

## Samaritans National Walk 2022—Historical Notes

Note:

<b>all routes</b>	can be seen on all routes, i.e. short, medium and long routes
<b>L/M</b>	can be seen on both long and medium routes
<b>L</b>	can be seen on long route only



**Truro Public Library**  
(all routes)

*Photograph taken 01 June 2002 © Margaret Hocking ARPS. Source Historic England Archive ref: 377551*

Designed by architect Sylvanus Trevail and opened in 1896 the library is one

of six in Cornwall donated by John Passmore Edwards, a journalist and philanthropist born in Blackwater near Truro. Passionate about social change, Passmore Edwards' personal ethos was "do the best for the most" and he donated 70 public buildings in the UK, especially Cornwall and London. The three-storey Central Technical Schools for Cornwall building was added in 1899, also paid for by Passmore Edwards.



**Truro Cathedral** (all routes)

The diocese of Truro was established in 1876, and the small parish church of St Mary's became the new cathedral. The architect John Loughborough Pearson was commissioned to design a larger cathedral, an ambitious project in Gothic Revival style and at the time the first Anglican

Cathedral to be built on a new site since Salisbury in 1220. The south aisle of the original parish church now forms St Mary's aisle in the cathedral. Including an eleven year pause for fundraising between 1887 and 1898, the construction took 30 years from the laying of the foundation stones in 1880 to the completion in 1910 with the opening of the two western towers.

*Print this document double sided (flip on short edge) and the paging will be correct for booklet format.*



Although the mill in **Calenick** ([all routes](#)) was mentioned as early as 1300 (first a fulling mill in the wool industry and later a corn mill, and worked as such until 1910) it became important as an industrial centre. Around 1702 a new method of smelting tin had been discovered, the reveratory furnace, which rather than using expensive

charcoal used much cheaper ‘sea coal’ which was imported from Wales. The first furnaces had been built at Newham but moved to Calenick in 1711, probably due to the lack of a good stream at Newham. Tin stamps for crushing tin already existed at Calenick. By the mid-18th century the Calenick works had been added to the business empire of William Lemon (he had built Princes House in Truro in 1739 and in 1748 had bought the Carclew estate, so would have gone through Calenick on his way home each day). Later it was bought by Thomas Daniell, a former clerk to William Lemon (he had built the Mansion House in Truro in 1755) who bought up much of his business enterprises after Lemon’s early death in 1760. The Calenick smelting works became one of the most important in Cornwall and did not close until 1891 when it was owned by the Daubuz family from Killiow. Associated with the tin smelter is one of the finest houses in Kea,

**Calenick House**, which dates from 1702, is in Queen Anne style and is a smaller version of Trereife near Penzance.

It was used for much of its life as an account house for the smelting works. The clock tower was built in 1752, it contains the original clock and a bell inscribed ‘William Lemon’. Ropewalk Row, from the 1760s, is a good example of early industrial housing being built for the senior workers at the smelting works. As well as smelting, Calenick also manufactured crucibles which were used in assessing the purity of tin, and exported to the developing tin industry in Australia. The quays, vital for the import of Welsh coal, have largely disappeared as has the extensive rope walk. Boat building also took place on the quays. A toll house still exists near the bridge which was on the then main Truro-Falmouth road. The creek has silted up due to the huge amount of waste washed down from the tin mines; in 1877 alone, it was estimated that 10,000 tons of silt were deposited in the creek. Calenick was also the birthplace in 1807 of the popular Victorian poet Nicholas Michell whose father John managed the Calenick smelting works and discovered the mineral ‘tantalite’; Nicholas died in 1880 and is buried in Higher Kea churchyard.

**Landegay/Old Kea (L/M)** was listed in the Domesday Book with 9 households comprising 2 villagers, 4 smallholders and 3 slaves as well as 2 cattle, 40 sheep and 15 goats. Much of the eastern part of Kea was part of the manor of Landegay. The manor was owned by the Tregian family of Golden near Grampound, but they lost it due to their

During the late 17th and early 18th centuries Non-Conformism was growing in strength and the result in Kea was the building in 1710 by the Society of Friends, the Quakers, of the much-admired **Meeting House at Come-to-Good (M)**.

The Buildings of England: Cornwall says, ‘It is beautifully set in its small burial ground and the interior is homely, loveable and almost completely intact... Whatever the derivation of the place name, the building perfectly captures the compelling simplicity and integrity of the Quaker endeavour’. It is likely that the name derives from Cornish words ‘Cwm’ meaning valley and ‘Coed’ meaning wood.



**Playing Place (M)** gets its name from the medieval round or Plain an Gwarry in which plays would have been performed during the medieval period, including ones celebrating the life of St Kea.



In 1726 a group of **alms-houses (M)** were provided for in the will of Mr John Lanyon for eight poor people and endowed with an estate in Gwenap. Originally the men lived on the ground floor and the women on the first floor, but now it provides four houses. Playing Place is by far the largest village in the parish but, except for the Lanyon Alms houses and two farms, the rest of the settlement dates from a great surge in building which began in the 1920s.

of tin and copper smelting) and other minerals. These veins were formed from the deposits of the cooling rock of the granite massif of Carnmenellis, produced 300 million years ago.

**Devoran (L)** was a busy port during the peak of Cornwall's mining industry in the 1800s. Minerals (principally tin and copper) mined nearby in the Gwennap area, were exported from here (in 1838, 20 ships a week) to South Wales for smelting, and Welsh coal was imported as fuel for the mines' steam engines, as well as Scandinavian timber, Russian tallow and Indian jute to service the industry. The port continued in use until 1916.

#### **Carnon Viaduct (L)**

Isambard Kingdom Brunel's Great Western Railway branch line from Truro to Falmouth was completed in 1863, four years after his death. It included 2 tunnels and 8 viaducts. This Carnon Valley was the most impressive of the viaducts. It stood 96 ft high and stretched for 756 ft and its 11 stone piers held wooden track supports. Brunel's viaduct, the piers of which are still standing, was in use up to the 1930's. Storyboard includes ... "Largest gold nugget ever found in Cornwall came from the head of Re-stronguet Creek, nearby, in 1801, 2½ inches long, weighing 1/5 ounce, now in the Royal Cornwall Museum in Truro. In the 18th century about £100 worth of gold was found each year by tin streamers. It was kept by them as a perk and occasionally enough was found to make a wedding ring".



**Penelewey Barton (M)** is a very fine example of a house which was remodelled in 1710 and, unusually for this area, was given a brick front. It retains many fine features, notably the windows with crown glass, and the interior has survived virtually intact. The gate piers and garden wall also date from 1710. There is probably some connection between the remodelling of Penelewey and the building of the Friends' Meeting House at Come-to-Good. Both date from 1710, Penelewey and the land on which the Meeting House was built, were owned by James Mayo, a Quaker. It is possible that some of the lintels and windows in the Meeting House were taken from Penelewey when it was being remodelled.

*Reproduced with kind permission of Kea Parish Council*



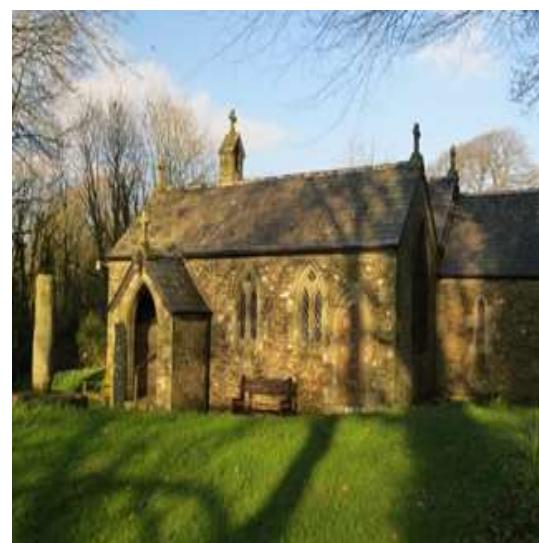
Catholic faith towards the end of the reign of Elizabeth I. It passed to the Coryton family from Pentillie on the Tamar until they sold it in the 1840s to Lord Falmouth who was already the largest landowner in the parish. The orchards there may have been where Kea plums, a damson famed for its jam making qualities, originated.



On Lambe Creek opposite Malpas, **Lambe Creek House (L)**, once known as Sunset, was remodelled in the early 19th century and was lived in by an Admiral Temple. In the 1930s and 1940s it was owned by the Penrose family (who later bought Killow). During this time it attracted many celebrities as its owner, Beakus Penrose, was then married to the sister of the actor Robert Newton and he and other film stars were of-

ten seen in the area. Beakus Penrose's brother was Roland Penrose, a famous art collector who introduced Surrealism to this country. In the summer of 1937, a famous party took place at Lambe, it was described as 'a heady mixture of free love and artistic intercourse' and included celebrities such as the artist Max Ernst, the model and photographer Lee Miller. Henry Moore was another frequent guest.

**Old Kea (L)** is full of history. According to legend, in the 5th century an Irish monk floated across from Ireland on a hollowed out granite boulder and then founded a monastery where he landed.



**Old Kea Church and Tower (L)** is the site of the original small monastery. It is a wonderfully quiet and romantic spot with the ivy clad tower all that remains of the medieval church, together with a very pretty 19th century Mission church.

The medieval church would have been very similar to other creekside churches such as St Clement or St Just-in-Roseland, and also dates from the 13th century. A contemporary painting shows it had two aisles and a large south porch with a sundial. When built it was close to the river and to the major route which linked

Truro to the Roseland via the ferries at Malpas and Tolverne, and then to the major south coast pilgrim route which crossed the Fal at King Harry ferry and onto the pilgrims' destination of St Michael's Mount. As the population in the rest of the parish grew the location of the church proved inconvenient and as early as 1531 Henry VIII agreed to a petition from the parishioners to demolish it and build another church in a central location. The church was eventually demolished in 1802 when it had become too dangerous to hold services in it. A poor house was built on the site and later in 1853 a mission church was built, and extended in 1862. The Buildings of England: Cornwall describes it as 'a charming little essay in simple Gothic, incorporating some material from the old building'. Outside the church is an unusual tall stone pillar; it probably dates from the ninth or tenth centuries, it may have been the shaft of a cross, a boundary marker or a standing stone. It is said to have been found in either the foundations of the demolished church or the demolished poor house. Inside the church, under the present font, is a huge granite base which was probably the base of the medieval Kea cross which stood at the forked junction at the top of the hill on the way down to Old Kea. The size of the base suggests the cross was very large, it was marked in Gascoyne's map of 1699 but by about 1770 it had been taken down as the Coryton Estate map says, 'Here formerly stood the ancient cross called Kea cross'. It was rumoured that the shaft and part of the base was built into a house in Porth Kea, and the remaining half was found lying in a field and taken down to its present position in 1862. Regular services are still held in the church, and it is usually open.

The panorama from **Halwyn (L)** beach overlooks a major embarkation point for tanks and troops on D Day, during the Second World War. The garden of the house at Halwyn was the scene of a meeting between Churchill and Eisenhower, who were reviewing preparations for the invasion.



**Coombe (L/M)** is famed in the area as it has hardly changed since the 1930s, and it could only be accessed by boat until a road was built into the village in 1924.

The cottages, most of which were built between 1770 and 1860, are surrounded by orchards where Kea plums dominate.



**Cowlands (L/M)** stands at the head of the creek from Coombe.

The attractive mill house, Cowlings Mill, still stands though the mill has long gone. Leases for local farms stipulated that their corn had to be ground there. It was in use during the mid-19th century. The quays were also used for boat-building; one quay has public access.

### **Roundwood Quay Iron age fort (L)**

A later prehistoric multiple enclosure fort with an irregular plan of two concentric curving earthworks and a sub-oval enclosure. An entrance near the centre is considered to be original. A system of leats to supply water for industrial use on or by the late 18th century quay to the east of the fort is visible around the south, east, and north sides of the promontory.

### **Roundwood Quay (L)**

Trading site since at least The Iron Age but present structure is circa late C18. Slatestone rubble with granite quoins and copings linked by iron staples. Situated at the head of a peninsula between Cowlands Creek and Lamouth Creek. Polygonal loading area with retaining quay walling to north, east and south east and south sides. 6 loading bays.

Walling is mostly vertically-set drystone rubble alternating to south walling with shorter sections with horizontal coarsing. Loading bays have side walls with horizontally coursed rubble and cobbled ramps between. At south end of east wall is flight of granite steps.

Roundwood Quay in the C18 was used to ship copper and tin ore from Chacewater and North Downs mines. Vessels up to 300 tons were able to moor alongside at the lowest tides.

*Information from 'Roundwood Quay on the River Fal' by R.C. Curtis.*

### **King Harry Ferry (L)**

A ferry has existed in the upper reaches of the River Fal for centuries, and a ferry bridge since 1889, following the formation of the King Harry Steam Ferry Company. The current ferry is the 7<sup>th</sup> to operate the service as a submerged chain ferry bridge (since 1956 using diesel-electric propulsion), carrying motor vehicles, bicycles, and foot passengers from Treliwick to Phileigh on the Roseland. The name probably derives from a small chapel dedicated to King Henry IV and Queen Anne once situated in the woods near the crossing.

**The Carnon Valley (L)** cuts at right angles across rich veins of metals, especially tin (cassiterite) and copper (chalcopyrite), with some gold, arsenic (a metalloid by-product