



Mary's 90th birthday party guests

Photo: Bill Isaacs

## Mary Reid

Mary came to Port Isaac 45 years ago to visit her friend Paula Scott. She was 'inspired' by our village and very soon moved here with her daughter Julie. She was then Mrs Smith but she later married David Reid.

Mary worked at the Golden Lion and the Port Gaverne Hotel and many other places in the village until her retirement when she was in her eighties.

Annie Philp

# Mary calls time on pub career

by ALASTAIR WREFORD

WHEN Mary Reid of Port Isaac pulled her last pint as barmaid at the village's Golden Lion pub on Sunday – just a few days short of her 80th birthday – she had no intention of simply retiring and taking life easy. She already had another job lined up!

Mary's career change might appear to have come a little late in life but as she says, she hates being idle and enjoys working. Although she had found the hours working behind the bar were getting a little too much.

In future locals will find her behind the counter at the village Post Office, just up the road from the pub, working part time for Port Isaac's "Postmaster General" Jon Cleave.

But she has no intention of losing touch with the many friends she has made in the pub and says she will be calling in regularly for a quick drink.

Mary moved to the village 34 years ago and spent ten years working at the Golden Lion for Jack and Muriel Spry when they were landlord and landlady.

She moved away for a couple of years before returning to the village and resuming her pub career behind the bar at the Port Gaverne Hotel, then run by Freddie and Midge Ross, eventually becoming bar manager.

### Surprise

She recalled that one day a stranger walked into the bar and said he was sure he had seen Mary before.

Mary could not recall him but he then produced a Dutch guide book to British pubs and there, staring out from the page on the Port Gaverne, was Mary pulling a pint!

"I can't even remember the picture being taken, but it was quite a surprise," she said.

Mary only gave up working at Port Gaverne because the walk up and down the hill from Port Isaac four times a day was getting to be a bit too much.

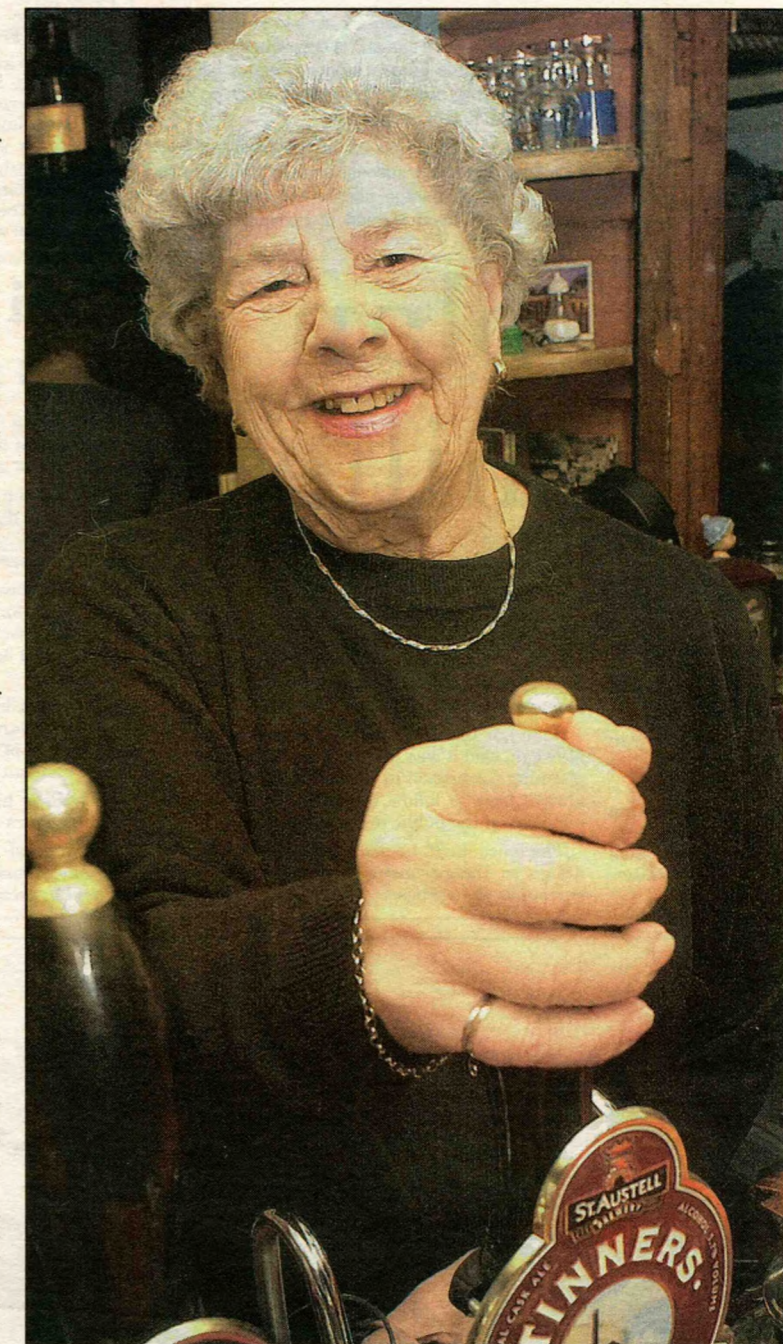
Then it was back to the Golden Lion where, by then, Jack and Muriel had retired and Neville Andrews had taken over.

A few years later he moved on and Mike Edkins, the present landlord, took over.

"She has been an absolute star," said Mike. "She is utterly reliable, friendly and so helpful – we will miss her behind the bar."

"But as she only lives over the road I don't imagine we will be losing touch!"

"We inherited her with the pub when we took over nearly ten years



Although she readily admits she loves work, Mary is also a keen traveller and the part time work helps her pension stretch a little further.

"I'll be getting an extra 25p a week when I reach 80 on Friday – I really can't decide what to spend it on!" she said.

think she is mad. "They say they could never put me into a home because I'd be waking up in the early hours and scrubbing the floors or finding something else to do.

"Anyway, I love it here in Port Isaac and while I shall miss working in the pub I know