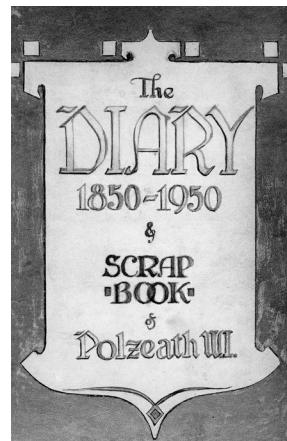


Mably Diary 1850 - 1950

Part 4 (Conclusion)

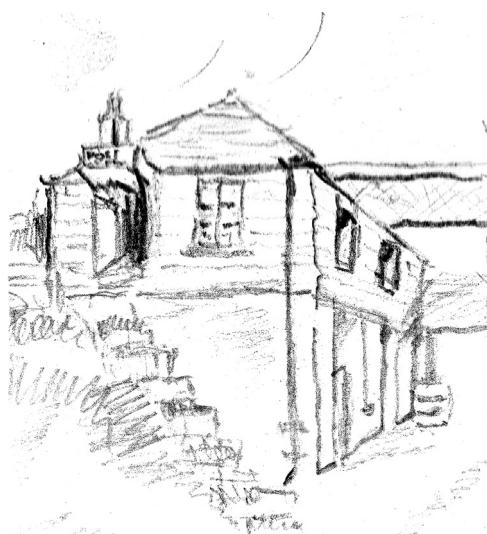
Polzeath WI and Trebetherick WI merged in 2008 to form Trebetherick and Polzeath WI. In the archives of Polzeath WI was a handwritten scrapbook based on a Mably family diary covering the period 1850 to 1950. We believe that the scrapbook was prepared for a WI competition but we are not really sure. It makes fascinating reading and we have decided to serialise it in Link. The photographs are scanned copies of those in the scrapbook. We have not changed the spelling, punctuation or grammar - what you read here is exactly as per the handwritten version. This material is copyright and must not be reproduced elsewhere without the prior permission of the Link Committee and Trebetherick and Polzeath WI.



1913

A Post-office is opened at Polzeath in the old count house by Mr F Male with a stock of £5 worth of stamps and postal orders, and he invested himself in £4:10:0 worth of sweets. He started with a guaranteed Post-office salary of £20 per annum.

This Count or 'Account House' which, as



Original caption reads: Count House, Chapel, Beach Cottage. Polzeath.

its name implies, was the first office of the local Trewiston Mine in the 1860's when it stables below and a Wagon house next door.

In the 1870's the 'Account House' was used as a play room for the occupants of the pleasure house next door.

Mrs MacMillan remembers playing in it, when she was a little girl.

On Easter Sunday 1884 it saw the first gathering under the leadership of Mr John Mably of a group of Methodists who moved to their own building opposite it in 1898.

The St Minver Band is formed by Mr T J Wills with the help of Major Campbell.

1914

September. My cousins John and Richard have gone to Bodmin to enlist in the DCLI*.

1915

For a day's work gardening -	2/4
For a day's work ploughing - (inclusive horse and cart)	12/-
Coal costs -	1/10
½ cwt Coke - (all carriage paid)	1/9

*DCLI = Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry.

1918

Butter is 1/- a lb.

Imported salt butter is somewhat cheaper.

Wages had jumped to 46/- a week.

1919

A roll of Honour is placed in St Minver Church with 100 names of those who went to the War, and the names of 26 glorious dead.

1923

Some new houses are being built in Trebetherick and Polzeath.

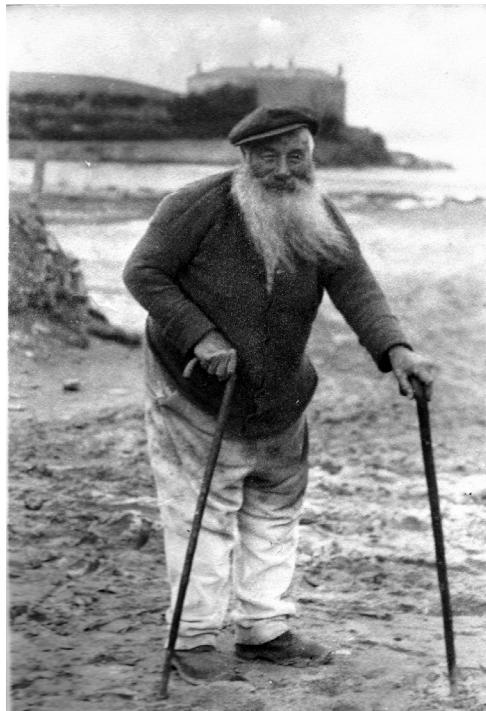
Hawkey's Bus now brings the Mail to the Post Offices in the Parish.

1924

A billiard table is installed at the Perceval Institute to the great delight of all the menfolk.

Our St Minver Band played beautifully at St Enodoc Open air Service in August. We

Jonathan Buse.



all went to the funeral of Mr Sanford of St Minver House.

1925

Mary Hannah wife of Richard Mably now takes over the diary.

Jonathan Buse dies. He was a grand old man and beloved by all. We will miss his little red flag which he hoisted in front of his Cottage on Sundays, just to show folk that he knew when it was a Sunday.

We have two lovely Models of Boats, which he so liked making. We will miss his Tales about the old days, the wrecks, the rum and the song of the mermaids, whom he said he had definitely seen.

He is not the only one who has seen and heard the Mermaid's "but it is only the Cornish folk who can hear them on a lonely Summer night, on a rising Spring-tide splashing in the water and catch a peep of them combing their hair and playing 'Sweet Music.'

1926

Opening of new Post Office in Polzeath. Mr Treleaven still delivers the mail.

1927

June 10th About 70 School-children were taken in Busses to Crowdy Marsh near Rough Tor to witness the performance of the ceremony by HRH. The Prince of Wales of 'Turning on the Water'. The Prince turned a handle and they saw the water come. We hope to have the water laid on.

The Trebetherick Telephone exchange was laid in June. Soon quite a few people on St Minver, Rock, Trebetherick and Polzeath were connected.

On August Bank holiday our St Minver Band won a first Prize at the Competition held at St Ives this year.

1929

I take the children to Padstow to see the new life-boat 'The Princess Mary' one of the largest on our coast.



St Minver Village.

1930

My friend from 'Llangollen Farm' came in to tell me her little girl had been cured of Whooping Cough, after she had bathed her with water from Jesus Well.

1931

The road from Trebetherick to Polzeath beach is being widened.
1931.

1932

Because of the road widening scheme under-taken by the County Cornish, our 'Tin Tabernacle' (our old Methodist Hall at Polzeath) has to be demolished.

1933

Wheat is now 41/- a ton.
April 15th We have an opening Ceremony at our new Methodist Hall at Polzeath.

Polzeath in the snow - a rare occurrence (photograph taken before Road widening).



We have had another tragedy in the loss of our new Life-boat the 'John and Sarah Stych' when 7 of her crew were lost at St Ives. March 29th. This afternoon I attended the formation of a Women's Institute at Polzeath at a meeting held at Atlantic House Hall. We have chosen Mrs MacMillan as our first president, and we were inaugurated by Miss Flamank.

1935

Mr Treleaven, our mail deliverer for 44 years, has retired and our local bus service, now takes over the mail Transport.

1937

The greatest event of the year was the Jubilee celebrations at the Perceval Institute. There were sports for the children and we all had a wonderful tea.

At Christmas we collected and sent a hamper of Toys to the Children's Ward at Truro Hospital.

In May we had a fall of Snow in some parts of the Parish.

1938

Electric light comes to Trebetherick and Polzeath, as since 1930 many holiday houses have been built there.

An aeroplane landed in a field near Polzeath and was repaired by Mr Old.

The Royal Mail van is now seen in the Parish. The Women's Institute organizes a Public meeting to recruit ARP (Air Raid

Wreck of the 'Meder', 1938.



Methodist Hall Polzeath.

Precautions) workers.

They also agitated and got a much needed sign post to Polzeath at Trewint.

In Spring 1939 the ARP was formed, the response was very good.

The outbreak of War brought a complete change to our Parish. Hundreds if evacuees began to arrive from London and Plymouth. The newly formed WVS helped the billeting officers to receive them. Large halls were turned into Schools. Whole Schools evacuated into Hotels and canteens were run at each school by the WVS. Every available chapel, hut or school room was in use in some way.

All the houses generally only occupied during the season were occupied Summer and Winter. First aid classes were organised. A War Savings Group was started also a 'Penny a week' fund for the Red Cross.

Gifts were sent to the forces and ammunition Girls. A Pasty Scheme was inaugurated. There were many St John's and Red Cross activities to keep us busy and well trained.

The Home Guard, first called the Local Defence Volunteers, was started in May 1940 and a considerable number of men volunteered.

Mines were laid on the Golf Links along the Coast guarded by barbed wire. Tank traps



An accident on Polzeath beach.

were also built on many roads and all the Beaches.

Cubs, Brownies, Scouts ad Guides are very active. The Church Parade at St Endoc on Thinking Day was a grand sight.

In spring 1944 the Duchess of Kent stayed in Rock with her two children who were recuperating from Whooping Cough.

May 1st A Canteen is opened at Tredrizzick School.

VJ⁺ Day was celebrated by sports for the children in the afternoon, followed by Tea. Some of us went to the Church Service after which we all walked to Trewint, each with our piece of wood for a large Bonfire.

The WI hut at Tredrizzick.



1946

The departure of some of our many evacuees.

We all went to the opening ceremony our new Women's Institute at Tredrizzick, where we had moved from Polzeath in order to be more central.

1947.

The last of the children have been evacuated and our Parish is slowly returning to normal.

1948.

Our Women's Institute is extended as we had outgrown the old hall.

The Lingham Club for ex-service men and women is opened at Polzeath. The name is taken from an old Cornish Carol which had been the marching song of the Trebetherick Home-Guard Platoon.

A new Class-room is added to the Tredrizzick School.

1949.

There is great excitement in Polzeath, as Ann Todd and Norman Wooland arrive to make part of the film 'Madelaine' on the Beach.



The King, Queen and Princess Margaret at St Enodoc Golf Club.

1950.

Wheat, which only fetched 5/- a ton in 1940 now is at 50/- a ton.

The Spire of the Parish Church and of St Enodoc were restored at the cost of about £750. Pityme, Tredrizzick and St Minver receive electricity.

The Parish was honoured by the visit of Their Majesties The King and Queen and Princess Margaret. The Royal car slowed down when passing the School children at Splatt.

Their Majesties had Tea at the Club-house of the St Enodoc Golf Club which the Duchy of Cornwall had recently bought.

As our busy season is upon us, I will have no more time to add to this Diary and I pass

this on to my John's wife on their wedding day next Autumn and I hope she will be able to record her generation.

Acknowledgements.

The Editorial Committee wish to thank all WI Members and other parishioners who have helped to supply material for the compilation of this Scrapbook.

Other sources have been:- The History of the Deanery of Trigg Minor by Sir John Maclean.

A little book of North Cornwall 1920 and The Charm of North Cornwall 1933 both by F A Maycock.

A Short History of the Churches of the Parish of St Minver 1929 by the Rev H A Thomas

A Private personal local Diary.
Notebooks, letters of past Vicars.
Lent by the Vicar, W A Henry.
Parish Magazines.

The Story of Padstow's Life-boats 1827-1927
by Claude Berry.

The most valuable sources of all have been
the recollections which our old Parisioners
have so freely given us.

Every incident in this Diary comes from one
of these sources. Detailed references are
not given to avoid personal embarrassment
in some instances.

Although consent has been obtained from
the family it should be pointed out that
all Mably names are fictitious, and do not
represent real people.

Editorial Committee*

Mrs F Nankwell – Chairman

Mrs B Carhart.

Mrs M Figg.

Mrs A Henry.

Mrs M E Sansom.

Cover by Miss. O M Harvey.

*This is the original 50s editorial committee
who produced this diary. The original cover