

Tamar

Journal of the Friends of the Tamar Valley
Number 44 - 2022



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Valley Number 44 – 2022**

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Cover: Calstock from the Bere Peninsula bank of the Tamar
(Clive Charlton)

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Near the Tamar’s mouth: the tug SD Faithful entering the Hamoaze past the Royal William Yard, after assisting the US Navy ship Paul Ignatius, November 20, 2022 (Clive Charlton)

EDITORIAL

My very grateful thanks to all those who have contributed to the 2022 edition of *Tamar*. They have produced a nicely varied and interesting selection of articles and supporting images – much appreciated.

Paul Holden describes the evolution of Harewood House on the ridge above Calstock, from its glory days as a grand mansion to its transition to its present more humble status (thanks to Helen Wilson for liaison on this article), in 1999 and 2000, Susan Pittman wrote two articles for *Tamar* on traditional salmon netting on the Tamar; here, she adds to our knowledge of this vanished activity, drawing on notebooks kept by fisherman Jack Barrett. Susan has also provided some photos taken towards the close of salmon fishing on the river.

Thanks to Maggie Watkinson, we have two articles exploring two very different ‘inhabitants’ of the Tamar. In the later 19th century, one of Maggie’s ancestors was a member of the Metropolitan Police when they were responsible for security on the Tamar river and its tributaries. They had a base on the hulk HMS *Leda*, moored in the Hamoaze. The other 19th century ‘river dweller’ was bizarre and temporary – the ‘grampus’ that appeared off Cargreen.

With superb supporting photos, Jan Simpson offers an intriguing account of the birds that have visited the newly-restored Calstock Wetlands in its frost year.

Tamar Valley author, Rob Furneaux passed away in 2022. As a memorial to Rob, I have edited material he wrote on orchards back in 2000. I have also written a profile of the enigmatic, exotic, even sinister Italian, Theodore Paleologus, acclaimed as one of the last descendants of the Byzantine emperors, who lived at Clifton in Landulph parish in the earlier 17th century.

Belinda Kumpel has written about one of her forebears, Dan Ward, land agent of the Earl of Mount Edgcumbe on the Bere Peninsula. Jill Lane describes some of the characters and businesses of the past in Albaston and Drakewalls, drawn from her recent book on that part of the Valley. Lynda Harman and Dan Cooke give us updates on two key Tamar Valley institutions – the Calstock Archive and Tamar Valley AONB.

Clive Charlton, Editor, *Tamar*

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A Lost Cornish House – Harewood House, Calstock¹

Paul Holden

Harewood House, near Calstock, was a house described in 1820 as ‘a modern mansion of freestone with three regular fronts [with] a background of full-grown plantations which neatly conceal the numerous offices’. Today little of the original Harewood House remains and what does survive is not on our risk register. This story illustrates the decline of a once impressive property over time.



Fig.1 Harewood House, late 19th century

¹ This article was initially produced as a blog for the website of the Cornish Buildings Group ‘Buildings at Risk’ project (<https://buildingsatrisk.wordpress.com/>). The aims of the Cornish Buildings Group are to stimulate interest, appreciation, and knowledge of good building in Cornwall, and to encourage the erection, protection, repair and recording of such buildings. Thanks to **Helen Wilson** for the liaison!

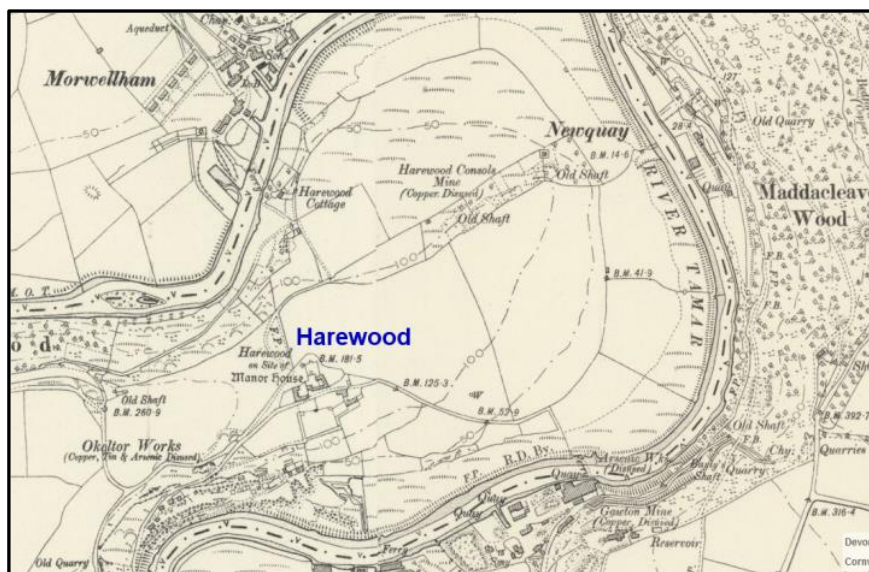


Fig.2 Location of Harewood, O.S. 6 inch map, Revised: 1905, Published: 1907, National Library of Scotland under Creative Commons

The Parliamentary Survey of 1649 stated ‘There hath beene lately built by John Cannocke Esq a fine dwelling house with barne, stables and other houses upon part of premises called Harewood’. A foundation stone on site indicates that building took place in 1631.

Harewood passed into the Fowell family through the marriage of John Cannocke’s widow before being acquired the Duchy of Cornwall during the early part of the 18th century. It was bought by John Pearson Foote under the terms of the 1798 Tithe Redemption Act. Of the pre-Foote house we know relatively little. A sketch map of 1784 shows that the house was approached by an impressive avenue of trees and that a walled garden and summer house were already built. Foote set about altering the house and in c.1800 the façade was altered, and a new wing added to the north side at a reputed cost of £27,000.

Several 19th century commentators referred to the new house – in 1814 George Alexander Cooke stated it was a ‘modern elegant building’ while Samuel Drew a decade later simply described a ‘handsome house situated one mile from the church’. For most the landscape and setting was the most memorable aspect of visiting Harewood, indeed Stockdale’s Excursions noted ‘...it is a handsome building erected on one of the most delightful spots on the bank of the Tamar’.

According to the family history, Foote ‘outran his means in the venture and was supposed to have packed up and levanted one night’. The house quickly passed through various hands including John Williams, Thomas Bewes, William Roberts, and, in c.1814, Sir William Lewis Salisbury Trelawny, later 8th Baronet and MP for East Cornwall. In the 1820s the house was described as ‘modern...spacious and elegant [with] a flight of stone stairs [that] ascends to the vestibule in the centre’. The ground floor comprised of a Drawing Room, Dining Room, Library, a Breakfast Room and a ‘staircase with skylight [which] leads to the first floor-gallery in the centre opens desperately into elegant bedchambers and dressing rooms’. A later survey completed by the Duchy of Cornwall recorded that one of these rooms was never completed and was ‘without floor, ceiling or plaster on the walls. But with that exception the interior of the building appears to have been well finished; the cornices, mahogany doors and deal floors in the public rooms being in an excellent state and repair’.

The house suffered from its close proximity to the Okel Tor tin (Fig.3), copper and arsenic mine. The fumes from the mine and that nearby at Gawton across the river must have been intolerable (Figs. 2 and 4).



Fig.3 Okel Tor mine, c.1900.

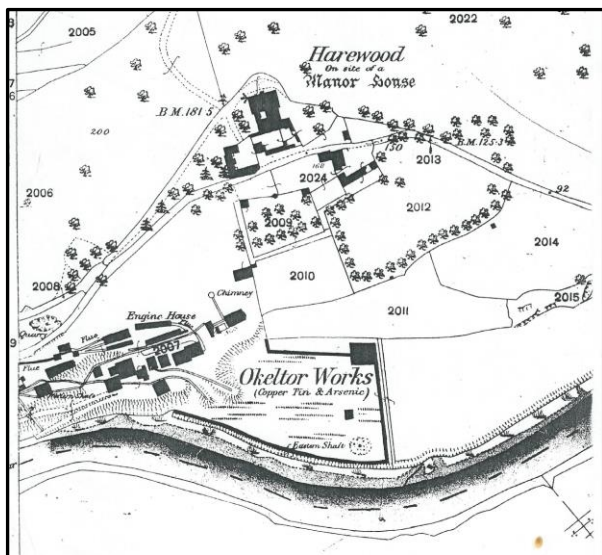


Fig.4 1884 map showing the close proximity of Okel Tor Mine to the house. The mine dated to the 1840s; at its peak it employed 200 people. Arsenic was mined when the price of tin and copper fell but the mine closed in the 1880s and was abandoned, although it was some years before the machinery was removed.

Trelawney died in 1865 and in 1866 the Duchy of Cornwall valued the estate at £13,437 with a view to purchase it, considering its aspects as ‘generally south and east and is, in many respects very eligible, and one that, on the whole, may be expedient to acquire for the Duchy, more especially if the question as to the right of the Duchy to carry on surface workings in the enclosures said to be privileged’. The Duchy however did not purchase the estate, but rather on 8 May 1867 the 300 acres of land and the ‘spacious mansions house and lawn’ were sold by auction across ten lots from the Bedford Hotel in Tavistock. It was noted in the sales particulars that the estate was conveniently positioned on the river Tamar and as such consisted of three quays and lime kilns.

At the time of the sale Harewood was a ‘substantially built’ mansion, having five reception rooms and 12 bedrooms, but was said to be out of proportion in size and accommodation to the resources of the estate. In consequence, the house, stables, outbuildings and walled garden were valued at a modest £1,440 and it was recommended that £400 was required for ‘repairs in order to make it tenantable as a gentleman’s residence’.

The new tenants were the Sims family. In 1871 the diary of Henry Sims, a manganese merchant, recorded a fire at the house, which facilitated a significant refurbishment.

In 1873 a collegiate school, first established at Ledrash House, St Austell, in 1840, moved into the house. The Kelly’s Directory of 1873 noted that the house was then owned by the Earl of Mount Edgcumbe who presumably bought the house at auction in 1867 and later leased it to the Rev Thomas Jones, the school’s headmaster. The school’s facilities were promoted in its prospectus, which ran: ‘The house is particularly well adapted for the purposes of a school, the rooms are large and lofty and sufficient accommodation will be afforded for upwards of 180 boarders’. The 1897 and 1902 Kelly’s Directory say that the building was unoccupied and by 1906 it was declared to be ‘in ruins’.

The only first-hand description of the interiors of Harewood can be found in a personal history of the Trelawney family, written by Owen Morshead in 1970. His memory of the house appears clear; he describes it thus:

‘The entrance was on the river side of the house, a pillared portico: glass doors shut off an entrance out of which a mysterious unfurnished room to the right and the dining room to the left... the glass door opens into the Hall, which has pillars and a gallery running over half of its staircase and a branch of stairs leading up to the Nursery halfway up shut off by a baize door. Here were smaller and probably older rooms; and from the Nursery stairs led off down to the kitchen regions...To return to the front part of the house. The drawing Room and library opened on the hall: the former not an interesting room... but... the library much frequented’.

During the 20th century the house was significantly reduced in size and architectural salvage was carted off for other projects. Today, there are few reminders of the splendour of the original house. However, an ice-house, a well, the remains of its rear wall and most likely the ruins of the old Summer House have survived.



Fig.5 *Harewood House in the 1960s*

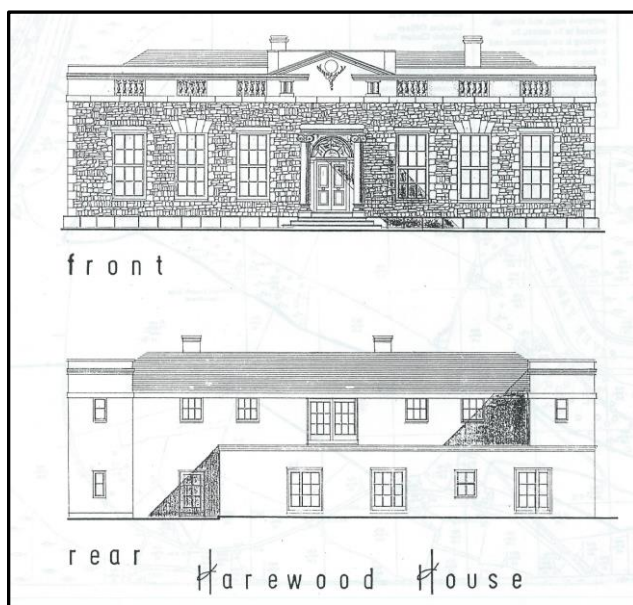


Fig.6 The site was marketed in July 1992 as ‘A Georgian house in need of restoration overlooking and set on a peninsula created by the river Tamar’. The sales particulars included this architect-drawn plan indicating the ‘Georgian elegance of the house is still visible and by reconstructing the first floor the accommodation provides 7 bedrooms and 4 bathrooms’.

Postscript: Harewood House now has two storeys, but the roof height has been lowered. The building is divided east and west by a rather out-of-place looking large stone doorway. While West Harewood House is a single residential property, the East is comprised of two.

Jack Barrett (1911-1982) - Tamar Salmon Fisherman

Susan Pittman

I had enjoyed watching salmon netting on the Tamar during holidays spent at Halton Quay and its environs from the late 1970s. During that time, I got to know the remaining fishermen, whose numbers and boats decreased year on year. In 1999, I sensed that this was dying skill which ought to be recorded. How glad I am that I did because a few years later the salmon boats moored offshore had gone, and with them the evocative scenes of salmon netting, which had added so much life and character to the river.

When researching salmon netting for *Tamar* Nos. 21 (1999) and 22 (2000)², I was dependent on observations of the fishing techniques, talking to the men about them, and recording their memories.

Documentary evidence was almost non-existent. I asked whether the men kept notes of their catches, their favoured spots, and tidal conditions when most fish were caught. This was how I learnt about the notebooks kept by Jack Barrett, then in the possession of his son, John Barrett.

I tracked John down and he agreed to show me his father's notebooks. There were three covering the years 1964 to 1982, but John was unable to locate a fourth, earlier one. Extracting information from the books proved very difficult. They had obviously been kept by a meticulous man and represented a great deal of work. There were pages of calculations to ascertain what was owed in shares in the boat, minus the expenses.

Another fisherman, Alec Scoble of Calstock, explained share fishing to me. Four men were usually required to work the old cotton nets on wooden boats, so there were six shares. The boat had a share, the net

² Susan Pittman, 'Salmon Boat Netting on the Tamar,' *Tamar* No.21, 1999, pp.42-54 and 'More About Salmon Boat Netting on the Tamar', *Tamar* No.22, 2000, pp.15-28.

another, the owner another if he was working the boat, and the three crewmen (four if the owner was absent) each had a share. When lighter nets and boats came in, there was one share for the net and the boat, another for the owner, and one share each for the crewmen. This allocation was operating when I was researching. It meant that each crewmen received a higher proportion of the whole, but at that time the return for their efforts was less because catches had fallen.

Retrieving information from the notebooks was hampered by lack of dates, by missing pages (many had been torn out), and by the fact that entries were not systematic from year to year. On the one hand, the find was significant, but on the other disappointing because I lacked the time and skill to interpret and analyse the contents. However, John Barrett allowed me to photocopy the notebooks and samples of various invoices, which I had donated to Saltash Heritage Museum. John Barrett had not looked at the notebooks for years and my interest released a flood of memories about his father's and his own fishing careers, which the rest of the article outlines.

Jack (1911-1982) and Muriel Barrett had two sons and five daughters. They lived at 3 Lander Road, Saltash, which was later re-addressed as 20 River View, Saltash. Jack's father, William, was a fisherman and Jack himself began fishing before the Second World War. He was in the Navy for five years during the war, but he always fished in the Tamar during his leaves. He started serious commercial fishing after the war, and he continued until his death at the age of seventy.

In the 1950s Jack Barrett had three salmon boats working the Tavy as well as the Tamar. He also had an ex-ship's lifeboat with motor. He stopped working the Tavy when Cornwall River Authority was set up in 1963, when he had two salmon boats, no. 19 and no. 52. Jack mainly fished at Skerrets below South Hooe. In the 1950s he had a 45-50 foot house-boat there (which Jack's father, William, had used before the war), where the whole family would spend the summer – helping out when

and where necessary. This houseboat would be beached at Saltash in the winter and it was there that vandals burnt it down in 1960/1. The Barrett family acquired a smaller houseboat, but it was never as successful. The salmon season then was from March to the end of August, but from September to February the salmon boats were used for tuck fishing for flatfish such as plaice or sole down near Torpoint at a place called West Mud, or seine netting for herrings, sprat, mullet or bass off Devonport and less often into Plymouth Sound.³ In bad weather, Jack Barrett took labouring piece work, and there is a page in his notebook indicating such work and the hours he had spent on it, e.g. clearing up a garden, excavating for paths, chipping and roughing up walls and assisting a carpenter on the roof.

Jack Barrett obtained his nets from Gundry Ltd. of Bridport, Dorset. The old cotton nets had to be tarred - otherwise they would rot within a season - so a big bath was put in the garden in which the nets were soaked. Afterwards they would be dried on poles erected for the purpose on land near the public quay at Saltash. Lengths of netting were purchased to be cut down and made into the specific nets required. 200 fathoms of five-inch mesh would be cut down to make the two arms of salmon net. For the bunt (the central portion of the net) one length was cut down to make two bunts. It was cheaper to do this than buying the exact size.

In winter, Jack would make his own nets from scratch as well – salmon, tuck or seine nets. He had a nail on the back of the backdoor, over which he hung the ever-lengthening net. The children would load twine round the netter's needles so that he would have a continuous supply. He might work four to five hours a night and it would take the whole winter to complete one net.

³ Tuck nets were smaller and would drag along the seabed. Seine nets hung vertically with weights along the bottom and the ends would be drawn together to encircle the fish.

John Barrett was born in 1944. He started to fish with his father in the early 1950s when he was eight. As a teenager he skipped school in the summer to help his father. Eventually when he was 14 or 15, he left school to fish full time. On one memorable occasion in June or July 1962 father and son started fishing at 6 a.m. and by 8.30 a.m. had caught thirteen fish which they took to Mashford's wholesale fish merchants in Plymouth to sell. Then they fished in high water and took another 24 fish. That week they took 88 or 89 fish altogether. The largest individual salmon recorded in the notebooks was caught on 14 July 1963 and weighed 17 lbs.

In 1966 Jack Barrett was involved in the revival of native oyster fishing in the Lynher, from Saltash. Among the collection of papers is correspondence about this activity, including marketing. Samples were sent to various companies and in the end George Tabor Ltd. of Pudding Lane, Billingsgate, offered to buy oysters at 80 shillings (£4) per 100, carriage paid. This offer was made after receipt of a sample of two hundred oysters which George Tabor Ltd. bought for £8. In one of the notebooks there is a page outlining the cost of hiring a motor launch to obtain this sample.

Saltash oysters had been harvested until 1934 when fishing had been suspended because of pollution. In those pre-war years Jack's father, William Barrett acted as an agent for the local oyster industry and marketed the oysters in France. In 1966 the Borough of Saltash licensed six oyster fishermen. The number was based on the limited size of the Borough's cleansing plant, which could cleanse 700 oysters from each of the fishermen on each of three days in the week. The weekly total the station could deal with then was 12,600. This was explained in a newspaper cutting from the *Western Morning News* of Tuesday, 4 October 1966, which one of Jack's daughters (Mrs Evelyn Storey) kept.

The cutting included a photograph of Jack's motor launch bought for the oyster fishing with the Tamar Bridge nearby, Jack was standing in the foreground. Among the papers was a bill for cleansing Jack's oysters:-

3.10.66	170 oysters	1d	14s		
5.10.66	1200 "	1d	£5		
7.10.66	685 "	1d	£2 17s		
10.10.66	1 sack	1/6d	1s	total	£8 12s

It would seem that the revival of oyster fishing at Saltash was brief; Jack Barrett noted its suspension on Thursday 13 October 1966. Apparently, there was an outbreak of food poisoning for which the oysters were blamed, although John Barrett said that the Barrett family ate the oysters regularly without any ill effect. He put the food poisoning down to a Saltash publican who had put a consignment of oysters in the deep freeze before serving them. Oysters, although regularly packed in ice, should never be frozen.

John Barrett was away during the brief oyster revival because late in 1962 he entered the armed forces for ten years, but on 1 May 1972 he resumed fishing with his father and continued until his father's death on 2 April 1982, when he took over his father's remaining salmon boat 19.

Among the papers is a copy of John Barrett's 1974 return of salmon, grilse (salmon that have been at sea for one year), and sea trout (peel) caught in the Tamar which was issued by the Cornwall River Authority:-

May	14 salmon	0 grilse	18 sea trout
June	15	6	2
July	53	72	1
August (3 weeks)	22	19	

Under the Duke of Bedford, who controlled fishing before 1963, fishing licences were issued on demand and without regulation. Returns of fish caught became regular procedure after the setting up of the Cornwall River Authority, followed by the South West Water Authority, and latterly the Environment Agency. John showed me the 2000 copy of the Environment Agency's Salmon and Sea Trout Catch Returns, Commercial Fishing, the pre-printed pages are set out to show:- Number of tides fished – 1 or 2; number of salmon caught within specified weight groups; Number of sea trout caught within specific weight groups; The weight of individual salmon 20 lbs or over and sea trout 9 lbs or over

Images of salmon fishing in the Tamar – Susan Pittman



Fig.1 Terry Gill, Dennis King, Reg Barker looking upstream for 'shearers', with boat no. 13 ready for them to take out, June 2001. There is a 'flat' tide where river and sea water balance each other and create still water. A shearer is a fish swimming near to the surface with back fin just breaking the surface



Fig.2 Reg Barker, Dennis King and Jack King with catch at 'Chippel' below Chapel Farm, Halton Quay, early 1990s. They had been about to pack up when a bystander had suddenly seen fish, so they went out again and caught these three. Their earlier catch is in the boat.

Fig.3 Frank Allan and Ian Knight with peel or sea trout of 2-3 lbs., June 2001

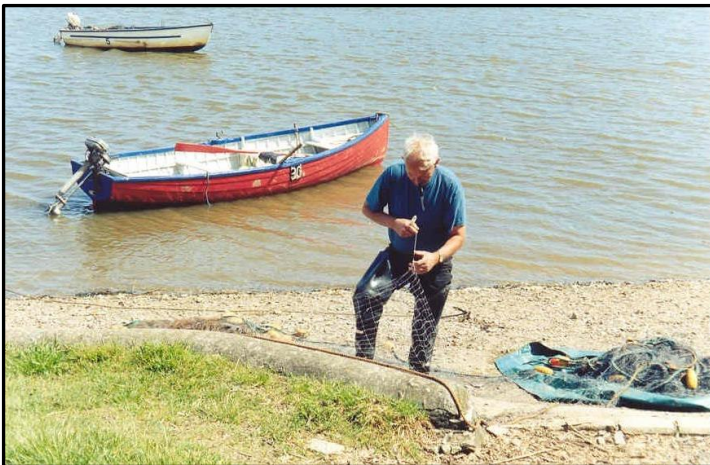


Fig.4 Les Knight mending nets at Halton Quay, June 2001

The Met on the Tamar - surely not!

Maggie Watkinson

When I first came across the statement in the 1881 census for one of my ancestors, who was born and died in Plymouth, that he was a Metropolitan (Met) police constable I assumed that someone, perhaps the enumerator, had made a mistake. However, further censuses also declared that Philip John Giles Moyes was a Metropolitan policeman. For a (very) brief while I imagined Philip travelling to London on a weekly basis on the train in a similar way to commuters today! To satisfy my curiosity the matter required further research.

Philip was born in December 1855 at 15 Chapel Street in East Stonehouse. He was the seventh child (of a total of ten), and third son, of Nicholas and Elizabeth Moyes who had moved to East Stonehouse from Cargreen on the other side of the Tamar a few years previously. Nicholas was a dairyman. Philip was recorded as living with his parents on the censuses of 1861 and 1871 (either they had moved next door or the street numbering had changed, because in 1871 the family lived at 17 Chapel Street). In the latter census he was recorded as John and was employed at home, probably helping his father with the milk rounds. He was called Jack by the family.

The mystery about the Met was solved when I learned that the Metropolitan Police had been given the responsibility of policing the Royal Dockyards and military stations at Portsmouth, Chatham, Woolwich and Pembroke, as well as Devonport, from 1860; this lasted until 1934. Their duties were to prevent theft and pilfering from vessels (usually done by dockyard labourers), patrol the grounds of the dockyard, guard the gates and investigate crime, but they had no jurisdiction on any of the Queen's ships, boats or other vessels ¹.



Fig.1 *Keyham Gates, Devonport*, (postcard), unknown publisher, postally used 1905.

On 3rd May 1875 Jack joined the E Division of the Metropolitan Police at the age of 19 years; his warrant number was 58931. He was with this division for a period of 3 months and 4 days ². According to the Metropolitan Police website, E division was centred on Holborn, so it is probable that Jack spent 3 months in London for his preliminary training.

Following that initial period Jack was a member of the 3rd or Devonport Division based at Devonport Dockyard ³. At first, he lived in the police quarters in Keyham Yard; in 1881, at the time of the census, William Ventham, the Chief Inspector, and his family were living there as well as ten other constables in addition to Jack, all of whom were unmarried.

On 20th December 1881 Jack married Elizabeth Murton at St James the Great church on Keyham Road in Devonport. Elizabeth was born in Bere Alston in 1845 and had moved to Gunnislake by the age of 15 and was working in a copper mine. She then moved to East Stonehouse and worked as a domestic servant in the house of the chief cook in the Royal William Victualling Yard, and then as a cook in a private home. Following the

wedding she and Jack set up home at 36 Charlotte Street in Morice Town, Devonport (Fig.2) and their three children were born there over the next four years; their only son also died there aged just three.



Fig.2 36 Charlotte Street, Morice Town, Maggie Watkinson

Jack's records ³ show that he performed Water Police duties from October 1884.

The Water Police were expected to patrol the whole harbour during a shift, initially using rowing boats but latterly with either a steam pinnace or a coal-burning boat about the size of a tug ¹. Their authority covered the whole of the Port of Plymouth (112 square miles) which extends from the Breakwater in Plymouth Sound and as far as the tidal reach of the rivers Tamar, Lynher, Tavy and Plym and tributaries. This seems a tall order, particularly in a rowing boat, so one hopes the definition of the 'harbour' was, initially at least, the Hamoaze, the immediate area surrounding Devonport Dockyard. It is also not clear how long a shift lasted; those early rowers must have been incredibly fit and good at rowing and they surely must have divided up the watery areas to some extent, with different teams taking a river each, perhaps. It appears the duties were very similar to those of the land based contingent of the Met, but undertaken on the water. I wish I knew why Jack wanted to join the Water Police; perhaps

he was encouraged to do so because he would have been familiar with the Tamar, as many of his and his wife's relatives still lived in the valley. Perhaps he liked rowing!

Although there are no newspaper records involving Jack a typical case in 1887 involved Sergeant Freestone of the Water Police, whom Jack must have known; he saw Henry Johns, a labourer, land from a boat at the North Corner stage with twelve fathoms of cordage. When cornered in Cornwall Street the prisoner threw the rope at the Sergeant's feet. Needless to say, Mr Johns was sentenced to a fine of £2 and costs, a significant sum, or one months' imprisonment ⁴. In 1901 the Water Police found a woman floating in the Hamoaze; she was unconscious but recovered; no explanation of why she was in the water was reported ⁵.



Fig.3 *North Corner, Devonport E18641*, (postcard), Stengel & Co, Saxony, postally used 1905.

At the time of the 1891 census the family were living at 9 Under Road in Gunnislake (the houses currently numbered 1-4 appear to be of that era, but number 9 is no more). This is a bit of mystery. As Gunnislake is close

to the navigable limit of the Tamar, I wonder if some constables were housed near the tidal limits in the rivers and rowed to meet their colleagues coming upriver from Devonport, but have found no evidence whatsoever to support this notion!



Fig.4 *HMS Leda* moored in the Hamoaze, Devonport, in use as a base for Water Police, Maggie Watkinson

The Water Police unit usually lived on board the hulk of *HMS Leda* (Fig.4), and Jack and his family were resident there in 1901, along with four other families and nine unmarried constables. Apparently, *Leda* was the headquarters of the unit, which had been formed in 1864, and was the Water Police vessel from 1870 ⁶; she was moored in the Hamoaze close to the dockyard.

HMS Leda was a fifth-rate frigate launched in April 1828 in Pembroke Dockyard and was one of seven in the Druid sub-class. Her tonnage was 1171. Had she ever been commissioned she would have had twenty-eight 18-pounder cannons, a total of sixteen 32-pounder carronades and two 9-pounder cannons ⁷. *Leda* was completed for ordinary in Devonport Dockyard in May 1828, and never commissioned. As she had no masts, she was subsequently roofed over forward of the mainmast, and this is where the constables and their families lived. The commander of the

Water Police lived in the captain's cabin. There is apparently a photograph of the *Leda*, with the words 'Water Police' emblazoned along its side, in the Devonport Naval Heritage Centre, which is unfortunately now closed, and I have not been successful in acquiring a copy of the image. There is, however, a picture of her figurehead on the National Maritime Museum website ⁸.

One of the main difficulties facing the residents in the ship was the issue of cooking. There was only one galley and there was a strict rota for the use of it. I have found no mention of how things like shopping and attending school for the children were undertaken; presumably one of the constables rowed wives and children ashore when needed, although it is, of course, possible the women rowed themselves.

Jack resigned from the Metropolitan Police on 13th May 1901, having worked for them for just over 26 years; he and the family moved to 20 Goschen Street in Keyham, Devonport. Jack was reported as being 5 ft 8½ inches in height, which was relatively tall for that time, had dark brown (greying) hair, hazel eyes and a dark complexion (probably from being somewhat weather-beaten) ². He was aged 45 and earning £1 13s 6d per week at the time of his retirement and subsequently received a pension of £58 5s 4d per annum.

By the time his wife died in 1902 Jack was working as a dockyard labourer. He moved at least twice within the town thereafter, together with his two daughters. By 1911 Jack was not employed and was living on his pension. His elder daughter was working as an elementary school teacher by then and probably contributing to household expenses. At some point after 1911 Jack left Devonport, firstly moving to Rosebery Avenue near Mount Gould and then Pomphlett, even further east, where he died at 15 Staddon View Terrace in 1925, aged 69. Jack was buried at Ford Park cemetery in Plymouth three days later.

One wonders whether Jack ever rowed up the Tamar again after he left the police force; it's nice to think he did, just for old times' sake.

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The conundrum of the grampus in the River Tamar

Maggie Watkinson

On Saturday 19 June 1875 a ‘grampus’ was captured off the village of Cargreen in the river Tamar. It reportedly took four boats and twenty men to capture and land it on the quay at Cargreen, and that was after it was injured by several gunshots. The animal was declared to be 14 ft long, 7 ft in girth and had a 4 ft wide tail; it was judged to weigh a ton. Many newspapers throughout the country reported this event, all using very similar language. However, I have found no further descriptions, such as its colour.

In addition to the report of its capture and killing, the Western Morning News of 25th June (p.1) carried a notice declaring the “enormous and rare fish, the grampus whale” was then being exhibited in Union Street, Plymouth, a few doors from the railway arch, for 2d per person.

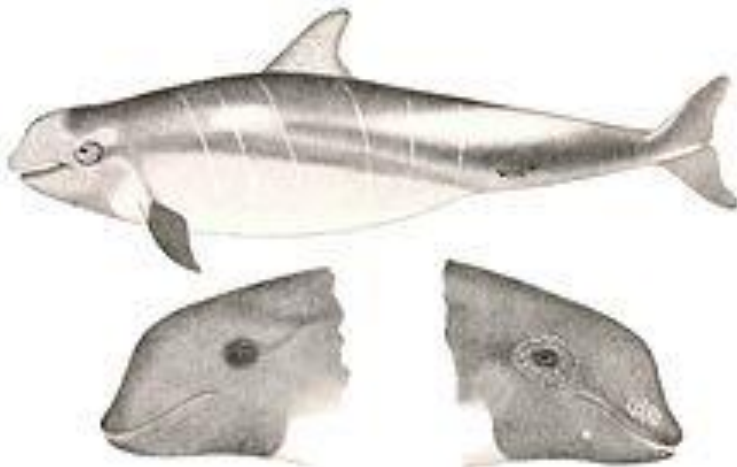


Fig. 1 Illustrations of the *Grampus griseus* by Edward Drinker Cope in 1876, from Wikipedia

The word ‘grampus’ is a common name which could refer, in this instance⁴ to either a Risso’s Dolphin (*Grampus griseus*), the largest of the dolphins, or an Orca whale (*Orcinus orca*), otherwise known as killer whales, which are well known to be black and white in colour. The Risso’s Dolphin is a mottled grey colour, and 10 ft is a typical length, although they can grow to 13 ft, and weigh between 660 to 1,100 lbs⁵. Killer whales are much bigger, measuring 16 to 30 ft long and weigh much more than 2,000 lbs depending on their ecotypes.

Whatever species the animal was, it definitely wasn’t a fish and probably not a whale either. My vote is for *Grampus griseus* as the poor, captured animal would most likely have been described as black and white had a killer whale swum up the Tamar! I also suspect there was a degree (a lot?!) of exaggeration in relation to the beast’s size.

Sources

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grampus>, accessed 17th August 2022.

<https://seaworld.org/animals/all-about/killer-whale/characteristics/>, accessed 17 August 2022.

Various newspaper reports via the FindMyPast British Newspaper Collection.

⁴ There is also a salamander that is sometimes referred to as a grampus, for example.

⁵ A long ton - i.e. British - is 2,240 lbs and the metric ton, which is unlikely to have been used in the southwest of England in 1875 is 2,204 lbs.

Calstock Wetland Birds - the first year

Jan Simpson

It is now five years since the intertidal habitat was first mooted at Calstock, as part of the Environment Agency's flood bank alignment scheme, designed to help protect the village from future flooding caused by rising sea levels.

In October 2019 work began in preparing the land and digging shallow scrapes in the sheep fields adjacent to the river path. They were completed in May 2020, and very soon began to fill with ground and rainwater, and the ponds were formed. The wildlife quickly moved in.

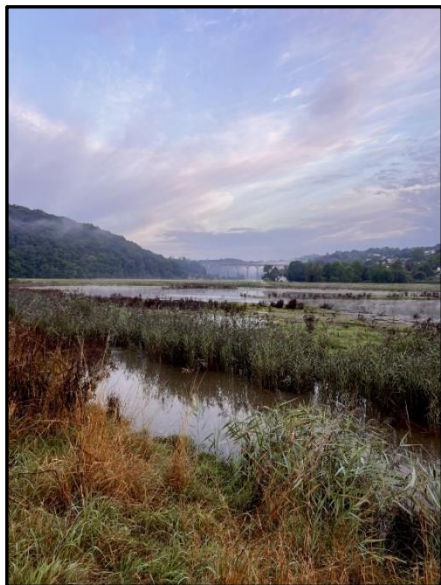


*Fig.1 Calstock wetlands,
flooded, view towards the west,
2022*

The magnificent wooden bridge was built and the footpath closed whilst it was installed. The raised bank was then breached on the neap tide, allowing the wetlands to flood at high tide. In November 2021 the footpath was re-opened, and everyone was in awe of what had been created, and “Calstock Wetlands” was born!

With great foresight, the “Calstock Wetlands Birdwatchers Group” was set up on Facebook, right at the inception of the new wetlands, enabling members to report their sightings, and as a platform for discussion. Although primarily set up for recording birds, other fauna and flora have

duly been recorded, and the page has become an important tool for sharing sightings, photos, comments and questions, informing and education, and creating a wider interest in the wildlife on and around the wetlands. The group has attracted much interest from locals and visitors alike, and now has global membership and numbers continue to rise.

Prior to the breaching of the bank, the freshwater ponds soon filled with mallards, Canada geese and gulls; herring gulls, greater and lesser black-backed gulls, and a large number of black-headed gulls. Common and green sandpipers were recoded and a little ringed plover (a short-distance migrant), arrived for a quick stop-over. A black-tailed godwit and a bar-tailed godwit turned up on brief migratory stopovers, but the birds were soon on their way to their more southerly wintering grounds. A greenshank also made a very brief appearance.

Dozens of snipe with their exquisite ‘crypto colouring’ (camouflage patterns) hid amongst the rocks in plain view, probing the mud for worms and small invertebrates. They were there in large numbers, but difficult to spot, especially when resting between the small clumps of vegetation. The scrubby grass areas were home to the meadow pipit, which has rarely been recorded on the wetland since the fields were flooded.



Fig. 2 *Snipe*, Calstock wetlands, 2022

Since the levy was breached in October 2021, the wildlife on the wetlands has inevitably changed. The brackish water in the intertidal habitat has altered the salinity of the ponds and the mud, affecting all the plants and animals that live within it. The fauna and flora is still adjusting a year later.

The intertidal zone provides fresh food on the change of the tide. The ponds are filled with mud-dwelling invertebrates, crustaceans and large and small fish, which is ideal for the many omnivorous and carnivorous birds that feed on them. The grey heron and little egrets breed nearby, and can be seen all year round, as they stealthily hunt around the edges and in the shallow water. The cormorant dives and catches its large aquatic prey, before emerging and hanging out its wings to dry.

The iridescent blue and orange flash of the kingfisher is often seen as it enters the wetlands from the adjacent river, and flies between tussocky perches or fence posts, from where it dives into the shallow fish-stocked water for its next meal. Moorhens frequent the ditches, and the elusive grunting water rails dash through the vegetation. Not surprisingly, there have only been a few sightings of coots, as they seem to prefer fresh water. The little grebe, or ‘dabchick’ has been recorded every month except July when they were probably breeding nearby. In August it was seen swimming and diving with its humbug-striped young.



*Fig. 3
Dabchick on
Calstock
wetlands, 2022*

The ubiquitous mallards and domestic/hybrids are ever present on the wetlands, but their numbers swelled considerably in the winter months, being joined by a large number of the smaller and more exotic looking teal. A pair of gadwalls (a medium sized grey-brown duck), a pair of elegant pintails (a long-necked migrant duck with a long, pointed tail) and several wigeon (a medium sized short-billed, round-headed duck, that overwinters in the UK), were seen amongst them. In May 2022 an escaped collector's duck, a South American ringed teal, made a cameo appearance on the mudflats.

The vocal Canada geese are present here all year round, with fluctuating numbers. In April 2021 a single Greylag goose had accompanied them, although its visit was brief. Canada geese hybrids are occasionally amongst them. One or two pairs of shelducks (a large colourful duck with a bright red bill) may be seen on or around the ponds. They left the wetlands for a couple of months in summer when they went off to breed and rear their young. They nest in holes in trees, rabbit burrows or crevices, and almost as soon as the chicks have hatched they are led to their feeding grounds, which can be up to a mile away.



Fig.4 *Calstock wetlands and Tamar, with Canada Geese, 2022*

A pair of mute swans bred successfully in May 2022 and were seen with six tiny white cygnets. This pair had a bad breeding season in 2021, when they lost their first clutch of eggs, and then went on to rear three cygnets. This season however, they have been fiercely protective of their young, and five of the six have now reached sub-adulthood and are doing well.



Fig. 5 *Mute swan and cygnets, Calstock wetlands 2022*

Since the area has become intertidal, the small mammals living within the wetlands have been forced to move out, as their burrows have become waterlogged with the twice daily ingress of water. Amphibians and reptiles will have had to relocate too. On an incoming tide in April 2022, a slow worm was seen frantically swimming towards the bund, as the water level rose. These are all food for many birds, including the raptors.

Throughout 2021, a pair of kestrels would frequently hunt over the wetlands. The pair were often seen flying, and the female would regularly sit on top of the fir tree and survey the ground below. She would dive into the steep grassy banks, from where she would emerge with a vole in her talons, before hastily returning to a lower branch of the fir tree. After fighting off the hungry crows, she would dispatch her prey with ease.



Sadly, in May 2022, the female kestrel was seen sporting an injured eye, which would have hampered her hunting and she wasn't seen again. The male was occasionally spotted hunting over the drier neighbouring Town Farm Field, just outside of the wetlands.

Fig.6 Kestrel, Calstock wetlands, 2022

The barn owl was also a frequent hunter here, seen quartering the ditches and bunds at dawn and dusk. Since the flooding of the wetland and the inevitable dispersal of the voles and other small

mammals, it hasn't been seen as often, and has probably moved further along the riverbank to hunt. Tawny owls are heard all year round, in the trees that border the wetlands.

The increase in the number of birds is good news for the sparrowhawk, that hunts along the tree boundaries adjacent to the road, and weaves and winds its way through the branches of the trees, and at high speed over the ditches and reed beds, rushing out of nowhere to snatch its unsuspecting prey. Peregrine falcons also hunt here and dispatch their prey on the protruding structures underneath the viaduct.

Buzzards soar and mew above the trees and are seen on fence posts and perches around the wetlands, watching over the grass banks for any sign of movement and the prospect of a meal. The Facebook pages buzz with excitement at the sight of a red kite in the area. Sightings are increasing rapidly year on year, and this magnificent, easily recognisable bird, with long fork tail has been observed over the village in early summer.

In Spring and Autumn, ospreys are regularly recorded within a few miles of Calstock, and in September 2022, two birds were seen flying over the wetlands by a visiting bird enthusiast. Also in this year, the first ospreys were bred in the south of Britain in 180 years, as part of a re-introduction programme in Poole Harbour. The River Tamar plays host to the osprey's preferred prey, the mullet, so hopefully one day they'll be here, breeding on the Tamar. A few breeding platforms have already been erected further down the river to encourage the birds to nest.

Marsh harriers are known to be in Cornwall, but not yet seen here. White-tailed eagles and white storks have been recently introduced in the South of Britain, and both species have been tagged and tracked along the south coast and into Cornwall before returning along a similar route.

The crows sit on the fence posts, just watching. They are keen hunters, scavengers and thieves. Rooks and jackdaws feed on the bunds, and jays screech as they fly over. Pheasants forage here most of the year round, but their numbers drop in the breeding season, until the birds return with their well-camouflaged young in the autumn. Woodpigeons and stock doves fly across the wetlands, often ascending and parachuting in undulating flight, and the green woodpecker can be heard and occasionally seen. In winter 2021 small murmurations of starlings were seen on the wetlands. They roost further along the river in the dense reed beds and put on a spectacular show before feeling safe enough to plunge into the reeds to roost for the night, with safety in numbers.

Between May and September, the air is filled with the whirling sight and summery sound of the hirundines; the swallows, martins and swifts, that nest around the village. In May large swirling flocks of sand martins briefly feed over the ponds before heading on to their usual nesting sites in sand banks, a few miles away. On fine summer evenings when the air over the ponds is thick with small flies, the martins and swallows provide quite a spectacle as hundreds of birds dip and dive over the surface, lit up by the warm evening sunlight.



Fig.7 *House Martin, over Calstock wetlands, 2022*

At the end of the breeding season, the swifts are first to leave, then by late August / early September, having reared several broods, the swallows and martins gather in large numbers on overhead cables, and prepare to leave our shores for Africa, until their return next summer. This years' fledgling swifts will be airborne for three years, before touching down for the first time to breed, only ever landing to lay their eggs and rear their young.

In the summer months the blackcap sings from the treetops, and the reeds are filled with the melodic (Lennon & McCartney) sound of the reed warblers and the scratchier (AC~DC) notes of the sedge warblers. They arrive in May and stay until September when they return to their overwintering grounds in sub-Saharan Africa, and the reed beds once again fall silent. Likewise, the willow warbler returns to southern Africa to see out the winter months.

Recently many chiffchaffs have remained in their summer breeding territories throughout winter, and can be seen in the bushes and trees around the wetlands.

Resident birds include the reed bunting and stonechat. The vociferous stonechat ‘chats’, like two pebbles being hit together. 2022 was a good year for this striking little peachy bird. Young fledglings were seen right through to early September. The stonechat flies between tall perches such as dock and reeds, dipping occasionally to pick an insect off the ground, and are often heard before they are seen. 2022 has been a good year on the wetlands for the pied wagtail too, which is seen at all times of the year, chasing and flitting between plants and the mudflats in search of flying insects. Grey wagtails and their young are regularly seen across the site.



Fig.8 *Stonechat, Calstock wetlands 2022*

A wheatear made a very brief appearance in January 2022, which is quite unusual. There was a one-off sighting of a redshank in June and another in September, and two elegant greenshanks on their way to their wintering grounds. The first whinchat, five black-tailed godwits, three dumpy little bandit-masked ringed plovers, and three dunlins were spotted in August. The plovers were seen foraging around the tidal edges especially when they moved out to the margins at high tide. A rare American bird, the pectoral sandpiper, also arrived, and stayed around for a few days and caused great excitement.

In summer, the abundant thistle seeds provide food for the large flocks of goldfinches that rise from the flower heads like plumes of smoke. The reed beds, trees and dense vegetation, especially near to the sewage works, host a large number of ‘garden birds’, such as bluetits, great tits, long-tailed tits, goldfinches, greenfinches, chaffinches, bullfinches, blackbirds, song thrushes, dunnocks, robins, wrens and goldcrests, and large numbers of house sparrows that use the footpath to create their shallow dust baths.

In Autumn there is an influx of redwings and mistle thrushes, often seen feeding amongst the blackbirds and song thrushes on the bunds.



Fig.9 Calstock wetlands: aerial view (Thanks to Dan Cooke, Tamar Valley AONB)

The wetlands are a dynamic habitat, constantly evolving, and changes are being monitored regularly. The reeds will grow up and areas of the ponds will silt up. Small islands may appear on which the birds can safely roost and nest. The view across the area may become obscured by the tall reeds and, as the plants grow, they will offer more cover and protection for other species, and the list of wildlife will grow. We are almost a year into the wetlands and there have been such phenomenal changes, and there are more exciting times ahead. Since the levy was breached, a lot of water has already passed under the bridge.



Fig.10 *Calstock wetlands at dusk, 2022*

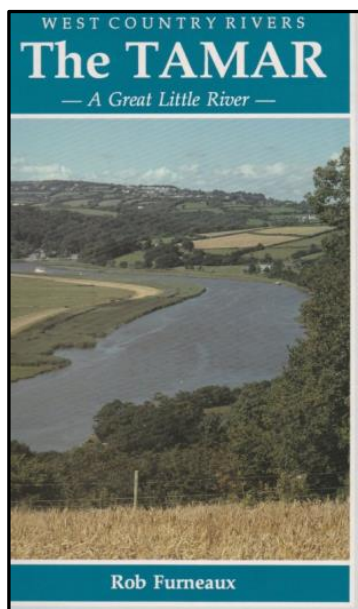
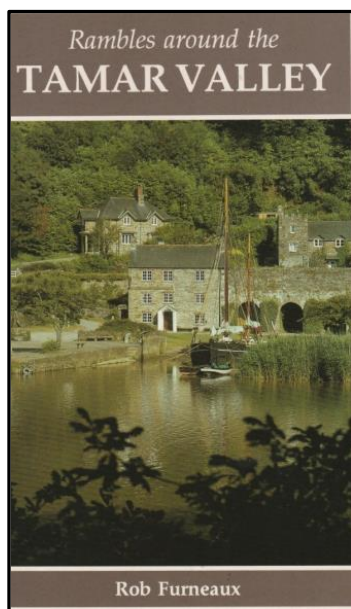


Fig.11 *Calstock wetlands, flooded – view towards east, 2022*

Rob Furneaux: Tamar Valley author

The following article is included both for its own merit and as a memorial to Rob Furneaux of Bere Ferrers, who passed away in 2022. He should be remembered for the two excellent books he wrote about the Tamar Valley⁶, for which he was a passionate enthusiast (along with many other things, including the music of Ralph Vaughan Williams). His knowledge, wit and wry sense of humour are much missed. Rob also wrote articles for the Bere Ferrers parish magazine, 'Bere Link'. I have transcribed his accounts of Tamar Valley orchards from 'Bere Link' editions published in 2000, with some minor omissions and editorial changes. I have also added footnotes, images and maps (these were not in Rob Furneaux's original scripts).

Clive Charlton



⁶ 'The Tamar: a Great Little River', published in 1992 and 'Rambles around the Tamar Valley', published in 1994 – both by Ex-Libris Press.

The History of Tamar Valley Orchards

Rob Furneaux

The history of fruit growing in the Tamar Valley is a very long one, and the planting and cultivation of fruit trees must vie in longevity with the valley's history of mining. There are no records of when the first specialist variety of apple or cherry tree was planted on the valley's commodious slopes, but such an event might have happened in the time of the Roman, who are known to have made inroads to the west of their stronghold in Exeter, and evidence of small settlements has been found at such places as Hooe on the periphery of Plymouth Sound⁷.

Prior to the Romans' arrival it seems likely that some native species of apple were cultivated by the indigenous Celts, who lived in scattered settlements along most of Devon and Cornwall's estuaries. Proof of this comes from both the Celtic and Cornish dialects⁸, both of which have words for 'apple'. The Romans quickly began to introduce the subtle arts of grafting and budding by marrying local trees with more exotic varieties originally discovered in the east of their empire. The Tamar Valley would have been looked on very favourably as sites for orchards.

In laymen's terms, the valley has a lot going for it from the tree-growing point of view. Firstly, there is abundant rainfall, but with dry times around May and June when the monthly average is 2.5". There is a good deal of sunshine in spring, with over four hours per day on average in March, rising to six hours in April. This makes a particularly favourable start to the fruit growing season.

Soils are important as well. Most of the Tamar Valley's soils are formed from Devonian slates and shales. The good thing about these rocks for

⁷ Rob Furneaux's account was written before the remarkable discovery and excavation of the Roman fort above Calstock.

⁸ Some might quibble that Cornish is not just a 'dialect', but very much a language in its own right!

tree growing is that they are easily split up and cracked, unlike the tough and resistant granites of nearby Dartmoor. Tree roots can quickly work their way into the cracks of shale layers. This helps them in two ways: firstly, it gives a firm anchorage point – helpful during the South West’s crop of winter gales, and secondly, the cracking rock provides cool and damp conditions, which are important during summer dry spells.

Another factor adds to the valley’s basket of good things for fruit growing, that of aspect – the direction of its undulating hill slopes, which provide many perfect locations for fruit growing. Soft fruit grows well on south-facing slopes; the greater the angle the more the sun has its effect. Not so for orchards. By contrast they are often best suited to those that do not face south, because during spring freezes (of which there are mercifully few in the valley) it is desirable that delicate buds do not thaw rapidly and re-freeze. Such conditions can cause much damage that will be evident through the rest of the season. Thus, it’s best to keep trees away from slopes where the aspect gives too much exposure to the sun.

During the medieval period the finer arts of orchard cultivation were maintained by the monasteries, which introduced new varieties from the continent for use as dessert apples and for the production of cider. Indeed, local monasteries were not habitually sober sanctuaries as might be thought. Records show, for instance, that the consumption of the golden liquid by the monks of Tavistock Abbey was outstripping local production, so between 1392 and 1489 they were forced to import additional supplies from Plympton.

The extent of orchards in the valley was very considerable by the 18th century, by which time markets were well established in Plymouth and Devonport (then known as ‘Dock’), which grew so quickly that by 1770 it was larger than its neighbour. The newly established town at the Tamar’s mouth, plus the spending power of its workforce and the sailors of its ships gave great impetus to fruit growing in the valley.



Fig. 1 Evidence of orchards on the Bere Peninsula in the earlier 18th century. The location is Clamoak, just south of the future South Tamar lead-silver mine (the presence of the silver-lead lode was already known, as per the map). Extract from the 1737 estate map by the surveyor James Corbridge for Sir John Hobart of Blickling in Norfolk, who owned the Bere Peninsula at that time (with thanks to Kresen Kernow, Redruth).

Many farms in the area benefitted from the increased size of the local market. One such was Lower Hampt farm near Luckett. It was reported in 1771 that it had: ‘Pound houses and apple chambers, a large number of orchards in full prime and other not long since planted with the best cyder trees... usually producing 100 hogsheads per year’ (*Sherborne Mercury*).

In 1796 William Marshall reported: ‘For the Fruit markets, Cherries, Pears, and Walnuts, are raised in great abundance; especially in the

township of Beer Ferries; which is said to send out of it a thousand pounds worth of fruit (including Strawberries) annually.’⁹

Besides the Bere Ferrers area, other important orchards had been established around Botus Fleming, Bohetherick, Calstock, Latchley, Metherell and Harrowbarrow on the Cornish side of the Tamar and St.Budeaux, Tamerton Foliot and Buckland Monachorum on the Devon side. On the flanks of the estuary from Weir Point (downstream of Cargreen) to Hole’s Hole on the Devon bank, only salt marshes prevented trees from monopolising both banks.

Cider was produced throughout the valley, using what can only be described as haphazard methods. Most of the larger farms constructed their own presses. One description of cider-making at the turn of the 18th-19th centuries tells how apples were first put in a large tub. Five or six persons gathered round it and pounded the apples with large clubs. A more ‘sophisticated’ implement could be produced by driving a nail into the head of the club. The value of the finished product amounted to 15 shillings per hogshead (63 gallons) for the must and a guinea for the fermented cider, putting the price of a pint of cider at one halfpenny.

There is no doubt that the potency of Tamar Valley cider was well up to par. William Marshall recorded that: ‘The drunkenness and dissoluteness of the masses and the dishonesty of the lower class might well be referred... to the baleful effect of cider which workmen of every description make a merit of pilfering’¹⁰. Marshall was convinced that locally produced cider was not having a good effect, writing: Give a Kentish man a pint of ale and it seems to reinvigorate (but) give a

⁹ William Marshall, ‘The Rural Economy of the West of England’, Volume 1, 2nd edition, 1803, p.211.

¹⁰ Ibid, p.230. Marshall’s account of orchards and cider-making in West Devon is fascinating and entertaining – pp.208-234 of his ‘Rural Economy’

Devonshire man as much cider and it appears to unbrace and relax, rather than give cheerfulness and energy to his exertions.’

Orchards were not only geared to the production of fruit during this period. In the winter months, cattle were kept in many of them, where they sheltered from the elements. But the practice was discouraged among young trees for fear of damaging them. In some isolated cases a variety of different crops were grown between the trees. The growing of potatoes was discouraged; however, as they tended to exhaust the soils and loosened the ground such that the trees were easily blown over in winter gales.

Orchards were commonly planted on north-facing slopes. Charles Vancouver¹¹ reported that in 1808 the areas around Tavistock, Roborough and Milton Abbot were dominated by north-facing orchards. Many different varieties of apples were grown in the Tamar valley area. Vancouver found that there were so many confusing names, often for the same variety, that no logical list could be made. Rich, sweet varieties were preferred for cider making while the bitter ones were thought better for keeping through the winter.

From the earliest days the local fruit industry has been inextricably linked to the Tamar. The river was an essential highway, not only for transporting the ripened fruit to the markets of Plymouth and Devonport, but also for the bringing upriver of fertilisers of various kinds. For centuries Tamar growers had been aware of the usefulness of seaweed as a fertiliser. A regular morning sight was the exodus of small boats travelling downstream on the ebbing tide, to return on the evening flood with a cargo of weed.

The growth of Devonport brought additional dividends in the form of ‘Dock Dung’. This odious substance was composed largely of street

¹¹ Charles Vancouver, ‘General View of the Agriculture of the County of Devon’, 1808 – reprinted by David & Charles, 1969.

sweepings from the alleyways of the port.¹² The smell of the stuff was said to be truly appalling, but barges and small boats would anxiously queue alongside the quayside to collect their ration of the steaming, putrefying cargo. There was evidently nothing quite like it to spur on the growth of cherry trees, and from the mid-19th century, it was also used on the strawberry fields that became widespread in the area.

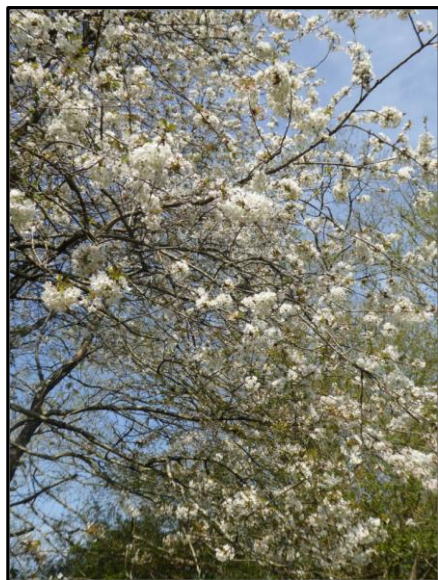


Fig.2 *Blossom on one of the few surviving large cherry trees on the Bere Peninsula, near the banks of the Tamar below Braunder Farm (Clive Charlton)*

¹² The term ‘Dock Dung’ is testament to the antiquity of this practice; the fast-expanding community surrounding the naval yard was known as ‘Plymouth Dock’ – or just ‘Dock’ – until 1 January 1824, when the successful petition to King George I to rename the community ‘Devonport’ came into effect. See for example: ‘*Devonport, by Royal decree*’

www.devonportonline.co.uk/historic_devonport/memorials/devonport-1824/devonport-1824.aspx

The 19th century marked the high point in the valley's fortunes as a mining area. The hillsides were smeared by jagged mine workings and their attendant spoil heaps. Chimneys belched smoke into the air, while everywhere there were the mechanical sounds of steam engines, pumping machinery and paddle steamers. Yet somehow the reputation of the valley as a growing area was undiminished. Fortunately, the majority of the mines were confined to the north of the valley, where soils tended to be thinner. To the south, settlements like Bere Ferrers¹³ and Botus Fleming seemed to slumber on in rural tranquility, surrounded by seas of swaying cherry blossom in spring.

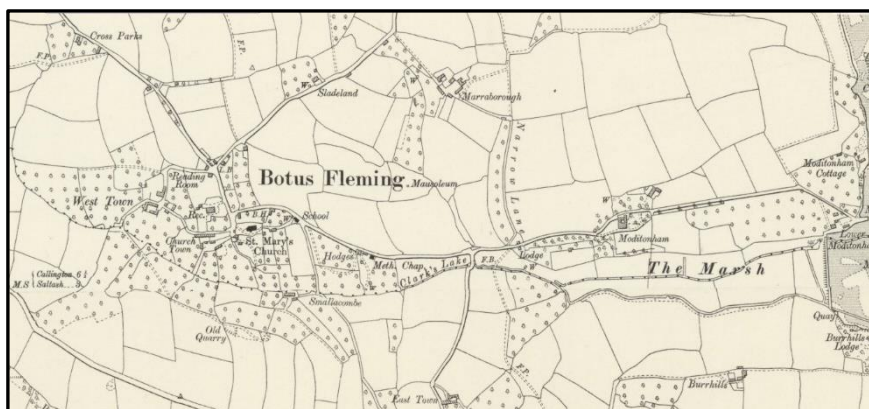


Fig.3 Orchards around Botus Fleming, O.S. 6 inch map, Revised: 1905, Published: 1907, National Library of Scotland under Creative Commons

¹³ Although the Bere Peninsula had several lead mines, as well as two adjacent smelters (at Weir Quay).

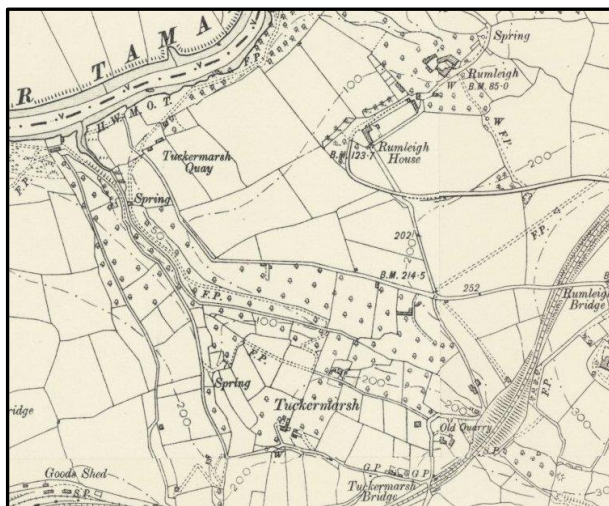


Fig.4 Orchards were prominent in the Tuckermarsh and Rumleigh area in the north of Bere Ferrers parish. O.S. 6 inch map, Revised: 1905, Published: 1907 National Library of Scotland under Creative Commons

From St.Germans and Saltash in the south to Milton Abbot to the north, there were in excess of 400 individual orchards. In 1867, Lake's Parochial History of Cornwall reported that there were 25 acres of cherry orchards in Botus Fleming. In spring, many visitors came over from Plymouth to see the trees in blossom. Even the local Methodist chapel held outdoor services amongst the orchards if weather permitted. The village supported no less than five pubs, including the wonderfully named 'Pineapple Inn', which dispensed much local cider. At Calstock there were about 200 acres devoted to orchards. Significant concentrations were found in Latchley and Bitthams (just north of Chilsworthy), where the extensive orchards must have created an incongruous sight standing opposite the extensive mine workings of Devon Great Consols, which had been Europe's largest copper mine.

The copper mining boom assisted the local orchard growers in several ways. The population of settlements such as Bere Alston, Gunnislake

and Callington rocketed as the mines' demand for labour increased. Such an increase not only provided an enhanced local market for produce but also provided additional workers for picking at harvest time (especially when the mines were laying off workers). Miners who were obliged to clamber down and up precarious ladders into deep mineshafts may have thought nothing of climbing 50 or 60 feet to the tops of the tall cherry trees that flourished in the valley.

River transport was an essential element of the growers' lives. Some considered that an investment in their own boat or barge was well worth the effort. By the end of the 19th century, many growers owned small vessels capable of carrying four or five tons. In a few cases, growers built their own boats on the riverbank. One such was Mr. Parkin of South Ward Farm in Bere Ferrers parish, who built one out of timber he had cut himself.

Such boats or barges were not used all year necessarily, as illustrated by the barge *Comet* belonging to the Trenances of Bohetherick. She worked almost exclusively during the winter months, when she plied to and from Devonport bringing up Dock dung. During the summer she was usually laid up in Etherick Lake by Cotehele,

Those who didn't have the luxury of their own boat could take advantage of the 'market boat' to take their produce down river. Paddle steamers made the trip on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, arriving at North Corner at Devonport before 9 a.m. The best-known market boat was the *Empress*, a paddle steamer of graceful lines and over 115 feet in length. On the way down river, she would call at Cotehele Quay, Pentillie Quay, Hole's Hole, Cargreen and Saltash (Fig.5). Her spacious saloons provided a convenient 'talking shop' for orchard growers to discuss their day-to-day problems and exchange information concerning the success or otherwise of recently introduced varieties.



Fig.5 The 'market boat': the paddle steamer *Empress* at Hole's Hole quay, which connected the Bere Peninsula with Devonport and its market. Very early 20th century (Clive Charlton)

In 1880 growers paid one shilling to travel from Calstock to Devonport with an additional sixpence for each two hundredweight load of apples or cherries. The return trip upriver was a more leisurely affair – the ferry company being quite happy to relieve the growers of as much of the day's profits as they could.

The coming of the railway diminished, but did not extinguish, the trade of the market boat, which continued until the arrival of the motor lorry in the later 1920s. However, the arrival of the railway opened up a completely new world. No longer were their markets confined to Plymouth and the surrounding area. Now it was possible to transport fruit to London with very little possibility of it spoiling on the way.

The first man to exploit the situation is said to be James Lawry of Bohetherick. He sent consignments of strawberries to both London and the Midlands. Cherries soon followed – and it wasn't long before both fruits had established significant 'up country' markets. Other growers

banded together to pool transport costs and in 1898 a growers' fruit co-operative was started at Weir Quay.

The railways spread to encompass the valley by the early 20th century. Stations at Bere Ferrers, Bere Alston (both opened in 1890) and Calstock (opened 1908) did a roaring trade in transporting fruit to London. The London South Western Railway went further; by making use of ferries across the Tamar, from Cargreen to Thorn Point (and thence to Bere Ferrers station) and Cotehele to Ward (for Bere Alston), they could tap much of the fruit trade from the Cornish bank of the Tamar above Saltash.

By now, the orchards of the valley were reaching their zenith. Cherries had come to dominate much of the landscape, particularly around Botus Fleming. It was said that if a gale sprang up in blossom time, the air above the village would turn from a spring scene into the image of a winter blizzard. In fact, real winter gales could cause considerable damage to the orchards. In the great blizzard of 1891, 126 trees were blown down to the west of Botus Fleming, while back in 1768 records show that a whirlwind flattened an entire orchard near Bere Ferrers. Some growers considered the threat of strong winds so serious that they cut away the tops of trees in all but the most sheltered locations.

From around 1900 there was a significant improvement in the varieties of apples grown in the valley, and plums became a popular crop, especially in the lower reaches of the Tamar. However, this fruit proved a short-lived innovation. By 1920 there were virtually no plum orchards left along the Tamar. The problem had not been unsuitability of climate, but attack by silver leaf disease, which decimated the crop in the absence of modern disease control methods.

During the heyday of Tamar Valley orchards, the hillsides clothed with blossom like pink-stained snow became a feast to the eye which few in the area wanted to miss. Excursions to view the orchards became particularly popular with Plymothians, who flocked to the valley by both

paddle steamer and train. One of the most popular trips was to ‘Mr Jackson’s tea and fruit gardens at Beer Ferris’. Sunday school outings to the cherry orchards at Bere Ferrers were always well attended. The contrast with pre-war Plymouth, with its narrow city centre streets, must have made a great impression on the children.

Harvest time gave the Tamar Valley its own version of frenetic activity. Vast numbers of 50- and 60-foot ladders appeared as if from nowhere and were propped precariously against the monster cherry trees. Gangs of good pickers were much in demand, and many came from far afield to help with the harvesting. Even sailors from ships in the Dockyard were enlisted to assist; for many years naval pinnaces ran a shuttle service from the ships to the waterside orchards.

An account by one fruit grower shows the work and skill that was involved at harvest time: ‘The packing shed became almost living quarters, because you had to go down to the yard at 4 o’clock in the morning. The house was just a place to sleep during the height of the season. There was great skill in handling the ladders, and you got the people who were very agile at using them, although some got themselves in terrible knots because they got involved with the branches. The cherries were collected in wicker baskets with round wooden handles on the top, on which was strapped a metal hook that hung on the bars of the ladder. The picker had to both be able to balance himself and be able to pick with both hands’¹⁴.

Workers were rewarded for their efforts at such events as the ‘Cherry Feast’ held at Pentillie Castle every July, at which cherry pies were served up with mountains of locally produced cream. At Milton Abbot, the tradition of the ‘Cherry Fair’ was established, at which stalls lined the main road through the village and travelling entertainers were

¹⁴ Source not cited by Rob Furneaux.

employed to amuse the pickers who had worked aloft so hard for long hours.

The First World War caused considerable disruption to the lives of the orchard growers. Labour became scarce, with many fit young men away in the trenches or at sea. Transport also became a problem, as most of the local paddle steamers had been requisitioned for war service.

Although the early inter-war years brought limited change in the popularity of Tamar apples and cherries, change did slowly come. Motor lorries were gradually introduced and, although they did not seriously threaten the railways to which many of their loads were delivered, they spelled the death-knell for the market boats. Growers opted for the punctual convenience of the new motor vans, rather than the slow-plodding and tide-dependent river vessels. However, barges were still used for a time by some growers, with some vessels being fitted with engines in the 1920s. But one valuable cargo was finally denied to them. The ‘dock dung’ that had done so much to enhance soil fertility was declared a health hazard. This was not popular among many growers, and the authorities were forced to exhibit notices along the valley in 1929, warning of its dangers.

The 1930s brought the first noticeable signs of decline in the popularity of orchards. More exotic fruits from abroad became available to, and affordable by, the British public. The image of the apple began to decline. Even cider, which had been looked upon for centuries as a nutritious and much-prized liquid, became increasingly regarded as a drink of the ‘lower classes’; scrumpy became a drink for the less well-off who could not afford beer.

The thirties also brought the ‘Great Depression’ when many growers in the valley went to the wall. Others were unable to afford to invest in superior varieties or fertilise and maintain their orchards properly. The arrival of the Second World War in 1939 caused further problems for the dwindling number of orchards in the valley. The chronic labour shortage

meant that fewer pickers were available at harvest time. However, in parts of the valley, aid came from an unexpected source – Italian prisoners of war, some of whom were interned at Callington. They were pressed into service mainly in the orchards around St.Dominick.

At first, the re-opening of foreign markets at the end of the war did little to diminish the popularity of Tamar Valley produce. Slowly, however, Southern European countries stepped up production, displacing home-grown fruit. From the 1950s onwards a steady decline set in amongst the orchards of the valley. Some growers diversified, particularly into the already well-established soft fruit and flower markets, taking advantage of rail transport to get the produce to London and other major centres. In 1958-59, 104,816 boxes of strawberries were loaded at Saltash and Bere Alston, while in 1960-61, more than 300,000 boxes of flowers (mostly daffodils) were dispatched from the same locations.

Little wonder then that the once renowned orchards of the Tamar Valley were falling further not decline. There was little incentive for growers to renew aging trees and wait for them to bear fruit, when strawberries could replace them with rapid returns guaranteed. Strawberries were also comparatively easy to pick, compared with tree fruit picking was slower and more laborious, involving climbing ladders¹⁵.

But even the boom years of soft fruit and flower growing proved transitory. Yet again, the menace of foreign competition raised its head. Then with the 1970s came the oil crisis; prices of oil to heat the valley's greenhouses rocketed, rising by almost 300% in nine years. The spiraling production costs and declining markets forced many growers to abandon their operations. Some went bankrupt, while others diversified into other crops.

¹⁵ Soft fruit and flower harvesting was also more accessible to female workers, who might have been less inclined to manoeuvre heavy ladders.

Coincident with the decline of post-war horticulture, the local railways also became uneconomic. The line between Gunnislake and Kelly Bray (Callington) was closed in 1966 and was followed in 1968 by the Southern Region main line to Exeter beyond Bere Alston, eliminating what had been a vital means of getting produce to market.

As the 1980s arrived, the Tamar Valley agricultural scene was very different even from that of the 1960s. The soft fruit industry was confined to a few locations, chiefly around Cargreen, St.Dominick and Calstock. The orchards had fared even worse. The decimation is well illustrated by Calstock Parish records, which show that the acreage of orchards had fallen from 227 acres in 1944 to 91 acres by 1960 and incredibly, to just over half an acre at the end of the 1970s.

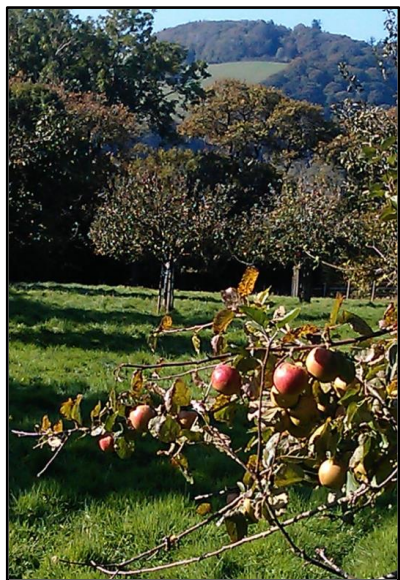


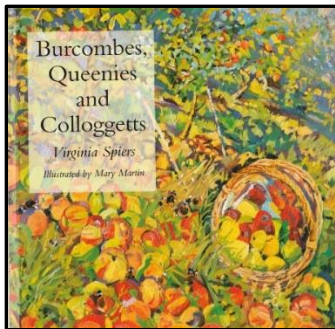
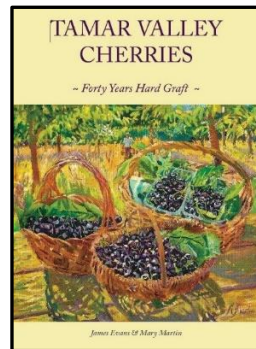
Fig.6 *Orchard at South Hooe, Bere Peninsula* (thanks to Jim and Pru Barnes)

By 1987, two thirds of apples consumed in Britain were imported, while 70% of cider production was made with imported apples. Government grants for grubbing out orchards enticed even those who were reluctant to do so. The few landowners who decided to hang on to their orchards were enticed to fell existing trees and replant with dwarf varieties. In Devon, 90% of remaining orchards were lost between 1980 and 2000 – many of which were in the Tamar Valley. The valley which had once been filled with spring blossom became dominated by cattle pasture, grain crops and rapeseed. A tradition of many centuries had been almost

extinguished; the valley joined the conformity of the rest of South West England.

To many it seemed incredible that although local churches, quays and even mine workings could be saved for posterity, their agricultural heritage was being extinguished in a helter-skelter rush for government subsidy and diversification. But the story is not quite fully told; there still remains reason for hope.

I have closed Rob Furneaux's account at this point, although he went on to document the endeavours of individuals who have been involved in the significant revival of interest and action with respect to Tamar Valley orchard from the 1980s, including James Armstrong Evans and Mary Martin¹⁶, Fred Davis, the National Trust at Cotehele, with its Old Orchard and Mother Orchard and annual Apple Festival, and the Tamar and Tavy Apple Group¹⁷, based on the Bere Peninsula. As Rob wrote over 22 years ago: 'there still remains reason for hope'!



¹⁶ As described and so beautifully illustrated in 'Burcombes, Queenies and Colloggetts', by Virginia Spiers, published by West Brendon in 1996, and more recently in 'Tamar Valley Cherries: Forty Years Hard Graft', by James Evans and Mary Martin, 2021. See also: <https://cornwallgardenstrust.org.uk/apples-and-cherries/>

¹⁷ The Tamar and Tavy Apple group put on the annual Applefest at Bere Ferrers in early October, among other activities.

The remarkable tale of Theodore Paleologus: Landulph's most illustrious resident?

Clive Charlton

This is the tale of one of the most exotic figures to haunt the Tamar Valley - Theodore Paleologus¹⁸ who, it has been widely claimed, was one of the last descendants of the Byzantine emperors of Constantinople. Between about 1628 and his death in 1636 he lived at secluded Clifton, close to the Tamar in the north of Landulph parish. Residents of the lower Tamar Valley would surely have been aware of this man – distinctive in name, appearance and reputation, a figure of awe, mystery and rumour.



Fig.1 *St.Leonard and St.Dilpe church, Landulph* (Clive Charlton)

Who was this Theodore Paleologus, who lies buried in a vault within the church of St.Leonard and St.Dilpe in Landulph, about two miles north of Saltash? Versions of his colourful story have been told for centuries - and sometimes dragged into the realms of fantasy. However, detailed

¹⁸ The name has been spelled in various ways. 'Theodore Paleologus' is used here, although he may have called himself 'Teodoro'.

research by John Hall for his book ‘An Elizabethan Assassin’¹⁹ has advanced our understanding significantly. The following article offers no more than a summary of the story of Theodore Paleologus - an outline of his dramatic, yet obscure earlier life and his final years in the Tamar Valley. My account owes much to John Hall’s thorough scholarship, including his concise description of Theodore’s complex character and chequered life story as: “...a multiple murderer, mercenary, apostate, seducer and spy”, but also a: “...paterfamilias, asylum-seeker, freedom fighter, expert linguist, acclaimed horseman and classical scholar”. Yet, as with so much engaging history, there are still gaps and uncertainties in his story - and hence great scope for the imagination and speculation to fill them in.

Despite challenges by some commentators, Theodore is widely recognised as a late descendant of the last Byzantine emperor, Constantine XI, who died in 1453 in the final siege of the Byzantine capital, Constantinople, by the Moslem Turks. Some of the imperial family escaped to refuge in Italy, where our man was born several generations later, in Pesaro on the Adriatic coast. His relationship to the last emperor is unclear (great great grandson, great nephew, legitimate or illegitimate?). But the dominant verdict is that he was indeed ‘of the imperial blood’.

In a political environment notorious for feuds and conflict, Theodore developed into an experienced and deadly military figure. He was renowned as a superbly skilled horseman and man of arms. Having fled his home after a violent inter-family conflict (as per the Capulets and Montagues in Shakespeare’s ‘Romeo and Juliet’), his adventures included lengthy periods of service as a mercenary – and more notoriously, as an ‘enforcer’ and assassin.

¹⁹ John Hall, ‘An Elizabethan Assassin: Theodore Paleologus – Seducer, Spy and Killer’, The History Press, 2015. I have not cited the numerous contributions from Richard’s excellent book, for brevity.

Such was his sinister reputation that in 1597 he was paid to travel to London to find and kill an Italian exile who was being hunted by his enemies. He never found his would-be victim – but he chose to settle in Britain, joining English troops fighting with Maurice of Nassau against the Spanish in the Netherlands. There, he probably met the military hero, Baron Willoughby de Eresby of Lincolnshire – descended from the same family as the two Roberts Willoughby de Broke who were lords of the manor of Bere Ferrers earlier in the 16th century. This useful link led to Theodore becoming ‘master of the horse’ or ‘gentleman rider’, and general ‘fixer’ to Henry Clinton, 2nd Earl of Lincoln, a neighbour of the Willoughbys. Based in the tall, moated brick Tattershall Castle on the edge of the Lincolnshire Fens, Clinton was one of the most feared and hated men in England. He was unruly, ambitious, unprincipled, and ever ready to challenge those who stood in his way - by force or recourse to the law. Besides overseeing a stable of over 100 horses at Tattershall and accompanying his employer on his aggressive missions, Theodore married a woman called Mary Balls, from Suffolk; they had six children. While at Tattershall, he also trained and encouraged back into a military career one John Smith, who had taken to living ‘wild’ in a nearby wood, possibly in a spell of youthful depression. By Smith’s own admission, the encounter with the ageing Italian warrior inspired him to return to martial activity, an adventurous path to become the John Smith - the famous soldier, colonist, explorer and chronicler of early British North America²⁰.

When his employer Clinton died in 1616, Theodore and his family lost their protected living in Lincolnshire. Somehow, they made their way to distant Plymouth. Their exact pathway is unknown, but perhaps stemmed from Theodore’s several spells as a mercenary. He must have arrived in the South West by 1619, for Richard Hall tracked down the record of the

²⁰ See: John Smith, ‘The True Travels, Adventures and Observations of Captaine John Smith’, 1629, republished by Franklin Press, 1819, p.3.

baptism that year of Theodore's infant son Ferdinando Paleologus in St. Andrew's church in Plymouth.

Richard Hall also drew on the only surviving original text written by Theodore, which is a letter 'written in courtly French' and 'a strikingly flamboyant example of calligraphy'. The letter demonstrates both Theodore's high level of learning and also his tendency to insinuate himself with men that history has judged as thoroughly undesirable. This time, Paleologus offered his dubious services to the notorious George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham, who had wormed his way to immense wealth as 'favourite' of both King James I and his son Charles. This made him 'the most hated man in England', being 'arrogant, incompetent and corrupt'. In seeking access to Buckingham, Theodore had probably approached the local rogue, Sir James Bagge II, then resident at Saltram, who was the notoriously corrupt 'Plymouth tool' (agent) of Buckingham²¹. However, Buckingham was assassinated in 1628, extinguishing Theodore's hopes of adventurous advance.

But the ageing Theodore's luck held out. He and his family were invited to live in the household of Cornishman Sir Nicholas Lower, who had bought the manor house at Clifton in Landulph parish, just across the Tamar from South Hooe on the Bere Peninsula. Sadly, there seems to be little evidence of Theodore's activities in this last phase of his life, although he must have enjoyed a lengthy coda of calm and comfort to round off his turbulent career. It is likely that his long, colourful life story and exotic Italian persona made him a great attraction locally, and his cosmopolitan experience and learning would have appealed to Sir Nicholas' learned wife, Elisabeth, while also adding lustre to the reputation of Sir Nicholas himself. We can imagine a very tall, white-

²¹ He was dubbed 'Bottomless Bagge' by contemporaries for his blatant profiteering when tasked with provisioning Buckingham's disastrous military expeditions to Spain and France. See for example: Crispin Gill, 'Plymouth: a New History', 1993, pp.146-148.

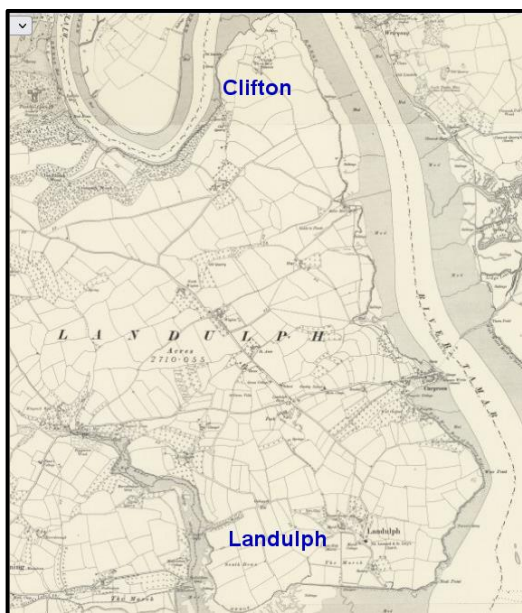


Fig.2 *Locations of Clifton and Landulph (and church) within Landulph Parish O.S. 6 inch map, Revised: 1905, published: 1907* National Library of Scotland under Creative Commons

bearded figure, with a pronounced hooked aquiline nose²². Even as an older man, he would surely have conveyed an air of power and wily menace. Theodore died in 1636 and was buried in the church at Landulph. His presence there has not been a long-lost secret, for he became been revered by Greeks, as a Paleologus of their lost Byzantine empire. In 2007 Archbishop Gregorios, head of the Greek Orthodox community in Britain, held a commemorative service in Landulph church, while early in her reign, the late Queen Elizabeth II visited Landulph with the Duke of Edinburgh.

²² This appearance was noted when Theodore's coffin was opened in 1795. His body was reportedly in a remarkably good state of preservation, having been embalmed.

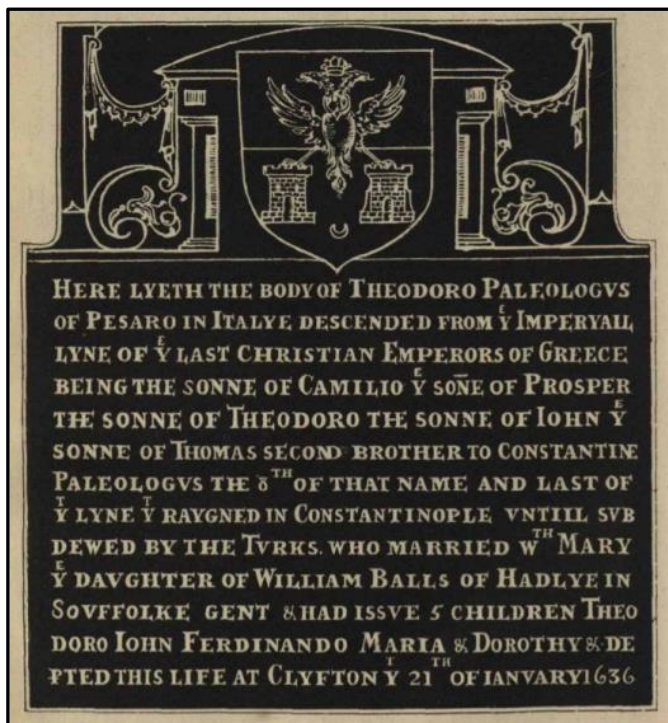


Fig.3 Rubbing of the memorial to Theodore Paleologus in Landulph Church (John Thomas Towson, 1857, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons)

Theodore's story was also researched enthusiastically in the earlier 19th century by the antiquarian rector of Landulph parish, Francis Vyvyan Jago Arundell²³, and in the 20th century by the Rev. John Adams. As detailed in Richard Hall's book, the presence at Landulph of the 'last of the Paleologus family' has attracted all manner of legends, conspiracy theories and works of fiction. In fact, the family line is thought to have persisted until the late 17th century. The infant son baptised in Plymouth, Ferdinando, became a plantation owner in Barbados, where his memorial is regularly photographed by curious visitors. In the very last entry in his

²³ See Wikipedia, 'Frances Arundell'

‘Cornish Characters and Strange Events’, the Rev. Sabine-Baring Gould even hinted that ‘the imperial blood perhaps still flows in the bargemen of Cargreen’, via one of Theodore’s daughters²⁴.

Although the excellent research by Richard Hall and the enthusiasm of the two ecclesiastical predecessors has revealed so much, uncertainty of fact and silences in his story still surround Theodore Paleologus. Nevertheless, we can enjoy the luxury of imagination to fill in the gaps, especially the presence of that remarkable, mysterious Italian’s final years in the Tamar Valley, perhaps riding imperiously along the tracks leading from Clifton or being rowed down river for an encounter in Plymouth.

Special thanks to David Pearce for encouragement, supporting information and image.



Fig.4. *Interior of Landulph church, last resting place of Theodore Paleologus and his patron, Sir Nicholas Lower (Clive Charlton)*

²⁴ Rev. Sabine Baring-Gould, ‘*Cornish Characters and Strange Events*’, John Lane The Bodley Head, 1909, p.739.

Calstock Parish Archive
Lynda Harman

Calstock Parish Archive was created in 1985 as the result of a Job Creation scheme (MSC) which was set up by Calstock Town Community Council to provide work for a number of people in an area of post-industrial depression. The collection was safeguarded and enlarged by The Calstock Parish Archive Trust, registering as a Charity in 1999. Shared accommodation at Calstock Village Hall became inadequate for working on the expanding collections, so the Archive moved to a dedicated room in the Tamar Valley Visitor Centre at Drakewalls in 2009.

Continued steady expansion of the Archive collections meant that it was increasingly urgent to find more space in which to properly care for and research them. In 2012 the Calstock Parish Council found that there was insufficient demand to justify keeping the nearby Albaston Cemetery Chapel open and sought alternative uses for the building. Our proposal to use the building was considered the best option, so a scheme was developed in conjunction with Calstock Parish Council. We moved into the chapel in November 2019.

We hold census and parish lists, manorial records, information on the industrial heritage and the villages within the parish which extends as far north as Latchley, down to Calstock and Cotehele and Harrowbarrow, Metherell and St Ann's Chapel. We have maps, thousands of pictures, interviews with people in the parish and minutes of the parish council and other local groups.

The archive is run entirely by volunteers and our opening hours are: Tuesdays and Fridays 10 - 2 and Wednesdays 12 – 4. If you are unable to make these times, we could arrange an appointment. We close for the month of January.

Website: www.calstockhistory.org.uk

**Dan Ward (1851 – 1935), Land Agent for the Earl of Mount
Edgcumbe**
Belinda Kumpel

Daniel (Dan) Ward was born at Uppaton Farm between Milton Abbot and Chillaton into a large family of Wards. Other nearby farms – Leigh Barton, Willesley and Longbrook were also homes to the Wards. Many were buried in the churchyard of St. Constantine in Milton Abbot between the 17th and 20th centuries. All of the six largest families had boys named Daniel and John.

Dan was the third son of Daniel Ward (1800 – 1861), a surveyor who, in 1830, had founded, Ward and Chowen, the well-known firm of estate agents based in Tavistock²⁵. Dan's older brother, Frank Ward, joined the firm and later one of Dan's sons (also called Frank Ward) did. All four were Chartered Surveyors. However, after becoming a Fellow of the Surveyors' Institute, Dan struck out on his own and in 1876 established a business in Plymouth. The practice was in Courtenay Street and the firm was responsible for a number of significant developments in the city. In 1881 Dan was appointed the Land Agent on the Bere Peninsula for the Earl of Mount Edgcumbe, living in Hewton Cottage above Weir Quay.

He met a young lady who had been sent to the West Country from Brighton as she was “not very strong and in poor health” and it was hoped life would be better for her there. It obviously was; Mary Eliza Willion fell in love with Dan, they were married in 1884 and had 11 children in 18 years! They first lived at Tuckermarsh, near Bere Alston,

²⁵ Having founded the firm in 1830, Daniel Ward later incorporated his surveying clerk (and son-in-law), John Caddock Chowen (1827-1904) and his wife, Mary Ward to form Ward & Chowen. The two Frank Wards joined when they had qualified and the firm became the first estate agency in the area.

then after a few years with several children moved back to Hewton Farm, overlooking the Tamar.

The youngest of Mary Eliza's five sisters used to visit her from Brighton. Annie Matilda Willion, aged 29, then joined the Oxford and Cambridge Universities' Mission which was founded by Dr Livingstone. She was sent to Zanzibar, off the east coast of Africa, to work in the school of St John's Church for the children of freed slaves. Unfortunately, she soon died of a tropical disease and was buried there in an unmarked grave. Her name was recorded on a wooden panel in Zanzibar cathedral, together with those of 21 English men and women who had died just in the month of June 1894 (and with many more that year).

Dan oversaw the Edgcumbe estate's tenanted farms and farmers in the Bere Peninsula and beyond to Tavistock. He knew all the tenants. The farm workers were given salmon from the Tamar in lieu of pay but they were so prolific that they had a rule to have meat instead one day a week (quite the opposite of the situation today!). He became involved in parish activities, being a churchwarden for over 25 years (1891 – 1917) and chairman of the school managers in Bere Alston. When Holy Trinity church in Bere Alston was being renovated and enlarged at the end of the 19th century, Dan and Mary Eliza gave the east window with its three lovely stained-glass bays and also a memorial window to Annie Willion in the south side of the chancel.

Dan and Mary's 11 children had the countryside around Hewton to play in. One of the stories my grandfather Frank Ward (the younger) recounted was when one day they were told not to go onto the old roof of a barn, but they did, of course - and one the boys fell through, and they thought he was dead. But as it was then lunchtime and they had to sit round the table with their rather stern parents, they said nothing and hoped no one would notice that one boy was missing! They did, however, and fortunately, he was just unconscious. The boys also stole

kestrels' eggs from their nests in Hangingcliff Wood, which was very dangerous because of the precipitous slope down to the Tamar.

Three of the sons became surveyors. All took part in the Great War. Alexander (Alec) Ward (1891 – 1970) became an articled pupil Land Agent and surveyor in 1911 and joined the firm in Plymouth. Then it was called D. Ward & Son and is still very much in business, undertaking various activities associated with estate management, surveying and valuation. Frank Ward (1892 – 1969) joined Ward and Chowen, becoming a partner in 1930 until his death in 1969. John Ward (1898 – 1982) was a surveyor, valuer and auctioneer in North Devon.

At the age of 70, in 1921, Dan Ward organised the sale of the Earl of Mount Edgcumbe's Bere Ferrers parish properties. This was 10 years after his brother Frank Ward had done the same for the Duke of Bedford's Estates in Tavistock.



Fig.1 extract from sale catalogue for auction of Edgcumbe properties on the Bere Peninsula, depicting Bere Ferrers village, 1921

Dan and Mary celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in 1934 with their family. Dan and Mary Eliza are seated in the centre. Frank Ward is standing centre back, the tallest, John Ward, is standing, the farthest right. Alec is sitting in the middle on the floor. Mary, sitting on the right, married Jim Blanchard and farmed with him at Leigh Barton; she lived to 104.



Fig.2 Daniel and Mary Eliza Ward – 50th wedding anniversary, 1934

**With a View not to be Surpassed: Drakewalls, St Ann's Chapel,
Albaston²⁶
Jill Lane**

11th century tin streamers may have discovered tin lodes in the Drakewalls area and started open cast mining along the lodes, forming 'gunnises'. Centuries later, the largest one at Drakewalls became 800m long and 80m deep (and was filled in in the 1950s). After the Callington Turnpike Act of 1764, a Turnpike was constructed along Hingston Down to meet up with the Tavistock Turnpike at Gunnislake New Bridge. Around 1800 the Williams family from West Cornwall bought the Manor of Calstock and the mines at the settlement which became known as Williamstown. Later they bought Drakewalls mine and started deep mining. Hingston Down mine started in the 1840s. Hingston Down itself was enclosed by an Act of 1862. Then quarries and brickworks were opened on the Down. Terraces of cottages for the miners were built along the Turnpike.

Successive companies working Drakewalls mine continued with deep mining, with the most successful year of production being 1859. Eventually an adit draining into the river was completed. There was little concern for safety and a number of fatalities in the mine were reported in the press. The most notable accident was the 'entombment of Bant and Rule', when the two miners were trapped by a fall of sand and it took five days to find a route to reach and rescue them. The mine closed in 1905.

²⁶ The title of Jill's recent book, *'With a View not to be Surpassed: Drakewalls, St Ann's Chapel, Albaston'*, for the Calstock Parish Archive Trust, 2022. The title comes from an 1870s sale advertisement for a row of cottages (most likely Prospect Terrace) on the Turnpike crossing on Hingston Down.

The narrow gauge East Cornwall Mineral Railway (from the top of the incline to the river at Calstock and serving the mines and quarries) was completed in 1872. When the Calstock viaduct was built, the standard gauge line replaced it and houses were built around the station, in anticipation of passenger traffic. There were coal merchants operating at or near the station.

Around 1900 most of the mines and quarries closed down, so that there was much unemployment. The local council wanted to get money to pay men to alter the line of the road up Sandhill but met a frosty reception. However, they were eventually successful and the monument and horse trough at the top of the hill commemorates this. Unemployment continued into the 1930s and there was an employment office and an occupational centre to help deal with the problem.

After a time mining in South Africa, Captain W H Murton was appointed manager of the four mines comprising Clitters United in 1903. His son Joseph Henry Murton bought Glendorgal, the former mine agent's house at the top of Sandhill and opened a garage in 1928. He operated a charabanc, organised motorbike outings and repaired cars. His son Clarence lived across the road at Nancaird, which had been 'William's Corner' but now became Mrs Murton's shop as Clarence and his brother Keith took over the garage, until selling to Pearce's in 1979.

James Normington took the shop in Drakewalls Place after his uncle had died after falling down the stairs on his return from the pub, and his widow had moved north with their daughter who had married a Methodist minister. He became a shipping agent, correspondent for the local paper, and wrote the leaflet about the entombment of Rule and Bant in Drakewalls mine.

Robert Coath had been mine agent at Drakewalls mine, then became landlord of the Queen's Head pub at Albaston. He set up in business on his own at Delaware House, selling, wine, chemicals etc. His stock was destroyed by fire in 1882 (but fortunately was insured). When he died in

1931 local builder James Bond made the building into two houses, for himself and his son.

Alfred Broad was born in Calstock and trained as a tailor. When he married Jessie in 1905 they rented the shop at the corner of Delaware Road and he started selling bicycles. Soon they moved to the shop beyond Tamar Terrace (built by James Bond), which became a well-stocked hardware store. Alfred Broad was also Parish Clerk, secretary to the burial board, registrar of births and Superintendent of St Ann's Methodist Chapel.

The corner shop became Atwill's Bakery and in the 1930s was bought by William Paige, whose daughter ran "Miss Paige's shop" almost up to her death in 1984.

Hingston House on the south side of the Turnpike had several occupants before Thomas Campbell Bennett bought it in 1888. He was an artist painting in the style of the Dartmoor artists, and lived by his painting and teaching art. He was widowed and his daughter Marjorie became his constant companion after she left school. She married the banker brother of a school friend, and he asked for a transfer from London to the west country so that she could be near her father. He was sent to the bank in Bideford, so the three of them built a bungalow outside the town. She wrote a memoir "Our Days Together". They sold Hingston House to Nicholas Normington (son of James Normington), who must have used it as 'second home' because he and his wife lived in Plymouth, where she was Headmistress of Headland College, which provided an academic education for girls. When the school was bombed in 1941 they re-established it at Hingston House, also using the 'tin church' and the Sunday school in Albaston. Mrs Normington continued advertising the school until about 1948, opening it to young boys, but it had closed before she died in 1950.

Well-advertised Moor's embrocation was sold from Homeleigh from 1879 to 1920. There were several shops in the centre of St Ann's Chapel.

Thomas Webber had the shop which became the Victoria Stores. When he died his daughter Emma, who had been assisting him, rented the shop across the road. This was later Woolcock's chip shop and more recently Annie's Bistro. His son Charles had a butcher's shop next to the chapel, and his son Stanley followed on. It is now known as Hamilton House.

William Henwood invested the money he saved in South Africa in properties along the Turnpike. His son Wilson joined the RAF in 1918 but did not see active service. He worked for builder Nicholas Rosekilly, then set up as a carpenter (but his business burnt down). His wife kept a shop, and he started selling bicycles and then opened a garage. Two cottages were demolished to make way for a forecourt. His daughter Ann and her husband Bill Galbraith ran the post of office and garage until supermarkets started selling fuel at a low price. They then demolished the garage and built a terrace of houses.

The Rifle Volunteer (previously The Calstock Inn, or the Rifle Corps) was named for the volunteer soldiers who practised on the Rifle range on the top of the Down. Henry Burnman passed the licence on to his son John, whose son in law Alfred Doidge was licensee from 1909 to the 1930s. There were two similar shop buildings on the north side of the road which for while were Hutchings Upper and Lower Stores, although they had a number of owners over the years.

The Kimberley jam factory worked at Kimberley and West End House in the 1930s and 40s but closed down without warning

There were four garages along the turnpike: Murton, Henwood, Millett, Southover/Central Motors.

Albaston was an older village, with Drakewalls mine encroaching on the eastern side. There were several shops. Some of the Bowhay family moved from Grove House, Harrowbarrow, to Albaston House, with its home farm and brewery. Mary Bowhay (sister to Isaac Rosekilly) continued farming after her husband died age 50, two of their sons

operated the brewery: they owned ten local public houses, including The Queen's Head, which were sold in 1935.

Isaac Rosekilly [1820 -1883] was a builder, based at Albaston Works, the business being continued by his sons Isaac [1848-1916] and Nicholas [1858-1930]. In 1885 the boiler exploded killing two workman and a boy. Isaac went on to other businesses while Nicholas carried on until 1928.

Simon Skinnard [1872-1953] bought a bakery and some land in 1895, where he built a shop. Continued in business for some years, also becoming a motor agent. The bakery passed to his son W E Skinnard while he moved to Plymouth, running a Dodge agency with his younger son. There was a fire in the bakery in 1948.

William Sleeman [1881-1969] was landlord of The Queen's Head from 1913 until 1930, when he took on a general store next door. The Post Office moved to Thomas Rowe's premises across the road. The Paul and Martin families both had butcher's shops in Albaston. The only manufacturing in the area was the plastic pants factory in the former Bible Christian Chapel during the 1960s.

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From an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty to the ‘Tamar Valley National Landscape’: a review of 2022 shows a busy period and changes afoot for our protected landscape.
Dan Cooke, Tamar Valley AONB Manager

At a time when the UK was wrestling with macro-scale challenges including recovery from the Covid pandemic, adapting to Brexit and an emerging ‘cost of living crisis’ resulting from a war in Ukraine and other factors, there were nonetheless lots of positive developments at a local level here in the Tamar Valley AONB, aimed at improving the resilience of our nature, landscape and communities.

The Tamar Valley is one of the ‘family’ of 46 AONBs across the UK which, along with the National Parks, form our vitally important ‘protected landscapes’. In 2019, the UK Government commissioned the Landscapes Review, conducted by Julian Glover (hence also known as the ‘Glover Review’). The review made a series of recommendations as to how Government can further protect and enhance these landscapes and, most importantly, make them more resilient, inclusive and accessible for people from all backgrounds and communities for the widest well-being benefits to our nation’s health and enjoyment, as well as better places for nature.

UK Government is responding with a range of new purposes, powers, resources and a proposed new ‘brand’ for AONBs, which will become National Landscapes – changes expected in 2023. All AONBs will be expected to produce their new 5-year management plans focused on services for: People, Place, Nature and, Climate.

Our National Association of AONBs presents the potential benefits of these changes in its prospectus titled: ‘World class landscapes fit for the 21st century and beyond’. This sets out the AONB network’s offer to the nation: Beautiful world-class landscapes delivering on the global challenges of the 21st century: Leading the fight against climate change; Feeding the nation while restoring nature; Ensuring clean, plentiful drinking water; Safeguarding against drought and flooding; Growing a sustainable, resilient economy to protect rural communities from economic shocks, and Delivering health, wellbeing and employment opportunities to all people.

Whilst these changes proceed, the AONB team continued to work with its partners to deliver positive change in the unique Tamar Valley landscape. Some of the key achievements delivered by a small and committed team included:

The 3-year Farming in Protected Landscapes programme continued to successfully allocate c.£750,000 of funding for farmers and land managers across the AONB. Over 88 farm visits have resulted in 43 approved projects for improved environmental and farm resilience outcomes, as well as a range of events focused on woodland creation and management, hedge laying, meadow creation, access and social media engagement.

The delivery phase of the £3.2m Tamara Landscapes Partnership scheme picked up pace with each of its ten projects now under full steam. Working closely with key partners including Tamar Grow Local, Visit Tamar Valley, Duchy College, the National Trust, Plymouth Community Homes, Battling On, the Devon and Cornwall Rail Partnership and many more, projects are broadly focused around themes of community, heritage and land management.

Over 45 community events were held, including bio-blitz wildlife surveys for school pupils, yoga, art and craft classes and winter well-being walks. Good progress was made in the assessment surveys and detailed conservation management plans for seven ‘at risk’ heritage sites such as Clitters, Luckett and Gawton Mines and the WWII Landing Stage next to the Tamar Bridge. Funding has provisionally been secured for a trail restored passenger ferry service across the Tamar between Calstock, Ferry Farm and Cotehele, including the purchase of an electric boat and reinstatement of the landing stages. This will improve access and connectivity as part of the new Coast to Coast Way linking the south and north coast paths, due to open in summer 2023.

Other projects making good progress included access and interpretation improvements at Wacker Quay on the Lynher Estuary, working with the Tamar Community Trust and providing good volunteering opportunities.

The AONB supported intertidal habitat creation and flood-bank realignment projects at Calstock and South Hooe. Led by the

Environment Agency, these are large-scale projects allowing the river to ‘spread out’ over former flood plain areas which had been channelled by the 1950s flood banks. Benefits provided, which will be monitored and shared with the public, include increased biodiversity, water quality, carbon sequestration and public access and connectivity with nature in these beautiful sections of the river valley.

Finally, and as a demonstration of the connectivity, contribution and broader interest in the work an AONB can do, the Tamar Valley AONB team welcomed the then-new Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Minister for Growth and Rural Affairs) to Defra, and local MP, Scott Mann, to the Tamar Valley Centre, near Gunnislake, and provided a tour of the new wetlands intertidal habitat at Calstock in November. With green finance as part of his ministerial portfolio, Mr Mann was keen to find out more about the pioneering ‘Natural Environment Investment Readiness Fund’ (NEIRF) project work in the Tamar Valley, looking at options to attract more private sector investment into our landscapes.



Scott Mann, MP with Dan Cooke and group on visit to Calstock Wetlands, 2022

The £10 million Defra and Environment Agency Natural Environment

Investment Readiness Fund provided grants of up to £100,000 to 86 organisations across England, including Tamar Valley AONB. The NEIRF aims to stimulate private investment and market-based mechanisms that improve and safeguard our domestic natural environment by helping projects get ready for investment. The Fund supports the Government's goals in the 25 Year Environment Plan, Green Finance Strategy and The Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution. We were pleased to be able to show the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State around the Tamar Valley and talk about our work identifying how to unlock potential private-sector investment in our vital nature-based services.

We now know that the total value of natural capital in the Tamar Valley AONB is over £39 million each year. This includes, for example, the value of climate regulation (natural carbon capture and storage), air pollution removal and natural flood regulation. Local businesses are showing a good deal of interest in how they can get involved.

Environment Minister Scott Mann said: "It was a privilege to visit the Tamar Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and hear about how it is using its Natural Environment Investment Readiness Fund grant to make environmental enhancements by identifying and monetising a range of benefits in the form of carbon and biodiversity credits, natural flood risk management, and water quantity improvement. "Protecting our environment and economic growth go hand in hand – and this project to drive private sector investment in nature recovery and climate change, is a fantastic example of this. "Done right, natural capital investment can play a key role in protecting and enhancing our natural environment while providing opportunities for investors, businesses, farmers and land-managers. It also represents a fantastic global export opportunity through our world leading skills and capabilities in this area."

As you can see, 2022 was a busy time of challenge, opportunity and delivery for an emerging Tamar Valley National Landscape.