

Liberty Cellar: On 11th May 1803, John Cock gave a three lives lease on a plot of land 160 foot long by 96 foot wide for £110 to “*Phil. Ball of Mevagissey, merchant.*” The three lives were “*Phil. Ball and Nich. Truscott Ball, sons of lessee, and Peter Truscott Smith, s. of Peter Smith of Mevagissey, sailmaker*”. The size is almost identical to the Rashleigh cellar, but it is built into the hillside and old photographs give no evidence of that 3 brick layer on the lane side of the cellar. Perhaps it was thought that pressing poles here would block the narrow lane. Its capacity would be around 300 hogsheads. On 9th November 1825 the seine, including four boats, materials, 7,000 bushels of salt, and oil was auctioned at the Golden Lion, following the collapse of Phillip Ball’s Mevagissey Bank the previous autumn. In 1841 it was owned by James Stephens, a Port Isaac shopkeeper. His only child, Mary, married Warwick Richard Guy, the son of Mark Guy senior who owned Rashleigh and Union cellars. This is undoubtedly how it came into the Guy family and was part of Mark Guy junior’s estate when he died in 1918. On 5th October 1920 it was sold to Rosina Ashton when it became the Bide-a-While hotel. She had the landward arm removed in 1925 to let more light into the courtyard. In 1957, Nora and Minta Curtis turned the hotel into Gullrock holiday cottages, the name by which it is known today.



Liberty Cellar today

Venus Cellar: On 9th December 1802, John Cock gave a three lives lease on a plot of land 160 foot long by 96 foot wide for £110 to “*Jn. Pearce of Mevagissey, merchant, and Wm. Blake of St. Mawes, merchant (part owners of pilchard seine about to be fitted out at Port Gavern Haven in Endellion, to be called the Venus seine), on behalf of other part owners.*” The three lives were “*Wm., s. of Jn. Sampson Jago of Mevagissey, merchant, Jn., s. of Jn. Pearce, lessee, and Rob., s. of Wm. Blake lessee*” Identical in size to the Liberty cellar, and also built into the hillside, it probably had the same capacity of around 300 hogsheads. As with the Liberty cellar, in 1841 it was owned by James Stephens, and was part of Mark Guy junior’s estate when he died in 1918. In the subsequent sale in 1920, the cellar was split into two parcels of land. There was a



Venus Cellar today

“*dwelling house and adjacent cellar and garden*” sold to Jo Honey (now Honey Cellars), with the residue of “*3 dwelling-houses with stores and premises called Venus cellars, with 2 adj. gdns.*” to Mark Thos. Bishop (now Green Door holiday cottages).