

Peter Larkin recalls ...

"I cannot remember the year - I hope someone else will realise what I am writing about and let me know - but when I was about 5 or 6 (that would be 1944 or 1945), I remember my grandparents at Atlantic View giving emergency accommodation to a man from a shipwreck. I think his boat had gone down somewhere off Varley. He had a thick, brown, bushy beard and was well tanned. Grandma Castle produced some old sweaters and trousers from a special bag in the airing cupboard, and he had a good meal, stayed the night and phoned his family in Glasgow (I think). I think I heard the family say that other men from the ship were staying in other Port Isaac homes!"

NOT A WRECK but damaged boats

"It was the day of the Lynmouth flood (16 August 1952). I was having tea at the home of Loveday Carew, at The Refuge, Port Gaverne. Her kitchen window looked out on the *Port Gaverne Hotel* car park. The rain had been heavy and the water in the Leat had overflowed and reached to the top of the bonnets of the parked cars. Water had come into her garden and was lapping at the top of the step. The owner of the house up the valley and her children were crawling along the top of their garden wall to try to escape the flood which had surrounded her property (the one near the stile.) I cannot remember their name - I think they ran a cafe in the village - perhaps the Harbour Cafe? Her husband died in a fire in the coastguard hut on Kellan Head - and she then emigrated to Australia.

At the top of the beach there was a very wide gully gouged out by the flood water, and the road too was damaged and impassable. Several boats were damaged and ours was hanging over the edge of the precipice which the flood had made.

The people of Port Isaac collected a lot of money for the Lynmouth Disaster Fund during the following month, realising that we all had a very narrow escape."