found refuge in the west, however it was two years after the invasion that King William brought his army to Exeter in order to fully subdue the region. The city fell after a siege lasting eighteen days and despite the initial fierce resistance put up by the citizens, after their capitulation they were well treated by their conqueror. William left Cornwall in the hands of Brian of Brittany, a choice no doubt prompted by the past close ties between the Duchy of Brittany and Cornwall. Many Bretons still looked upon the West Country as their ancestral homeland with which they still shared a common history and language.

Bretons had made up an important faction of King William's army and had fought with him at the Battle of Hastings. It has been estimated that they numbered as many as 4,000 soldiers and supplied 100 ships. They were led by Alan Rufus, Duke of Brittany, who was supported by his brothers, Brian of Brittany and Alan Noir, all of whom were also distant kinsmen of William. By the time of the Domesday Book, Alan Rufus was third only to William and his brother Robert de Mortain in land ownership in the whole of England, having a total of 575 manors spread from Suffolk to Yorkshire.

Unfortunately, after just a few years, Brian of Brittany was implicated in an unsuccessful revolt against William which had been instigated by a fellow Breton, Ralph de Gael. Brian now lost William's favour and was stripped of his title and lands in Britain. He returned to Brittany and all his honours and titles were then given by William to his half-brother Robert de Mortain.

Robert already held extensive lands in England but now also held 277 of the 350 manors in Cornwall. He was a largely absent landlord, entrusting Cornwall to his three close retainers; Turstin the Sheriff, Richard Fitz Turolf his steward and Reginald Vallatort. Richard Fitz Turolf's primary manor was Cardinham near Bodmin, however in total he held 53 manors in Cornwall under Robert de Mortain's lordship, and a further 10 in Devon. Unusually Richard also held four small manors near Exeter directly from the Crown as Tenant in Chief. The "Honour of Cardinham" which Richard held under Robert de Mortain comprised a feudal order of 71 knight's fees scattered throughout Cornwall with Cardinham near its centre. More locally, Richard held the manors either side of Feock at Cosawes and Goodern near Baldhu.

Feock in the Domesday record

Feock is not recorded separately in the Domesday record and it is thought that it was part of the substantial manor of Tregaire, whose lands comprised the major part of the Roseland. A map of Tregaire manor in the 16th century described Trevilla as "Land held in Service", this indicates that it was held in lease by a knight on condition of performing military service on behalf of his lord. Prior to the conquest, Tregaire was owned by the Bishop of Exeter and remained so afterwards.

The Domesday Book recorded Tregaire as containing 18 villager, 12 small-holder and 6 slave households, valued at £10 a year this registered it as one of the larger manors in West Cornwall. The Bishop of Exeter also owned another substantial manor in the area of Treliever, on the high moor above what is now Penryn and this manor contained a further thirty villager households.

The other manors surrounding Feock were Cosawes, Landegea (Kea) and Goodern (Baldhu), each of which were held by Robert De Mortain. Both Landegea and Goodern were described as having two villager and four small-holder families each, and it is most likely that this was also the relative size of Feock at this time.

The area which in time would become Truro included the manors of Moresk and Tregavethan, which together accounted for only five villager and fourteen small-holder households. Although these areas contain very substantial evidence of both Bronze and Iron Age occupation it would be some while before Truro became the important community it is today. In contrast Cosawes, on the other side of Feock, already comprised fifteen villager, twenty small-holder and twelve slave households.

Feock was a very small community, somewhat sandwiched between church estates and those held by local lords. The church and state were uncomfortable bedfellows in the Middle Ages and these tensions played out even in Feock over the following years of Norman rule.

Richard Fitz Turolf, Feock's local Norman lord

Richard Fitz Turolf's family history and ties with Cornwall are somewhat confusing, not least because of the common interchange of "f" and "d" as the last letter of the name, which provided either Turolf or Tuold depending on circumstance. Richard's father was likely born in **1020**, possibly at Brionne near the Normandy town of Rouen. He is thought to be the same man named Turulf who witnessed a charter for the monastery at Mont Saint Michel on the coast between Brittany and Normandy. Evidence of a connection between the Turolf family and Mont St Michel is strengthened by a later record of Richard Fitz Turolf himself gifting land to the Norman monastery. It has been assumed that the elder Turolf was amongst the Bretons who fought with Robert de Mortain in the conquest, however, in contradiction to this he has also been described as a "Saxon Thane" of Cardinham.

Richard himself is recorded as being born at Cardinham in **1050**. This record, if correct, would indicate a connection with Cornwall prior to the invasion in **1066**. At the time of the invasion Richard would have been 16 years of age and may possibly have accompanied his father and Robert de Mortain during the various conflicts. He would have been 36 years of age at the time of the Domesday record, and at this time was married to Emma de Beauchamp, who is recorded as born at Hatch in Somerset.

Cornwall's Norman connections prior to The Conquest

A possible source of connection between Cornwall and the Norman conquerors may be found in the character of Emma of Normandy. This remarkable woman came to the political scene when in **1002** her family arranged her marriage with Aethelred, the Saxon king of England. The marriage sealed a political alliance between England and Normandy and she bore Aethelred two sons, the elder of whom would become King Edward the Confessor.

After Aethelred's death in **1016** however Emma married the new King Cnut, with whom she had a further son, Harthacnut, who took precedence and became King of England before his elder half brother. The three power bases of Saxon Britain, Viking Denmark and Normandy were all united by Emma and their various claims on the throne of Britain were ultimately settled in **1066**.

There are many examples of connections between Emma, Normandy and Cornwall prior to and after the Norman conquest. She had grown up in the Norman court at Rouan and her Saxon sons, Edward and Alfred, were both exiled at her brother's court in Rouan during her marriage to Cnut. At her marriage to Aethelred, Emma had been given the city of Exeter as part of her wedding dowry and while being the wife of King Cnut she was known to be very influential in the affairs of the church. This might indicate a familiar relationship between Emma and the Bishop of Exeter and probable knowledge of the lands under his control, including the manor of Tregaire and other substantial lands in Cornwall, certainly in the 13th century the manor of Tregaire was under the patronage of the family Rothomago of Rouan.

At some time during his exile in Normandy, while he was living with his mother's family, Edward signed a charter which granted St Michael's Mount in Cornwall to the monastery of Mont Saint Michel in Brittany. This action, which may have been designed to rekindle or reinforce traditional ties between Cornwall and Brittany, may have been the same charter witnessed by the elder Turolf. Later, the community of Mont Saint Michel supported William of Normandy in his claim to the throne of England and when he became King he confirmed its claim to St Michael's Mount as reward, further cementing the connection between the two island monasteries.

St Michael's Mount



It is possible that these many connections could have prompted the physical presence of Norman or Breton families in Cornwall prior to the conquest, and this might explain the Turolf families influence in Cornwall after the invasion.

The later Earls of Cornwall and continuing royal connections

When Henry I came to the throne in the year **1100** the politics of Cornwall changed again. Henry gave the title of Earl of Cornwall to his illegitimate son Reginald de Dunstanville. Reginald was the first Norman overlord to take a personal interest in his westcountry lands and this was further consolidated when he married Mabel Fitz Richard, heiress of Cardinham.

When Henry I died in **1135** his succession was contested and Stephen de Mortain, another grandson of William I, grasped the throne. In the civil war which ensued, Reginald de Dunstanville supported Henry's daughter, Matilda, and King Stephen sent his most able courtier, Richard de Lucy, to Cornwall to subdue any possible uprising. Richard did not find this an easy matter as Reginald held a newly refurbished Tintagel Castle and his wife's family held the strategic castles of Launceston, Cardinham and Restormel.

This period of King Stephen's reign was an evil time, even by the standards of the Middle Ages. The English Chronicle recorded that supporters of both sides, *"forced the folk to build them castles, and when the castles were finished they filled them with devils and evil men. They took those whom they suspected to have any goods, both men and women, by night and day, and put them in prison for their gold and silver, and tortured them with pains unspeakable."*

Richard de Lucy chose the river crossing at the western head of the Fal as his main base in Cornwall. Just a generation before he did this Truro as such has not existed and the neighbouring settlement of Moresk only housed five villager households. In **1140** Richard built the small castle, which he called Castellum de Guelon, on the hill between the ford crossings of the Rivers Kenwyn and Allen. Richard's actions followed the pattern set out in the English Chronicle however the evidence of conditions in Cornwall at the time do not convey such an extreme nature. An uneasy stalemate ensued between the two powerful factions. Reginald and the Turof's on the one hand were undiminished in their ancient strongholds and Richard de Lucy also prospered in his new castle. He later became a chief minister, most loyal and trusted advisor and regent under King Henry II. Richard de Lucy described himself as Richard de Lucy de Trivereu and his family retained a close interest in Truro for several generations. Under their protection Truro became set on the road towards becoming a principle town and indeed the city it is today. The rise of Truro set the seal on Feock's secondary supportive status towards its neighbour for the next eight hundred years.

Restormel Castle



At the turn of the century, in **1201**, King John issued the first charter for Stannary Tin Workings in Cornwall and parts of Devon. The encouragement and protections afforded by this Stannary Charter led to a tenfold increase in tin production over the first decade of the 13th Century, and the Carnon Valley played its part in this. Very quickly the revenue returned to the king from tin exceeded that from all other sources in Cornwall. The long depression in Cornwall's tin trade was finally lifted once more and Cornwall's economy revived, together with its status in national politics.

The politics of Cornwall however changed once again following King John's death in **1216** and John's son was crowned King Henry III. In **1225** Henry bestowed the lands and revenues of Cornwall to his brother, Richard, upon his sixteenth birthday and he was made Earl of Cornwall. Richard quickly became one of the wealthiest men in Europe, a position assisted by the newly revitalised revenues from Cornwall, and it was during this period that he had Tintagel Castle fully rebuilt. Both he and his brother, King Henry III were conscious of the divided and fractious kingdom that their father King John had left to them and each looked towards history in order to bolster their own legitimacy with the people. Whilst King Henry sought to emulate the virtues of King Edward the Confessor, Richard took up the mantle of successor to the ancient Kings of Britain and sought to reconnect and attach himself with the legacy of King Arthur.

Richard used his wealth to good effect throughout an eventful and somewhat extraordinary life. In **1240**, when aged 31, he joined the Baron's Crusade and whilst he did not fight any major battles he was instrumental in negotiating the release of important prisoners and also refortified the port city of Ascalon, north of Gaza. With the aid of the considerable family influence from his sister in law, Eleanor of Provence, Richard was elected King of Germany in **1256**. This largely symbolic title was otherwise known as King of the Romans and Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire and its prized status established the recipient as first amongst equals over other Roman Catholic monarchs across Europe. Richard's achievements not only demonstrated his skill in political diplomacy but also his capacity for hugely expensive bribery. Richard knew his limits however and when the Pope offered him the crown of Sicily, at some extortionate price, he was reported to reply, *"you might as well say, "I make you a present of the moon, step up to the sky and take it down"*.

In the later years of the **13th century** the Earls of Cornwall, Richard and his son Edmund, were often called upon to lend money to the Crown. In **1297** the output of mines in Cornwall and Devon was promised to cover a debt to the people of Bayonne and by **1299** the Crown owed Edmund, Earl of Cornwall, over £6,500 which, depending on how one compares values over the ages, might be equivalent to £100 million today. The significance of Cornish revenues at this time would have added some substance to the stories of a bygone glorious realm of King Arthur.

Tintagel Castle



The future King Edward I may have first heard the stories of King Arthur from his uncle Richard Earl of Cornwall. King Edward had throughout his life been close to his uncle, Richard Earl of Cornwall, and also to Richard's eldest son, Henry, who was a good childhood friend. Perhaps as a child Edward had visited his uncle at a newly refurbished Tintagel Castle, he would not have been the first, or last, child to have come to Cornwall for his holidays. Later, when Edward embarked on crusade he made his uncle and cousin guardians of his children and custodians of his lands whilst abroad.

Edward later took a collection of Arthurian stories with him when embarking on the fourth crusade and he gave his collection to a friend, Rusticione de Pisa, who translated them into Italian, further encouraging their spread throughout Europe. Throughout his life Edward made political use of these stories, and legends surrounding King Arthur, by holding "Round Table" events and tournaments which some suggested were a re-creation of King Arthur's court. In **1278**, when he and his wife Eleanor were keeping Easter at Glastonbury he ordered the opening of Arthur's tomb and the reburial of King Arthur's remains at the foot of the High Alter, where they lay until destroyed in King Henry VIII's dissolution of the monasteries in the 16th century.

Edward may also have used these associations with King Arthur within his campaigns to pacify and integrate Wales within his kingdom. Many Welsh, and indeed many Cornish, believed that King Arthur had never died, and they looked to the day when he would return to lead his people from tyranny. This belief was strongly held amongst the Cornish people as attested in a 12th century account of a riot in Bodmin caused by a group of visiting canons who disputed it publicly. Edward's reburial of Arthur at Glastonbury had been an attempt to cancel this hope and extinguish once and for all this flame of insurrection.

Cornwall's Celtic identity within medieval literature

Geoffrey of Monmouth's "Historia Regum Britanniae" (A history of the Kings of Britain), written in circa **1136**, could be argued as amongst the most influential books ever written in Europe. It was crafted to describe a continuity between the ancient history of Britain and that of the new order and it introduced the British King Arthur and his knights to an international audience setting forth a theme onto a world stage that has never lost its appeal over the centuries.

Geoffrey was born in Monmouth, the son of mixed Welsh and Breton parentage. Educated in Wales he later became a canon of an early college at Oxford. His history started with reference to the Trojan War and followed with a description of how Brutus travelled from Rome to establish Britain itself. Much of Geoffrey's story centres on Cornwall and the lives of King Uther Pendragon and Arthur, his son. Geoffrey dedicated his history to Robert, Earl of Gloucester, who was the eldest of Henry I's illegitimate children and a chief supporter of his half sister Matilda. Clearly Geoffrey will have had at least one eye to the politics of this turbulent period when compiling his new history. Whilst purporting to be a history based on true fact, much of Geoffrey's account was described by some, even at the time, as a work of fantasy and many later commentators have proposed that it appeared to have been crafted for a more political purpose.

In books nine to twelve of Geoffrey's history he tells the story of the British King Arthur, starting with his conception at Tintagel and ending with his final battle at Camlann, possibly Camelford. Geoffrey wrote from a background common to many of his fellow Celts, that of a longing for a past golden age and the undimmed belief in the Celtic nations's future rebirth. The legends of King Arthur and the Celtic identity that Geoffrey evoked provided a fertile setting for literature and romance. It will not have been lost on Geoffrey's readers that Reginald de Dunstanville, who together with his brother Robert were strong supporters of their half-sister, Matilda, was the current Earl of Cornwall and Lord of Tintagel Castle.

Sometime between **1155 and 1160** this thread of literature, which was based in Cornwall, was further extended when two Breton poets, Thomas of Britain and Beroul of Brittany, each wrote versions of the story of Tristan and Iseult. Thomas's account has been termed the "courtly" version, and it is thought that it might have been tailored to appeal to Eleanor of Aquitaine and the court of Henry II. Both stories tell of Tristan, the orphaned son of Rivalon, Lord of Brittany, and his wife Blanchfleur, sister to King Mark of Cornwall. Tristan was brought up in Brittany, but as a young man he found his way to Cornwall and soon became a favourite of Mark and his court at Castle Dore near Fowey.

Tristan became champion of Cornwall and was sent to Ireland to win for King Mark the hand in marriage of the beautiful Princess Iseult. He was successful in this but on the return journey a mix up involving a magic potion led to the two falling in love. The tragic tale unfolds by matching themes of love and constancy with darker plots of deception and treachery. The story has strong local connections due to its setting within the Forest of Morais (Moresk) and the famous element which involves Iseult crossing the River Fal at Malpas passage.

In future years the story of Tristan and Iseult would be interwoven with Geoffrey of Monmouth's King Arthur thereby reinforcing the lexicon of Celtic romance centred on Cornwall. Within a generation Chretien de Troyes had added Lancelot and the Knights of the Holy Grail to the mix and within another generation these Cornish/Welsh legends had been adopted across Europe. Wolfram von Eschenbach's Parzival is looked upon as a masterpiece of medieval German literature and sets the British stories into a European scene.

Painting by Emund Blair Leighton depicting King Mark overhearing Tristan and Iseult



QR Narrative:

Tristan and Iseult, a timeless love story - walk 9

The manor of Trevilla

In **1264** Noel de Treville and Lady De Rouen (Rothomago) were recorded as the patrons of Feock Rectory. Rouen (known as Rotomagus in Roman times) was a capital city of Normandy and lies on the Seine River just north of Paris. This connection between the de Rouen or de Rothomago family and Cornwall possible extends through the diocese of Exeter back to Emma of Normandy in the 11th century. Feock remained attached to the manor of Tregaire under the Bishop of Exeter but its secular authority was now shared between the Rothomagos of Tregaire manor and the family de Treville, whose manor house was Trevilla. The original manor house was most likely situated at Higher Trevilla in a position identified as the "Site of Mansion" on the 1907 OS map. The manorial estate of Trevilla extended to the current parochial area of Feock church.

In **1272** King Edward I granted lands west of Feock to William de Treville in return for personal service to the crown. These lands included the area currently occupied by the villages of Carnon Downs and Devoran and they were previously part of the manor of Blancheland near Baldhu. The gifted land has been included within the manor of Trevilla, and therefore Feock Parish, ever since.

The award is somewhat intriguing as Edward I became king only in November of that year, following the death of his father King Henry III. At this time Edward was abroad on crusade, only returning in the summer of **1274**. The incumbent of the Manor of Trevilla at the time was recorded as Noel de Treville and one wonders if his relative, William, might perhaps have been serving with Edward on this foreign campaign.

More intriguing still might be another gift that Edward I made to William de Treville at about the same time. The Court records show that Edward granted, "*lands by the tenure of grand sergeantry to William de Treville on condition of his bringing a fish hook or iron crook and a boat and net at his own proper costs and charges, for the King's fishing on the Lake of Helston (Loe Pool) whenever the King should come to Helston and as long as he should tarry there.*"

It might appear from this that King Edward knew both William de Treville and Cornwall quite well and although Edward had the reputation of being a fierce domineering man, the specific wording of the grant possibly suggests an element of humour or even friendly whimsy.

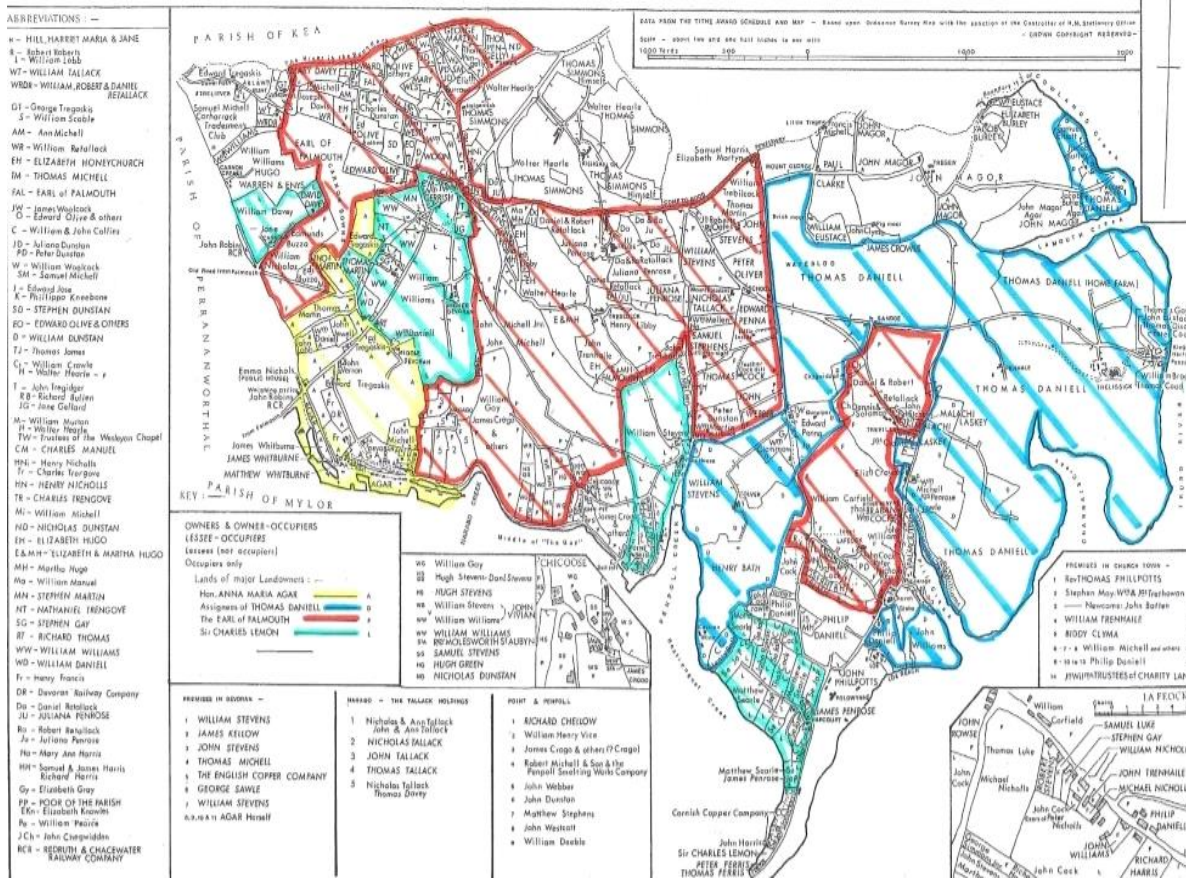
In **1277** the Treville family became involved in a dispute with Bishop Bronscombe of Exeter regarding the thorny issue of infringement of ecclesiastical rights, just the sort of issue that might have been predicted from the Bishop's background. Bronscombe's dispute was actually with Edmund, Earl of Cornwall, but Noel de Treville took Edmund's part and was excommunicated by the Bishop for his trouble.

This had followed an earlier dispute in **1274** between Bronscombe and Edmund. The Bishop had recently acquired the woodland near Idless now called "Bishop's Wood" and had enclosed an area of it as a deer park. Such parks had previously been exclusive to the nobility and Edmund Earl of Cornwall took exception to Bronscombe's audacity. Some of Edmund's men were tasked with ripping out the fences and a fight ensued with the Bishop's men. Bronscombe used his own weapon of excommunication on the Earl's men and the quarrel cast a shadow over the whole area for a number of years. As is so often the case in such situations, those who paid the heaviest price had least to gain and the most to lose.

In **1421** the sole heiress of Sir William Trevilla married Laurance de Halep, whose family were lords of the manor of Lamorran in St Michael Penkevil, so continuing the close relationship between the two banks of the Fal. The union was blessed with two daughters who shared the family inheritance. One married into the Boscawen family of Tregothnan and the other into the Trefusis family of Mylor and so, in **1467**, the manor of Trevilla, and the Parish of Feock, was divided between these two great families. In **1539** the ownership of Feock was further consolidated by King Henry VIII when he formally granted the lands of Feock Parish jointly to Thomas Treffusys and Hugo Boscawen. Again, the record of the grant cited it as recognition of services rendered to the Crown. The modern history of landholdings in the parish stems from King Henry's grant to the families Treffusys and Boscawen and this has determined the landscape and settlement patterns that we see today.

The 1842 Tithe Map, an important document in the history of Feock. Note how much of the land is in the possession of four landowners.

FEOCK – LANDOWNERSHIP & OCCUPANCY – 1842



Feock Parish and Glasney College

In 1265 Walter Bronscombe, Bishop of Exeter, founded Glasney College in Penryn. The College charter of 1267 endowed Glasney with its founding parishes of Budock and Feock. Three years later its reach was extended further when neighbouring Kea parish was also included. Walter had been the chief minister of Henry III's ecclesiastical court and also the king's representative at the Court of Rome. Walter's dedication of Glasney College to St Thomas of Canterbury (Thomas Becket) might have provided some a warning of friction between the church and secular lords in future years. St Thomas had been martyred a century before, apparently at the behest of King Henry II, following a lengthy and acrimonious dispute between church and state. Bishop Bronscombe's admiration for the Saint might have served as a warning to the local Lords of the Manor who were largely king's men.

Glasney College was inaugurated as a community of Black Canons who followed the teaching of St Augustine. Their particular order was that of Secular Canons who did not embrace the full Augustine rule of renouncing private wealth. In consequence they were known for their hospitality, which was something that they were to be heavily criticised for in later years. The patron saint of secular canons is indeed St Thomas of Canterbury.

Glasney College, Penryn



The first Provost of Glasney College in **1265** was William Bodrugan. He was one of a large established family based in central south Cornwall. His sister-in-law, Isolda, owned Restronguet manor, which included lands on both sides of Restronguet Passage and contained the barton of Harcourt. Isolda's son, Henry Bodrugan, clearly walked in royal circles and was married to Sybil who was "Lady of the Queen's Chamber" to Eleanor of Castille, wife of Edward I. Henry also took his part at court and in **1286** he joined King Edward I in an attempt to settle affairs in the king's Duchy of Gascony. The campaign took much longer than expected and they remained in France for three years while in dispute with King Philip IV over rival claims to the Duchy. Henry Bodrugan was knighted for his efforts in support of King Edward just as his neighbour, William de Treville had been some fourteen years before.

Henry and Sybil's son, Otto, inherited Restronguet in **1311** and the Bodrugan family were associated with Feock for nearly two hundred years before another Henry finally came to grief on the wrong side of the Wars of the Roses in **1485**. In **1472** a further Sir Henry Bodrugan gifted the barton of Carclew to James Bonython whose family came from the Lizard, and it remained with the Bonython family for over two hundred years before it was sold to Sir William Lemon in 1749.

Glasney College and the Cornish language

In **1504** canons of Glasney College wrote the miracle plays, *Beunans Meriasek* and *Beunans Ke*. These were popular entertainments of their time and were both written and performed in the Cornish language. Performances might last over a couple of days and command audiences of hundreds at the "Plain an Gwarry" rounds. One such round is situated at the aptly named Playing Place and will undoubtedly have hosted performances of *Beunans Ke*, which tells the story of St Kea and his encounters with Lord Teudar whose manor was at Goodern near Baldhu. *Beunans Meriasek* also featured Lord Teudar who in this case was at odds with St Meriasek of Illogan.

The plays followed the lead of Geoffrey of Monmouth's "Historia Regum Britanniae" in invoking ancient Roman history and characters from that period amongst a more contemporary cast. They

provided another link in the chain of literature which connects the Lives of the Saints to the Arthurian legends and the stories of Tristan, Iseult and King Mark. The single connecting thread of this chain of tales has been the setting provided by Celtic Cornwall and our own local parishes.

Glasney College came to an abrupt end at the "Dissolution of the Monasteries" which took place between **1536** and **1545**. King Henry VIII wished to destroy the power of the Catholic Church and appropriate its wealth. Glasney College was forcibly closed by agents of the Crown and the community of canons was disbanded. Propaganda of the time made much of the College's practise of hospitality in order to denigrate its reputation. The buildings were sold to Giles Keylwayne for a sum of £149 and were salvaged for building materials. Some of the granite from the walls found use in building the new castle at Pendennis.

The destruction of Glasney would have been a shocking event to Feock, and in the wider context this act was thought to have been one catalyst for the Cornish Prayer Book Rebellion of **1549**. The introduction of a new Book of Common Prayer and the accompanying enforced use of the foreign language of English within church services had led to an explosion of anger in Cornwall against the unsympathetic sweeping away of traditional culture and practices. The removal of Glasney College, which represented the beating heart of Cornish language culture, would have been yet another insult. Over 5,500 people from Cornwall and Devon lost their lives in the rebellion, which has been seen as the major turning point in the suppression of the Cornish language.

For some reason the people of Feock held onto their Cornish tongue longer than many of their neighbours and it is famously recorded by the historian, Hals, in his 18th century commentary, that in **1640** William Jackson, Vicar of St Feock, was still in the habit of administering Holy Communion in the Cornish Language because the old people of his parish did not understand English. This remains one of the most recent records of common Cornish Language usage in Cornwall.

QR Narrative:
Miracle plays - walk 7

5. Feock in the Modern Era

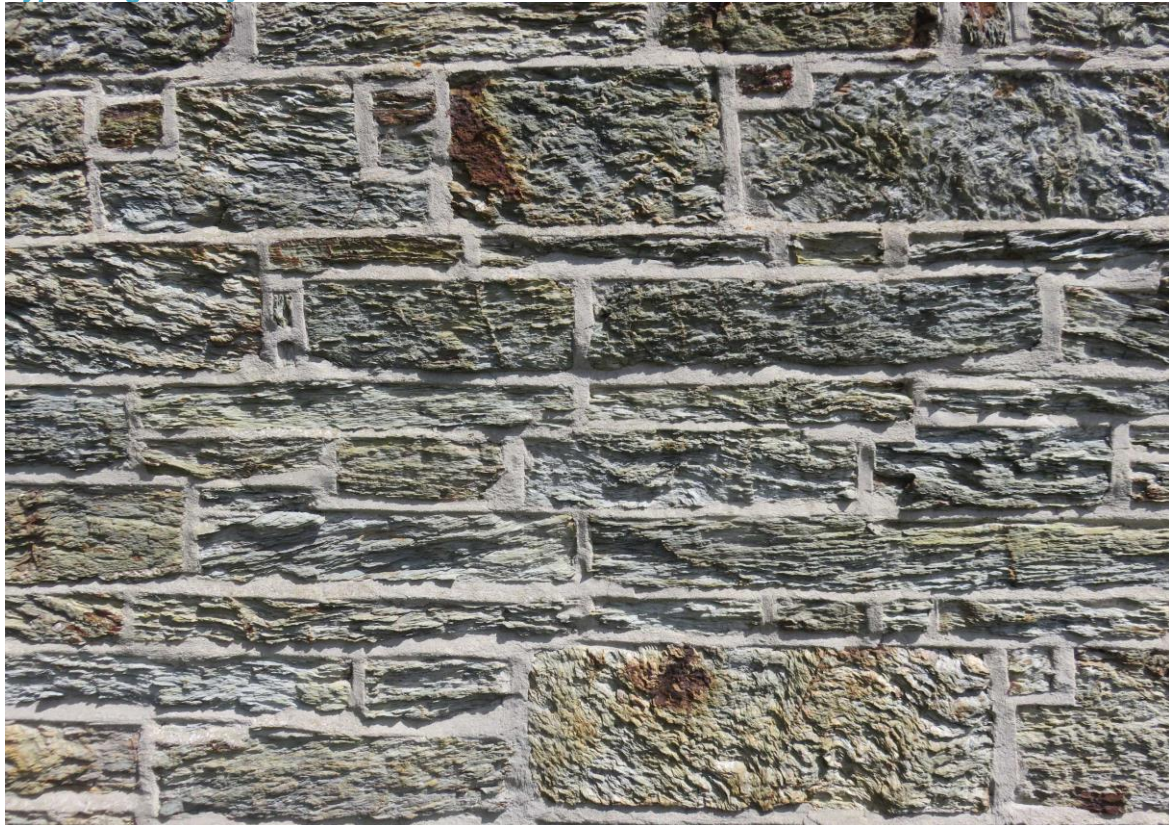
Land Tenure and house building

The demise of feudalism was heralded by the Black Death which ravaged the country in the **mid-14th century**. A third of the population of Europe died in the ensuing tragedy, tipping the balance of power somewhat from landowner towards peasant. By the turn of the **15/16th centuries** a new form of land tenancy was replacing the strict manorial system. Land was being leased to tenants for a fixed term, often ninety-nine years, but also commonly limited to the lifetime of the last of three named people. An often-used pattern was to name a man, his wife and young child as the three named persons but could be extended to following generations by mutual consent. This new arrangement made the establishing of smallholder properties more straightforward and was especially popular in Cornwall where it was used extensively well into the 19th century.

For much of recorded history cob was the favoured construction material for general houses and cottages, the Quaker meeting house at Come to Good being a fine and perhaps typical example. Both the common occurrence of heavy clay soils and also actual clay pits themselves, meant that supplies of the main constituent of cob were readily available. By the **19th century** however stone construction was becoming more common and it is interesting to search out the many small quarries which were established adjacent to the new developments of the period. These local quarries were often no bigger than the properties they served and can be found at the side of roads and footpaths, never very far from the cottages and houses that were built with this distinctive local material. Quarries at King Harry Ferry, Penpol, Trolver Croft, Chycoose and Narabo are easily spotted when walking our footpath network.

The stone found in these quarries is called by the colloquial Cornish name of killas which is the term given to the sedimentary rocks forming the main landmass of Cornwall prior to the later intrusion of igneous granite. The temperatures and pressures associated with the granite altered some killas rocks to create the slates and shales that we see today. Although our local killas stone is broadly very similar from place to place within the parish there is a divide along the line of the valley at Penpol. To the east lie the Portscatho series and to the west lie the Mylor slates. There are slight colour differences between the two rock series and this gives our traditional stone buildings an element of local character. The Mylor rocks often contain the grey slate and pale siltstone characteristic of the Carrick Roads and Restronguet Creek shoreline and the grey tones of the Mylor slate gives the terraced houses of Devoran its lighter more modern urban character.

Typical lighter Mylor slate stone used to build Devoran Church



A darker brown stone from the older Devoran School building



The Portscatho rocks present a balance of warmer buff and sandy shades. These subtle characteristics have now been largely overwhelmed by the stronger tones of more modern additions and development. Since the advent of mechanised transport even locally sourced stone is most likely derived from quarries of the north Cornish coast and these have added both the rich browns of St Issey stone or the steely blue greys of Delabole slate.

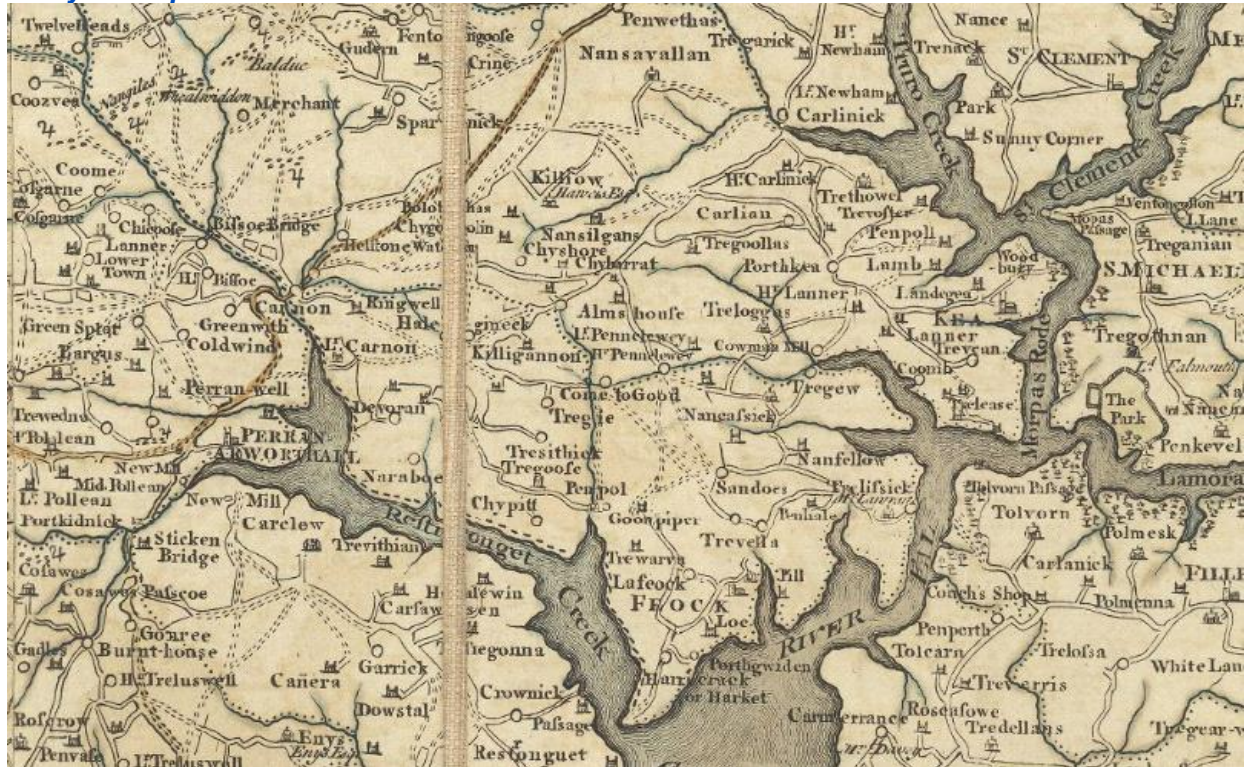
In **1854**, at the time of building the new church in Devoran the vicar, Thomas Philpotts, discussed with the Agar Robartes estate manager the opening of a new quarry near the turnpike road, later the A39 . It was agreed that the expense of clearing the overburthen and carting it away outweighed the benefits of a new quarry for Devoran and so they agreed to extend the existing quarry which was closer to the church even though the extension would take away the garden of an adjoining property. The affected neighbour, John Coad was compensated £15 - 12 - 3d for the loss of his garden and it was commented that, after the stone was taken, the quarry could be filled with overburthen and would make a good site for houses along the line of the railway, probably referring to the area of Carclew Terrace today. Interestingly, another compensation associated with this quarry details an example of the "Three Lives Lease" system which was still common at the time. In this case alterations to the quarry entrance would have taken a part of the garden of John James. The lease of James's property was held on three lives, probably including his children, who were now living abroad in America. James was willing to give up part of his garden on condition, "*of his having a new lease free of all expense and being allowed to substitute himself and his wife in lieu of any two of the present lives*".

Brick was largely shunned by Cornish builders until the 19th century and then often only used for chimney details and window openings. Although local clay has always been abundant, the cost of the coal required for brick firing was, in earlier times, a major hurdle for their manufacture. The necessities of local industry in the 19th century, however, changed the economics somewhat and the Cornwall Brick, Tile and Trading Co. operated at Greenbank Rd, Devoran from the mid-1800s until the turn of the century, providing bricks for docks, mines and smelting works, together with supplies for local homes.

Highways and transport

The strong links between lords of the manors in Feock and those of Roseland, Restronguet and Mylor, reinforced the importance to local life of the various ferry crossings of the Fal. There is a long history of ferries at Malpas, Tolverne, King Harry and Restronguet Passage. Martyn's map of Cornwall, compiled in **1784**, indicates that the roads to these crossings were the most important routes in the parish at the time and also shows the more informal nature of the roads across the Carnon and Feock Downs.

Martyn's map of Cornwall 1784



The inquisition of Cornwall in **1446** registered Sir John Arundell as holding the Manor of Tolverne and also the ferry passage across to St Just in Roseland, which was valued at 2s & 6d yearly. In **1576** the ferry at King Harry was operated by William Carnsew, who paid the Manor of Treville thirteen pence a year in rent for the rights. A similar agreement was in place between the ferryman at Malpas and the Tregothnan Estate and this extended well into the 20th century. In the 19th century the operation of the ferry at Malpas was tied to the Ship Inn which was situated on the St Michael Penkevil shore.

King Harry Ferry before the days of steam



The Restronguet Passage Ferry was first mentioned in a Parish record of 1458; "*a pack road exists via Passage Hill from Penryn to Truro and is owned by the manor and let out for the rent of 8 shillings and 4 pence a year*", clearly this was a more lucrative ferry service than that at Tolverne.

In later years the Passage was also tied to "The Ship" public house, now known as "The Pandora". In the **1950s** the fare for foot passengers was one penny, however this was waved if passengers stopped in at the pub. Unfortunately the bell which was used to call the ferry at Restronguet Point, disappeared in January **1954** and two years later the ferry itself ceased to operate.

Other roads led to the quays on the creekside. These quays served the mines inland and the huge upsurge in traffic during the mining boom caused the old tracks to deteriorate badly. In December 1799, William Jenkin commented, "*The roads are so very bad both to Newham, Pill and Point, that it is little short of cruelty to drive horses and mules over them so frequently as they are at this time of year. Many accidents happen - it would be better to let the poor creatures rest two to three days a week*". Mule trains containing scores of beasts carried ore and coal between the quays and the mines and one can imagine the pressure for a more robust transport solution which finally produced the Devoran Tramway.

The main road from Falmouth to Truro in early days took a more northerly route than it does today and it bypassed Feock Parish altogether, crossing at Higher Carnon and following a route to the north of Killiow, entering Truro via Penweathers. At the introduction of the Turnpike in **1754** a new road was constructed across the Carnon Downs and on through Playing Place and Calenick which became the accepted route we use today. The Truro Turnpike was one of the earliest in Cornwall and the distinctive turnpike cottage which housed the toll keeper can still be seen at the end of Devoran Lane.

The Truro Turnpike was finally wound up in 1875 when maintenance of the road system reverted to the district Highway Board funded from the local rates. Notices for the sale of effects belonging to the Turnpike Trust were posted in the West Briton, including the toll-houses, gates and toll boards at Carnon Downs and Playing Place.

The mainline railway came to Truro in **1859** following the opening of Brunel's famous Royal Albert Bridge which spans the Tamar between Saltash and Plymouth. The line connecting with Falmouth was opened on the 24th August **1863** and passed below Ringwell to a stop just outside the Parish, at Perranwell. This rapid link to London not only consolidated Falmouth as port and holiday destination but also gave a boost to the horticultural trade in Feock. The Bersey family of Trolver Croft were amongst the first in the area to send Cornish violets on the overnight train to Covent Garden and in the last century there were seven small holdings along the creekside of Penpoll offering violets, anemones and pittosporum as specialities.

The original Brunel viaduct over the Carnon Valley



QR Narrative: **The Truro to Falmouth Railway - walk 1**

Shipbuilding in Feock

Feock's maritime heritage is further demonstrated by its shipbuilding legacy. In **1877** alone, four schooners were launched from Feock yards; the J.W.T at Pill (100tons), the Mary & Julia at Devoran (136tons), the William & John at Roundwood (83tons) and the Hetty at Yard Point, Trolver (100tons). The most famous ship was perhaps the Rhoda Mary, reputed to be one of the fastest and finest of all schooners built in Cornwall, which was constructed at Yard Point by William (Foreman) Ferris and takes pride of place on the Feock Parish Council shield.

The Rhoda Mary, 150 tons, constructed at the John Stephen's yard at Trolver Croft:



QR Narrative: Shipbuilding in Feock - walk 5

Feock Parish and charitable gifts

Gifts to the church were common in the Middle Ages, particularly to establishments such as Glasney College of Canons, which contained a chantry enabling it to provide prayers in perpetuity for the souls of departed benefactors.

In **1270**, just a few years after the Parish of Feock was endowed into Glasney College, Walter Peverall, a founder of the College and Rector of Ladock, gifted an acre of land at Penhaldewey in Feock to Glasney. The gift was witnessed by worthies of Tregaire Manor, amongst them Sir Ralph de Arundell of Tolverne and Sir William de Halep of Lamorran.

Circa **1400**, Thomas Perere gifted the rights to a wood and an acre of land at Lo in the Manor of Trevilla, to be held by the church for ever. Amongst the witnesses of this gift were William de Trevelle and Phillip de Penhaley (Penhalewey). The wood in question may have been Nullus Wood or Chapel Close on the Trelissick estate at Chennals Creek.

What happened to these legacies when Glasney College was dissolved is not known, however just as with the College buildings themselves, the assets were most likely sold by the Crown agents and original intentions of the benefactors would have been lost.

In the **17th century** another phase of social charity began and on the 10th November **1635** two groups of landowners in Feock granted to the church, in perpetuity, a pair of closes of land together with three cottages. The rents and profits accruing from these gifts were to be put jointly towards the reparation of the church of St Feock and also to the relief and maintenance of poor people of the Parish. The landowners were: Edward Lawrence, Thomas Martyn, Michael Cock, John Resogan, Christopher Lawrence, Richard Henson, Fernando Hobbs, Stephen Maye and Richard Oliver. Their wishes were that the legacy be directed in trust, "*by the eight principle or chiefest men within the said parish*".

The cottages were identified as "Lowarth Chyandour" (Garden of the house by the water) and were occupied in later years as parish poor houses. They were situated beside the pond at Penpoll and are currently called Bridge Cottage and Odd Acre. These houses for the poor were

conveniently situated adjacent to the village well and may also have had some association with the parish corn mill which was just upstream.

The other parcel of land was called "Erowe Gower" (Best Fields) which in 1826 was registered as 20 acres leading seaward of Feock Church and down to Loe Beach.

All these properties were apparently sold at some time between **1930 and 1952** and the proceeds invested into a fund which became known as the "Unknown Donors Charity". This was administered, until very recently, by joint trustees from the Parish Council and Feock Parochial Church Council, however after nearly four hundred years the value of the fund has now reduced to only a few hundred pounds.

The property formerly known as Lowarth Chyandour



Non-conformism in Feock

The turmoil created by the destruction of Glasney College and the Prayer Book Rebellion was barely out of living memory when a new wave of Christian teaching reached the people of Feock. George Fox, founder of the Quaker Movement, first came to Cornwall in **1656**. His unorthodox preachings led to his quick arrest and internment for eight months within Launceston Gaol, however his message was taken up by many in the county.

The Act of Uniformity of **1662** had laid down new practises within the Church of England and this time over 2,000 clergymen throughout the country refused to acknowledge the new authority and were subsequently expelled from the Church. This act of expulsion created the concept of non-conformity in which a substantial element of community, who would not conform to the new orthodoxy, were excluded from participation in public affairs.

In **1663** a group of Quakers at Feock, led by Walter Stephens, were fined for holding their meetings at his farmhouse at La Grange in Feock village. This did not deter the group and the current Friends Meeting House at Come to Good was constructed in **1710** on land provided by Stephens.

It has been argued that the Quaker movement was one of the essential factors which kindled the industrial revolution in Britain through embedding an ethos of probity and fair minded dealing within the affairs of business. Many famous national institutions were founded by Quakers, including Barclays, Lloyds and Friends Provident banks, shoe retailer C&J Clarks and the three confectionary makers; Cadbury, Rowntree and Frys.

An important family of Quakers set up business locally and perhaps typified this influence. George Croker Fox first founded Fox & Co "Consuls, Merchants and Shipping Agents" in Falmouth in **1762**. Later, in **1791**, his family developed the Perran Foundry at Perranarworthal in order to make machinery and castings for the Gwennap mines. This works exported machinery worldwide and the Foxes expanded into iron and copper smelting in South Wales, building the Portreath Harbour in order to facilitate this trade. The Perran Foundry worked closely together with Boulton and Watt, the great steam engine manufacturers and also with Abraham Darby of Coalbrookdale, a fellow Quaker. George's son, Robert Were Fox, was a founder of the Cornwall Polytechnic Society and a Fellow of the Royal Society.

The later non-conformist movement of Methodism also found a welcome home in Feock as is demonstrated by a surprising number of Methodist chapels in the Parish; at Feock, Penpoll, Devoran and Carnon Downs. Charles Wesley had preached at nearby Perranwell as early as **1747** and the Feock Methodist Society, established in **1784**, was as one of the first in Cornwall. The Wesley brothers often preached at nearby Gwennap Pit and in **1773** it was claimed that a congregation of 32,000 souls attended. By the mid-19th century attendance at Feock's Methodist churches had outstripped all other denominations.

The Friends Meeting House at Come to Good



QR Narratives:

[The Quaker Meeting House at Come to Good - walk 6](#)

[Penpoll Methodist Chapel - walk 6](#)

[Carnon Downs Methodist Chapel - walk 2](#)

[Feock Methodist Chapel - walk 7](#)

The 18th and 19th century mining boom

The 18th century heralded the Industrial Revolution and was a time of the greatest change in Cornwall. Early in the century, copper mining started to exceed that of Cornwall's traditional tin mining in economic importance. By **1720** over six thousand tons of copper ore were being mined annually and this increased inexorably over the next one hundred years to a position where Gwennap Parish alone yielded a third of the world's copper supply, much of it exported via quays in Feock.

Engineers, businessmen and financial capital were attracted to Cornwall to help develop the new industry. Fortunes were made both by established mineral lords and a burgeoning class of entrepreneurs who demonstrated an exceptional talent for business. The most tangible legacy from this period are the fine mansion houses within the parish and of course the new town of Devoran. The stories of these houses and the main threads of development at the time can be viewed through the lens of the major families and characters involved. None were more eminent than Lemon, Williams and Daniell, each of whom lived in, or close to Feock and contributed enormously to its economy.

In **1750**, William Lemon (1696-1760) started to establish the great Carclew Estate, across the water from Devoran. Lemon was the first of three giants of Cornish mining who made fortunes for themselves in the 18th century copper boom and whose influence on Feock parish, through family and enterprise, has been enormous. Of the three, William perhaps came from the most humble beginnings, but as a young man he rose quickly to become the manager of the great Chyandour Tin Smelting Works near Penzance. He made a good marriage with Anne Willyams and, having money to invest from this, he became a main driving force within the expanding Gwennap Mining District. The quays at Point, which fronted the lead and tin smelting works, were named after him, as is the main street and quay in Truro.

The 19th century Lemon Quays viewed from Trolver



John Williams (1685 - 1761) purchased the Burncoose estate near Lanner in **1715** and his son John Williams the second (1714-1790) was employed by William Lemon as manager of his Poldice mines. John greatly assisted William Lemon in developing the potential of the Gwennap mining district, including masterminding the Great County Adit, and he became the most

celebrated and influential mining engineer of the era. His nephew John Williams the third (1753 - 1841) controlled not only major elements of the copper belt of Gwennap but also a large proportion of the copper smelting industry in Swansea. Whilst the Williams family did not live within the Parish, their enterprise did much to influence the parish not least through their horticultural interests and funding of world-wide expeditions which brought back plants for the great gardens estates.

Thomas Daniell's family had been burgesses and mayors of Truro. Thomas had already risen to the post of chief clerk to William Lemon when he had married the niece of Mr Ralph Allen of Bath. Ralph was also a Cornishman, hailing from St Columb Major, and had himself risen through the ranks of the Post Office to become postmaster of Bath. From this position he revolutionised the national postal system, making himself a fortune in the process. He became a wealthy developer in Bath during the mid-18th century and is credited with being a major architect of Bath's fine building heritage. Thomas Daniell's connection by marriage with Ralph Allen led directly to the Bath stone becoming integral to the architecture of Truro itself.

With the financial support afforded by his wife's family, Thomas Daniell was able to take the whole of William Lemon's considerable business and mining interests off the hands of his executors after Lemon's death in **1760**. Daniell continued to run these affairs at great profit, gaining the nick-name "Guinea a minute Daniell" because of his exceptional earnings. His son, Ralph Allen Daniell carried on the business and also set up home at Trelissick, which he enhanced and expanded into the house we see today.

The Daniells had quays built at both Point and at Pill, the former being known originally as Daniell's Quay and, as with Lemon, a main road in Truro was named after the family.

The Valley of Tin

The Carnon Valley has been an important international exporter of metals since the Bronze Age. The activities started with the winning of alluvial tin found in the Carnon river bed and later translated into the mining of the primary ores deep underground. The alluvial works resurged again in the 18th and 19th centuries. Major enterprises, employing large work forces, emerged and in the late 18th century when the Carnon Valley was home to the most important "Stream Works" in Cornwall. The valley is fed by 45 miles of streams, over half of which flow through rich tin grounds. Five separate ventures sought to recover tin from the bed of the creek over the next 100 years. The first two involved the construction of huge embankments designed to keep back the tide and allow dry access to the alluvial ore which lay some twenty feet below the surface. By the turn of the century the embankments extended seaward a little past what is now Carnon Mine. In **1812**, however, the embankments were breached by an exceptionally high tide excited by a severe gale. The Great Carnon Streamworks was inundated and the enterprise halted.

In **1818** Sir William Lemon of Carclew, owner of the valley mineral rights, was prevailed upon to allow a shaft and pumps to be installed at Carnon Mine and a new underground enterprise was started. The shaft was sunk in **1824** to a depth that would intercept the tin ground. From the bottom of the shaft a horizontal gallery was cut about four feet wide and six feet high in the direction of the centre of the river and this was carefully lined with wooden planks and pillars to support the roof and sides. The mine made a good profit but closed again in barely five years.

The second enterprise was started in **1835** at Yard Point, Trolver, on land now owned by Feock Parish Council. Workings led out into the creek to connect with "Bubbling Island", a man made island at the creek centre which housed a ventilation and drainage shaft. The mine employed 212 workers and produced good quantities of fine tin ore, however a cyclical drop in the tin price led to its closure in **1842**.

The final tin mine, at Point, sought to win ore that had been left between the two former ventures. It was promoted by the Taylor family who had built and operated the Devoran Tram Railway. A shaft was sunk in **1871** on the shore next to Daniell's Quay (Point Quay) and was connected to an iron ventilation shaft sunk near the centre of the creek off The Point. The bed of tin was reported to be at times up to six or seven feet thick, however it was also often only sufficient for a

man to work lying down. The mine operated for only three years, again closing due to a fall in the price of tin. At its closure however it was commented that there was plenty of ore left in the ground, perhaps laying a seed for the abortive attempt to resurrect dredging the creek by Billiton Minerals in the early **1980s**.

The various mining ventures in the area were supported by two smelting works located at Point. A lead smelter was constructed in **1827** near Daniell's Quay by a local man named John Swan. The ore was sourced from local mines in the valley and their viability was greatly supported by the ore containing significant quantities of silver. In **1838** the West Briton reported, "*A large plate was taken from the furnaces of Penpoll Lead Works, the weight was believed to be 7,000 ounces which contributed to a total of 50,000 ounces (nearly one and a half tonnes) obtained in the previous twelve months.*"

A little later a London based company constructed the Penpoll Tin Smelting Works just below the Ropewalk. This tin smelter finally shut in **1921**, however the name was carried on when the London owners commissioned a new works called the "Penpoll Smelting Works" at Bootle near Liverpool. This operation, in its time, became the largest tin smelting works in Europe.

Carnon Mine



QR Narratives:

The Great Carnon Streamworks and Carnon Stream Mine - walk 5

Carnon Yard Mine - walk 7

Point Mine - walk 5

Penpoll Smelting Works - walk 5

The "New Town" of Devoran

The new town of Devoran was built in the mid **1800s** on land owned by the Robartes family of Lanhydrock. The Robarts were originally Truro merchants who made their fortune in the **16th century** from trading tin and mining supplies. In following this trade it was natural that the

Robarts also became bankers, however this practice was not without its critics, Carew in his Survey of Cornwall 1602 called money lenders such as the Robarts, "*hungrie flies*". As today, an element of the banking process entailed mortgaging of property and the Robarts estate expanded rapidly through the mechanism of mortgage forecloser. The family acquired the area of Devoran Cock in **1577**, as part of an ever-increasing portfolio of holdings around Truro and Redruth.

By the early 1600s Richard Robartes was reputed to be the greatest money lender in Cornwall, a reputation which did not come without risks. King James I had discovered the royal finances were in a dire condition at his coronation in **1603** and he decided to take full advantage of the practise of "cash for honours" offering knighthoods, baronetcies and baronies to the highest bidders. In Richard's case there may have been an even greater inducement as was reported within the Calender of State Papers Domestic of Dec **1616**, "*Roberts of Cornwall, compelled to lend £12,000, without interest by the threat of all his property being siezed for usury.*"

Richard Robartes was duly knighted by James I in **1616** and he was subsequently enobled to become Baron Robartes of Truro in **1625**. In **1620** Richard bought Lanhydrock House near Bodmin which he extensively improved in order for it to become his family seat.

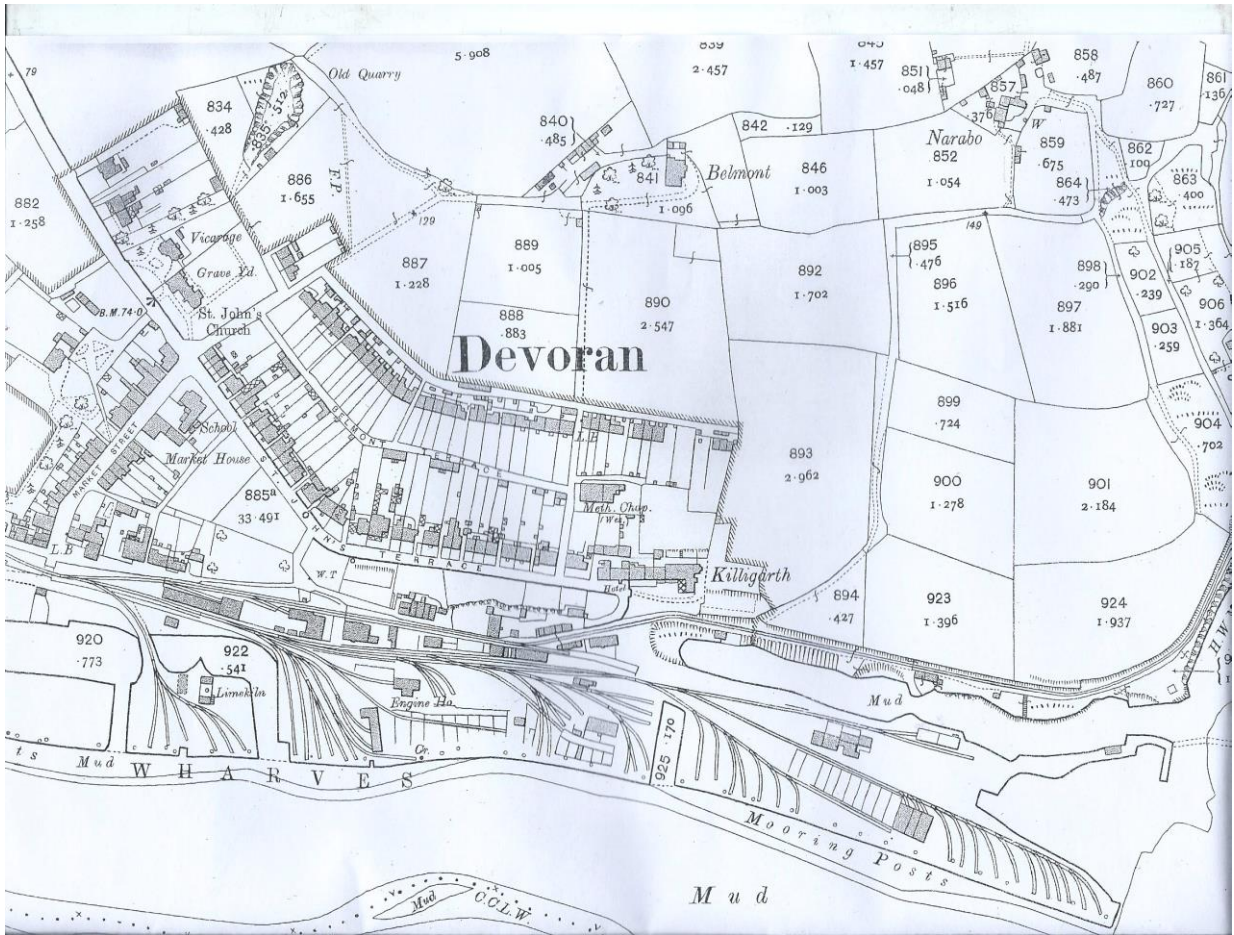
In **1794** Alfred Jenkin, the steward of the Lanhydrock estate, reported the growing trade in coals and timber at Devoran associated with the mining further up the valley. He considered Devoran to be a prime area for development and recommended that the Estate should purchase more land as it became available. Jenkin could see the potential for a new improved port at Devoran. He had considerable influence over the estate at this time due to a degree of turmoil in the Robartes family following the death of its then head George Hunt MP.

After George's death, the Lanhydrock estate was inherited by Anna Hunt, who was the great-niece of the 4th Baron Henry Robartes. She was already married to Charles Agar, Viscount Clifden, and due to pressure from the families other commitments they were largely absent landlords from the Lanhydrock estate at this time.

The Port of Devoran was developed in the early 1800s under Alfred Jenkin's stewardship and was given a great boost in **1826** by the opening of the Redruth and Chasewater Railway . By **1836** trade had increased to such an extent that major improvements to the port were required and Jenkins offered a prospectus for the building of a harbour and new town. The tithe map of **1842** indicates that at this time there existed just a few houses at Devoran, most of the 19th century buildings we see today were constructed between **1845 and 1865**.

Devoran was in effect a "New Town" built to a common design and incorporating many new conveniences such as piped water supply and foul drainage, utilities which many other communities had to wait some further decades to achieve. The builders used stone from local quarries and this has given the buildings their distinctive character, however these quarries have now been filled in and built over. Within a generation the town had developed from next to nothing into a thriving community, a fine example of the enterprise kindled by the "Industrial Revolution". By **1871**, the Devoran population had reached 1500 persons, over two thirds that of the whole of Feock parish at that time.

Devoran in 1908



QR Narratives:
Devoran Quays - walk 4
Redruth and Chasewater Railway - walk 4

Great houses and estates

Trelissick – a county squire and a mining mogul

The first major house at Trelissick was built by John Laurence, a captain in the county militia during the Seven Years War (1754-1763). John was remembered for his good nature, convivial habits, and wild eccentricities. The original architect for this house had been Mr Davy, grandfather of the celebrated chemist Sir Humphry Davy, renowned president of the Royal Society. The property was purchased by Ralph Allen Daniell in 1805, following Mr Laurence's death, and it was under Ralph and his son's tenures, that the house and estate we see today was established.

Trelissick House



QR Narrative:
Trelissick House - walk 8

Killiganoon – a lawyer, M.P. and an Admiral

Killiganoon house was built around 1700 by Richard Hussey who was the son of an attorney in Truro. Richard started his own career with little family capital, however through his exceptional abilities he became one of the most distinguished lawyers of his time. He was helped along the way by the most influential local personage of the age, Admiral Edward Boscawen of Tregothnan, who combined a distinguished naval career with local and national politics, enabled by his control of "rotten boroughs" linked to the family landholdings. Richard Hussey made his way in London and was appointed Attorney General to Queen Anne, whilst also acting as counsel to the East India Company. He was for a period MP for St Mawes on behalf of the Boscawen family. This was a "rotten borough" with only twenty-five voters, all of whom were tenants of the Tregothnan estate. In 1800 the Killiganoon estate was sold to Admiral Sir Thomas Spry who improved and enlarged the house and gardens.

Tregye – a smelting house owner and the old landed gentry

A substantial farmhouse at Tregye had been established in the 18th century however its development into a mansion was initiated in **1807** by William Penrose after he had inherited the estate from his uncle. William's inheritance also included shares in the great Wheal Fortune tin and copper mine, together with a further substantial sum of money which he invested wisely. In **1830** he joined with R & W Mitchell (of Calenick Tin Smelting Works) to take the lease of the lead smelting works at Penpoll. Unfortunately, William died at a relatively young age and tragically his only son was also drowned only four years later. His wife Juliana was left to manage the estate on her own until her death in **1850**.

Tregye had a succession of further residents, including the Honourable John Richard de Clare Boscawen, who together with his wife, Margaret, created the "Happy Valley" water gardens below Tresithick. These gardens were further enhanced by a later resident Mrs Rogers, whose family were the Williams of Burncoose and Caerhays. Many exotic plants were planted in the grounds, having been provided by foreign expeditions financed by Margaret's family, .

*QR Narrative:
Tregye House - walk 3*

Porthgwidden – another M.P. and a churchman with money and influence

The mansion at Porthgwidden is recorded as having been newly erected in the late **1820s**. It was the residence of Edmund Turner, M.P. for Truro from **1837**. In **1842** however it was bought by John Phillpotts, brother of the Bishop of Exeter who was a barrister and also M.P. for Gloucester. His son Thomas Phillpotts had been ordained in 1830 and took over the house when he was installed as vicar of Feock in **1844**. Thomas was an extremely energetic churchman and champion of the poor. He had a hand in designing and building both Devoran and Feock's schools and also their churches. He was a passionate horticulturist and, in friendship with the Gilberts of Trelissick, worked together with them to make improvements in farming practice, building on experience gained from working the Porthgwidden Home Farm at Harcourt. The house was considerably enlarged by Thomas and his wife in later years and his new clock-tower is dated **1855**.

Porthgwidden mansion house



Victorian plant hunters

Both the Lemon and Williams families developed great horticultural estates and became patrons of the plant hunting expeditions of the early Victorian age. The Lobb brothers, William and Thomas, were brought up on the Lemon's Carclew estate and they became amongst the most celebrated horticultural explorers and most prolific plant hunters of the time. Together they brought back over 600 new species of plants for the gardens and hot houses of Britain. William visited the Americas and was responsible for the commercial introduction of the Monkey Puzzle tree, whilst Thomas travelled to the Far East in search of rare orchids. In **1850** and **1851**, William sent back two consignments of Monterey Pine (*Pinus Radiata*) from California. The species was taken up by local farmers due to its rapid growth and salt tolerance and the mature trees today create an iconic presence in the landscape of Feock.

QR Narrative:

The Lobb Brothers - walk 4

6. Feock today

Feock remains a parish defined by its landscape and this is recognised by the designation of much of the parish as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Past owners of our great estates appreciated the landscape in their time and used the wealth derived from the 19th century mining boom to reshape and enhance the countryside. The results of their efforts and investments are appreciated today by the many visitors to the popular Trelissick Gardens. Modern pressures are great for the development of new homes in such a beautiful area and the balance required to avoid new development overwhelming this natural beauty is difficult to strike.

The Parish's position so very close to the city of Truro also makes it a popular choice and some might judge this reason enough to find their home here. For those who seek greater community involvement, however, Feock has plenty to offer. Remarkably, our community of little over 3500 souls is served by seven village or church halls which provide venues for over one hundred and thirty organisations, clubs and societies. The editors of newsletters and village magazines have a full time keeping residents in touch with such a wealth of opportunities.

Whilst no one aspect of community life can adequately encapsulate such diversity, an example can nevertheless tell a thousand stories, and such an example lies with our village regattas. Few small communities are able to host no less than three village regattas, each having its own character and special appeal which bring echoes of the past to new generations. The parish's age old connection with the estuary and the sea has been celebrated since the earliest regattas held over one hundred and fifty years ago.

Who would wish to miss the sight of Falmouth Working Boats passing in full racing sail a mere bisquit toss from Point Quay, or indeed who would pass the chance of a regatta tea provided by Point and Penpoll Women's Institute. The Point and Penpoll centenary regatta held in 1993 hosted a twinning ceremony between the Parish and the little Breton village of L'Hopital Camfrout, a twin community which nestles on the shoreline of the Rade de Brest.

The deeper waters off Loe Beach provide an ideal venue for larger yachts and indeed Feock regattas hosted the Truro Royal Regatta in years past for this reason. Together with Point and Penpoll, the Loe Beach (Feock and Pill Creek) Regatta joins the other village regattas at St Mawes, Percuil, Portscatho and Flushing under the Port of Falmouth Sailing Association (POFSA) calendar. The events are scheduled throughout the summer to allow each to take best advantage of the tides for their various venues.

The creekside near Devoran holds a very special place in the revival of the Cornish Pilot Gig. In 1986, local shipwright, Ralph Bird, who lived and worked at Carnon Mine, was instrumental in establishing the Cornish Pilot Gig Association and he became president of the association and life member. He drew together a standard specification for future gigs based on the Newquay gig, Treffry, which had been built by William Peters of St Mawes. Ralph personally hand-built

twenty nine gigs for nineteen clubs based around the coast of Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, including Fear Not which was built for the Devoran club in 1991.

Cornish Pilot Gigs off Devoran Quay photographed by Geoff Aver



The newspaper account of Devoran Regatta in 1883 described, *"no regatta in the County is so largely looked forward to by all the people in the neighbourhood as is Devoran Regatta..... Thousands of persons lined the quays and banks of the river on either side and there were hundreds of spectators in steamers, boats and craft of every kind from Truro, Falmouth, St Mawes and other places."*

One must admire the spirit of the Victorian Age which this description evokes and whilst Devoran Regatta cannot command such universal support today it still echoes the same excitement and anticipation from local residents and their willingness to have fun together within such a blessed setting.

QR Narratives:

[Point and Penpol Regatta in early days - walk 5](#)

[Feock Regatta in Victorian times - walk 7](#)

[Devoran Regatta in Victorian times - walk 4](#)

[Cornish Pilot Gigs - walk 4](#)

Written by Phil Allen

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info@feockparishcouncil.co.uk

[Contact us](#)