

The Trevan Book

In 1834 John Watts Trevan, who lived in White House Cottage on Roscarrock Hill, put together his comprehensive 328-page manuscript on the parish of Endellion and its inhabitants as it was just prior to the Victorian era. This fascinating document has pen portraits of the families and people living here eg. fond of a tippie..., got pregnant by the Baptist preacher..., run off and left his family..., reputed a witch..., and many more of Trevan's forthright comments and opinions. It also describes local wildlife, fishing, mining, boats and who owned them, imports and exports, together with details of local wrecks between 1800 and 1834.

The Port Isaac Local History Group purchased the manuscript in 1999 and it is now on permanent loan at the County Records Office in Truro, to be available for future historians. The group has now published the complete manuscript, together with all its illustrations in full colour, as a hardback book at an affordable price. Copies, priced £10, are available from *Secrets*, Port Isaac.

The following extracts are what Trevan wrote in his book about fishing in Port Isaac.

Fishes & Fisheries Etc.

Whales are not infrequently seen here. Not many years since a whale came into the cove at Port Isaac, about the time of high water, supposed to be sick, happening to strike on a rock it blew the water to an immense height in consequence thereof. It turned again and went out, otherwise it is supposed it would come in and land on the beach. It was of the spermatic kind.

Grampus [*an old term for dolphins in general, now more usually applied just to Risso's Dolphin*]. The Grampus likewise at times is seen here in the autumn and by their blowing and splashing the water and coming so near the fishing boats, as sometimes to cause considerable alarm for fear of their stoving the boats.

Sharks of various kinds visit this coast at all times of the year. A shark of extraordinary size and furious aspect was caught last year, it measured nine feet four inches in length and three feet two inches and a half round its longest part. It was exhibited for some days after to the admiration of all that beheld it.

