

Pink Cottage, Port Gaverne

One day in the summer of 1902, two young ladies, Gertrude Fleming and August a Sherburne, set off from Bude on a heavy, sea-up-and-see lakes for a cycle tour of Cornwall – They were their boosters at anish each and all ached the most of their long starts to their ankles with all sorts of bands to stop them blowing out. When they reached the place they found a man in a hat of Port Gaverne they spotted a cottage, which particularly appealed to Gertrude. It was the Pink Cottage (then called Atlantic Cottage)

In 1905 Gertrude married Keith Price and acquired three sisters-in-law and two brothers-in-law. Remembering the cottage, she encouraged her new sisters-in-law, Dorothy Price to visit Port Gaverne and subsequently two of them hired it for summer holidays (Keith preferred to go salmon fishing). In 1916 the cottage was bought outright by Gertrude and Dorothy with joint ownership, but with Dorothy holding legal title as she had produced most of the funds.

Dorothy, known as Dossy, went on to buy Beach House, the White Cottage, Pichards Corner and the Kipperingsheds opposite the Pink Cottage. Her sister, Gwen, married Guy du Maurier (brother of Gerald and uncle of Daphne) and acquired the Kipperingsheds next to Dossy's and the adjoining cottage, The Reliance. Property prices were low owing to the decline in the price of and hence the herring industry (local stocks had disappeared). Keith Price purchased the Port Gaverne foreman and did what he could to ensure age local employment including mackerel, crab and lobster fishing.

When she acquired her other Port Gaverne properties, Dossy handed over care and control of the Pink Cottage to its original admirer, Gertrude. Guy du Maurier and both of Keith Price's brothers, Jack and Harold, were killed in World War I but Gertrude, Dossy and Gwen took care of much of Port Gaverne through the 1920s and 30s. A Canadian Price cousin, Jean, married a Cornishman, Michael Thelwell Michel during his time and acquired Chimneys, by the stream below Pink Cottage.

Both Dossy and Gwen were close to the Llewellyn Davies family – Sylvia, the mother of the five boys made famous by JM Gwynne Peter Pan, was also Maurier's. Dossy left Pichards Corner, behind the sheds immediately opposite Pink Cottage, for many years to one of her boys, Captain Jack Llewellyn-Davies RN and his wife Geraldine.

Originally the Pink Cottage had no plumbing. There were two earth closets in a small hut behind the cottage and there was a outhouse where the downstairs bedroom and shower are now sited. The upstairs bathroom and downstairs bedroom were added in the late 1930s by Gertrude and the downstairs too in the 1950s.

Gertrude's daughter, Wendy aged 93 in 2006, remembers 12-hour car journeys from Guildford to Port Gaverne in the early 1920s – the car had to climb Yarncombe Bank in reverse – and whizzing down the dusty track from Port Isaac to Port Gaverne in a soap-box cart made by her friend Jack Hicks, the butcher's son. After a visit to South Africa in 1933 she was among the first to use a surf board at Pizeah.

Gertrude, Dossy and Gwen all died in the 1960s and effective ownership of the Pink Cottage passed on to two of Gertrude's children, David Price and Wendy Marlan. Dossy, Gwen and Keith Price bequeathed all their property to the National Trust. A wooden bench on the headland, near the GUL, commemorates the Price family.

Today ownership of the Pink Cottage remains with descendants of the Price and Marlan family and is greatly loved by them all.

Annie Price



Three generations of the Price family in the garden at Pink Cottage, c1900

Annie Price's Aunt Jane and nanny on Port Gaverne Beach, 1915

Joe Honey with Mike Price and friend



On Pink Cottage steps
Back row, left to right:
Barbie Price and cousin
Gilly, Chris and Annie Price
c1954

Members of the Price family outside the cottage, c 1900



Port Gaverne in the early 1900s showing Gertrude Strours Bathing Hut



Pink Cottage, Easter 1938

Sir Keith Price, the owner of Pink Cottage in 1908. He was also instrumental in putting in the footpath from Port Gaverne to Port Isaac

Mike Price and friend outside Pink Cottage, Easter 1938



Barbie Price (Annie's mother) on the cottage steps in the 1950s
Barbie & David spent their honeymoon at the cottage in 1946

Gertrude Price and spaniel Bonny outside Pink Cottage, c1912

Annie and Chris Price on the cottage steps, c1903



Annie and Chris Price on the cottage steps, c1903



Jim May Sir and Annie Price gardening at The Pink Cottage in the 1900s



Annie and Chris Price on the cottage steps, c1903