

walks 5 and 6

Point & Penpol

Mining and smelting

Point & Penelewey

Quakers and a punch bowl

compiled by Phil Allen



Route for walk 5: Point Quay, Carnon Mine, Chycoose, Tregoose, Tresithick Wood, Penpol Bridge, Point Quay. The walk is hilly but with a generally good surface although sections may be muddy after heavy rain, there is a long section of the Tramway “quiet road” protected by a 20mph speed limit. Approximate walk time 1.5 to 2 hours.

The walk starts at Point Quay [A](#) which was built by Thomas Daniell around 1760 and previously known as Daniell’s Point. The quay was purchased by the Parish Council in 1989, aided by the donation of substantial funds from public subscription. It is the venue for the Point and Penpol annual regatta, normally held in June or July, when it provides a unique vantage point as competitors start and finish a biscuit-toss from the quay.



Falmouth Working Boats at the Point Regatta 2015



Photograph by Phil Allen

Standing at the end of the quay, it is difficult to imagine the industrial landscape of the 19th century which included the tramway, docks, smelting works and even a tin mine crammed within such a small area. The painting of the “Tin Mine at Point” in 1874 by T May, which now hangs in the Rashleigh Gallery of the Royal Cornwall Museum, however, provides an excellent flavour of the period.

Exit the quay and with your back to the creek turn left along the road up the creek towards Devoran.

You are walking the Old Tram Road which at this point is the most southerly extension of the Redruth and Chasewater Railway, this operated from 1824 to 1915. Whilst the main railway was converted to steam locomotives in 1854 the tramway from Devoran to Point was always horse drawn until its eventual closure in the 1920s.

The orchard opposite Gulls Haven is open to the public and at the far end you will see an old lime kiln. These kilns utilised limestone brought by sea from Plymouth and provided quick-lime for industry, building and also agriculture where, in the mid-1800s, it played an important role as fertiliser in taming the many ‘downs’ within the Parish for cultivation.

At the next clear spot in the hedge overlooking the creek you may see a group of posts out in the mud [B](#). These are the last remains of a ventilation shaft for the Point Mine. Tunnels were dug to recover alluvial tin ore from the compacted mud of the original creek bed. The shaft was formed by large cast iron rings, set one on top of another and forced down into the mud under the weight of wooden barges at successive tides. The shore based shaft, sunk in 1871, can be seen in May’s painting. Both shafts were named after the mine owner Charles Taylor, Charles’ shaft in the creek and Taylor’s on shore. The mine was operated for only three years, closing due to a fall in tin



Photograph courtesy of the RIC

price to £50 a ton. It was said at the time that there was plenty of ore left in the ground, perhaps laying a seed for the abortive attempts to resurrect dredging in the creek by Billiton Minerals in the early 1980s.

Continue along the old tram-way towards Devoran. After about ten minutes walk you will notice, on your left, the public pump at Carnon Mine which served the area until mains water was installed [C](#). The Restronguet Creek Society have provided a bench seat, and from here you may see the embankments in the mud which were part of earlier alluvial tin works. The Great Carnon Streamworks first began tin extraction in 1785, well upstream at Lower Carnon Bridge. Cofferdams were progressively extended downstream to hold back the tide while mud was removed to a depth of fifteen to thirty feet, revealing the tin ground below. The dams were finally breached by a violent storm in 1812.



Continue along the old tramroad to Carnon Mine and stop to view the ruined engine house below on the foreshore. Take the path down to the beach, to study the information boards or perhaps sit and contemplate the now peaceful scene **■**. Some marine artefacts rescued by a local resident Ralph Bird are conserved here. Ralph was behind the rebirth of pilot gig racing in Cornwall in the 1960s. A meeting at his home led to the formation of the Cornish Pilot Gig Association which has been instrumental in establishing competitive rowing clubs throughout the South West. Gig rowing is now the fastest growing community sport in the region. In his workshop next to his cottage, Ralph built many of the best gigs on the water today.

Return up the path to the Old Tram Road and take the footpath opposite leading to a track climbing up the hill. At the top of the track pass through the gate and carry on up the field following the right hand hedge. At the top of the field pass through the gate/stile and turn right along the track.

At the end of the track where you meet a tarmac road, turn left up the hill. At the top of the hill you meet the Carnon Downs to Point Road. Turn right and, leaving the thatched Tregoose Farmhouse **■** to your left, take the gate into the next field on the left. Follow the left hand field hedge.

At the stile look back for one of the finest long views of Restronguet Creek and the Carrick Roads. Carry over the stile and continue with the hedge to your left, over a further stile and into the trees.

As you exit the trees, continue along the left field boundary and, where this exits near a ruined barn, turn right down a narrow stony track which leads down through Tresithick wood. Passing out of the wood the track nestles between tall hedges as it leads down to Penpol. Pass through the gate and on into the yard of Penpol Farm. At the garages, turn right down the lane and out onto the road.

Do not cross the bridge but take the track opposite which leads in front of Bridge Cottage **■**.

Bridge Cottage, formerly known as Lowarth Chyandower (Garden House by the Water), and its neighbour, Odd Acre, were given anonymously in 1635 to the Parish of Feock, to be utilised "towards the relief of poor people". They provided housing for poor families, especially widows, until sold in 1959. The proceeds were invested and today yield a small income which, under the direction of the Unknown Donor's Charity, still contributes to Church funds and small charitable donations.

Carry along this track and out onto the road again at the white railings. Turn right, noticing on your left a display board which tells some of the history of the adjacent tidal mill pond, built by William Stevens in 1829. The remains of the mill structure may be seen further along at the stepping stones.

All the way along the creekside are remains of the old Lemon Quay, built in 1817 by John Swan. On the landward side are still reminders of the tin smelting works which was opened in 1870 by a London based company and closed in 1921. It was a considerable enterprise covering most of the length of the quays and giving employment to many.

Further along the quay lay the site of the older lead smelting works also established by John Swan

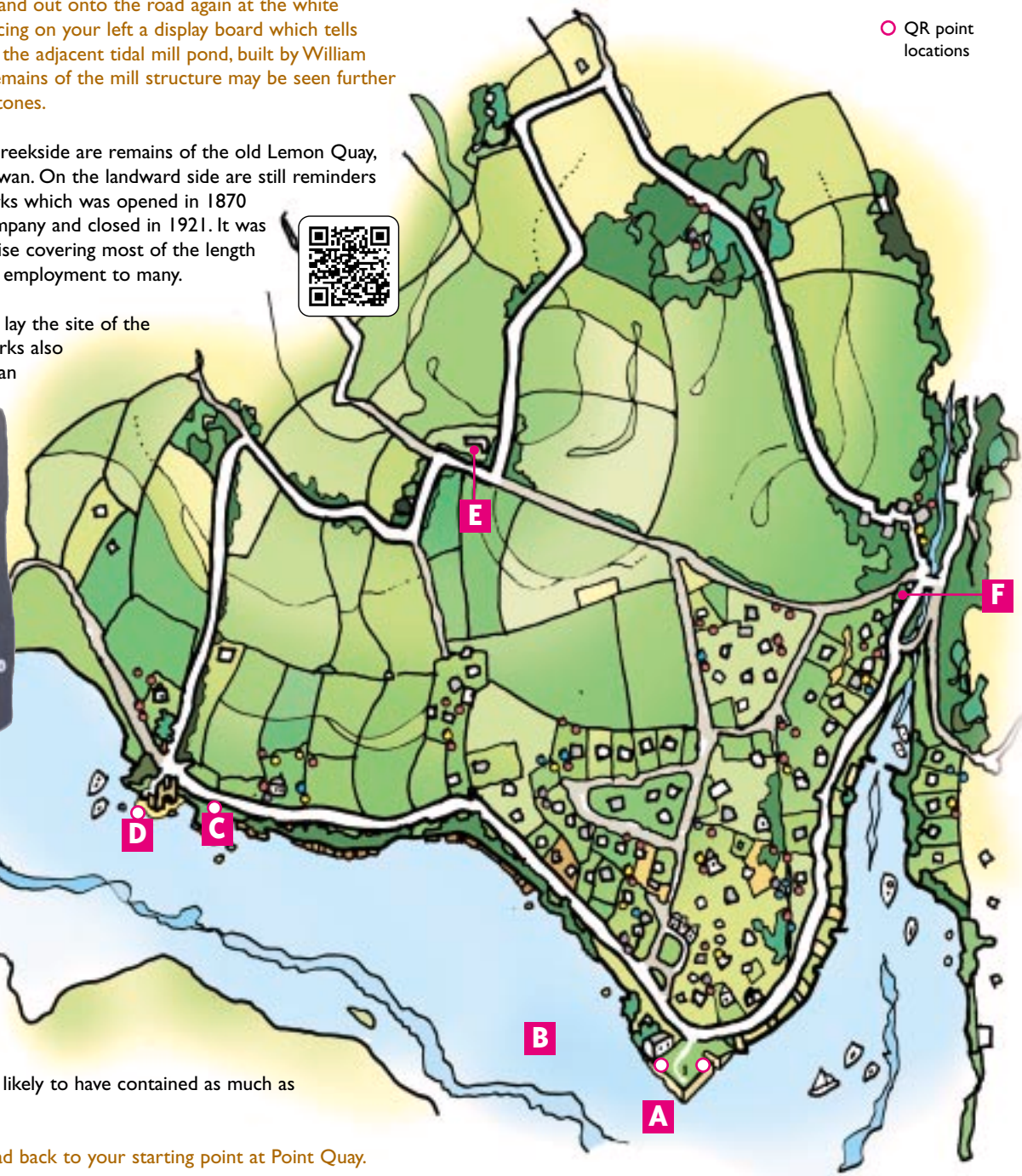
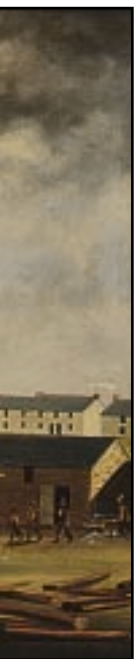


The Penpoll tin smelting works stamp

in 1827 and closed in the 1870s. In its heyday it employed upwards of sixty men and was capable of producing two hundred tons of lead a month, which was also likely to have contained as much as half a ton of silver.

Continue along the road back to your starting point at Point Quay.

An old map of Point overleaf, will give an insight into the massive industrial landscape that was once here.



○ QR point locations

Route for walk 6: Penpol Pond, Come to Good, Penelewey, Sandoes, Goonpiper, Penpol.

The walk has hill sections, open fields with many stiles and steep steps near the end. The surface is generally good but thick mud can be experienced particularly in the field sections after heavy rain. Cattle will be grazing these fields and it is important to follow the Rambler's Association advice when walking these stretches. Approximate walk time 1.5 to 2 hours.

The walk starts at the small car park above Penpol Pond **A** which was donated to the Parish Council for general use but also specifically for visitors to Penpoll Chapel. The Chapel itself was built in 1862 and an absorbing history can be found in the 'Chapel by the Creek' by John Lander.



Penpoll Chapel Sunday School marching on Point Green



Photograph courtesy of Marie Bird

From the car park, as you look across to the stream in summer, you may notice the broad leafed yellow lily plants which have escaped from the water gardens of 'Happy Valley' upstream and which were planted by the Boscauwens of Tregye in the early 1900s.

From the car park take the road up the valley away from the ponds, and notice the remains of the mill leat down the bank on the left. The Corn Mill **B** was situated just above the car park, but no remains of the building are visible today.

After three hundred yards, as the road bears right up "Hariss's Hill", follow straight on along the track seen on the left and continue up the valley. Ignore paths to left and right and after some way continue through the gateway at Point Clear to follow straight through the cottage yard towards the small wooden gate beyond. Take the path through the woods above the stream.

There are a couple of stiles in this section before it finally passes through the pedestrian gate. Turn right into the field and follow the



Photograph courtesy of Marie Bird

Penpoll Corn Mill

right hand hedge. Pass through the gate at the top of this first field and turn left to follow the bottom fence line in the next field. Carry on to the pedestrian gate which leads on to the main road at Come to Good.

Turn left down the road to visit the Quaker Meeting House **C**.



C


Quaker Meeting House at Come to Good




A meeting house was first established on this site in the late 17th century, soon after George Fox, the founder of the "Religious Society of Friends", had first brought his message to Cornwall in 1656. The Friends had previously met at the farmhouse of Walter Stephens at La Feock Grange and later at Penelewey Barton, thereby giving rise to the original name of the "Feock Meeting".

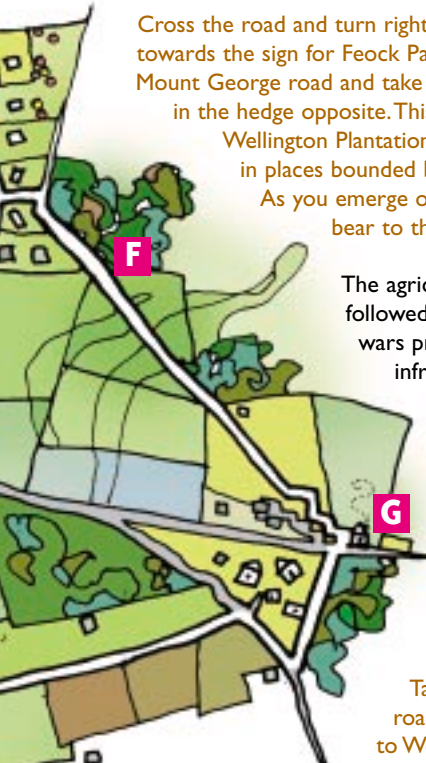
The group became the "Kea Meeting" in 1694 and the present house was built in 1710. It is still in use for its original purpose and visitors are welcome, in addition it is also now established as one of the most charming buildings in the Parish.



 Public house with toilet facilities for customers use.

 QR point

With the Meeting House behind you, briefly take the main road back uphill to the left. Turn left off the road at Beggars Roost, taking the concrete track which leads up to Penelwey. As you reach the main Feock road you will see The Punchbowl and Ladle Pub **D**. Dating back to the 15th century it has long been a welcome stop for travellers heading for the crossings at King Harry Ferry or Restronguet.



Cross the road and turn right on the opposite side leading towards the sign for Feock Parish. At the junction, cross Mount George road and take the public footpath at the gap in the hedge opposite. This path leads through Wellington Plantation **E** where the path is narrow in places bounded by close hedges and fences. As you emerge onto the broad estate road, bear to the right.

The agricultural depression which followed the end of the Napoleonic wars prompted calls for infrastructure investment to provide employment for those in distress. The Daniell family, enlightened owners of the Trelassick estate, headed the call and the Wellington, Waterloo and Exmouth plantations are tangible results of this investment today.

Take the first left and, as the road turns left (at the entrance to Wellington Plantation), take the track on the right. At the end of the track, at Frogmore pump station, take the stile beside the gate into the field.

On your left is the sewage pumping station at Frogmore **F**, part of the sewage system for Feock village installed in the 1970s. Public sewerage for Feock had been discussed for the previous fifteen years and schemes were proposed for treatment works at a succession of sites; Harcourt, Trevilla and Pill Plantation, each failing due to public and landowner opposition. Finally in desperation the Women's Institute petitioned the Home Office in June 1969, complaining of sewage now running down the lane past the school in Feock village. An inspector was sent from London and he advised pumping the sewage to the Truro works, situated at Newham, which remains the final solution today.

Take the diagonal route across the field over the brow and onwards to the gate at the far corner. This area is likely to be wellington boot muddy when wet, as it is a thoroughfare for cattle normally at pasture in the surrounding fields. Follow the good advice set out by the Ramblers Association when passing animals on rights of way. Continue on the diagonal route (you may need to pass through a wire fence) to come out at the stile in the far corner at The Smithy **G**.

Cross the King Harry Ferry Road to Smithy Lane beyond. The road can be busy when offloading the ferry which docks each 20 minutes.

At the far end of Smithy Lane cross the Trevilla road and turn right walking along the left hand verge. After one hundred yards take the footpath on your left and cross two fields with stiles in their hedges. In the third field keep the hedge on your right to exit at a further stile beside the gateway.

Take the tarmac track straight ahead.

At the main Feock road, cross to the opposite side in order to face oncoming traffic and turn left towards Feock. Take the next entrance on your right at Magnolia Cottage and carry on through the gate straight ahead. You find yourself in a broad green lane taking you over the brow of the hill towards Penpol.

This old map of Point gives an insight into the massive industrial landscape that was once there.

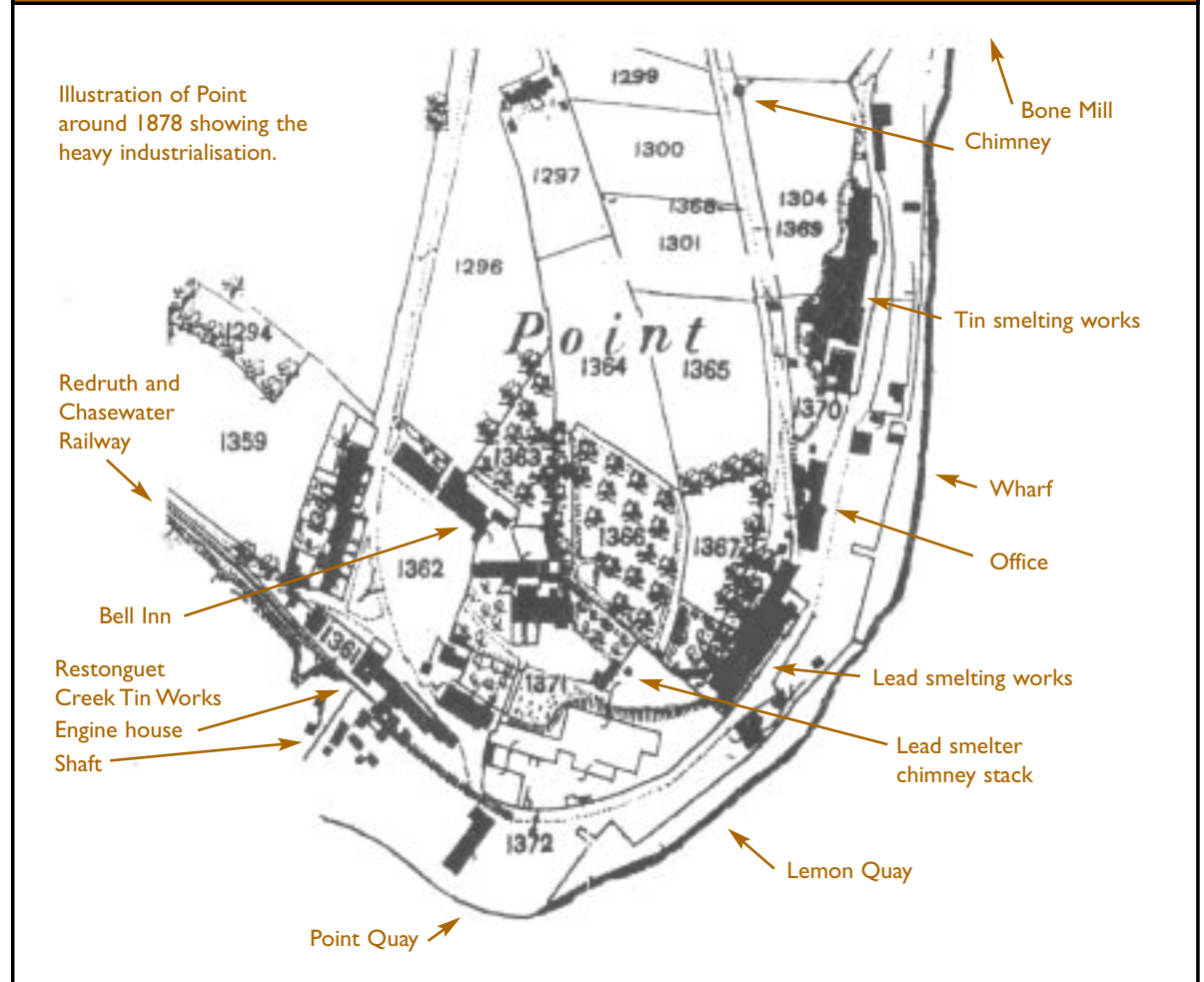


Illustration of Point around 1878 showing the heavy industrialisation.

Follow the lane round to the left and on entering the field turn right but, staying in this field, follow the right hand hedge down the hill. This comes out onto a tarmac track beside Millbrook Cottage. As you come to a concrete surface do not continue down to the right but find the pedestrian gate in the fence on your left. This takes you down some steep steps and path which leads down onto the Penpol road. At the road turn left to return to the car park.

This walk leaflet was produced by Feock Parish Council with the support of the Heritage Lottery Fund. Design and illustration by graeme@graemerust.com



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