

TYWARDREATH

‘THE HOUSE ON THE STRAND’

~ our Parish through time



IRON AGE 400 BC – AD 50

CASTLE DORE IRON AGE FORT

This strategic hilltop to the north of the village is a natural choice for an ancient fort built from around 400 BC and perhaps occupied until the Romans arrived.

The view of the surrounding area, including the navigable valley leading down from Tywardreath to the sheltered bay at Par, offers an early warning of marauding visitors. To the east is the deepwater estuary of the Fowey from where ancient trade with Gaul, and the Roman Empire beyond, almost certainly took place, as shown by finds of amphora during excavations at the fort.

ROMAN 50 – 400 AD

ROMAN OCCUPATION AND INFLUENCE

The Romans established a permanent fort upriver at Restormel and certainly traded for minerals in this area; many pieces of evidence have been found to suggest that the trade was significant.

Substantial hoards of Roman coins have been found in the upper reaches of the Fowey Estuary in Ethy Woods and also in St Blazey.

Large quantities of imported Roman pottery and glass were found at an enclosed Romano-British settlement at Killhallon. Substantial shellfish middens here and at other sites around the Par estuary give us an idea of their diet at this time.

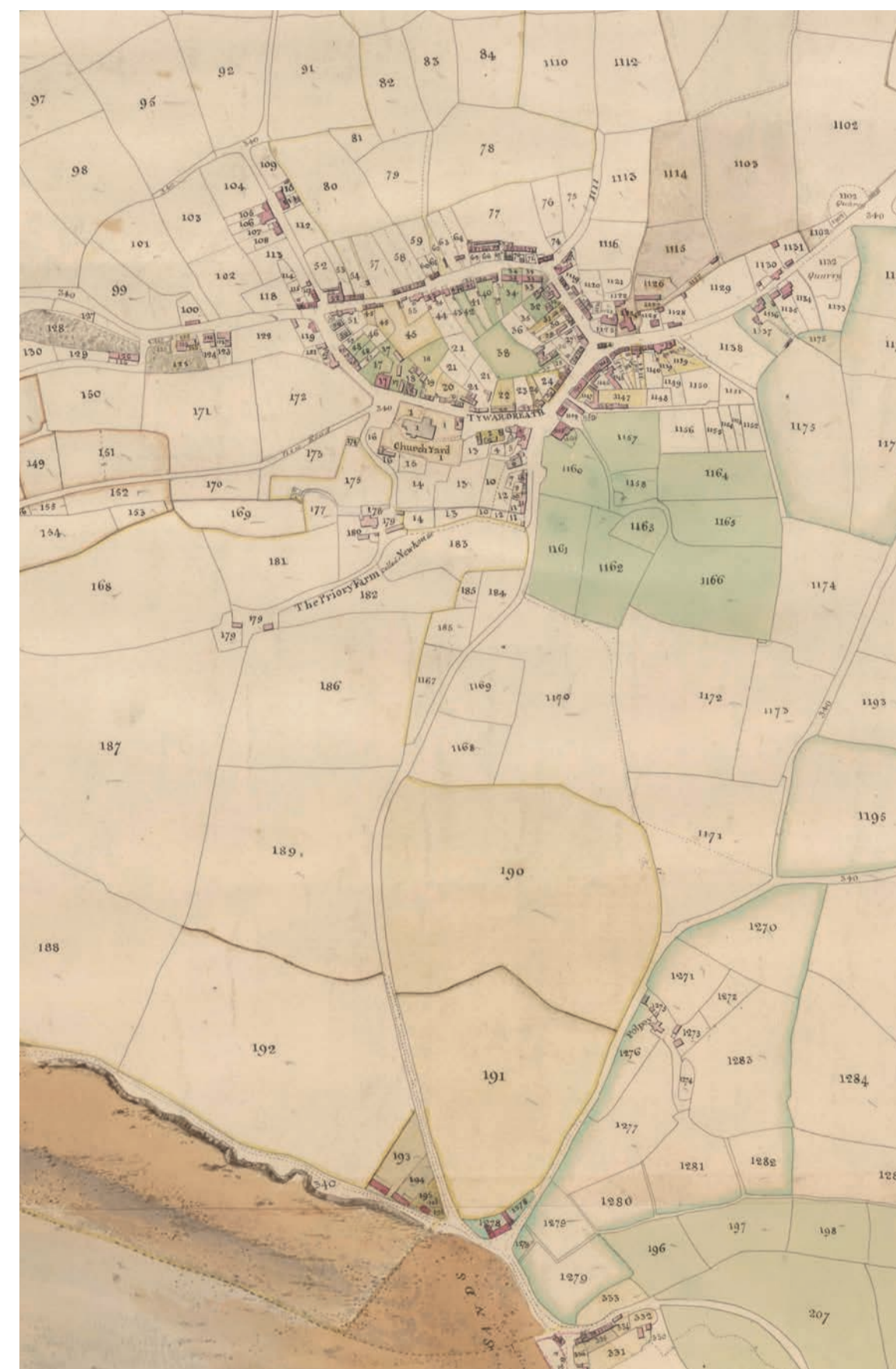


Coin from St Blazey Roman hoard



TYWARDREATH VILLAGE MAP 1823

Manor of Tywardreath surveyed by Richard Thomas (Kresen Kernow - AD894/7/55)



TYWARDREATH VILLAGE MAP 1845

Tywardreath Parish tithe map (Kresen Kernow - TM/242)



TYWARDREATH VILLAGE MAP 1908

Ordnance Survey map (Kresen Kernow - OSS 51NE/2)

the restored Wheal Henrietta engine house. However, underground there are said to be some 150 miles of levels and shafts.

The mines were owned by Joseph Treffry who used much of his income to create jobs for local people and must have been instrumental in the creation of the heart of Tywardreath Village in Church St, North St, Fore St and Belmont St where most of the cottages and villas date from that period. At that time some 3500 people lived in or close to Tywardreath.

TRENYTHON MANOR AND GARIBALDI 1872

TRENYTHON MANOR

Trenyhton Manor, near the village of Tywardreath, is a remarkable building. Built for Colonel Peard in 1872 by an Italian architect employed by the famous General Giuseppe Garibaldi, ‘The Father of Modern Italy’, Peard had fought alongside Garibaldi in his fight to unify Italy as a sovereign state. Trenyhton Manor was Garibaldi’s thank-you gift. Garibaldi visited England including Cornwall and was always welcomed as a hero by rapturous crowds of local people.

In 1891 the ownership of the Manor changed. Bishop Gott, the third bishop of Truro, bought the manor and it became the Bishop’s Palace for the next fifteen years. Gott covered the dining room walls with carved oak panels that came from a number of different churches including York Minster and Worcester Cathedral. Other notable objects that can still be seen today include General Wolf’s



Trenyhton

Argall's Series

headboard, Lord Nelson’s sea chest and some Italian marbles sent over by Garibaldi. The Egyptian pillars standing inside the front door originated from the Temple of Ephesus and are said to be thousands of years old. In the 20th Century, Trenyhton became a Great Western Railway convalescent home for 85 men, providing restorative surroundings.

Today, Trenyhton Manor is a well-appointed hotel with beautiful grounds.

1900 – PRESENT DAY

By the mid 1900’s the village had 17 shops, pubs, barbers, shoe repairers, blacksmiths and coal merchants.

The centre of the village as it is today would still be familiar to the miners of 150 years ago. When this history board was created in 2022 the population of the village was around 2500 and this included many new houses built on three large estates since 1900.

The Priory enjoyed a chequered history for almost 400 years and was a major landowner in Cornwall and Devon. It was one of the wealthiest priories in the southwest of England.

Henry VIII ordered the dissolution of the Priory in 1536 and it is believed that much of the extensive building’s stone was removed to be used elsewhere in the area. Many examples of richly carved stones that must have come from the Priory can still be found in nearby residential and farm buildings.

Examples of Tywardreath Priory seals

The left-hand seal is an illustration, the right-hand seal can be seen displayed in St Andrew’s Church in Tywardreath



Edward II coin found in North Street

ENGLISH CIVIL WAR 1644

THE ENGLISH CIVIL WAR COMES TO TYWARDREATH

Cornwall stayed loyal to the King throughout the Civil War and a number of successful battles and campaigns were fought in the County against Parliamentarian Forces.



One such battle took place at Lostwithiel in 1644 when Charles I led an army to drive the Parliamentarians out of Cornwall. The battle was fought from Lostwithiel and along the Fowey Valley and finally ended when the Parliamentarian Army surrendered at Castle Dore. Some 6000 men were captured together with much baggage and weapons.

The senior Parliamentarian officers undertook a fighting retreat across the fields above Tywardreath and down to the sea where they took to boats and escaped to Plymouth.

Evidence of this battle in the form of hundreds of musket balls and other artefacts found in the fields above the village indicate the ferocity of the fighting.

COPPER MINING 1790 – 1860

THE MINING ERA

At the beginning of the 19th Century, rich deposits of copper ore were discovered in the ground to the north of Tywardreath Village. During the period from 1810 to 1860, the mines of the Fowey Consols were some of the richest in Cornwall. The mines had multiple shafts worked by 6 steam engines and a system of waterwheels.



The ore was carried by inclined plane and canal to the new harbour at Par and by road to Fowey Harbour. Little evidence of these extensive workings remains other than the derelict Austen engine house and

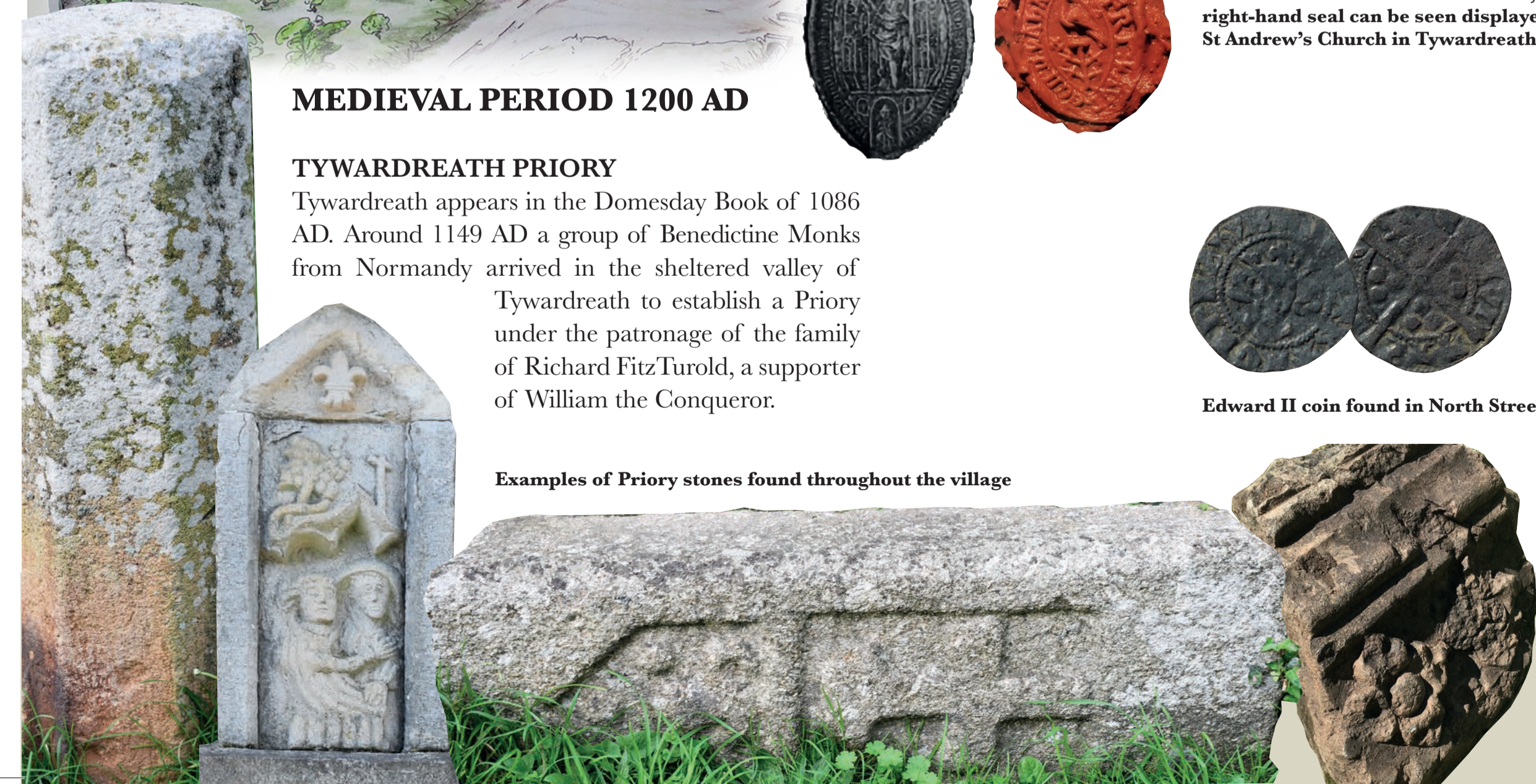


MEDIEVAL PERIOD 1200 AD

TYWARDREATH PRIORY

Tywardreath appears in the Domesday Book of 1086 AD. Around 1149 AD a group of Benedictine Monks from Normandy arrived in the sheltered valley of Tywardreath to establish a Priory under the patronage of the family of Richard FitzTurold, a supporter of William the Conqueror.

Examples of Priory stones found throughout the village



In fond memory of Barbara Seed – a tireless seeker of Tywardreath’s history

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Tywardreath WI



In Search of Tywardreath

Designed by Jo Menhick on behalf of ISOT