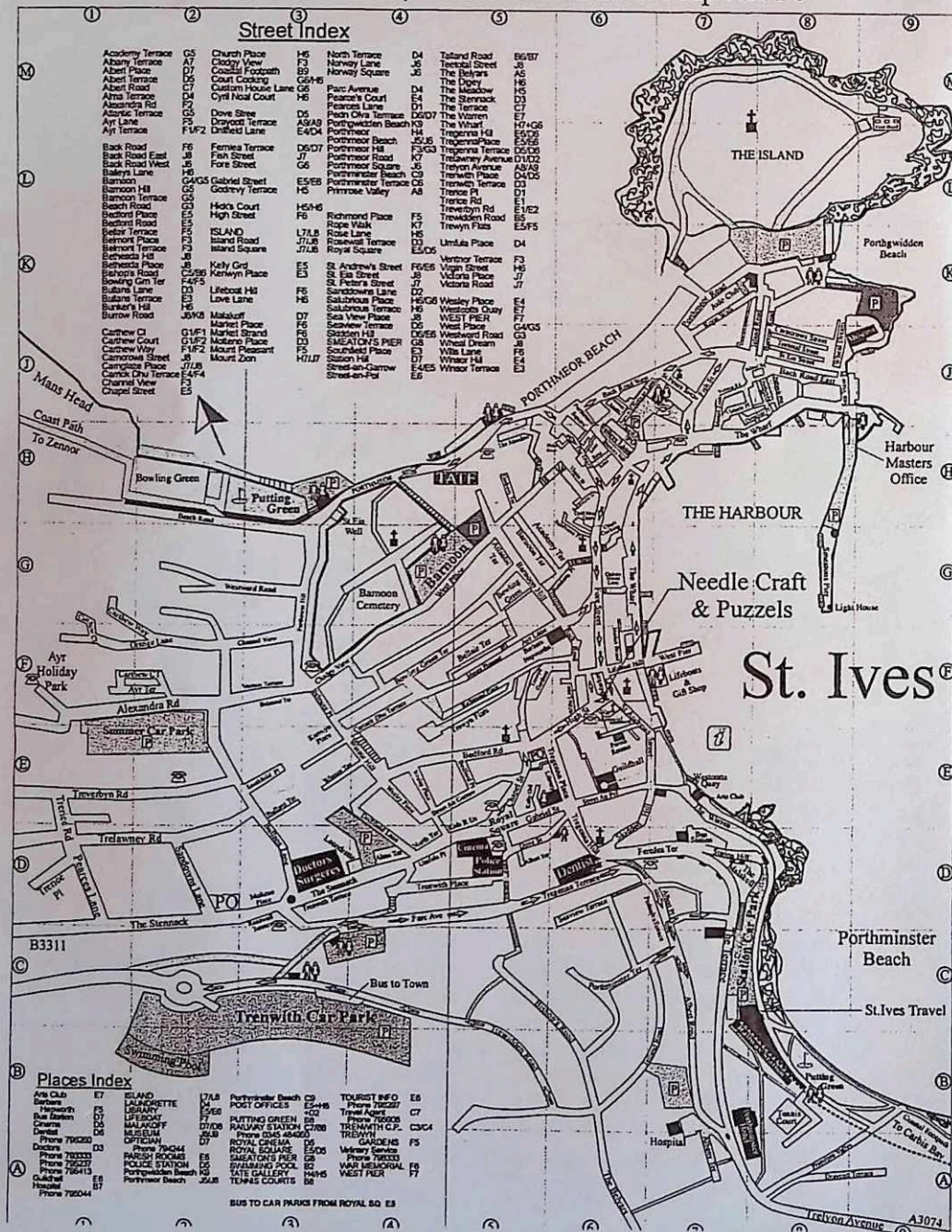
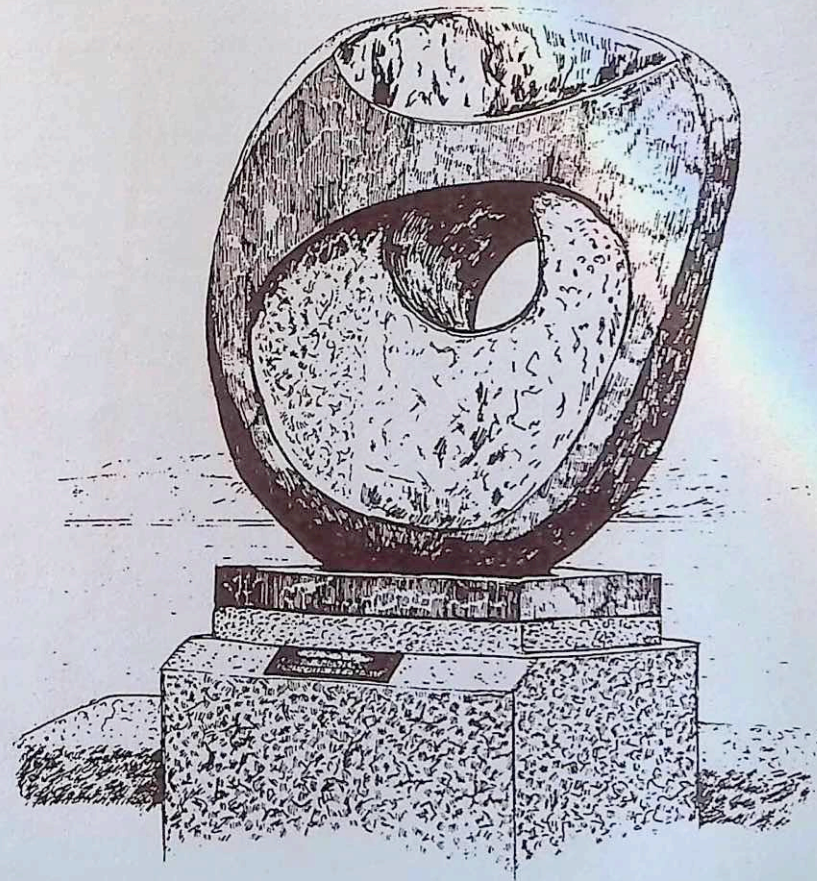


Needle Craft & Puzzles

3-4 Market House, Market Place, St.Ives, Cornwall TR26 1RZ. Phone 797756
Wool, Cross Stitch, Games and Puzzles. Map Ref F6



A WALK AROUND THE HISTORIC TOWN OF ST. IVES



1.

The history of St Ives lies in fishing, farming and mining, so the extension of the railway line from St Erth in 1877, although an extremely difficult and expensive undertaking, was essential to the development and prosperity of the town relies mainly on tourism.

The walk begins from St Ives railway station, which has one of the most beautiful views from any railway station in the British Isles.

Go up the steps and the sloping walkway on the inland side of the station car park. Alongside the walkway you will find many examples of local wild flowers such as Mallow, Toadflax, Wild Garlic or Three Cornered Leek and Alexanders. These steps lead up to the Malakoff. Built at the time of the Crimean War it was an area where the boys of the town played at battles, so it was natural for it to be named after the boys current enactment. From here there is a wonderful panoramic view of the harbour and lower part of the town. You will also notice a fine bronze by Barbara Hepworth-Epidauros, one of a number of her works to be seen in St Ives.

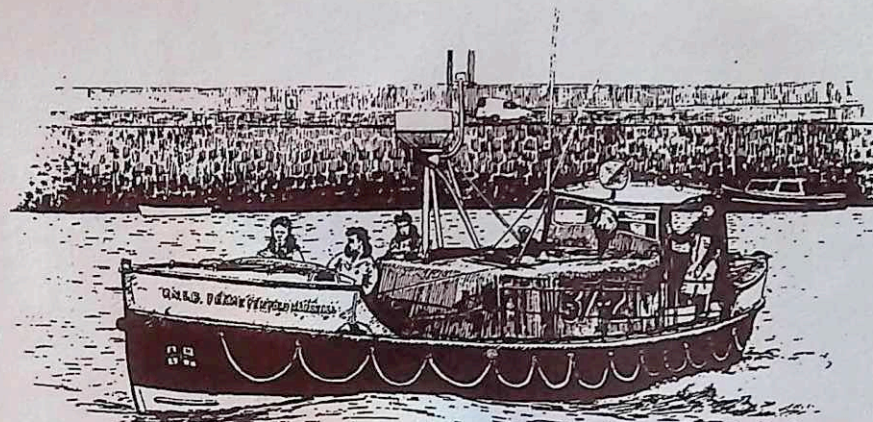
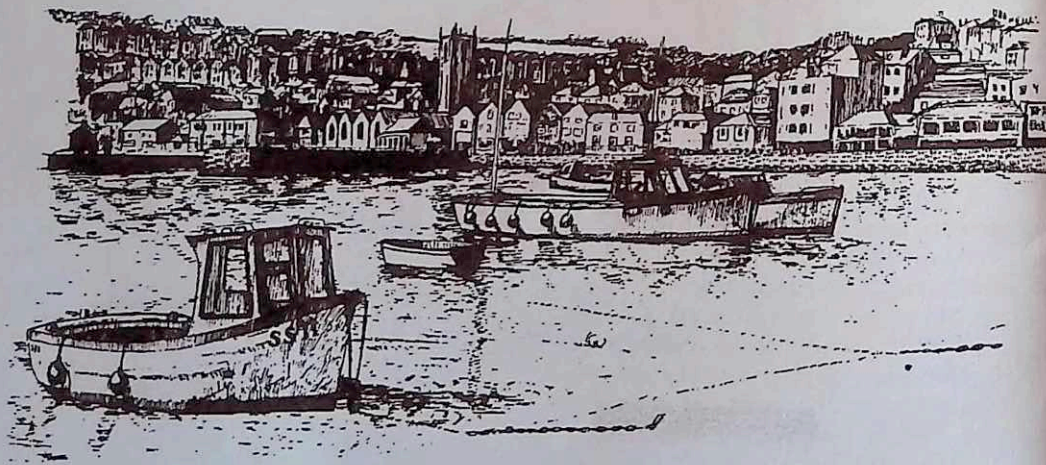
2.

Across the town can be seen the Island and the Chapel of St Nicholas. Look towards the east and there is Godrevy Lighthouse, the inspiration for Virginia Woolf's book *To the Lighthouse*.

Leave The Malakoff by the steps on the side overlooking the harbour. Cross the road, with care, then go down right for a few yards. Go left down some steep granite steps. At the bottom of the steps turn left past the Pedn-Olva Hotel, site of an old copper mine, from which ore was mined from under both the sea and the land. This was one of the many mines which operated in St Ives. Tin and copper were mined and uranium which produced the radium that Madame Curie used for her experiments.

Continue down the narrow lane, called The Warren, to reach the open area of Westcott's Quay from where there is a marvellous view of St Ives Bay. The high black weather-boarded building on your right is the Arts Club, once frequented by great artists such as Whistler, Sickert, Julius and Louis Greer.

A short detour up the lane running left from Westcott's Quay brings you to a crossroads by the Age Concern building. On the corner of the old Customs House building opposite there is a yellow granite corner stone, carved T.N.G.



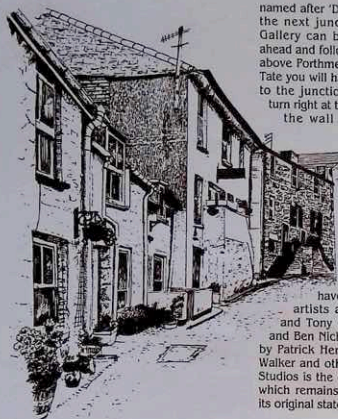
3.

Just beyond the church doorway, turn right down Lifeboat Hill to reach the harbour. The St Ives lifeboat station is on the right and is well worth visiting.

150 - 200 years ago, ships were used much more than they are now and many ships and lives were lost in the treacherous seas, and until 1840 when the first lifeboat *Hope* was built, any lifesaving was, by necessity, done by brave local men or the coastguards. The original lifeboats, of course, had no engine and had to be rowed or sailed, which on a dark night with icy seas filling the boat and the boat almost perpendicular on the high waves called for great courage and strength. The first motor lifeboat, which arrived in 1933, was the *Caroline Parsons*. She saved 73 lives before she met her end off the Island on 31st January 1938 trying to save the passengers and crew of the S.S. *Alba*, who took too long disembarking and then attempted to bring their luggage! Miraculously all were saved, bar five crew of the S.S. *Alba*.

1713. This was the Old Royal Naval Garrison, which, during the Napoleonic Wars, housed French P.O.W.s.

Retrace your steps to Westcotts Quay and go left along the railed-in Lambeth Walk, named after a dance tune in vogue at the time of its construction. Halfway along Lambeth Walk go left down an alleyway, then turn right and go towards the St Ives parish church. Consecrated in A.D. 1434 the lovely auburn tinted stone used in its construction was carried by fishing boats from Zennor. The church stands 119 feet high, which is unusually high for a Cornish Church, and is dedicated to St Peter and Andrew the fishermen, and St Ia, an Irish priestess who brought Christianity here around the 5th Century A.D. and is said to have crossed the Irish Sea on a leaf. There is an excellent view of the church from the shelter in the Memorial Gardens opposite. The inside of the church is also very beautiful, having a carved wagon roof lined with angels and saints, reminding one that here heaven and earth meet. The high altar and carved screen are of alabaster with the altar top in granite. The beautiful deeply carved bench-ends, recently restored, are typical of 15th Century Cornish design.



named after 'Di-Chy' - dye house, from the next junction, the St Ives Tate Gallery can be reached by keeping ahead and following the road round left above Porthmeor Beach. (If visiting the Tate you will have to retrace your steps to the junction). On the main walk, turn right at the junction and there on the wall of Harry's Court is a plaque to Alfred Wallis, the primitive painter, now at rest in St Ives cemetery. You are now in Back Road West where a number of artists have their studios. This area is known as 'Downalong'. Porthmeor Studios are situated here and have been occupied by such artists as Julius Olsson, Jane and Tony O'Malley, Borlase Smart and Ben Nicholson and are still used by Patrick Heron, Stephen Dove, Roy Walker and others. Beneath Porthmeor Studios is the only pilchard cellar which remains in almost its original state.

5. For many centuries fishing was the lifeblood of St Ives and seining for pilchards became very organised. The huers would watch for the shoals announcing their arrival by a cry of 'hevva'. The boats would take out the seine net, a quarter of a mile in length, which would then be shot round the shoal, often containing millions of fish. The net was hauled into shallow waters



and the fish taken to shore in boats called 'dippers', which often took several days. They were then cured in salt, packed into barrels called 'hogsheads' and the majority transported from Cornwall numbered 5,600

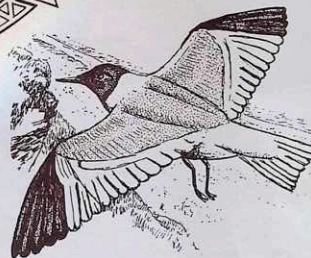
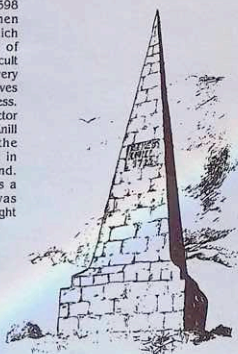
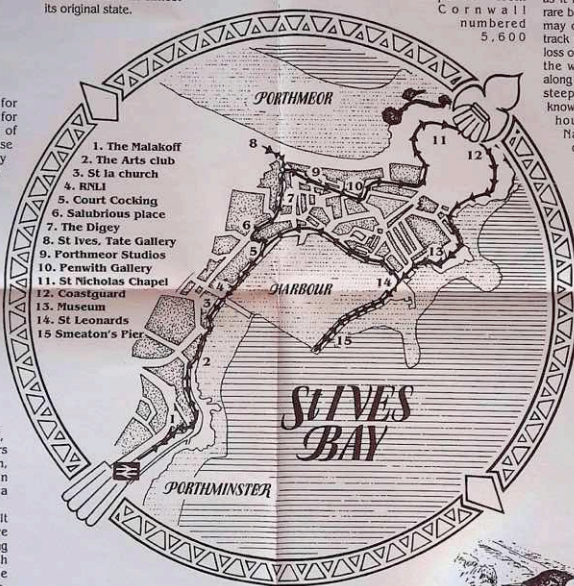
hogsheads - a hundred and twenty-two million fish, the tradition came to an end when the last seine was shot in 1924 and the pilchard shoals had gone.

6. Carry on past Norway Square where the St Ives Society of Artists, a group of traditional artists exhibit and in the summer time the St Ives School of Painting have outside lessons. The Salthouse Gallery is also here. Just past the entranceway to the Penwith Gallery follow a lane that leads down left then curves round to the right. Take the first opening left down to Porthmeor Beach. At the entrance to the beach bear off right up a surfaced walkway that leads to the important open area of The Island, a grassy hill crowned by the little chapel of St Nicholas. Go up some steps, then keep left and follow a sandy track round the base of The Island. From the track there are splendid views across Porthmeor Beach to the award-winning building of the St Ives Tate. The sandy track soon merges with a surfaced track. This area is a paradise for ornithologists as it is on the migratory path of many rare birds. Seals, porpoises and dolphins may occasionally be seen. Follow the track past the lifebelt stand, site of the loss of the S.S. Alba. At low tide, parts of the wreck are still visible. Continue along the surfaced track to where a final steep section leads up to a building known as The Battery. Now a dwelling house, this was built during the Napoleonic Wars. It had three cannons in round emplacements and an underground magazine below the north-west side. The coastguards' lookout was built on the northern emplacement and below this on the lamp rock a light was lit every night to guide shipping safely into the bay.

4. Go left along the harbour front for about 100 yards. Keep a look out for Hobbles House on the inland side of the road. Cross over to Hobbles House and go sharply left under an archway and up the cobbled alleyway called Court Cocking, formerly Porth Cocking - the 'Beach of the small boats'. Go up over the steps, turning right into Fore Street. Continue along Fore Street, then turn left up The Digey possibly

7. As you view the town from the battery you will notice the Knill Steeple on the skyline. It was built by Mayor Johannes or John Knill, one of the town's best loved personalities and the customs officer in St Ives from 1762 to 1782. Every five years on St James' Day, 25th July, ten girls, all under ten years of age and the daughters of fishermen, seamen or miners, are paid ten shillings to dance around and sing a hymn to fulfil a part of his will.

Walk up to St Nicholas Chapel. It was here that one of the 'Preventive Men' watched for smugglers. Smuggling was the unofficial business in which the majority of the Cornish people seemed to be involved at one time. There are records dating back to 1598 telling of the smuggling of earthen pots, muscatel wine and salt, which was necessary for the curing of pilchards. It must have been a difficult task for the preventive men as every single drinking house and inn in St Ives had a hand in the smuggling business. It is even said that John Knill, collector of customs and Mayor erected the Knill Steeple as a landmark for the smugglers and was also involved in many a plot to handle contraband. None thought of the smuggler as a criminal and 'free trading' was considered 'fair trading' as it brought luxuries for all at reasonable prices.



8. Retrace your steps to The Battery, then go right, down the surfaced road to Porthwidden car park. Go diagonally left across the car park to its bottom corner from where steps lead down. At the bottom of the steps go right, then left down an alleyway. Turn right, (Porthwidden Beach can be reached down left.) Walk uphill and when abreast of the toilets, go left and follow the lane round right, then turn left along Burrow Road. Pass Carn Crows Street, Teetotal Street and St Ela Street. At the T-junction go left along Pier View. At the next T-junction go up

left to reach the St Ives Museum. Here you will find a treasure trove of history of old St Ives. Retrace your steps from the museum and now keep ahead to a T-junction with Quay Street. Bear left to explore Smeaton's Pier. Here is St Leonard's Chapel, where for centuries fishermen of St Ives said prayers before sailing, the chaplain being paid in fish proportionate to their catch.

From the Pier follow Quay Street and continue along the harbour front to the Lifeboat station and the parish church from where you can retrace your steps back to the railway station, if required.