

## GODREVEY LIGHTHOUSE

A submerged reef off Godrevy Island stretches for about one mile towards St Ives known as the 'Stones' or 'Nine Maidens' (at low tide nine peaks are visible). It has claimed many victims. Until the 19th century there was no obligation for their burial, skeletons are still found on the Gwithian dunes. In 1649, after his execution, a ship carrying Charles I and his Queen's belongings ran aground and sank by the island, this 'royal treasure' still attracts divers.

As coastal shipping increased so did wrecks. After the loss of the SS Nile and its crew (1854) James Walker designed the Lighthouse for Trinity House. The 86 foot (26 metre) octagonal tower cost £7,082 15s 7d and took over a year to build due to delays from bad weather and sightseers. Storms stranded contractors on the island for up to a fortnight, with no food and water. It was lit on 1st March 1859. It was altered in 1939 and converted to solar power in 1995.

## NATURE NOTES

St Gothian Sands LNR (2005), previously a sand quarry, soon began attracting wildlife such as newts and toads through the development of the lake and pools. Sandbanks were created to encourage sand martins to colonise. Situated close to the sea and a large cliff expanse makes it an ideal location for birds of prey including peregrine falcon, buzzard and kestrel. The site attracts migrants such as wheatear, water pipit and black redstart. Skylarks nest in the grasses, their song filling the air in spring and summer.

Larger creatures such as foxes and rabbits can be seen and a variety of insects including a plentiful range of butterflies; for instance red admiral, common blue, small copper, peacock and moths including six spotted burnet, emperor and tiger.

Amongst the dunes there are also adders (take care), slow worms and lizards. On a misty day the wolf spider webs glisten in the marram grass and gorse while the white-lipped and painted snails, a good food

source for the glow worm beetles, are best seen after rain. Look for the brilliant yellow-green light of the female glow worm attracting a mate in the summer after dusk.

Gwithian Green LNR (local nature reserve) is a small reserve in the heart of the village with a habitat mosaic of grassland, wetland and woods. A very quiet and tranquil place highly valued by the local residents it is best enjoyed in very small groups to minimize disturbance to wildlife. There is an interpretive board on site, also available from [www.ggpc.org.uk/gwithian-green](http://www.ggpc.org.uk/gwithian-green) where there is further information.

Tell Cornwall Council if you see: Japanese knotweed or Ragwort

Your name

## QUIZ

1. What do the two heads in the west side of the tower of St Winnear Church represent? .....
2. What is the Cornish for The Pool of the Iron Chief? .....
3. Godrevy lighthouse and island inspired the novel 'To the Lighthouse'. Who was the author? .....
4. What is the river called that flows across the sand to the sea at Gwithian? .....
5. What does Reawla mean? .....
6. What does LNR stand for? .....
7. When was Gwinear Football Club founded? .....
8. What was the sealed chamber at Lanyon Manor filled with? .....
9. What was visible to the naked eye in 1811? .....
10. What is planted to stabilize sand dunes? .....
11. What is special about Gwithian Methodist Chapel? .....
12. Which large mammal can often be seen in the sea or on the beach at Godrevy Point? .....
13. Rosewarne and Herland Mines produced what? .....
14. How many people's names are read out on Remembrance Sunday under the lych gate? .....
15. What is the mark on the bells at St Gothian Church .....  
and who was the bell-founder? .....
16. The last person to speak only Cornish was ..... who died in 1676 at? .....
17. Who was responsible for the closing of Gwinear Road Station ..... and when? .....
18. How long did the Gwithian churchyard fig tree live? .....
19. How many houses between the Hall for Gwinear and the church have water taps outside them? .....
20. What is the number of the letter box beside the Royal Standard Inn, Gwinear? .....

... WE HOPE YOU ENJOYED YOUR WALK

LOOK FOR ...

EASY

Canada Geese  
Gulls  
Blackberries  
Hartstongue  
Bumble Bees

QUITE EASY

Cowslips  
Pond Skaters  
Meadow Brown  
Butterfly  
Buzzards  
Rabbits

NOT EASY

Dragonflies  
Common Reed  
Meadow Pipit  
Grasshoppers

HARDISH

Cinnabar  
Moth  
Stone Chat  
Sea Holly  
Red Admiral

REALLY HARD

Greenshield Bug  
Peregrine Falcon  
Pyramid Orchid  
Mining Bee  
Voles  
Adder

F S A F T N B Z J R S Y M Y A S  
 G N S H E T I Q B M D A V I B K  
 G A C N S L B L E T D D R Q R V  
 N W A D W P W X L D N O X T C P  
 A O R G R O W A A E S T U Z S F  
 H T N D O I D R C E M O R E J N  
 X N H I R D F R W N E E U S F Y  
 R O E H N H R O O S E W C X A A  
 A T L E N A R E V N S R O N N Q  
 E P L F D T I E V T N A R D A L  
 N U G H H M P H U Y M O S I L N  
 I I R Y Z E O D T Y P E C A X E  
 W X E J L Q O S X I Y O W V I V  
 G A E M F D O N F Y W Y I G O L  
 B J N H I M G E C B V G S N C O  
 L A R E V E D A L W A E R F T M

## OUT & ABOUT

Find some of the hamlets and villages within the Gwinear-Gwithian Parish listed below "hidden" in the word search.

CONNOR DOWNS  
 WALL  
 NANCEMELLIN  
 GWITHIAN  
 ROSEWORTHY  
 GODREY POINT  
 CARNHELL GREEN  
 FRADDAM  
 GWINEAR  
 UPTON TOWANS  
 DEVERAL  
 REAWLA

The ancient civil parishes of Gwinear and Gwithian were combined to form the parish of Gwinear-Gwithian in 1934. It covers 2,977 hectares, from the coastline at Godrevy Point down to Fraddam, incorporating the villages of Gwithian, Gwinear, Connor Downs, Carnhell Green, and the hamlets of Fraddam, Wall, Reawla, Roseworthy, and Upton Towans.

Around Gwinear there is archaeological evidence of farming going back at least to the 2nd century. Gwithian sand dunes cover the site of a Bronze Age farm with the remains of huts, fields and evidence of domesticated animals including sheep, pigs, horses and cows.

Gwinear Church is dedicated to St Winnear (the son of an Irish pagan king). The living has been held by Exeter College since 1261. There were once 5 manors which held land in the parish, Connerton, Drannick, Gurlyn, Polkinghorne, and Roseworthy. A booklet, available in the church for a small fee, has interesting facts about the church and churchyard, visit [www.godrevytm.org.uk](http://www.godrevytm.org.uk) for more on its bells and bellringers.

Gwithian was the former administrative centre of the Penwith Hundred: the institutions of the hundred were moved to Penzance circa 1771 following large successive inundations of in-blown sand. Its first church built in 490, with ancient graves and relics of St Gothian (patron saint of good fortune on the sea), was uncovered from the beach and dunes during the early part of the last century, then allowed to be reclaimed by the shifting sands. The current church was established further inland in the 15th century but only a few fragments of this building remain incorporated in the lychgate of Edmund Sedding's church of 1866 (the tower however is the original one of the 15th century.) Its three bells dated 1753 bear the mark of a bell, a pun on the Christian name of the bell-founder, Abel Rudhall. A short history is available in the church.

St Gothian Feast Day is celebrated on the Sunday nearest November 2. Although St Gwinear's feast is officially 23 March it is celebrated in May.

Nowadays farming is still the main industry. In recent years the Parish has seen a large influx of European workers employed by a major vegetable packing/distribution business. Other farms not directly involved in food production have diversified into farm shops, farm markets, and catering. The Parish has a substantial number of visitors, particularly to the beaches; and a large number of campsites. There is much to offer visitors that often goes unnoticed, Gwithian Green is an excellent example of this, plus a good provision of footpaths and bridleways, villages and churches of historic interest, and places to eat and drink.

Tourism makes a significant contribution to the area with six caravan and camping sites, visitors keen to use the beaches at Gwithian and Godrevy, the latter owned by the National Trust. Gwithian Beach stretches three miles from the Hayle River mouth to the Red River at Godrevy and is popular throughout the year with surfers, windsurfers, kitesurfers, surf kayakers and more recently stand-up paddlers.

The Parish has seen substantial growth in affordable housing, with Connor Downs in particular earmarked through the former Penwith District Council as a village for development. In addition, on the edge of the Parish there has been the growth of the West Cornwall Retail Park.

There are a number of pro-active residents' associations, and a good cross-section of community groups and associations. Amongst our community halls, The Hall for Gwinear offers a performing arts programme through the Carn to Cove initiative. Gwinear Community Primary School received an Ofsted rating of 1 - Outstanding for its work in 2009, which is a remarkable achievement.

Annual events include the Gwinear Agricultural Show usually held in various fields throughout the parish on the last Saturday in April, occasionally first Saturday in May. Monies raised are used for promoting the next year's show and renewing equipment. Wall Music Festival running since 1987 held in Wall Methodist Church, usually in mid-May. This event started in a small way but now is a six day Festival. It rarely has any excess funds, any go to preparing for following years Festival. Carnhell Green Charity Vintage Rally started approximately 18 years ago in a small way, now a very successful rally. Held on the second Saturday in August in a field midway between Carnhell Green and Wall. Money raised is split between funding the next year's rally, Cornwall Hospice Care, Childrens Hospice SW and Cornwall First Air Ambulance.

Want to learn more? See [www.ggpc.org.uk](http://www.ggpc.org.uk), [www.gwithianchapel.org.uk](http://www.gwithianchapel.org.uk), [www.gwithian.org.uk](http://www.gwithian.org.uk) and 'Churks, Clidgy & Doodle-Dashers - Hayle Tales & Trails' [hayletaleshome.blogspot.co.uk](http://hayletaleshome.blogspot.co.uk)



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Walking and learning for all with

# The Gwinear - Gwithian Family Activity Trail

with the Hayle area 'Walkers are Welcome'

ROUTE MAP • QUIZ • HERITAGE AND NATURE NOTES  
WORD SEARCH • EYE-SPY • A FUN WALK FOR ALL AGES



4ft 6in cross  
Gwithian church

2 points



OS benchmark  
Gwinear church

3 points

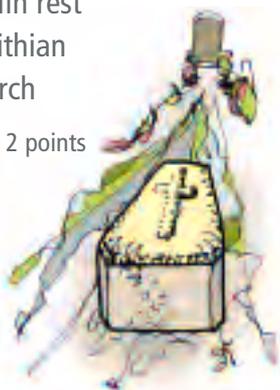


Joy and Sadness

Gwinear church  5 points

Coffin rest  
Gwithian church

2 points



Ornate water pump  
Polkinghorne Manor

8 points



John Harvey's tomb

Gwinear church  3 points

Arched gate Gwinear church

3 points



'GR' letterbox,  
Churchtown  
Gwinear

2 points



Indian head

Gwinear church  6 points

Eye-Spy total



# The Gwinear - Gwithian Family Activity Trail

## Parking

- P** Payment required
- P** Free parking
- P** On-road parking

## Facilities

- C** Café
- R** Restaurant
- S** Shop

## Distances

- ..... 3 miles church to church walk - easy
- - - 3.2 miles circular walk - easy
- ..... 1 mile walk - easy
- - - 1.4 mile circular walk - easy

## Suitability

All four walks are classified 'easy'. They may be muddy in wet weather, there are some hills though none are very steep. None of the walks here are suitable for wheelchairs.

Be aware of Adders, they will keep out of your way if you leave them alone.

If you walk over the dunes onto the beach please be aware of incoming tides, the beach soon becomes half the size it was.

Please don't forget to take all that you brought with you, back home.  
Take away memories. Leave only footprints ...

Always remember to follow the Countryside Code when out and about ...  
"stick to the paths, close gates, pick up after your dog and pocket your litter" ... thank you.

- |                                     |  |                                  |
|-------------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| <b>1</b> Godrevy Light House        | <b>13</b> Cemetery                         | <b>25</b> Lanyon Manor           |
| <b>2</b> Red River LNR              | <b>14</b> The Turnpike Inn                 | <b>26</b> National Cycle Route 3 |
| <b>3</b> St Gothian's Chapel        | <b>15</b> Elizabeth Sampson Playing Fields | <b>27</b> The Pendarves Inn      |
| <b>4</b> St Gothian Sands LNR       | <b>16</b> Milestone, Angarrack Lane        | <b>28</b> Wall Methodist Chapel  |
| <b>5</b> Gwithian Green LNR         | <b>17</b> Trevaskis Farm Shop              | <b>29</b> The Manse              |
| <b>6</b> Gwithian Church            | <b>18</b> Rosewarne Manor                  | <b>30</b> The Tye                |
| <b>7</b> Methodist Chapel, Gwithian | <b>19</b> Roseworthy Arsenic Works         | <b>31</b> Reawla Play Park       |
| <b>8</b> The Jam Pot                | <b>20</b> Holy Well, Roseworthy            | <b>32</b> Cober Villa            |
| <b>9</b> Red River Inn              | <b>21</b> The Hood Settlement              | <b>33</b> Gwinear Pitch & Putt   |
| <b>10</b> Trevannon Round           | <b>22</b> Polkinghorne Manor               | <b>34</b> Gwinear Football Pitch |
| <b>11</b> National Explosives Works | <b>23</b> Gwinear Church                   | <b>35</b> Royal Standard Inn     |
| <b>12</b> Allotments                | <b>24</b> Arched Gateway                   | <b>36</b> The Hall for Gwinear   |

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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For more information on Hayle Walkers are Welcome contact: WAW@hayletowncouncil.net.

More walks around Gwinear-Gwithian Parish can be found at [www.walk4life.info/find-a-walk](http://www.walk4life.info/find-a-walk).

**34** Gwinear Churchtown Football Club was founded in 1993 with the sole aim of giving the young people of the community something to keep them occupied each week. The surrounding community helped with the hard work of transforming a farmer's field into a football pitch and converting out buildings to changing rooms. An amazing feat for a small village!

John Harvey (1730-1803) a blacksmith and engineer Cambell Green until in 1779 formed the iron foundry at Hayle, Harveys of Hayle, later Harvey & Co which was renowned for its beam engines, one installed at Levant Mine in 1840 is still in place. The company also produced hand tools, ocean going ships eg SS Cornubia (1858) and the tenor bell at Stithians Church. John is buried in St Winnear Churchyard. His daughter, Jane, who was born at Cambell Green, married Richard Trevithick.

Whilst on an archaeological dig at Godrevy Point, Jessica Mann discovered the remains of 'huts' at a cliff-top Roman site of around 400AD. The name Godrevy is thought to be derived from the "huts", which translated from Cornish means 'little house hut'. Seals are a common sight on the beach and breeding colonies of guillemot, razorbill, fulmar and cormorant can be seen on the cliffs. The lighthouse is thought to have inspired Virginia Woolf's novel, 'The Lighthouse'.

25th April 1801 edition of the Cornwall Gazette Newspaper reported that Edward Bawden of Gwithian was indicted at the Old Bailey before Lord Kenyon for wilfully and maliciously firing off a gun loaded with gunpowder and a leaden bullet at John Arnold, an Officer of the Excise at Marazion in Cornwall, on 6th September at Gwithian, Cornwall. Witnesses called on behalf of the prisoner positively swore that the prisoner never quitted his room from eight until he went to bed at two o'clock. Lord Kenyon summed up with much impartiality, and laid down the law in a clear and distinct manner. The Jury, without the least hesitation, acquitted the prisoner.

**25** Two maidservants, out of curiosity, took up some of the floor boards in the room above a sealed chamber at Lanyon House and let down a candle on a string. For some unexplained reason the haunted room was half-full of feathers.

**1** Upton Towans (Dynamite Towans) straddling the parishes of Gwinear-Gwrithian and Phillack was the site of the National Explosives Company (1888-1919) producing nitroglycerine and dynamite initially for mining and then cartridges, cordite and gun cotton charges for torpedoes for the War Office. Bunkers and the red brick chimney are still visible. In 1904 part of the nitroglycerine plant blew up killing four men. The explosion was said to have been heard by a farmer in the middle of Dartmoor. The area is dotted with deep depressions where around thirty shafts of the Boiling Well Mine were dug between 1821 and 1856 for copper, lead and zinc. The National Explosives Company needed a large supply of pure water, this was pumped up from the old abandoned mine. The main water pump was built on the old Engine shaft.

**8** The Jam Pot, Gwrithian, originally a coastguard lookout built in early C19 by the first coastguard in Gwrithian and chief boatman in the Preventive Service, William Fair, (1775 - 1860). Overlooking the whole of St Ives Bay and Godrevy, it is now a café and shop selling basic groceries etc., as well as a good range of books and beach goods.

**3** The sand dunes (towans) of St Ives Bay is second largest system in Cornwall. In mediaeval times this was an important settlement area but was always subject to shifting sand. It claimed the once prominent village, Conerton, and the original ancient St Gothian's Chapel buried 3 times under the sands. One night in 1651 the occupants of Upton Barton farmhouse could only get out through the windows because of blown sand. Over 200 years ago Parish Officers of Gwrithian Churchtown planted marram grass on the dunes to stop sand blowing and burying their village.

The witch of Fraddam was reputed to be the most powerful witch in the West Country, concocting poisonous brews and creating great mischief.

**2** The Tye is a large long bank of spoil, clearly visible, from the open cast medieval mining carried out in its vicinity.

The Red River Valley (LNR) stretches from Camborne to the sea at Gwrithian. During the mining upstream the river ran orange-red from the mineral deposits hence its name, nowadays the river is clear. However, a legend says St Winnear, killed with his companions at Roseworthy by the Cornish pagan King Teudar, was so annoyed by the sound of women quarrelling close by that he picked up his head and washed it in the stream which ran red and from then became known as the Red River.

The Tin Streams, were based between Gwrithian village and Godrevy where the Sandsifter stands and the adjoining National Trust land. Tin ore was recovered from beach sand from the late C19 until WW2. This concentration of the operation on sea sand was different from other operations on the Red River.

Chesten Marchant, who died in 1676 at Gwrithian is believed to have been the last monoglot Cornish speaker (as opposed to Dolly Pentreath of Paul who could speak English).

**7** Gwrithian Methodist Church thought to be the only remaining thatched chapel in Britain opened in February 1811 (the same year as the Great Comet was visible to the naked eye for around 260 days). It replaced one lost to the sand in Gwrithian in 1771. Its history and Methodism in the area can be found at [www.gwrithianchapel.org.uk](http://www.gwrithianchapel.org.uk).

The village Connor Downs developed around a farmstead, owes its growth to the main turnpike road constructed in 1829 (hence the "Turnpike Inn" an earlier 17th, early 18th century property).



**24** The arched gateway into the former Gwinear vicarage copies the oriental ogee arches fashionable in the late Georgian era. Sections from original church windows have been recycled in the lower arch over the opening.

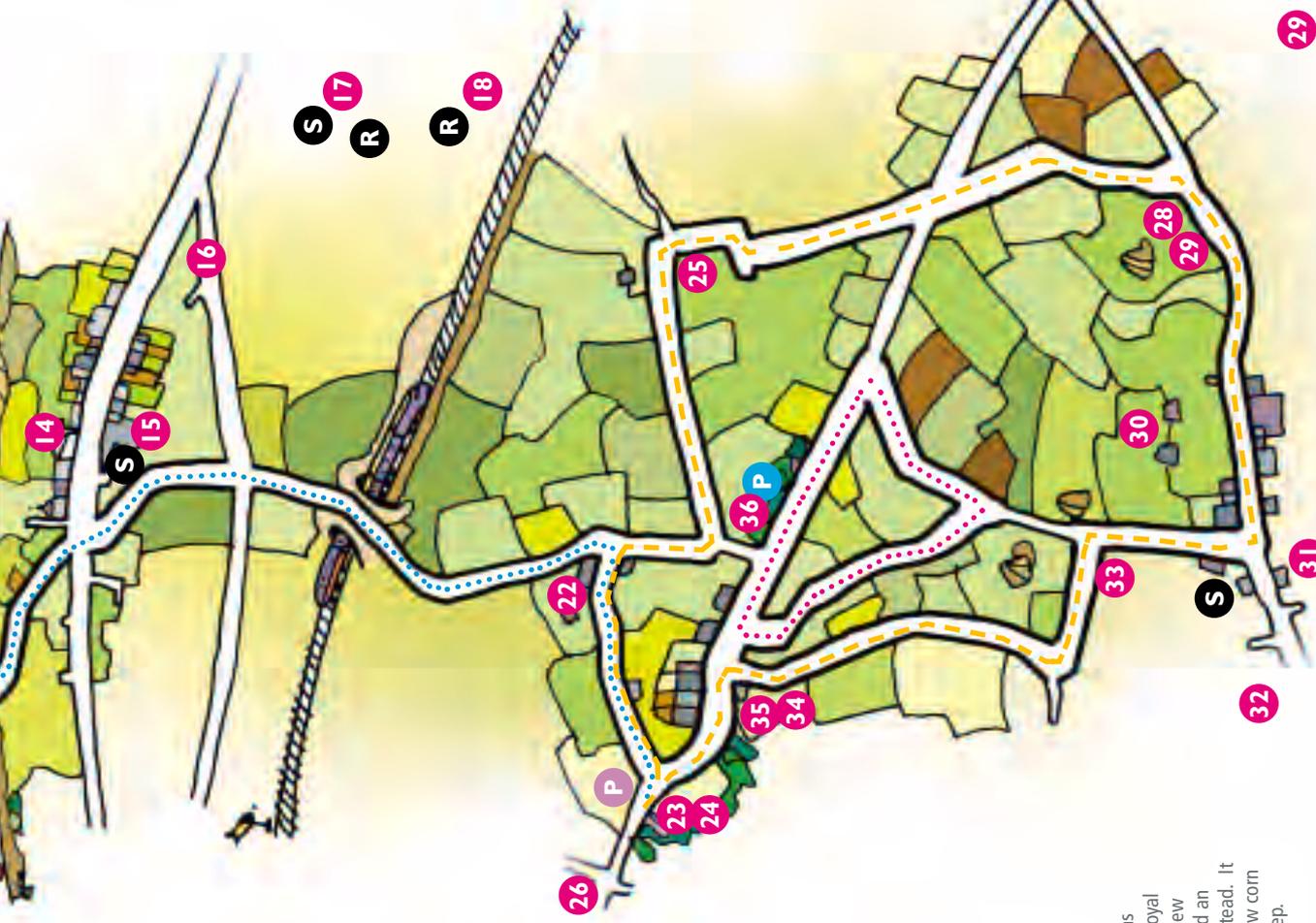
Silver and copper mines and related industries were important in the 18th and 19th centuries. Rosewarne and Herland produced silver, Wheal Alfred and Relistian copper. One of the first steam engines in the world, with a 70 inch cylinder, was erected at Herland Mine in 1758, believed to be the world's largest silver mine at the time. Roseworthy Hammer Mills Company made shovels, chains and boilers etc for the mines and was still in business in the 1940s with lakes to work the waterwheel.

**19** **20** **21**

A fig tree planted in 1780 in St Winnear churchyard wall survived until 1930.

One day in the C19 a wagoner of notoriously evil habits was found lying dead near Wall village, where a field path, which formerly led from a mine, emerges through a stile on to the road, having apparently been run over by the wheels of his own wagon. Shortly after the body had been removed a companion of the deceased, whose route from the mine followed this pathway, arrived home in a very distraught condition. On being questioned by his wife, he stated that the wagoner had joined him at the stile, and walked with him for a considerable distance. During that time he had spoken words which the miner could not bring himself to repeat. From that day he sickened and began to lose all his strength, and not long afterwards died. This incident was well remembered by people living in the district, and was confirmed by the most circumstantial evidence.

**29** The Manse, at Wall, now a private home extensively restored, was built after the chapel circa 1860 by the Reverend Sir Vyell Vyvian of Treloarren who owned it until the 1920s. It was then passed to a management committee of Methodist church members. One of the garden walls was part of the original chapel previously a carpenter's shed.



**16** The milestone, Angarrack Lane (Horsepool) was the point of three parishes meeting. Recorded in 1613 as "Pit an Wollan" in old Cornish, today the meaning is lost.

On Remembrance Sunday the names of those who died in the two World Wars are called out under the Lych Gate at St Winnear where they are inscribed. A number are still family names in the area.

Gwinear Road station opened in 1852 and by 1887 was a junction for the Helston Railway. The goods yard lay west of the station to the north of the line and extensive sidings were constructed alongside the main line east of the level crossing to handle traffic for the branch. It closed 8 October 1964 as part of the cuts by Dr Richard Beeching.

**22** There was a civil airfield at Polkinghome from February 1933 - September 1939, near the Roman road, where there are two old milestones. The name Polkinghome which translates as "The Pool of the Iron Chief" first occurred in 1299 when Roger de Polkinghome settled just north of Gwinear. The family continued there until 1884, the male line until 1662 then the female line, when it was bought by the Laity family.

Archaeological excavations carried out at Reawla (Royal Place) prior to building new homes in 1987 unearthed an iron age defended farmstead. It showed that farmers grew corn and wheat and kept sheep. Artefacts, some from the Mediterranean, are now in Truro museum. It is still possible to see the outer ring of the settlement to the right of the stile on the public footpath.

Gwinear Church tower is one of six in West Cornwall where fires were lit as a guide to seafarers in earlier times. The mason's mark, a Red Indian head, is at the top right of the block on the tower's north wall. Two heads, sadness and joy, on the west side are typical of Norman grotesques.

Fraddam blacksmith, David Pascoe, was known nationally as being the only person able to sharpen the special drills to bore the holes for blasting Blue Elvan stone, the hardest in the United Kingdom.