Around the village …

Some of the oldest buildings in the village are down around the Platt. In the early 1800s, *The Mote* was an inn called *The Bristol Packet*. It later became *The Commercial*. In the 1930s it was *Sherratt's Bakery* and it then became a restaurant. Until 2006 it was called *The Wheelhouse* but new owners, Paul and Caeron Bishop changed its name back to *The Mote* - the original name when it was called a 'Moot House' - elders and freemen would meet there to discuss village matters (much as happens today!).

Opposite is *The Harbour Cafe*. Originally two cottages dating back to the early 1600s, it is thought to be the oldest building in the village. The casement windows were installed in the 1920s. Ted and Ruth Robinson ran it as a cafe and studio - Ruth was an artist, and the daughter of well-known Cornish artist Douglas Pinder - in the 1950s and 1960s and it has had a variety of owners since their time. Many locals and visitors have memories of when it was run by Wally and Dolly! Today it is *Nathan Outlaw's Fish Kitchen*.

Next door to the Lifeboat Station is *The Slipway Hotel*. In the 1800s a chandlery owned by Warwick Guy, it was later taken over by Guy Hawkins and his wife; he ran an ironmongery on one side and she ran a drapery shop on the other. In time it became an hotel. Owners included Mr & Mrs Reece and their two daughters, Jackie and Jo, Mr & Mrs Evans and their son Trevor, Mr & Mrs Carpenter and their children Barry and Angela and then the Bishop brothers.
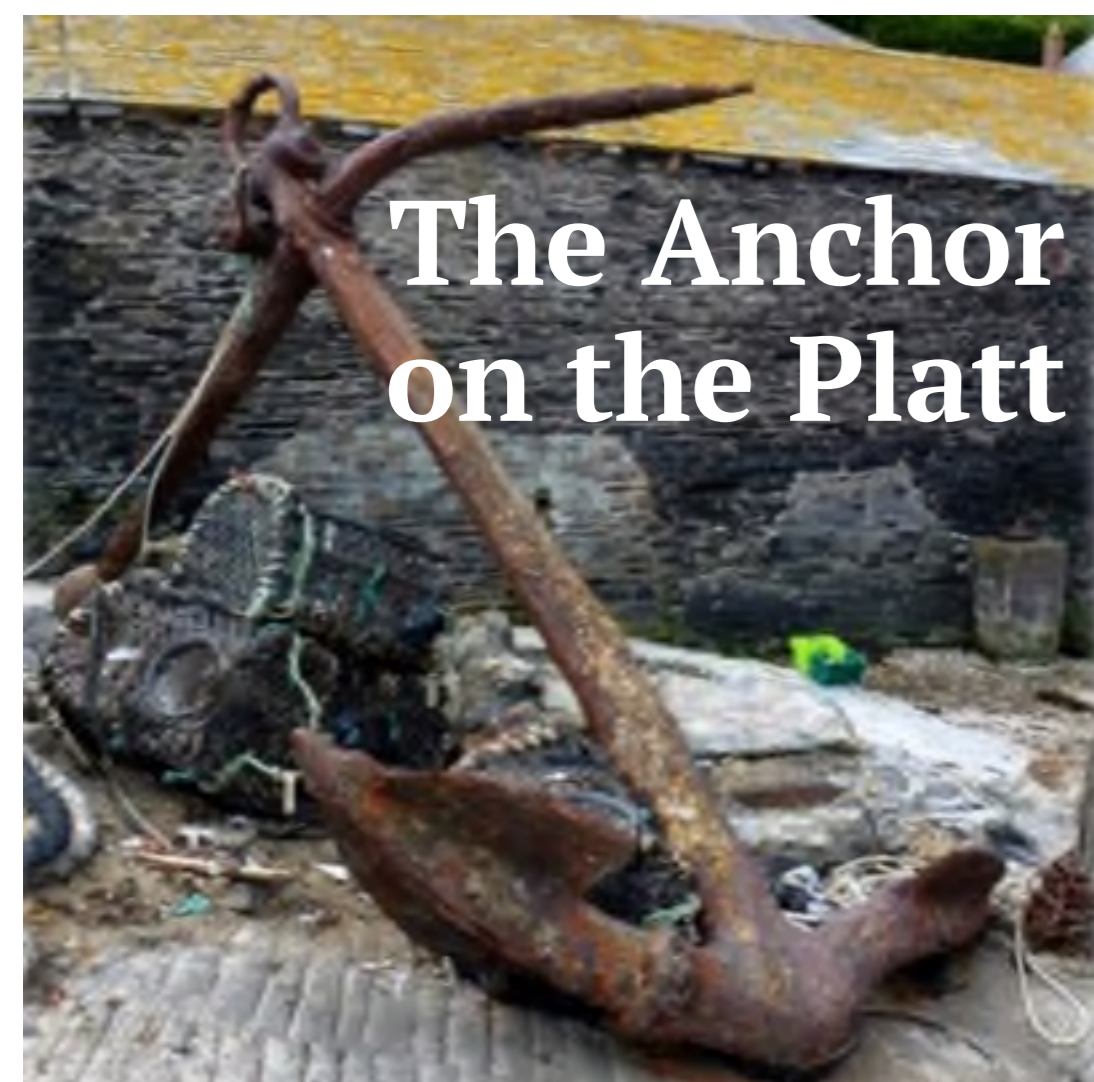

"Fancy a pint?"

"The village is devoid of interest but prettily situated, and possesses a dingy inn or two where substantial refreshment may be had."
The Thorough Guide to North Devon and North Cornwall, 1908

Port Isaac prospered in the eighteenth century and it was then that the *Golden Lion* was built. The story goes that contraband was stored in the cellars. This is backed up by what is now known as the Bones Bar has a smuggling tunnel that runs down to the beach.

Two further Inns were also opened in the late 1700s - the *Swan*, owned by John Larke and *The Dolphin Inn* on Dolphin Street (obviously!). The Dolphin was owned by Elizabeth Stribley in the 1770s and the photograph on the right is from 1906 when it was owned by Robert Horwill.

In more recent years, at the top of the village, *The Lawns* opened. Change of ownership changed its name to The *Shipwright* and then *The Crow's Nest* before it was converted into two private houses.

The Liberal Club

On the corner of Fore Street and Back Hill (known today as *Secrets Corner*) is the *Liberal Club*. It was originally a row of houses - Billings Row, aka Rat's Terrace (for obvious reasons!) But in 1911 the houses were demolished and the *Liberal Club* was built. It was a "men's place". It had a snooker table, although billiards was the usual game, along with draughts. With the curtains permanently drawn to stop reflections putting off the players, the main room lacked any fresh air.

George Steer wrote, "It was looked after by Cap'n Callaway and then by 'Old Man Freddie' (Honey), the name used to differentiate father and son. The son was always known as 'Young Freddie', even after he became an OAP

"The small room in the club (now Secrets) was used for Whist Drives. Ladies were welcomed on such occasions, as they were when there was an election. The Brimacombe's were probably the first to use the room for commerce; they had a greengrocery business."

In the 50s and 60s it was Ern May's vegetable shop and later Mike Daly's Port Isaac Relays - he put up a mast so that the village had TV reception.

The Rivoli

The Rivoli was converted into several cottages in the 1970s

Port Isaac once had its own cinema. In the 1940s Charlie Lobb purchased and converted an old carpenter's shop behind his garages and lockups at the top of Back Hill into the legendary entertainment institution, The Rivoli. Here was held the weekly cinema and it was the very popular venue for dances and concerts.

The Rivoli had a concrete floor and was clad in corrugated sheets. It was heated by a paraffin stove. The cinema screen was a big, white sheet drawn tight above a wooden stage. Murals by Ted Robinson brightened up the wall space.

The Rivoli was sold for development in the early 1970s.

The Anchor on the Platt

In 1979, members of the Loughton Diving Club lifted the anchor from the sea bed and placed it on the Platt where it still lives today. The late Bernard Baker, a retired Sea Captain who lived in the village, was convinced that the anchor was from the *Fredricson* that had gone down in that area.

In the summer of 1991, those same divers salvaged the gun mounting and gun from the SS Milly that was lying on the sea bed six miles south-west of Port Isaac. She had been torpedoed by a German U-Boat on September 6th 1918 and two lives were lost. Local fishermen towed the gun in on the high tide and it was craned into the position behind the *Golden Lion* where it has lived ever since.

The Gun with the 4" bore

taken from THE REAL VOICES OF PORT ISAAC