

Do you remember ... that was where my family used to live ... that's what it was called back then ...

“The Real Voices of Port Isaac” is full of so many memories of people and places ... here are just a selection

Our local pathways

As the village has grown haphazardly over centuries, there are now about twenty, long or short, steep or flat, broad or narrow, tarmac or concrete, earth or rock, fenced, hedged or walled pathways/footpaths/lanes/alleys/shortcuts/opes to be found. Different people call certain pathways different names.

“Somebody wrote about *Shuggy's Ope*. Who was Shuggy? We have never heard of Shuggy. The names of the Opes (a local name for alleys and short cuts) are:

Higher Ope - this runs from Rose Hill to the Pentus wall.

Lower Ope - this runs from Rose Hill to opposite the Golden Lion.

Temple Bar is **Temple Bar** or **The Entry** - it is not **Squeeze Belly Alley!**

Doctor's Meadow was never *Doctor's Meadow*, the correct name is **Doctor George's Field**. Doctor George was the Doctor in the 1800s. The field was on the right as you come from Hicks Corner down to Trewetha Lane.”

Yvonne Cleave & Joan Murray

Middle Street & Dolphin Street

Middle Street is the only street in the village that is actually level! It starts at the Lifeboat House on Fore Street and stretches round to the old Chapel in the Valley. There were once several shops including Mrs Spry's Fish & Chip Shop. Lizzie Penrose sold sweets from a room in her cottage, “large gobstoppers were her speciality, bought for ½d each from the 1d that children were given for chapel collections”.

The street was also home to the Cornish wrestler, John Glover.

Yvonne Cleave: “Middle Street was left to run down because the landowners wouldn't pay to do up the cottages, and the council took over and said they were going to bulldoze Middle Street.

Joe Saundry told me that he could have bought Middle Street for £800.”

Joan Murray: “The whole of the street?”

Yvonne Cleave: “Yes. He said, I was just out of the army, so it must have been just after the war. He said I could have bought it because of what I had, my gratuity from the army, but you needed hundreds more to do them up to the specification of the council. So nothing was done with it, and then, one by one, the visitors started buying these cottages and everyone started doing them up until you have got Middle Street like it is today.”

Dolphin Street:

“... do you remember, Vesta Cottage was once Dr Trevan's stables.”

“and the Bark House was the place where the fishermen steeped their cotton nets in a hot oak bark solution to preserve them ... we use to take potatoes to cook in the embers of the fire underneath the bark - cauldron ... and upstairs was the Dole Office/Labour Exchange - most men hated the dole and would take any type of work to avoid it.”



This infamous narrow entrance, between *Temple Cottage* and *Honey Cottage*, leads from Dolphin Street to Fore Street. Only 18 inches wide at one point, it was recorded in the 1978 *Guinness Book of Records* as the narrowest public thoroughfare in the world. It was named after Mr Temple, the one-time owner of the cottage it runs through - he put a bar across to stop people using it, hence *Temple's Bar*. It was not until the 1950s it was nicknamed *Squeeze Belly Alley*.



“There is no doubt that this is the way to approach Port Isaac, from St Endellion on the Polzeath side of the port. The final hill is very steep ... Not until you round a corner do you see any sign of Port Isaac at all. Then you see it all, huddled in a steep valley, a cover at the end of a combe, roofs and roofs, tumbling down either steep hillside ...” *John Betjeman*

... living inside these buildings were families, in every house. Today most of the houses on Church Hill are second homes.

One of the earliest roads in the village, early travellers described Up until the 1960s the road was ignposted “UNSUITABLE FOR MOTORS”. Steps to the sides of the houses lead up to areas that were once communal drying grounds where washing was hung out on appointed days. Today these areas are gardens.

Roscarrock Hill

It's a lot more than the home of Doc Martin's Surgery!! The infamous cottage that the crowds flock to was once lived in by Mary & Teddy Hoskin (known to all as Teddy Bush). During the summer they lived in a galvanised iron shed in their garden and rented their cottage to holidaymakers.

Northcliffe, dating back to the mid 1800s was built on the site of a former carpenter's year. It is said there is an anchor chain fixed from the roof to the foundations to hold the roof on when gales blew! Before the breakwaters were built this was the home of Miss Latimer who always kept a guiding light in her window.

“LATIMER'S LIGHT WILL NEVER GO OUT” was a local saying

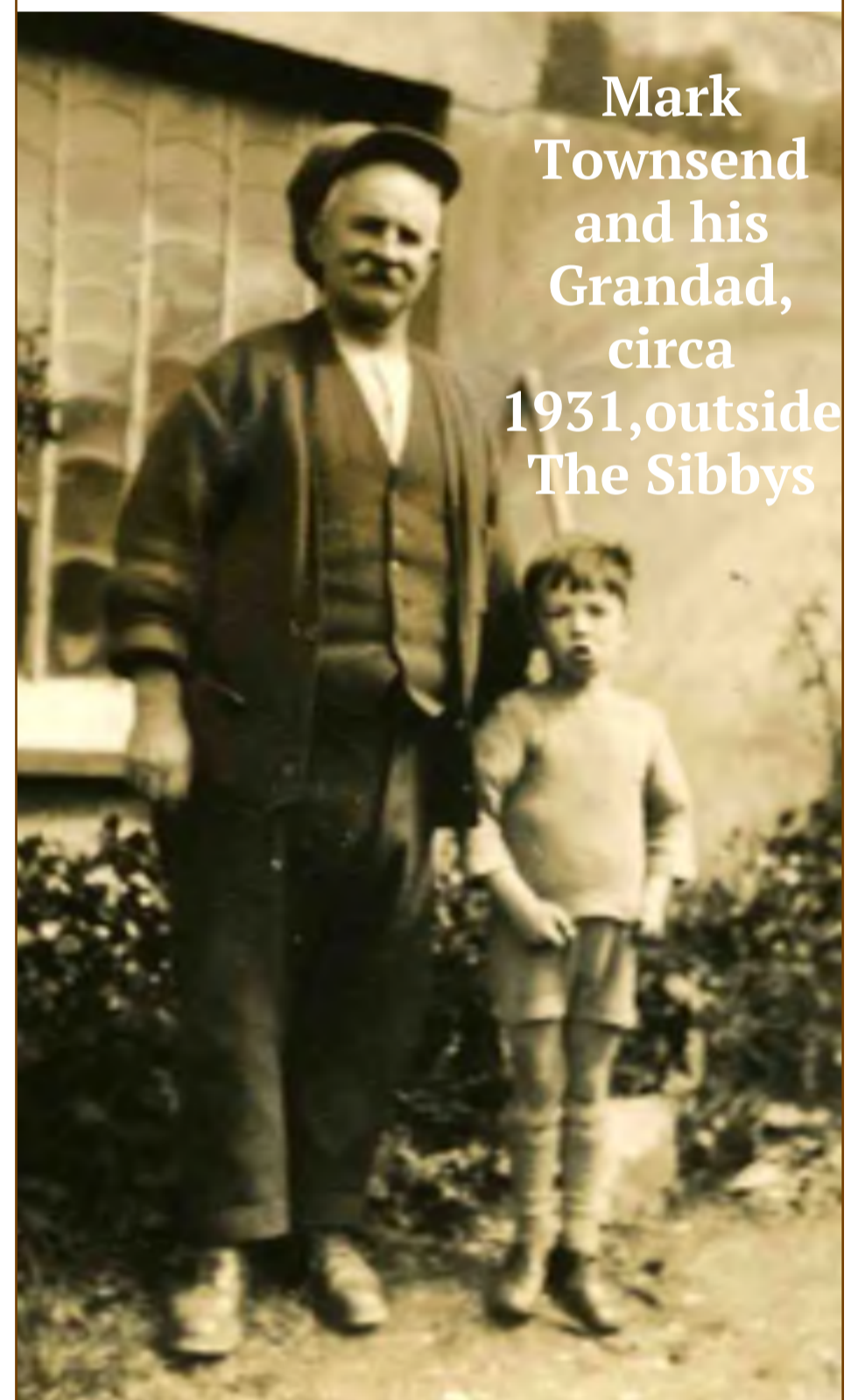
The clifftop area in front of the three houses at the top of the hill was once once allotments

Rose Hill

Rose Hill starts from the Pentus Wall and winds up between the cottages until it joins up with Trewetha Lane.

“In June 1772, Jonathan Remick bought from Robert Child Esq a plot of land called The Sibbys with a ruin on it. It was passed down to sons - all called Thomas or Jonathan who were carpenters and joiners ... It continues to be lived in by the Remick family. It is possibly the only house in the village to have been continually lived in and owned by the same family.

Janet Townsend



“Chicago House was built built by WH Oaten who was known as Yankee. He had emigrated to the USA and made money working in the Chicago stockyards and then came home and built three typical American clapboard houses - Chicago House and on The Terrace, Washington House and Garfield House. During World War II, Chicago House was home to many evacuees.” *George Steer*



First and Last

First and Last sits on the junction of Trewetha Lane and Rose Hill. Rose Hill was once one of the first main roads into Port Isaac and was probably the reason this junction was named First and Last; it was the first place you came to as you entered the village and the last place you passed on your way out!

taken from *THE REAL VOICES OF PORT ISAAC*