

# A snapshot of life in Port Isaac during 1914 taken from newspaper articles in the Cornish Guardian

January 1st 1914

## PORT ISAAC.

On Monday last at the Temperance Hall the Wesser Living Picture Company had a full house at an excellent entertainment.

Huge seas have been running for some days with a gale of wind and hail showers and bitterly cold weather have been prevalent.

We are pleased to hear Mr. James Tabb, although still in hospital at Launceston, is slightly better.

Miss Betsy Merceon passed away at Scarnahine on Friday week at the age of 67 years. The funeral took place on Monday at St. Edellion.

Port Isaac was cut off from the outside world on Monday morning, when both telegraph and telephone wires were broken during a heavy storm.

At the United Methodist Church on Sunday the Rev. A. H. Hicks was the preacher to large congregations. He also addressed the united Bible Classes in the afternoon.

On Monday morning early a terrible gale raged. The boats Boy Jack and Valkyrie broke adrift from their moorings, and were in danger of being battered to pieces against the other boats. No damage was done, however.

On Boxing Day the St. Edellion Boy Scout Troop, under Scoutmaster Miss Hyde, Assistant-Scoutmaster Mr. R. Robinson and Post-Scoutmaster Mr. C. Parmee, walked to Polseath (five miles) in 1 1/2 hours. Various tests and drills were carried out very satisfactorily. On returning home to the Scout House a well-laid tea was provided by Miss Hyde. The excursion was a great success.

On Saturday week Mr. John Morman, for some years carrying on business as butcher, and well-known around the country district, passed away at the age of 31 years. Deceased contracted a cold about eighteen months ago, which he was never able to shake off, becoming a victim to tuberculosis. The funeral took place on Tuesday at St. Edellion amid many expressions of sympathy.

On Boxing Day in the Wesleyan Schoolroom an entertainment was given by Sunday School teachers, under Mr. W. Martin, and friends to a large audience. The programme consisted of songs by Miss Gladys Toms, of Trebarroch; whistling songs by Mr. Graham Tom, songs by Mr. and Mrs. Tucker, Mr. May, Mr. W. S. Martin, and Mr. H. H. Williams; action songs and carols by the teachers and children, and amusing dialogues. Refreshments were served during the evening. The effort was in aid of the piano fund, and was highly successful, about £6 being realised. Those assisting were Mesdames W. Martin, N. Bunt, S. Prout, the Misses F. Richards, P. Inch, M. Hawke, Miss Martin, and M. Phillips. The schoolroom was very tastefully decorated for the occasion.

## BILLIARD TOURNAMENTS.

At the Unionist Club there has been a billiard tournament during Christmas for four. The result was as follows:—1, R. Oaten; 2, John N. Hicks; 3, W. Pink.

At the Liberal Club a tournament for cigars, etc., the following awards were made:—1, James Bradshaw, ten cigars; 2, Thomas Rowe, eight; 3, D. Lakeman, six; 4, Ernest Bishop, four; 5, Ralph Couch, two; 6, Wilfred Hills, one. The cigars were the gift of a member of the Club.

## CHRISTMAS SERVICES.

On Christmas Day there was a service in the Wesleyan Church, conducted by Mr. Edwards, of Exeter (a representative of the I.B.R.A.).

At St. Peter's Church various services were conducted by the Rev. W. F. Martin during Christmas Day.

Carol singing in the streets and clubs and places of worship has helped to brighten the festive season, while many young men and maidens from London and other towns took advantage of the holidays and paid a visit home during the night of Wednesday, returning on Sunday night.

June 5th 1914

## PORT ISAAC.

On Whit-Monday a large number journeyed to Wadebridge to the Foresters' Fete.

Crab and lobster fishing is being worked with great vigour, and the results are improving.

Mr. W. Martin, schoolmaster, has again returned to his duties at the school.

In our report of the late Mr. T. Mutton's funeral last week a wreath was sent by Scout Parmee, not Mrs. Parsons as stated.

On Tuesday last a very large bank of wood was picked up in the bay and brought ashore by Mr. Joe Honey and the coastguards.

On Tuesday the Doris landed about £3 worth of trawl fish, and the Prude about £2. It is a long time since even such small lots as these were taken.

On Wednesday week members of the Bodmin District Council—Messrs. W. Phillips, J.P. (chairman), Ignatius Lobb, J.P., T. H. Dyer, and Mark Guy—inspected the road at Port Gavern, which is considered by many as dangerous, the seas having washed away so much during the last few months.

At the United Methodist Church on Friday last the Christian Endeavour meeting was again well attended, about 100 being present. Mr. Theodore Smith was the chairman, and Mr. Samuel Prout gave a paper on "Property: Its Rights and Responsibilities." In the discussion Messrs. H. Morman, S. Bunt, J. Stone, T. Mitchell, A. Thompson, and J. R. Rhodes took part. Mr. Rhodes re-ordered a solo. Mr. Thompson gave an address.

A well-attended tea took place on Wednesday week at the United Methodist Church in aid of new vestries. Later a public meeting was held, presided over by Mr. Thos. Hawkey, of Treddisick. Mr. Alf. Thompson, the Yorkshire evangelist, gave his lecture, "Yorkshire's Billy Bray." Mr. J. R. Rhodes rendered a solo. Those in attendance at the tea tables were Misses L. and O. Billing, E. Ford, F. Meagor, and S. Hambly, Mesdames H. Lobb, O. Honey and Ed. Prout.

June 26th 1914

## PORT ISAAC.

A special collection was made at the United Methodist Christian Endeavour meeting last week for the Bodmin Hospital, amounting to 21s.

At the Royal Cornwall Show at Fowey Messrs. Johns, Trentinney, won 1st, special 2nd and 3rd with their noted Rhode Island Reds, and 1st and 3rd at Hayle.

The flag-pole at the Coastguard Station on Monday was bedecked with flags in honour of the King's birthday.

Sincere sympathy is being expressed on all hands in the illnesses of Mr. W. H. Sweet and Mr. Joe Saundry.

On Monday afternoon the lifeboat was out for quarterly practice, under Coxswain Joseph Honey.

Many farmers in the district are daily busy cutting the hay. The general opinion is that, although the quality is good, it is a light crop.

The Christian Endeavour at the United Methodist Church was well attended. Miss Florrie Baker presided, and Mr. Bernard Jeffrey gave a capital paper on the "Grace of Giving." Those also taking part were Messrs. H. Morman, S. Bishop, S. Bunt, W. Mitchell, J. Stone, T. Mitchell, W. G. Bishop, and E. Bishop, Mrs. Parsons and Miss L. Billing.

July 17th 1914

## PORT ISAAC.

The United Methodist Bible Class visited Newquay for their annual outing, not Looe as stated by us last week.

Messrs. Johns Brothers, of Tretninney, with two single comb Rhode Island Reds, won first and second prizes at Redruth Show. These birds still remain unbeaten.

On Friday evening the monthly consecration meeting of the Christian Endeavour Society took place. A fair number were present. The President (Mr. S. N. Stephens) presided. Mr. B. M. Stephens (secretary) called the roll, and Miss Lizzie Phillips accompanied at the harmonium.

Rivalry is apparent at the Liberal and Unionist Clubs. A few days since the Liberal Club had a flag-pole hoisted permanently, and on Friday last the pennant was flying. The Unionists now also have a flag-pole and flag.

On Friday evening last various boats landed mackerel, from 3 1/2 cwt. down, and could find no sale (no ice being in the place). The fishermen were obliged to sell from house to house at 5s. per 120. Monday morning the price started on first landing at 7s. 6d. per 120. Within a few minutes the price was as low as 5s. 6d. The run of the fish was small.

## UNITED BAND OF HOPE FESTIVAL.

The annual festival of the above took place on Wednesday week. The weather during the early part of the day looked very far from pleasant, but as the afternoon drew near it cleared. At 2.30 the procession was formed, and with the Camelford Town Band, under Bandmaster Males, paraded the principal thoroughfares. Adults and children turned out in good numbers. Returning to the Temperance Hall, there was a free treat for the children, and a public tea followed, which was well attended. Later a public meeting took place, presided over by Mr. W. Symons, of Trevathan, who, in his remarks, urged the two Bands of Hope in the town to unite forces.

Mr. Mark Guy (secretary) gave a very favourable report. Mr. Rd. Masters, of Helston, spoke at considerable length, but held the large audience to the end.

After this all wended their way to a field at First and Last, kindly lent by Mr. Thos. Taylor, where sports and games were indulged in, and where the band rendered lively selections. At 9.30 the "Flora dance" through the town brought a successful day to a close.

The judges for the floral decorations carried in the procession were Mesdames McLaren, Everett, and Edwards (visitors). The prize-winners were:—Garden flowers—1, Iris Avery; 2, Gussy Collins; 3, Lily Prout; 4, Sylvia Donithorne. Wild flowers—1, May Keat; 2, G. Shurt; 3, H. Thomas; 4, G. Hockin. Those in attendance at the tea tables were Miss Hawke, Miss Martin, Mrs. Cann, Misses L. and J. Thomas, Mrs. J. Brown, Mrs. C. Hambly, Miss O. Bate, Mrs. F. Sweet, Misses L. Billing, S. Thomas, W. Lakeman, M. Lakeman, M. Tiddy, P. Inch, H. Mitchell and L. Brown. Mr. W. Symons was the starter at the sports in the field.

August 14th 1914

## PORT ISAAC.

Residents in the locality are taking very keen interest in the war.

There has been no food panic in the town and the price of flour has dropped. Many of the provisions remain at the old prices.

Touching references were made to the war at all the churches in the town on Sunday last.

During the past week very bad weather has been experienced interfering considerably with the fishing industry. Harvest operations have also been impeded.

The bazaar which was to have taken place on Wednesday in aid of the St. Peter's Church Room funds, has been postponed on account of the war.

The Rev. Dr. Haig, ex-president of the Wesleyan Conference, was on a visit to Port Isaac, preached at the Wesleyan Church on Sunday last to good congregations.

Owing to the cancellation of many "bookings" at the apartment houses the town will lose hundreds of pounds, and that which had fair to be a record season will prove one of the worst on record.

At a meeting of the United Methodist Church on Monday evening, it was decided to postpone indefinitely the concert which was to have been given by the St. Andrew's Quartette on August 26th.

A very representative meeting of the ladies of Port Isaac was held in the Church Room on Saturday evening, the Rev. W. T. Martyr, presiding. Considerable work should be taken to assist in the work of the Red Cross Society, in the making of garments suitable for the troops, and in various other directions. Miss M. A. Hyde is the president; Miss Egerton-Jones, vice-president; Miss Astley Cooper and Miss Marjory Richardson, hon. secretaries; and Mr. T. H. Dyer, treasurer of the fund. The Ladies' Committee, which has been formed, will collect subscriptions in the town and district, and much interest is being taken in the work.

August 28th 1914

## PORT ISAAC.

At the Wesleyan Church on Sunday evening the Rev. Haig (ex-President) was the preacher.

## WAR COLLECTIONS.

At the United Methodist and Wesleyan Churches collections were taken on Sunday, and totalled about £8. This, with £27 2s. already raised locally and St. Peter's collection, does great credit to such a small community.

## LIFEBOAT LAUNCH.

On Wednesday-week the "Richard and Sarah" was taken out for practice, under Coxswain Joseph Honey. In quick time she was taken through the winding street to the beach, and was very soon afloat. The visitors were much interested. At this season of the year very few men are at home, and this time so many being at the front, it was doubtful if sufficient men would be available to launch her, but a good crew was secured.

## SUDDEN DEATH.

On Monday afternoon Port Isaac received a shock on learning of the sudden death of Capt. Robert Neale, general dealer, and for many years captain of the sailing ship Wild Pigeon. Capt. Neale was about during the morning, and partook of dinner as usual, but afterwards told Mrs. Neale he felt unwell, and after seeing to his business, went home to rest a while. A little later Mrs. Neale went to see how he was, and found him lying dead over the fender. Deceased has not been a strong man for years, and for this reason retired from the sea and commercial business. He has been much better lately, and his end was quite unexpected. Great sympathy goes out to Mrs. Neale in this trial. His age was 52 years. Deceased was greatly respected.

## INQUEST ON CAPT. ROBERT NEALE.

On Tuesday afternoon Mr. J. Pethybridge (district coroner) held a coroner's inquest on the body of Capt. Neale. Mr. Charles Parmee acted as foreman. A verdict of "Accidental death through a fall" was returned.—Dr. Jackson was present, and fully agreed with the verdict.

## DISTRESS FISHERMEN'S MEETING.

On Friday afternoon Mr. Stephen Reynolds, fisheries' adviser to the Development Commissioners, and who has been requested by the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries to visit the fishing ports to ascertain at once and first-hand how far the industry is affected by the war, and to learn of any distress through the same or unemployment, held a meeting in Messrs. Pavement's offices. Mr. Barron (fishery officer), Messrs. R. Prout (representing Messrs. Pawley, Moss, and Thos. Collins (representing Mr. John Ley), fish buyers, Mr. S. N. Stephens (chairman local Fishery Committee) and a large number of fishermen and boatowners were present. Mr. Barker represented the local relief war committee. Mr. T. H. Dyer (secretary Fishermen's Committee) was unable to be present. Various views and opinions were freely expressed, and Mr. Reynolds soon learnt how far the village is affected. A number of boats will not work for the next harvesting season if war continues.

September 11th 1914

## PORT ISAAC.

A few visitors are again arriving, and we hope the late summer may surpass August.

The town pump is closed about two hours daily.

Several men in the village have volunteered for service in H.M. Forces.

On Friday last the weekly meeting of the Christian Endeavour took place, Mr. W. G. Bishop presiding. A good number were present.

During the past week harvesting operations have been in full swing, favoured with grand weather.

On Saturday morning a young lady visitor staying in the district was climbing a rock at Silvershill Creek, when she fell backward on her head fully 20 feet. She is confined to bed, and the doctor is in attendance.

G. Thomas, the younger son of Mr. C. Thomas, fell under a horse, and was badly injured on Friday last. He was taken to his home, where he laid unconscious until well into Saturday, when he regained consciousness. He is now going on well.

## WAR MEETING.

On Friday last a very representative meeting was held in the Church Room, Mr. T. H. Dyer presiding, and was supported on the platform by Major Campbell (Rock), Capt. Conor (Doyden), Rev. W. T. Martyr, Messrs. H. H. Williams, W. Symons, and Dr. Roy Jackson. Volunteers as special constables were asked for, and several offered themselves. Homes for convalescent soldiers and sailors were also asked for, and a good number of names were heartily given in.—Addresses were given by Capt. Conor, Major Campbell, Mr. W. Symons, Rev. W. T. Martyr, and Dr. Roy Jackson appealing for volunteers.

September 25th 1914

## PORT ISAAC.

The shell fishing season is now drawing to a close. It has only been a fair season. Trawling is now being carried out when the weather permits. The last week's results were nil owing to the boisterous weather.

The list of volunteers is being increased week by week, and the number now serving the colours, including R.N.R. and Regular Forces, amounts to about 70.

The newly-appointed Superintendent Minister (Rev. J. Herbert Shaw) preached two sermons on Sunday to large and appreciative congregations at the United Methodist Church. The rev. gentleman addressed the Sunday School scholars in the afternoon.

## RED CROSS LEAGUE.

On Wednesday week at the Church Room all the garments made by the above League were on show. They clearly showed that the ladies must have worked hard and long to get together so many things. The Girls' Needlework Class parcel of fifty garments has been despatched to London for the Belgian refugees. The Scouts' picture postcard albums and jigsaw puzzles have been sent to Netley Hospital and Cambridge Hospital, Aldershot.

October 10th 1914

## PORT ISAAC.

On Friday last Mr. Warwick G. Bishop presided at the Christian Endeavour meeting, when a vote of sympathy was passed with Mrs. Avery (a member) in the death of her only child.

A few days since the roof of a dwelling house in the town slid off in the early hours of the morning, causing quite a shock to the inmates. No one was injured.

## DEATH OF MISS IRIS AVERY.

On Thursday morning little Iris Avery, aged three years, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Avery, of Chilton House, Port Isaac, passed away, after a very short illness. The funeral took place on Sunday, amid many sincere manifestations of sympathy and respect. The mourners were: Mr. and Mrs. Avery (father and mother), Mrs. J. Saundry and Mr. Alexander Donithorne (grandmother and uncle), Mrs. Donithorne and Mr. William Saundry (aunt and uncle), Mrs. Alex. Donithorne, jun., and Mr. Stanley Honey (cousins), Mr. and Mrs. S. Honey, Miss Neale, Messrs. Joe and Grigg Honey. There were many beautiful floral tributes from father and mother; Miss White (god-mother); Mrs. Donithorne's family; granny and children; Miss Neale; United Methodist Sunday School teachers; Molly Williams; and many others. The bearers were Messrs. John Prout, Wilfred Hills, John Collins and John Stone. There was a very large attendance. The deceased was a scholar at the United Methodist Sunday School, and the school was closed.

November 20th 1914

## PORT ISAAC.

On Friday Mr. Theodore Smith presided at the Christian Endeavour meeting, and Mr. S. N. Stephens gave a paper on "The Thoughtfulness of Jesus."

On Monday morning on the storm abating, a few boats ventured out, and had catches of 4,000 down to a few hundreds. On Tuesday night the catches were 10,000 down to 1,000, and the price 6s per 120.

A gale raged with terrific fury on Thursday night. At 12.30 p.m. all the members of the lifeboat staff and Board of Trade life-saving apparatus were summoned to be in readiness. Later a message was sent to Padstow for the Helen Peel to go out to a ship in distress off Boscawen. Little time elapsed ere she appeared off Port Isaac, with searchlights at work, and she steamed up, searching carefully all the time. She returned about 10 a.m., having found no disabled ship. Our men were on watch all night, and a weary time they must have had, their services not being required after all. The gale raged up till Monday evening.

## PORT ISAAC VOLUNTEERS.

On Saturday last two men enlisted, viz., Mr. Ernest Bishop, son of Mr. M. Bishop, Port Gavern Farm; and Mr. Tom May, son of Capt. T. May, Bodannion. Both joined the Yeomanry, and will be drilled at Teignmouth. This brings our number over 90, which will take some beating for a parish with only 800 inhabitants.

November 29th 1914

## PORT ISAAC.

During the week the herring fishery has been pursued with great energy, and fair results have been achieved.

At the Christian Endeavour meeting on Friday evening a capital paper was given by Mr. Darce Lakeman on "Sardis, a dying Church." Mr. John N. Hicks was the chairman.

## WEDDING.

At St. Peter's Church on Monday a quiet wedding took place, the contracting parties being Miss Louis Tabb, youngest daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. T. Tabb, and Mr. Chas. Morman, eldest son of the late Mr. Richard and Mrs. Emily Morman. The bride was given away by her father, and Miss Daisy Morman (sister of the bridegroom) was the bridesmaid.

## ACCIDENT.

On Friday afternoon an accident took place at Colstenton, about one mile on the Port Isaac Road road. Capt. Thomas May, of Bodannion, was driving home, and was within a short distance of his farm, when Mr. Jos. Allen (representative for Messrs. Richard T. Cardell and Son, merchants, Bodmin), who was returning home from Port Isaac, drove into him at a sharp turn in the road. The carriage and harness of Mr. Allen's trap were badly smashed, as was also the harness of Capt. May's, but apart from this no damage was done to any of the occupants or horses. Mr. Allen had to walk to St. Kew Highway Station, 3 1/2 miles distant, to entrain for home, the lad taking the horse home by road. The damaged carriage was drawn to Poltreworgey Farm close by.

December 18th 1914

## PORT ISAAC.

We extend hearty congratulations to Mr. Joe Bate, youngest son of Capt. Harry Bate, in passing the examination in London last week, which entitles him to a mate's certificate.

On Wednesday week in the Church-room a sale of work of articles made by Miss Hyde's Girls' Guild Class took place. There was a brisk sale. Proceeds were for clothing for the Belgian refugees.

On Friday night Mr. Charles Hambly, jun., Trethewa, lost a valuable horse. The illness started with a small rub on the neck, but this developed and caused death. Mr. Hambly started on a small holding (part of Poltreworgey Farm) only last Michaelmas, and the loss is heavy for him.

## FISHING.

Herrings are very scarce, 200 per boat down to nil. A few whiting were landed. Price reached 20s. to 22s. 6d. per 120.

## CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOUR.

On Friday the monthly consecration meeting took place, nearly fifty being present. A duet was ably rendered by Mrs. Parsons and Master Bennet Parsons. Mr. S. N. Stephens presided.

## GIFTS TO WOUNDED SOLDIERS.

Mrs. Everett, a lady who has for some time been staying here, is despatching sixty parcels this week to one of the Exeter hospitals as Christmas gifts to the wounded heroes of the war. The things were on view in the Liberal Ladies' Room on Monday evening.

## BELGIAN REFUGEES.

On Wednesday week a further batch of refugees arrived from Rochester, ten in number (two families). There are now sixteen here, being supported by local contributions. They are being looked after by a strong ladies committee. Port Isaac has risen well to the occasion. One house was offered, furnished, two houses empty, and gifts came in on all hands.

December 30th 1914

## PORT ISAAC.

The preacher (Mr. Thos. Ham, of Tintagel) who was appointed to take the services at the United Methodist Church was unable to take them through having met with an accident on the previous day, breaking his leg. The evening service was conducted by two young members of the church.

The weekly meeting of the Christian Endeavour Society took place on Friday evening last in the United Methodist Schoolroom. Over 90 were present. Mrs. Martha Blake presided. Mr. S. N. Stephens gave a paper on "Smyrna Persecuted."

## VOLUNTEER NURSE.

Port Isaac still continues to increase the already large number of volunteers since war broke out. This time Miss Mabel Pollard, proprietress of the Headlands Boarding House, has volunteered as a nurse in Serbia, for which country she left on Monday last.

## WESLEYAN CHURCH HARVEST FESTIVAL

The above festival was continued on Thursday last. Rev. Philip Callier preacher in the afternoon. A public tea followed, presided over by the following ladies: Mrs. W. Martin, the Misses Hawke, Inch, Martin, and Lang. In the evening there was a public meeting, presided over by Mr. T. Herbert Dyer. The Rev. Callier also spoke.

PISCES thanks Annie Philp of Port Isaac for these newspaper cuttings