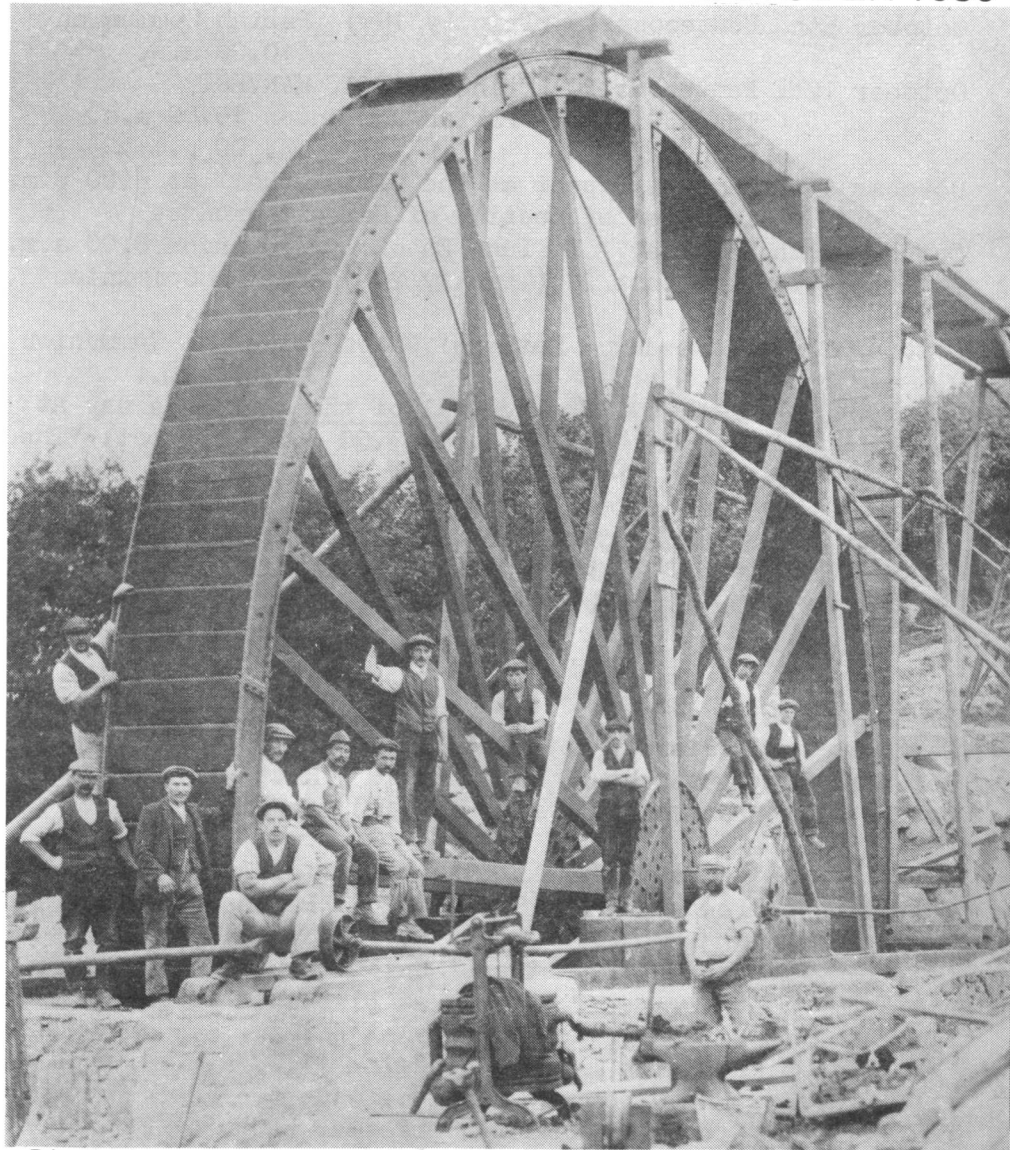


BLISLAND with TEMPLE and ST BREWARD

10p

No. 7

OCTOBER 1980



Priest in charge: The Reverend C. R. Sargisson, The Rectory, Blisland.

Churchwardens (Blisland) Brigadier Edward—Collins.

Mr. G. Masters

(St. Breward) Mr. C. Greenaway

Mrs. S. Hutton

Bodmin: 850249

Cardinham 226

Bodmin 850331

Bodmin 850433

Bodmin 850761

PARISH CALENDARS

BLISLAND with TEMPLE

- October 1st Wednesday Mothers' Union 3.00 p.m.
 October 5th Pentecost 19 (Trinity 18) Parish Communion
 10.00 a.m.
 October 12th Pentecost 20 (Trinity 19) HARVEST
 THANKSGIVING. Parish Communion 10.00 a.m.
 Evensong 3.00 p.m.
 October 13th Harvest Supper at the Village Hall at 6.00 p.m.
 followed by auction of Harvest Produce
 October 18th Saturday St Luke Eu Holy Communion 8.00 a.m.
 October 19th Pentecost 21 (Trinity 20) Parish Communion
 10.00 a.m.
 October 22nd Wednesday Mothers' Union Corporate Communion
 10.00 a.m.
 October 25th Saturday The Renewal of the Church a day at
 Bodmin 11.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. Subject: "The
 Marks of the Christian"
 NB Clocks go back one hour tonight!
 October 26th 9th Sunday before Christmas (Trinity 21)
 Parish Communion 10.00 a.m.
 October 28th Tuesday SS Simon and Jude Apostles. Holy
 Communion 8.00 a.m.

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ST BREWARD

- October 1st Wednesday Mothers' Union at Blisland 3.00 p.m.
 October 5th Pentecost 19 (Trinity 18) Mattins 11.30 a.m.
 October 12th Pentecost 20 (Trinity 19) Parish Communion
 11.30 a.m.
 Harvest Thanksgiving at Blisland
 October 19th Pentecost 21 (Trinity 20) Parish Communion
 11.30 a.m.
 October 22nd Wednesday Mothers' Union Corporate Communion
 at Blisland 10.00 a.m.
 October 25th Saturday Renewal Day at Bodmin. See above and
 Rector's notes Bodmin 11.00 a.m.-3.00 p.m.
 NB Clocks go back one hour tonight!
 October 26th 9th Sunday before Christmas (Trinity 21)
 Parish Communion 11.30 a.m.

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FROM THE PARISH PRIEST

One of the boy Samuel's tasks in the Temple (he was dedicated by his mother to be a kind of Temple Server) was to open the doors. Perhaps this was not only to let the people in but to air the building as well. It may have been noticed that one of my funny little habits in dry weather (! !) is to shut the outer gates of our churches, but to leave open the doors. That is because nearly all Cornish parish churches depend greatly on such action for the circulation of air as a corrective to the damp.

Most people would probably agree that the Church with a capital C (that is all the people of whom it consists) also needs a breath of fresh air, for we, too, can become stuffy and stale. A day of such fresh air is planned for Saturday October 25th at Bodmin, on the theme of "The Marks of Christianity". The programme begins at 11.00 with an opening hymn, followed by a talk "What is Catholic Renewal?" by Fr Martin Flatman of St John's, Newbury. More talks follow on "Being Faithful" and "Being Prayerful" by Mrs Hilda Walter and Mrs Margaret Eustice, and a Question Time takes the Conference to lunchtime (bring your sandwiches, drinks provided). After lunch the Bishop of Aston will speak on "The Marks of the Christian in the World" and the day ends with a concelebrated Eucharist in which the principal celebrant and preacher will be the Bishop of St Germans.

The need for such renewal and fresh air led in 1978 to the great Renewal Conference at Loughborough, when over a thousand of us likeminded people met over four days, in which we became increasingly aware of the promptings of the Spirit. Our own Bishop was one of the leaders. The movement spread regionally with day conferences as focal points. At Loughborough I found myself detailed as convenor for the dioceses of Bristol, Gloucester, Worcester and Hereford, and worked for the movement with a group of representatives from each of them. Fr Kenneth Noakes of Marhamchurch is our convenor on this occasion and should be supported by prayer and action.

Conrad Sargisson

PARISH REGISTERS

Holy Matrimony

David Norman Royce and Catherine Louisa Nankivell were married at St Breward on 23rd August.

We wish David and Kitty all happiness in their home at Whissendine, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire, and hope to see them often here at Treswallock.

Burial

On September 1st at Blisland, Charles Cawrse of Trehudreth Manor, aged 87 years. So many people came to his funeral service that some had to stand, which is an indication of the respect and affection in which he was held. I have heard much said about him and all of it good, and I want his family to know that they have the sympathy of a vast number of friends who have expressed their thankfulness for him.

METHODIST HARVEST FESTIVALS

Blisland

Sunday October 5th, Service at 2.30 p.m.

Preacher Mr. R. Hoskin.

Festival continues on Tuesday October 7th with a Concert to be given by the Treforest Four

Chairman the Reverend Darlington

Refreshments and sale of Produce to follow
All proceeds for Church Funds

St Breward

Sunday October 12th

Morning Service 11 a.m.

Evening Service 6 p.m.

Preacher for both the above Mr W. Hosking of Newquay

Wednesday October 15th
Concert in the Chapel

7.30 p.m.

Pelynt Male Voice Choir

ALL WELCOME



Mr Charles Cawse at Blisland CP School earlier this year. A tribute to Charlie Cawse will appear in our next issue

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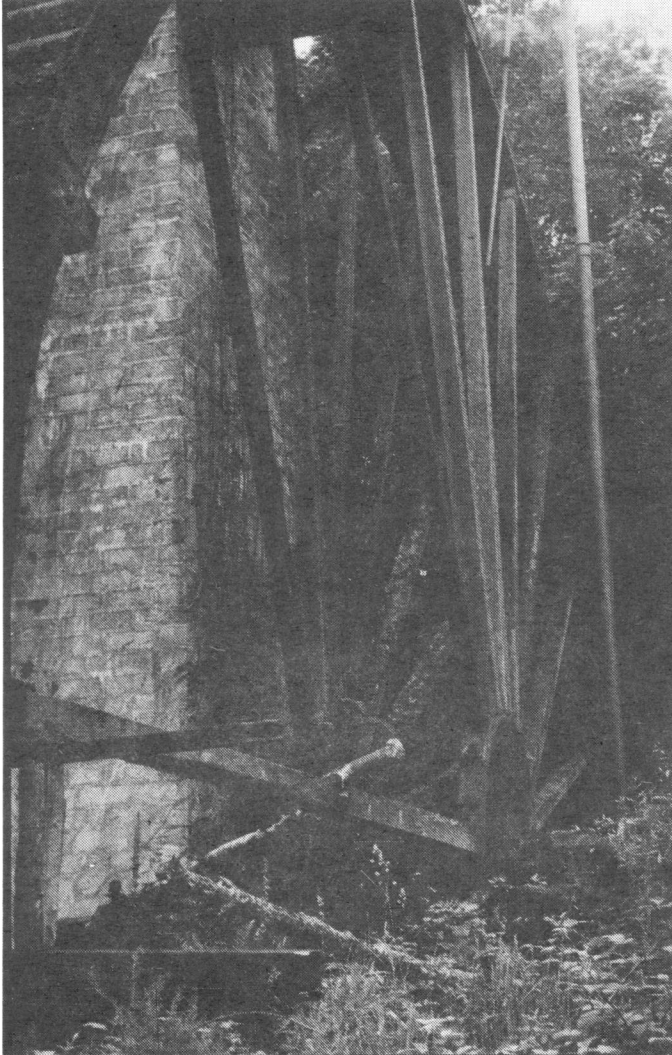
BLISLAND CHURCH Flower Rota for October

October 5th Mrs Draper and Mrs Corns
 October 12th Mrs Ivil and Mrs Borlase
 October 19th Mrs Ivil and Mrs Borlase
 October 26th Mrs Hellen and Mrs Lumley-Smith
 November 5th Mrs Hellen and Mrs Lumley-Smith

THE GREAT GAWNS WATER WHEEL

Many people in Blisland knew the giant Gawns water wheel and some remember when it was installed in the wooded valley to the west of Durfold lane, for Webbers, Hawkens, Greenaways, Northcotts and Harpers all worked with it or in association with it at Greenbarrow Pit. It is a pity that this great wheel ever had to be removed from Blisland for it

was of unique interest to industrial archaeologists, and was a part of village history, dating from a time when Blisland was an important part of the China Clay industry. Gawns wheel, shown here over the pit in which it turned, and on the cover at the time of installation in 1912, was the second largest in the British Isles, being 50 feet in diameter. The largest is the Lady Isabella wheel, still in working order in the Isle of Man. The



Gawns Mill 1912

Gawns wheel was taken away from Blisland in 1971, by the Cornish Water Wheel Preservation Society because it was in extremely poor condition, and due to vandalism and neglect was in imminent danger of collapse. It was hoped to re-erect it elsewhere, but some mystery still surrounds its present whereabouts.*

It's early history is not in doubt. It was built by the firm of Leigh and Howell in Flintshire in 1865 and was used in lead and zinc mines in the Isle of Man, where it was called the Ellan Vamin wheel and was tended by a Cornishman, Captain Richard Rowe who had emigrated from St Agnes to the Isle of Man in 1850, as did many other Cornishmen who could find no work at home. In 1912 the wheel was bought by Mr Frank Parkyn and was transported by rail to Wadebridge and thence by traction engine to the site at Gawns. In its new home it was tended by two more members of the Rowe family, Captain Christopher and his brother Harold.

At Gawns you can still see the great trough in which the wheel turned, as well as the water tower which fed water to the wheel and the engine house that was built in 1931 when the wheel was driven by electricity.

The task the great wheel had to perform was to pump the clay from Greenbarrow Pit a mile and a half away across the moor. This was achieved by a line of solid rods that went all the way from Gawns to the pit, crossing the A.30 by an underground tunnel (one end of this can still be seen on Trehudreth Downs). The rods were carried on legs of varying heights according to the lie of the land. Each rod joint had to be heavily greased and people who remember seeing it in action will tell you how many cattle damaged their tongues by trying to lick off the delectable grease.

R. Chadburn

*I have no doubt that our historian has tried hard to solve this mystery, for mystery it certainly is, and I must put in a word here, for I have in my possession a letter from Alan Dalton of E.C.L.P. answering an inquiry I had made on behalf of the Camel Valley Protection Group. The letter is dated 18th Jan 1972 and this is what he wrote "We dismantled the wheel in August 1971 and it has been removed to Wheal Remfry for restoration and storage. We shall keep it in store until the Trevithick Society can find a suitable site for it." In view of this I hope to have some more news for you in our next issue.

Editor.

BLISLAND PARISH COUNCIL

August is always a quiet month with an end-of-term feel to it. There is little news to report for we spent most of our time tying up loose ends of outstanding business. On the agenda was the perennial question of who was to cut back the undergrowth - or should I say overgrowth - in the Ham. . Everyone who uses this path to Waterloo will be happy to know that we have persuaded the good soul who did it for us last year to repeat his 'Star turn'. By the time you read this report it should have been done.

Failure of street lights are reported to us from time to time, so with the advent of winter just around the corner we would like to remind you that both Mr. White-way at the Post Office and Mr Harris at Pentor hold supplies of S.W.E.B. cards for reporting breakdowns, so do please contact one of these two Councillors who will do what is required. Let's try to keep what lights we do have in working order.

After complaints from the residents of Waterloo about the lorry that failed to negotiate the bridge, and left its unwelcome traces, a visit was made by Mr Powell of Highways and Byways, to see what could be done to deter large vehicles from taking this route through to St Breward. The outcome is that blue 'Warning' signs are to be erected at both entrances north and south of the hamlet. We hope they will prove a deterrent to adventurous but unwanted enormous lorries that are obviously inappropriate to this narrow road.

The new mowing machine seems to be a good investment, and the Green has taken on a new lease of life. Several visitors have congratulated villagers on the enterprise we have shown in replanting the trees and on the pride we take in our Green. Well that's as we like it, but so far this pride has only been demonstrated by the Rector and Mr Alkamade who have joined the ladies in the grass cutting business. Come on the rest of you - this machine is a real delight to use.

Eileen Walford

THE GREYNA GREEN OF BLISLAND

TEMPLE takes its name from the Knights Templars, a military and religious order founded in 1118, nearly nine hundred years ago, at the time of the Crusades. The purpose of the Order was to defend the Temple at Jerusalem and to protect pilgrims travelling to the Holy Land. Their badge was a red cross on a white ground, still familiar to us today and associated with voluntary nursing and charitable works. The Knights established churches and hostels for travellers all over Europe, and tradition has it that pilgrims travelling from Ireland were in the habit of avoiding the hazards of sailing round Lands End, by going up the Padstow estuary, probably as far as Wadebridge, maybe further, and then carrying their boats overland to the Fowey river. Padstow was an important port, and Fowey probably the busiest harbour on the South coast, from which many travellers from the West country would have embarked for Europe. What more probable, then, than that the Knights Templar built their church and refuge on the moor to accommodate travellers who passed over this wild stretch of country on their way to the Holy Land.

The Knights Templars were suppressed in the Fourteenth Century and their lands were handed over to the Knights Hospitallers -- the Knights of the Order of St John of Jerusalem, founded in 1048 and, like the Red Cross, having as their symbol a cross (the eight pointed white cross of Malta on a black ground) which is still associated with the care of the sick today. Temple remained in the hands of the Hospitallers until the Reformation when Henry VIIIth suppressed the Order and confiscated their lands. A hundred years later these passed to the Wrey family.

The church, dedicated to St Catherine, became famous as a place where marriages could be performed without banns or license. Described by one old writer as "lying in a wild wastrell, exempted from the Bishop's jurisdiction, where many a bad marriage bargain is yearly slubbered up", it was referred to by John Norden, who visited it in 1584, as "a lawless church where manie badd marriages are consumated and where are wonte to be buried such as wrcowght violent death on themselves", thus reminding us that in his day those who had committed suicide might not be buried in consecrated ground.



The ruins of Temple as they looked to an unknown artist before the church was rebuilt in the second half of the last century.

Many runaway couples must have eloped across the moor before an act was passed in 1753 declaring such marriages to be illegal. Unfortunately the old marriage registers have been lost. As a result of this act Temple lost its

passing congregation, and presumably a fruitful source of income, and soon fell into disuse. No services were held for more than a century, and sometime during those years the roof caved in, killing a tramp who was sheltering inside.

The church remained under the care of vicars of neighbouring parishes -- Warleggan, St Neot and Helland, and then in 1850 the Reverend Edward Steele of St Neot held a service in the ruins, and started a fund for rebuilding it. His work was carried on two years later by Reverend J.R. Brown of Helland, who succeeded in raising enough money for the project. The architect, Silvanus Trevail of Truro, drew up the plans free of charge, and many features from the ruined building were incorporated. The new plans followed as nearly as possible those of the original church of the Knights Templars and was built on the existing foundations. The ancient tower arch was kept and wherever possible relics and other stones were used. The base of the old Norman font is preserved in the inner doorway, and various stones bearing the engraved crosses of the Templars and the Hospitallers can be discovered in the fabric. The ancient silver communion cup and plate -- dated 1577, which had been removed to Blisland for safe keeping before 1784, were returned, and many gifts were made by local people whose names are still known in the district. The font was given by Mrs Edward-Collins in memory of her husband the Reverend C.M. Edward-Collins; an alms dish, a brass bowl and a pair of chairs by Colonel and Mrs Goldsworthy; kneeling cushions were worked and presented by the Misses Collins, Mrs Peters and Miss Prynne. The communion cloth was embroidered by Mrs Brown, wife of the Reverend J. R. Brown, and many more gifts were made by members of the clergy in neighbouring or associated parishes.

The new church was opened and consecrated on 30th May 1883 by the Bishop of Truro, Dr Benson, who went on to become Archbishop of Canterbury. Over two thousand people attended the service although they could not possibly all have crowded inside. The church is dedicated to St Catherine, a Christian of royal blood living in Alexandria in the third or fourth century. She was condemned to be torn to pieces by four spiked wheels, but was saved when a flash of lightning descended and shattered the wheels, killing her captors. This was the origin of the firework known as a Catherine Wheel.

R. Chadburn

ST BREWARD SCOUTS — A CRY FOR HELP

Scouting has been enjoyed in St Breward for many years. The Group was formed in 1963 when local scouts ceased to attend the 3rd Bodmin Group meetings and moved their activities to the village, under the Leadership of the Schoolmaster, Mr. O. Martin, and his assistant Roger Winn. You probably know Roger better as the St Breward Football Club Secretary. The schoolmaster has long since retired and moved away, and Roger has been promoted to the exalted position of Scout Leader.

Over the years for which we have records St Breward Scouts annual attendance has varied from 16 in 1970 to 21 in 1971, after which it progressively dropped to an all time low of only four in 1980. In 1974/5/6 there were additionally 12 Cub Scouts. At that time Roger was fortunate in having assistance in this Section from a couple of enthusiasts who have since left the village, in consequence this Section had to be abandoned. All this time Roger Winn has continued year by year against extreme odds, in difficult times, with cheerfulness and enthusiasm. He was awarded the Scout Medal of Merit in recognition of his long and faithful service to Scouting.

Now the main purpose of this article is not to sing Roger's praises but rather to appeal to ANY reader -- whether they have scouting experience or not, to come and help, especially with the younger age group 8 - 11 years. Assistance is desperately needed. It requires enthusiasm, energy and training. We can provide the latter if you have the first two ingredients. You need not be resident in St Breward. Blisland or the general area of St Breward will suit as well.

St Breward has the potential to provide a good Scout Group of both Cub Scouts and Scouts. Recruits are there for the asking -- but Leaders and their assistants are not. We often condemn modern youth for its lack of good manners and discipline. Are YOU prepared to spare one night a week to give the training that fosters those qualities ?

A. Dixon,
17 Lanhydrock View or Roger Winn
Bodmin.
 4 Penvorder Cottages,
 St Breward.

A.Dixon, District Commissioner, Scout Association, Bodmin.

[illegible]

In August everyone is busy with holiday affairs of one sort or another, and the routine life of our villages gets well and truly disrupted. Because of the oddities of deadlines and printing schedules this is not reflected in the August, or even in the September issue of the magazine, but now in October when the children have been back at school for weeks, the familiar items of news from the Women's Institutes, the Over Sixties, the Sunday Schools, the Youth Clubs and so on are missing. However by the time you read this all these functions will be under way again and I hope that reports will be reaching me soon for inclusion in the November issue. What happened in the summer ? Did any readers go anywhere special ? Did St Breward Silver Band blow away in the rain and gales ? Let's hear from you.

Copy for the November issue should reach me around the 8th or 9th of October. I shall be away until the 7th, so don't try to phone me before then.

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The River Camel and its Bridges

"On 16th July 1847 a waterspout burst on Davidstow Moora wall of water from 12 to 18 feet above the usual level of the river swept down the Camel Valley carrying everything before it. It was a hot sultry afternoon with a clear sky, and men working in the fields at Gam Bridge could hardly believe their senses when they saw the water approaching them. Gam Bridge stayed the flood for a moment but soon gave way and the infuriated water attacked Wenford Bridge with a regular bombardment of tree trunks and other things plundered from the meadows. A mineral train happened to be in the station at Wenford Bridge, and the driver with great presence of mind drove his engine at full speed down the valley shouting to the people to leave the riverside. He was not a moment too soon. Wenford Bridge broke beneath the



'Digging out' Wenford Bridge in April 1977

strain and Poleys Bridge followed suit. Tresarrett Bridge was swept away. Helland Bridge showed that the mediaeval bridge builders knew their business, for despite the depth and narrowness of the valley, the water failed to break it, but rising above the parapet, swept on and brought their battery of trees and hayricks against the ancient bridge of Dunmeer. This was soon swept away together with the railway bridge by its side . . . All the bridges but Helland and Wadebridge (the two oldest) were in ruins and for twelve months remained impassable. Many years later pieces of hay, straw and mud could still be seen in the branches of trees at Dunmeer 20 feet above the ordinary water level."

So wrote Mr Charles Henderson in his fascinating book "Old Cornish Bridges and Streams" (published by D. Bradford Barton Ltd of Truro). There have been many occasions since then (almost annually ?),

"When the river runs like a mad boy through
the valley
Seizing in strong sly fingers its sons and
daughters,"

(to quote from Charles Causley's Collected Poems), but there has never been such a general catastrophe. As far as I know the rebuilt bridges in our parishes have withstood the elements since the 1847 deluge, though Wenford Bridge was 'dug out' and fully resurfaced in the spring of 1977, in order presumably to cope with the heavy china clay lorries.

There are several smaller bridges which are not mentioned in Henderson - the bridge at Coombe, a solid clapper bridge (where there was once a ford ?); the beautiful little clapper bridge at Higher Lank on the footpath across to Penrose Burden, and the old wooden bridge, now in disrepair, built below Tresarrett for the clay dries by the railway. Does anyone know when these bridges were constructed ?

Although the name Camel is ancient (Camalan means crooked river) for many years, up to the eighteenth century it was known as the Alan (Alan was a common Celtic name for a river, like Avon up-country). When the Ordnance Survey map was prepared early in the nineteenth hundreds, the name Alan (Allen) was transferred to the next valley westwards (formerly the Laine), and thus the names have remained since.

Donald Bousfield

THE GARAGE, BLISLAND, BODMIN, CORNWALL

Head Office

Looe "