



Jenny Oaten <jenny@oaten.name>

Higher Farm

1 message

Jenny Oaten <jenny@oaten.name>
To: Jenny Oaten <jenny@oaten.name>

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1930 - By this time there were only five working farms based in Trebetherick, out of the six recorded in earlier times. These were **Higher Farm**, at the top of the hill, **Lower Farm** on the lane down to the beach, and **Trenain Farm** on the way to Trewint, **Restharrow Farm** and **Trewiston Farm**

2020 - By 2020 there now only exist two working farms, Restharrow and Trewiston Farm. All other farmhouses and barns have been converted into holiday or residential properties.

Harry Male was originally a builder by trade, but demand for building at the turn of the century was low, and in 1902 Harry went to South Africa for a few years, attached to the local Police force, to help with the reconstruction of the railways damaged during the Boer War. On his return he built Linkside and St Enodoc View. His son Basil recalled that the bricks used for building these houses were landed from barges on Daymer beach, on a temporary platform constructed for the purpose.

Higher Farm

Harry married Caroline Mably in 1910. Later on, he decided to become a farmer and bought 180 acre **Higher Farm** at auction. However, the 1929 sale did not include the original farmhouse, leased since 1918 to Colonel Cotton, who subsequently bought it and changed its name to Old Farm so Harry could build himself a new farmhouse for Higher Farm, it was completed in 1930; the date is still visible on its outer wall. Basil Male, Harry's son born in 1915 at Manor Cottage in Rock, took over Higher Farm after his father's death in 1968. He described the system of four-year crop rotation, now long gone, which included ryegrass and clover for cattle feed. The farm made the family self-sufficient.

1939 - By the time the Second World War broke out in 1939 Basil had been married to Edna for two years. Farming was a reserved occupation and so Basil did not have to join up, but many of his friends did, including Geoffrey Buse, killed in service with the RAF. Edna came from Bristol; she and Basil met in the early 1930s when she came to Polzeath with the Wills family to help with the household while they were on holiday. In Edna's kitchen at Higher Farm there was always a ready supply of clotted cream in the fridge, and more in the making on the back of the stove. Basil and Edna retired to a bungalow they built next to Higher Farm's ancient stone barns. They named it Trenoweth, Cornish for 'new house'. Basil and Edna had two children, Midge and Martyn; he took over the farm from his father. Midge's real name is Judith Elizabeth Caroline. Midge trained as a nurse, and then a midwife. She was married to Harry Hardcastle at St Minver in 1966. They had two children, Sarah and Andrew. Harry's passion was always aviation; he joined the RAF in 1954. His parents had moved from Leeds to Trebetherick in 1946 when he was a boy to take over the Daymer Bay Hotel, built originally as No 1 and No 2 The Terrace but then joined together, and now semi-detached houses again: Bar's House and Honeybourne. Midge died in 2013, only a year after her father Basil, and Harry in 2015. Higher Farmhouse was sold for redevelopment in 2014 including most of the fields were sold during Martyn Male's tenure, Sarah continued the family farming tradition by keeping rare breed sheep on the land surrounding Trenoweth and in the old slate-built barn till 2023 when the last of the old barns were sold for sympathetic redevelopment.