

**East Prawle History Group**  
**18 June 2014**  
**Walk and Talk with Michael and Richard Partridge**  
**U3A History Group**  
**transcribed by Kate Jennings**

- Michael P That's the council houses there, they're up behind those. Rich knows the dates of those. I don't carry dates, I know my birth date because the doctor keeps asking me! ...
- Chris B Sorry we were having coffee in the cafe. Good morning!
- Michael Have you got a photograph Rich of the old gentlemen that used to come up here .... roughly in the same position as the seat.
- Richard P Just had stones to sit on. Before 1935 sometime. Farm worker, there, retired farm worker, fisherman there, retired fisherman there and a farm worker there. This man worked on a farm in the village all his life. ... Bill Putt.
- Michael Is that Uncle Bill Putt?
- Richard Uncle Bill Putt's father. Yes well he was Uncle Bill as well.
- Michael Funnily his wife was Aunt Bessie and they were both Aunt Bessie's. What a coincidence. He ordered me brother and his friends out of the chapel because during the sermon, the chapel is over there which is now the village hall, and they came in to the sermon and sat in the back seat, did you know that Kate, yes you know that story. And they were making a bit of a noise and crowding about whilst the sermon was taking place and Uncle Bill who was the chapel warden, steward. He took and went round with a wooden box and collected the collection and he got up and turned around and said "You lot out off, out off" in the middle of the service and he ordered them out. Bobby and some of his lot. The next thing is Bob, our elder brother, I'll show you Bob. He used to come up here to his grandfather, Bob Phillips a retired fisherman in the photograph and he used to go down to Mrs Putt's shop, which is just down there, we'll see in a minute, to get peppermints. With his stroke he used to like peppermints, so he'd give Bobby some extra money to get some sweets for himself. So he'd go down and get the peppermints and select what's sweets he wanted. She'd get them out of a jar and put them in one of those pointed bags ... she'd weigh them out in this little pointed bag and if she couldn't get the right weight she'd bite the sweet in half! [laughter] And there he is – it's a put up photo. They got the lion and the gun out in India. ...
- Michael I know in oldish dealings with the Council John Henry Putt who used to keep the post office, he got chastised because he put up a washing line out on the green, and people complained, so he had to take it down. ... Shall we make our way down. We don't worry about cars here ... Another thing ?in the last war they brought a load of barbed wire to put around the coast and iron stakes. Between these two trees and all along that hedge beside the shop it was piled up at least that high. Barbed wire stretches out. ... They never used it because the war developed so there wasn't going to be an invasion so they never put it out, and they just left it out there and eventually the council came and took it away, but we used to play in it and hideaway ...[can't hear] ... Oh yes we used to do cycle speedway up here around the green, come roaring down here on our pushbikes and round the corner, clouds of dust. We didn't worry about cars coming up there. Harry Putt the carpenter, we've got photos of him inspecting his wood that he obviously had somebody to come and saw it up because he would have sawn it with a saw pit and we'll see where there is a saw pit – his brother was a carpenter over that end of the village, what we call Town, I don't know why. ... So one person would be down in the pit and they'd put the saw across the top of the pit, another one on top

with a big cross cut and somebody had the sawdust coming down all the time on his head. Then when traction engines came about they sawed, they went around the carpenters and sawed up a load of wood to last them 12 months. And this is where Emma Putt who bit the sweet in half. ... And this lady was another shop. I forget what the Christian name was. Trout, and she was the wife of Ella Trout. If you read Ella Trout, Sisters of the Sea. She was a bit sad because her favourite uncle, used to help them a lot with the boats and the engines, he married and came out to Prawle and he married the lady that kept the shop, and his job out here was to tar, soak all the ropes in tar. And all the ?knacks for the glass bowls for the pots. He was so smelly that his wife wouldn't let him live in the house, he used to live in the garage. And they called him Tarry Trout.

? Did they have any children?

Kate Didn't they have 6 children?

Michael Yes, they had 6 children. In the book, Sisters against the sea, she mentions her uncle who married and came out to Prawle. This here was Jack Putt. A lot of Putts here, not all them closely related, but he was a rabbit trapper and fisherman from out Landing Cove which is out Prawle Point.

Kate But in Winnie's day this was also a shop. I can't remember her name. No, no there were two.

Michael When we knew it there was two one either side of the road.

Kate But Winnie was born in 1912, and was a bit older. She was absolutely clear that there was one there and she used to go and have to buy the currants and things. She was never allowed in. She had to stand on the door. But she seems to be the only person, cos Michael, Richard, none of them – she'd gone.

*[for information it was a Miss Page who ran the second shop, she also played the organ at Chivelstone. Quote below from Kate interviewing Winnie Easterbrook (born in 1912 and died in 2012 three weeks before her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. No one else remembers this shop]*

Winnie *Yes, those two houses were two shops, one was a Miss Page who lived in one and had a little, little shop, and the other, Mrs Putt, hers was more of a shop and had a counter, but I remember going to Miss Page from home to get something for Mother, and you never went in, must have been only a little kitchen that she had inside, and you had to stay out in the porch while she was getting what I wanted. Currants, sugar and everything.*

Celia A pity we can't record all this.

Kate I am recording it! ...

Michael Over there were the pigs houses. You'd keep your pig and feed all your waste food to the pig and then you had nice fat bacon. ... Do you know about the, they said mad Spaniard, but actually he was Italian, Italian sailor who was wrecked on Prawle coast and he went beserk in the pub, and started to stab his shipmates and then he came down to the coastguard station, which the old original coastguard station is down here and stabbed the coastguard's wife and attacked some other people. So the coastguards came up, he'd come back to the pub, and tried to arrest him and he ran away and then he came, they were coming out this way to make sure the wives and everybody out at the coastguard station were ok and it was after dark, and he was hid down here, in there. When the coastguards came here, he came out with his knife to stab the chief coastguard and he fended him off, and then the assistant boatman that was with him. There were three I think, had his sword stick and accidentally stabbed him, but in the inquest.

Richard In disarming him.

Michael Yes, in disarming him. First of all they wouldn't give evidence, but they eventually did the chief coastguard and they worked out that he .... in rush and tear he had accidentally stabbed him with a sword stick. Have you ever seen a sword stick? It's like a.

?Vivienne My father-in-law had one – got rid of it now.

Michael Terrible thing, it's like a walking stick, it slides into the walking stick and it's mainly used for finding contraband, for poking the stuff, bags of whatever they found to see what was inside, and also as a defensive weapon. They used to have that story in the pub.

? What date was that?

Kate 1872. ...

Michael He died and he was buried at Chivelstone Church and my mother told me that it thundered and lightning and it rained during the funeral service. He hasn't got a headstone coz Rich – you've been down.

Mark No there's no headstone. We've logged all the headstone.

Celia So you don't even know which grave it is?

Mark No, there are lots of them. There's a whole area of unmarked graves. ...

Michael Chivelstone, buried at Chivelstone, that's our local church. Chivelstone Parish, East Prawle is in Chivelstone Parish.

Michael Just out of interest, this is our father with a horse and cart and a horse in four chains, they call that a second horse pulling ? to the shaft, and it's at Shepherds Farm just where that electricity post is.

Richard He must have been down pulling seaweed off the beach, or shingle from the beach. Two horses because it was very steep to come up.

[general talk as to where to go next and approval given to go up towards the RAF camp]

Michael I'll just talk a bit about the Americans when they were here, cos they were down at Puckle Pitts which is a camp down near Chivelstone Cross. We at Prawle couldn't get a fruit supply during the war, we didn't have much fruit but what there was, was administered by Plymouth and Torquay, and neither one would accept that Prawle was in their area. We didn't get much fruit. Luckily our granny, which we'll talk about later, had a shop in Dartmouth and she used to bring some home from her shop. Then the Americans came in with a lorry load of oranges and drove them round the village and threw them out and we all ran and picked them up. In here was thrashing barn wasn't it Kate, you live there. That was the thrashing barn and storage of straw and hay.

Kate This was where they heated it, didn't they have a drier?

Michael Yes, but you'm talking about modern times now. Talking about the old times. On the end there they had a round house where the horses drove the machinery to drive the thrashing machine, and my brother remembers riding, he rode on the middle platform with the horses – you put on however many horses you need for it – if you were cutting chaff you only needed one horse but if you were thrashing all day you needed perhaps three or four.

Kate Nobody ever took a photograph of it did they?

Michael But he says the shaft went under, the drive shaft revolving went into the barn down on the ground and the horses knew to stride over it, in the circle they went. They didn't trip in the drive shaft. They knew to stride over it. The same as electric fences. If you put an electric fence against cattle they know that it's electric and they don't go near.

Kate It's about where that tree is wasn't it?

Michael ... Where the rockery is.

Kate Oh there. We've got a map of it actually when we bought it, where it is but I didn't get that it was there.

Mark You had a big entrance and a small one and the wind blew threw and they did the thrashing there and the chaff blew out the other side.

Michael That's before the round house, when they did it with flails. The round house wouldn't have been there, and then when they had thrashing machines they built a round house to get the power to drive the machines. At Locks Farm they had one outside. In the yard, not a covered one. Well there is the machinery that the horse drives, with bevelled gear and ? and people have got them and take them to agricultural shows. OK We'd better go and look at ??

[general talk as we walk along]

Michael The water had to be carried in buckets. Have you got a frame? And then when the RAF was built we were lucky enough to have mains water in the village. But they also had electricity and both of them were put underground. There were gangs of diggers, digging trenches to put the water from.

Kate Sherford. It came all the way from Sherford.

Michael And the electricity was underground but we never had electricity.

Kate The RAF camp did they? I didn't know that.

Michael We didn't have it until after the war and it came over ground. This is the stable and barn to the Pigs Nose. Used to be the stable. Union Hotel and that's where the mad Italian started using his knife.

Kate Do you know when it was renamed? When was it renamed the Pigs Nose Inn? Was it 1949? [traffic going by so can't hear]

Michael Another thing about the Americans, I came by and there was a tap. There was no entrance there, the only entrance was there. There was a tap there, must have been a spring water. No they put it in after they had brought it to the RAF camp and I saw Americans there washing out their mess tins, aluminium mess tins with the water, and what they used to scour them out was some of the sandy stuff that was around the drain and they'd put it in and rub it with their hands and washed. So during National Service I used the same method, and it works really well. [laughter]

Kate First World War.

Michael This hut came from the hangers, or was it living accommodation?

Kate I think it was living wasn't it?

Michael Several huts when they were sold off. One was this village hall for the Union Inn, another one was out the old coastguard station, Mr Webster's which I showed you which we thought was his car. He had two, one for a house, and we've got photos of all those, and one for a washhouse. And another one was out at Torcross. The Crowing Cock cafe was another one of the huts and another one was a garage down in Salcombe.

Richard And another was down Maelcombe. Jennie Bond's house until recently was one from the First World War Naval Air Station. ... So a few people had wells. ... Another American story, when they used to come to the pub they used to park their vehicles like those are parked, and there wasn't any wall there ... but not walls and one night an American had parked their field car, which is bigger than a jeep but a four wheel drive. You see the Americans have them out in Afghanistan, great big vehicles weren't they? And he ran away and he hit that house, knocked the front out.

Kate I thought it was a lorry?

Richard All sorts of things, a steam roller as well.

Michael Knocked the walls out and the people who lived there, the Mitchelmores had been evacuated from Chillington during the evacuation. They were living and working here in Prawle and they were in the house, but luckily they were out the back and up in bed, the children and nobody got hurt, and it was held up with wooden poles for several months I would say before it was rebuilt. And when they used to go with the American vehicles where we are going round Castle they used to rip stones out of the wall cos the vehicles were much wider than the road width.

[about a plant.....]

Michael I would have said that Italian prisoners of war from the desert from Montgomery and the desert battles, and they used to come down here picking spuds. They used to arrive in a lorry about 10, and pick spuds till about 4.

Kate When was this? I haven't heard that one.

Michael That was the Italians after the desert battles with Montgomery.

Kate They were at Puckle Pitts as well?

Michael ?? They fought against him (Montgomery) and they were down at this camp and when they went, the Americans I think came, and when they went for the DDay landings they had German prisoners of war. So we had Italians, Americans and German. It wasn't knocked down until ?

Chris A 200 people

Kate During the war there were about 800 people based here. RAF, then there was Army.

Michael We'll talk about that as we go along. I was just going to say that Wilf Toms who was a painter used to live here, in this second cottage. Wilf had a paint mill where you'd put the paint fork and the linseed oil and turn the handle and then he'd produce paint.

Kate That part is modern isn't it?

Michael Modern, there were two cottages, used to be a door here to this one, but they've changed it around. Bit dusty I reckon. .. Look at all these white ? stones. These here round ones obviously have been in the sea, these haven't. There's another one that's come out of the water. This was a wild garden. Ern Cranch where the mad Italian hid, that walled garden Ern Cranch used to teal and he also had this one here. So he was quite a prolific gardener.

Kate Did he live at Torrings?

Michael Yes. He was a mason. This is where the village pumps, one of them. All the village had to carry the water from here in buckets with the square frame. When me brother went to India, the one you saw big game hunting, at the start of the war I lived with me sister-in-law as a little boy up the top of the village, and first of all we had to carry the – I had to come and carry the water.

Kate Derek Wotton remembers doing that for her. Derek Wotton used to.

Michael And then when the mains came they put in a stand pipe just up here below the Providence Inn so it wasn't nearly so far to carry it. Must have been after the war they took it up to the top of the hill, which we'll see later on.

Kate It was in the war they took it up because it started at the RAF and then a couple of years later they agreed to extend it and it went down through Ducks Lane up around, and then all the way round to the Union Inn where it stopped.

Vivienne It would have been a hand pump presumably?

Michael Yes it was a cast iron hand pump. You had to prime it. I think it was running here all the time, there was a stream as well as the well.

Richard The overflow of the well is the pipe just round the corner.

Michael This wall was a lot higher than that. One day I was travelling with my Uncle Billy who was a rabbit trapper and he had a converted Austen car converted to a pick up and therefore there was a running board that went all the way from the front wheel mudguard to the rear wheel mudguard so that the running board went beside the ? of the pickup and me being too big for me boots I was stood on the running board sort of back by the ... and when he came round here, it's been widened now. He jammed me up against the wall and I went around a couple of times, and shouted. [laughter] He stopped and then he had to reverse back .... Didn't do any damage cos I was lucky. ... And there is Uncle Billy with some rabbits look. His younger brother, twin to Auntie Winnie, who you've probably heard about. Roger and William's dad and John's dad, Jack Tucker there the other side. ...[about Winnie and her age and her death] This was

much narrower. I don't know how they've widened it – this here wall would have come round here wouldn't it? [walking on from Round Castle up towards Town Farm]

Richard This was a willow grove until the 70s and then they built the house there. The local fishermen used to cut their willows from there and make about 60 pots each year from the willows, and that was how many pots they used during the year, about 60. There were two lots of willows in there – a tougher one for the bottom of the willow and a more flexible one for the top, so that it was easier to make. That's why it was made into the Willow Grove because the farmer married the daughter of a fisherman and then he put the willow grove there for his relation.

Michael Moorwell Pond, did you notice Moorwell Pond when you came around? That comes right down the valley ?[can't hear].

Kate It's diverted across under the fields. It goes all the way on down to the sea. When do you think that was done? Does anybody know? When the pond was diverted?

Michael I expect it just ran over ground to start with.

Kate We've got no date for Moorwell Pond have we?

Richard Not really no. It was always a boggy area, there was always water there. ...

Michael There was a bog where that entrance is and a pond with a lovely island in the middle. We've got photographs of that and the moorhens and the ducks used to nest.

Kate Sheep shearing, something to do with the sheep in that pond?

Michael Sheep dipping – not shearing.

Kate Derek remembers that.

Michael That stream runs right on down the valley to Horsley. And all the sewerage from the village before the main sewerage was put in would have went into that stream, and it grew lovely ...!! watercress, well fertilised. I didn't tell you but if you look further out and looked in the sewerage farm for the RAF camp which was further up the valley over in the fields beyond that electricity post, we as boys used to go down to the sewerage farm and there was a lovely roundabout! We used to jump on and have a free roundabout, bit smelly. Here was the Town gardens, each of the houses had a patch of ground and their toilets were bucket affairs, they had to come down here to deal with their toilet. This here was the Poor House.

Kate You think it was here?

Richard Yes it was. This is the site of the Poor House for the village.

Michael That top stone is the remains of it. It was quite a big building and they used to store potatoes there.

Mark Later on.

Michael Yes, later on! There was a fireplace in the wall there, cos there was a second cottage wasn't there?

Kate Do you remember them?

Richard Yes, well we've got a photo of them. You can just see it.

Kate You haven't given me that!

Richard Here we are look (Kate: I haven't got that) – that's taken up around the corner there and there is this building. Part of the chimneys still there. ...

Michael Jim Hannaford used to pick out teddies, he was a cripple and he used to have a three wheeler tricycle with big bicycle wheels, and again me brother tells me, the older brother, the one with the biting the sweet in half. The boys used to pinch it and try and ride it and they kept tipping over, with the leaning of a push bike they went too fast and it went over. You ought to look at this lovely Lagonda, 3 ½ litre Lagonda, that I used to do repairs on, mainly adjust the clutch. It belonged to Mr Milne out at East Allington, Coombe Farm, and he lent it to me one weekend, and we came out and did a rocket drill , on Prawle Green, and came over here and we went to Dartmouth in it. There's Rich and his eldest son Kevin and me driving, and my eldest son Robert, and Derek's

children in the back. John Farleigh's son – Gary. .... That's John Farleigh's new mini van  
 .... unfortunately his dog got in front of the number plate. ...[lots of chat]

Richard This is outside Chivelstone Church to two Model T Fords, with Father driving one and  
 Uncle driving another.

Kate And one is left hand drive and the other is right hand drive. ...

Michael Exactly the same wedding cos this girl's – but we ought to try and find out from the  
 church records when that wedding was.

Richard We don't know the exact date. We imagine it's early 30s.

Michael they had three Model Ts that their father bought them, two cars, one left and one right  
 hand drive and a ton van for going to Dartmouth with vegetables. They got really in the  
 modern era.

Chris A When was the poor house in operation?

Richard It was operated in the Tithe map days which was 1840 – still operating then?

Chris A Who funded it?

Richard It was the money to fund it was from the rates, the people had to pay. Villagers had to  
 pay a certain amount in rates for the poor people to help them live.

Kate Was that done through the Tithe apportionments?

Richard I don't think so, I think it was a separate thing done by the Parish Council more or less.  
 So much on the parish rates to provide for the poor people.

Chris A Are there any records as to how many people were in there?

Richard Not that I know of. No.

Michael Of course the landowners were responsible for hardening the roads. In early days,  
 before the Turnpike Acts. I think there was a parliamentary act for local landowners to  
 keep the roads in order.

Kate Well I know they did but I didn't realise it was .?

Michael I think I've read somewhere there was an act of Parliament and of course they weren't  
 forced to do it, unless it was a road they used, they wouldn't do it for us to come there  
 would they?

Richard During the 1850s they were getting paid for doing it. The people levelling the stone and  
 rolling it in they get so much a day for doing it.

Kate And there was a Mrs Moore wasn't there?

Richard Mrs Gunn. There was a Mrs Gunn that either lived in the village or lived down at Ford,  
 which isn't very far away, and she – we've got records of her levelling the road between  
 Prawle and Chivelstone Cross and she was working on that for a week and I think she  
 got 3 and something, 3 and sixpence.

[a lorry got stuck and a lot of conversation about it]  
 Something about playing the violin.

Michael No this was Jack Stone's father. The one with the two baskets with his wife over at  
 Salcombe, remember? He played at Queen Victoria's diamond jubilee at East  
 Portlemouth hall – not here. He lived at Walland. So he was a Portlemouth bloke.

END OF SIDE ONE

Michael play the violin, me brother said people said he could play the violin behind his back and  
 me brother said he could play it behind his back stood on his head, and I think that's  
 one too far.

Kate But Harry Foss used to play. They used to have parties in Town Farm or was that later?  
 A bit later. [about the lorry again]

Michael This violinist, Jack Stone, was afraid of the dark, cos he got frightened over at Moor by  
 Garland Elliott who used to live over there. He knew he was a bit nervy, so they came  
 out with a white sheet one night and frightened him, and he was afraid to go home to  
 Portlemouth. He was Granny Tucker's brother so she would get her son Jack Tucker  
 who was with the rabbits, to drive him home cos they had a lorry. I think he made out

he was afraid so he didn't have to walk. ... Incidentally here is the Linhay. Was that the original barn Rich? In that original barn Grandfather Tucker, he hauled stones for the roads that Rich was just talking about. He also had a lovely upholstered, square box with feet, just like a coach and it was stored up in that barn after it was out of use, and we used to sit in it. That was to put on the wagon so that you were inside, you had lovely seats, just like a coach because the wagon. Grandfather had the Model T, it's in his records. We find he went as far as Salcombe. He did trips with horse and wagon to Salcombe from here, and a lot of trips to Mill Bay, getting sand for the builders. A lot of other trips, Sunday School outings to Torcross – we've got pictures of them on their Sunday School outings over at Torcross.

Kate With horses?

Michael No probably Model T by then, but they used to go to Mill Bay for the Sunday School outing. In here built onto that barn was a great big linhay, where Tuckers used to process the cauliflower and turnips, and Uncle Billy the rabbit trapper, used to have several acres of garden out there, and we've got a photograph of Auntie Winnie bunching daffodils in the court there.

Kate I thought it was spring onions. Roger always says it's spring onions.

Michael I think it's daffodils. I remember being in Town Farm doing daffodils. Her husband, Wilf who was a carpenter, made up this wooden box with little spikes, so you slid the daffodils with the flowers down in each spike and that made a lovely bunch, the different heights. They're not all in a bundle. Elastic bands put on and job done. A lot of activity there and during the war Uncle Billy with his same Austen, with the running board I was talking about, was short of tyres because they couldn't buy new ones. We had an Austen pickup the same that was redundant after Bob went away in the Air Force, cos he used to drive it. Billy had all the wheels off that one and then he and the horseman, Buffer Wills who lived in this cottage here, would be down here nighttimes putting tops of wellington boots as gaiters in the tyres, and they'd go away with three spares, and they'd have so many punctures cos the thing was overloaded for a car, and they put on the different spare wheels and you'd hear them coming in on Broad Road on the rims. They spent a lot of hours doing tyres. In Dartmouth we used to get swill from the college, cos the college was taken over by the Americans, and we used to get all their swill to feed the pigs here. They used to boil it up down there.

Kate They used to do that from the RAF camp too.

Michael That was during the time the Americans were in Dartmouth for the invasion. Just before the invasion. ... [Walking up past Town Farm] [can't really hear but talking about the white stones and schist in the walls] [something about building a wall and filling in the crack – this may be the shed just by Town Farm]

And that was gardens where our Granfer Partridge had gardens, running right up through those houses there. That was pigs houses wasn't it?

Now this is where Philip Putt, the carpenter over this side of the village – his brother was over on the green where his wife bit the sweet in half. Harry Putt and this is Phil Putt. Uncle Bill Putt the chapel man, lived in there, another brother. Any more than those three? Anyway Phil lived in there with his daughter who was Mrs Ford and she married Harry Ford who was in the Royal Naval Service on the First World War aerodrome. He was a technical man, somebody remembers him sitting in a plane with his metres, testing the plane, and he came here and he worked down Maelcombe House as a market gardener and he was the only one in the village that had electricity during the Second World War. He was in the Home Guard and Philip Putt's carpenter shop was there and then they had a little tiny garage where he kept his motorbikes, because he didn't have a car. He had a Model T with his John Henry who hung out the washing on the green and told to take it away. That was his brother-in-law and they



started up a motor carrier business together, and Harry would park his Model T out here and Uncle Billy told me this Model T would start up, self start. Normally you had to turn the handle, and you had to put a block of wood on the gear pedal to keep it in neutral and then get out the front and swing the handle. But Harry – engines usually stop in one position. That's why the starter ring wears, cos nine times out of ten they stop in a certain position and it so happened that he came out and flicked the advanced retard lever, it produces a spark and the car, hadn't been stood long and there was still fuel in that cylinder, it'd start up. Then he made an engine, which I've got up in the car, with a horizontal main crank engine up there, and he had batteries up in that window. Ordinary car batteries, only 12 volt, and the wires went across properly from that hook, up around that area, and he was the only as I say that had electricity and he used to build radio sets for the coastguards, cos they could afford to buy them, and he had his own radiogram. I used to come in and play records, Isle of Capri I remember. It was in a lovely old cabinet with nice batteries in the bottom and the radio equipment for the radiogram on top. Wasn't just a gramophone it was a radiogram.

Kate It's also probably worth mentioning that this is thought to be one of the oldest cottages in the village.

Richard These cottages here are 17<sup>th</sup> century.

Kate So 16 something.

Michael So 16 something you say. Phil, when he got older, he used to mainly make farm gates and he'd have it ready and then they'd have to lie it down with the hang ? with the holes in and drive in the ?lexis and then put the heads on all out in the road, nobody could go by and drive in the nails to be able to stand them up. We used to deliver milk – if we came back at the end of a milk round we'd have to wait here whilst he drove in enough nails so we'd get out and help him stand the gates up, and then he'd have half a dozen gates stood up there, and then he'd get Elwin and Ashley, his grandsons to help him clinch the nails. So he'd hold the gates with the hammer one side and they'd be out the other and bend the nails over and drive them into the... and there's a skill in doing that because you mustn't drive them in with the nails sticking out like that. You've got to drive them in. .... In here was the pigs houses over here. There were pigs houses and then an alley way to get to them, and this side with slate stones, big slate stones about that high, where the dung was stored. Each pigs house had their own little cubicle for storing the dung. During the war Ashley and Elwin – they had fowls down in the garden and they saw that when the farm wagons and tractors and trailers were travelling, the hedges, the branches were combing out a lot of straw with corn in. So they made two trailers, two wheel push trailers, with ?leads. Lovely little trailers and they went all along with rakes raking down this waste stuff that had come off the trailers and trailered it back and put it in the pigs houses, and they had a pigs house full of corn to feed the fowls. Another little story ??? two stroke motorbike and he used to ride to Maelcombe for work, and he used allow his boys, when they got a bit older, to take the back push it up along Woodcombe Road and then they'd push it along, couple of boys would push and others would ride. Well lasted a little while and then we got a pint of lighter fuel over the shop where ?? lived and I'd get some PBO ??? oil, we'd mix it and then we'd get along there out of hearing, put it in the bike, start it up and we'd ride all – takes us all over the place until it ran out of lighter fuel, and we didn't have any more money so we'd bring it down and put it away. And that went on for several months [car goes past can't hear, something about being dressed up for work]. Elwin and Ashley get the bike out boy. They'd come out – very steep to get down. They'd run the bike out and start it, and then they'd start it up and away he'd go until such time as they started it up one day, and Elwin was sat on the bike with the bike running for Harry to take over, and Harry said "You can have a ride if you like". And of course Elwin said all

right and put it in gear and went up the hill and over and back again and Harry was there with his mouth open. He thought crumbs he's a good rider. Of course he'd been practising all the time! [laughter] Anything else?

Kate There's the pump.

Michael Our mangel tip was over where that window is. The horseman had to back his horse and cart along and tip it down below ground into the mangel tip all the loads of mangel. Then when we had tractors it seemed a lot narrower. They had to reverse ???

Kate We've got a photograph of your sister, no your aunt.

Richard 60, 70 years I reckon. And there's our auntie drawing water from this pump look. The water's coming out. Late 1920s. ...

Michael Then it used to run like gravity. We were lucky we had a tap just down under the bank, and also we had ???

Kate Where was home at that point?

Richard There.

Kate Here, where Derek ended up?

Michael Yes. I was born there on the Monday, on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 1936, it was a Monday. One time on TV they were advertising you could work out what day you were born on. I know it's true because George Rundle, the postman and local mason told me that when I was born on a Monday he was filled in that dairy where you see now the slate roof is. That was our dairy for to cool the milk and fill the bottles with milk. Because we had a milk round, with those cardboard round tops – you stuck your finger in ...used to make them into woolly balls.

? Pom poms. ...

Michael So that's fairly old, Coolings Farm. ... You see in places, you see there's a wall there, so there's nowhere to attach the first layer, there's no woodwork, to attach the first ...

Chris A The wall would take the weight.

? Was that always thatched?

Richard Yes. Always thatched. Reeds from Torcross. ...

Michael That was my room, the little window, and the end room is a higher floor than the lower room, and that was the landing, my bedroom. It wasn't a bedroom and the landing is sloping. My bed was down against the lower wall, so it wouldn't roll away and then the wardrobe is up on the level top, so when you came in the door from that direction, if Mother had been polishing the canvas floor, I'd slip right in under the bed. Mother you've been polishing this floor again. Once we had a John Bridgeman, evacuee from Peckham in London, was with us and his two sisters lived up with Peggy up the hill by our horseman (?) and they were talking about John because the trouble when they came from London they thought that anything that was left around was for taking. In London if you didn't pick it up when you saw it, somebody else would. But here if you were out pairing, you'd have your hook in the bag and you'd leave your pairing hook where you finished for the next day, leave it in the hedge. They were inclined to take things – that's how they were brought up. They must have been talking about it and he overheard what they were saying, and he jumped out of the window and ran down across the roof – I don't know what sort of roof it was then, Rich – or was it not even there. He jumped out the window onto the wall and he was gone. He did come back, he only went because he was cross. He could climb a telegraph pole – he could whip up that like nobody's business. He'd make a good marine commando for sure. There's the pump you were asking about. You prime it you just tip water in there.

? You didn't have to go far to get the water?

Michael Course this before the council houses were built was quite marshy. ... That was our cow houses where that is, and a dung heap swimming in water, and then we'd have to reverse the tractor and trailer down and load with dung and it wasn't tarmacked, just

rough stone like we saw up on the green. From our home to the dairy there was a strip of concrete rather rounded, and that's where the tractors used to get stuck. You had to give them the works to get over that lump else they'd spin. Black marks all over the concrete.

...

Michael That was where the carpenter lived. Coolings was a carpenter's shop before father and mother came there. There's sort of a queer piece that could have been an entrance from one to the other.

Richard That was the original house – Freddy Boys house. We're not quite sure but there is a stone stairs in there which is very early.

Michael Used to keep battery hens there and the rats used to be in there feeding. When I used to come home from Stokenham dance with me motorbike, opened the door and run me motorbike and leaned up against the wall and switched the light on – absolutely rampant and one day I had those sort of sandals on and a rat bit my foot as he went by. Then he disappeared down over the steps. ...

....[moving along and can't really hear]

Kate I don't think it was a long house, no.

Mark I think it was just cottages, from what we know

Kate We didn't have any long houses in Prawle at all did we?

Michael Our good lady thinks that might have been a long house. You don't think so?

Kate No.

....[about the engine in his car]

Kate It all revolves round what he drove where! ...

Richard Two fields, you see, the field goes beyond that bank about 100 yards just in that area. The living quarters. All of this. The RAF Second World War. It was the radar station. West Prawle.

? Start Point another one?

Kate At West Prawle.

Mark It was a direction finder ... they had three of them on the South Coast and this is one of them and they produced beams and the bombers, when the beams met, knew that's where they were going to drop the bombs. Terribly secret.

? Got a gun emplacement down on the coast haven't they?

Mark No that's another radar station.

? Got gun emplacement built into the cliffs.

Richard At Prawle Point? That actually is the bunkers for the radar equipment, the generator.

Mark There's a second radar station down there because the bombers could fly in underneath this radar. Because it was too high. ....

Michael We're looking outwards aren't we? So we're in there looking out. And the Americans were here as well, because they manned the low radar out at Prawle Point one time.

Kate There were some domestic huts down there that were never used were they?

Richard Yes I think they were. There were guards down there. There's a guard house right at the lane.

Kate Derek remembers that all the mattresses and things..

Michael There were gun emplacements there as well on the cliff, so the army was out there. I think the Americans at one time manned that lower radar.

Richard They took over for DDay.

Michael You guys don't know how to do it, we'll look after all [American accent].

Kate I thought they were at Puckle Pitts?

Richard They were but that was earlier and later.

Michael During the build up to the evacuation they were all over, and the Italians had gone from there and the Americans came in. ??Uncle Jack, taxi driver he was up Higher Farm at

the time, where Geoffrey Tripp is, and they used to give him all sorts of stuff – meat, they were living on tinned ham. I forget what else. The Americans gave them, and one day again from Bob, he was gone to bed because he'd driving late, perhaps overnight the night before, and he was gone to bed early that night and Americans rung up, they wanted a taxi to take them over to the ferry from the pub.

Richard Over Portlemouth to go across the ferry.

Michael And his wife said, "surely Jack ...[car drives past so can't hear]. He says "I've got to they've given me petrol and all sorts, so I've got to do it." So he got out of bed and he did the trip and they said "We put something in your boot, guy". So the next morning when they looked in the boot twas powdered teddy, which they had plenty of real teddies, potatoes! They gave him powdered potato which was what they had, and of course he didn't want powdered potatoes. Gone to all that trouble, when he'd gone to bed. Rewarded him with what we called ?pom in the National Service, they put it in stews. Yes there was. We used to come up here when they were building it, when the builders were here, no RAF or anything, and they were gradually building and they had a lovely rubber tired four wheeled builders cart, right with a draw bar and they carried the blocks to where they wanted. And we as boys, Ashley and Elwin were the ringleaders, they were a bit older.

Kate What you weren't you mean?

Michael No I was only a little tacker. And we used to come up here when they were gone home and get the cart and take it up somewhere up towards those stakes, not quite as far, but up towards there. It was all tarmacked down around, ?? one boy same as a spurt tank would get on the front and steer, sit up on the front, and all the girls and boys pile on wherever they could and three boys at the back pushed like anything .... and scooped down along the level and right down towards the lower side which was the coal area with brick walls all around. There wasn't any coal there then cos they were just building it. Go down there and spin around to a standstill and then the boys would all get off and the younger boys and girls had to pull him up cos they'd done the pushing. Time and time again. ... [too difficult to hear all this]

Richard He had his call up papers [brother Bob] and he had a few months before he had to go, so he left the farmer ?? with fishing. ...

Michael There were scores of men digging the trenches to bring the water in and the electricity in, Sherford?

Kate Sherford, yes. Not sure about the electricity, but I've got a map from the water board showing exactly where it goes.

Michael I remember they were building a brick air raid shelter in the school which we'll come to in a minute, and I went in there eating my sandwich and one of the builders said "Oi you've got a bad hand boy". You ever heard that saying. If you've got a pasty or sandwich it said you've got a bad hand. I didn't know what he was talking about. Another time before they built this, a little story: Uncle Johnnie who's John's father that I was showing somebody. One Sunday down Town, Granny and Granfer's, and he was coming here to have a look at the bullocks that were in this field. It was full of stinging nettles, great patches of stinging nettles about this high. Course I was small then, and I came up with him, catching hold his hand, a little boy. "Stay there a minute boy" and he turned, so he could see everyone and they came over and knocked me in the stinging nettles. I balled and hollered and he took me down to granny and they plastered it with goose fat. Goose fat, the fat that they drained off the geese was used for all ointments, like Vaseline would be. That's the only thing they had. Father used to swear by Indian balm. That's like a Vaseline only yellower. Must have got it out of the Navy I should think. He always had a tin of Indian Balm. Also the villagers used to use the hospital facilities, the sick bay. And one day I was mending a tractor, one of those cotton reel

tractors with elastic bands ... and I was making one with a carving knife and cut my finger. Mother brought me up here, they looked at it and said it needed a stitch, and they supplied the transport to take me down to Dr Simmonds, down at Chillington, and they put a stitch in there – you can still see the cut. They were handy. They used to come up and do shows. They used to do cinemas. Oh Harry Ford, the one with the engine in that house. He got his sons an 8 millimetre projector and seeing he went to Torquay several times a week he could hire films, and he used to bring them home and I used to go in next door and see Charlie Chaplin films. But they didn't crank the handle many weeks before they put a windscreen wiper on, and it was a ?? and a couple of pulleys. ... If anyone had a car trouble they would come and see Harry Ford. Marvellous I spent hours in there looking at Harry. How's the time going. Another little story. The water tower. Because of the pumping situation from Ford, we used to run out of water a lot at Prawle, but the RAF had a storage tank, so they had a gravity feed storage tank. [tractor going by can't hear anything] This water tank was built of cast iron squares bolted together inside and rounded corners, it was up on a nice steel ? and when the camp was vacated and being knocked to pieces, before they actually took it down, the gypsies came here to get a lot of scrap iron from the different owners. They saw Uncle Johnnie, the one with the rabbits, and they said " I shall buy that one off you", but he said "no I don't want to sell, I want to put it out on the edge, where the windmill is, you know Fairfield and the water tower, for to water the fields, put in drinking trough". "Oh we will take him down for you". So they got there with their gas and cutting and broad it down and he smashed all to pieces, so then they the scrap anyway. The steps where they used to go into the guardroom used to be here. There's a bit of a controversy with RAF people that said they used to have to go in around the main gate, but I think after the invasion threat had gone by, the builders came and they cut out so they could park their bikes outside and go up the steps and book in, and then they come down, pick up their bikes and go on. So it changed with whatever the situation was at the time.

[walking along so not much talking]

Mark It's still a radio station [the new Coastguard building]. Not manned but they have, the radio aerial still works and they transmit from that.

Michael Interesting little story: our horseman, Jack Hannaford, used to live in one of those cottages, but previously his father was the head horseman at West Prawle, on the way to Salcombe, and his father and him used to grow spuds out on little patches on the cliffs, and bring them over here to Tuckers and that to send to Dartmouth. Then they'd come in a pony and trap and they'd go up the Union Inn (Pigs Nose) and in the entrance where that lorry ran into the cottages, the entrance to your farm, they tied the pony up to the gate, and then brother and his cronies would come along, while they up the pub getting oiled. They'd let out the pony, take the trap inside the gate, pull the shafts out through the lexis of the gate and then they'd hook the pony up looking in over the other way. So when they came out of the pub they had to unhinch all this lot and disentangle it from out of the gate. My father told me two little stories of what they used to do. From school a man used to ? out Maelcombe and he used to come from Higher House Farm with a load of straw on his back for his pigs and chicken, and the boys used to come with a box of matches and set fire to the straw. So he lost his straw and he had to drop it in a hurry.

Kate That's not a nice story.

Michael Of course this is the third Coastguard station. You've got the one out New Houses, the one out at Prawle Point and then they sold all that and built the smaller one here.

...

TAPE SIDE THREE (ON THE BACK OF REG HANNAFORD)

Michael Harold Torr who was a bell ringer, the leading bell ringer down at Chivelstone church, he built a wooden bungalow that came from the gypsies down at Tanpits when they were evacuated, you know the evacuation for the Americans to train. He had a wooden bungalow down Tanpits, and Harold bought this section of building and put it up and then they lined it with expanded metal, and put a skin of plaster over the top and that was his house. And he was in the Devons, might have been in the Dorsets because they all the same – they transfer from one to the other. He was in Palestine.

Kate Richard, is he the one with the Dead Man's Penny that we've got?

Richard No that was another Torr, no relation.

Kate This lady is the lady who owns the Dead Man's Penny that we've actually got.

Michael This man George Rundle, the one that was building the dairy and told me what day I was born without having to go to the television. He was in the Navy at the battle of Jutland. What ship was he on board?

Richard Iron Duke.

.....

Michael Iron Duke I think was the first one to leave. [car going by] In the First World War he was the first ship to leave Spithead and steam up to Scotland – Scaffa Flow. It was hot somewhere out east in the Navy and they went into an eating house and they ordered roast chicken, and he said the chicken was still out in the run! Whilst they waited, they killed it, plucked, prepared it and cooked it. So hot they wouldn't kill it before they had a customer. Proper chicken! George had a 1927 350 sidebar ?AJS, chain drive, one of the early chain drives, and he was a dispatch rider during – for the Home Guard because he had a motorbike. Very ancient machine. One day somewhere the other Home Guard people fired off a few shots as George went by, to frighten him.  
.....[laughter]

Kate This is the school [lot of people talking at once]

Michael Oh it's Prawle College by the way. My brother again, Bob, he joined the RAF to fly and he wasn't educated enough to be a pilot so he was a motor transport mechanic, cos he dealt with cars and that here. His uncle Jack bought him an Austen car to learn to drive from. Fancy your uncle buying you a car back then to learn to drive. He drove it in these fields. Since his farming days down in Cornwall he could afford to buy a plane, and he bought a lovely plane. The second plane he had was an – an RAF officer bought an American all aluminium plane and then he got too old and had it for sale, and Bob bought it. Then he got in circles rather above his station and of course the talk was what university they went to, and in passing they'd say to Bob "what school did you go to Bob" and he'd say "Prawle College"! [laughter] They didn't want to show their ignorance ... so this is Prawle College.

Kate It was built in 1878. ....[everyone talking at once]

Michael [can't really hear but something about the boys in the school doing something to a horse and cart] ...

Kate Your brother used to throw stones at Postie Jim. That was late 1920s. .... Richard would be interested. Just got that two or three days ago.

? Did you stay here till you were 11 or did it go right through? ... When it started it was all the way through. ....[something about a machine gun]

Michael There was stone elongated hole which done for the Home Guard to put the ?vicars machine gun. ...[something about being two stories to the building]

? Is that where they had the dances?

Richard No over at Higher Farm. ...

Michael This was rebuilt new. The old buildings were in there and a house was in there and there's windows in the wall.

Kate Yes I can't find them.

Michael Then they built this. I should say would have been after the Napoleonic wars? That sort of time. There was a date on the front of the barns, but there wasn't any house, and yet that was Higher Farm and this was Higher House Farm, and there wasn't any house until Roger built the new one out there. And out where his house around the corner we used to build our ricks, corn ricks for thrashing.

Richard Higher House Farm was in there, there was a well in there.  
.... [can't hear]

Michael There was a well in there so that's where the farm house and buildings were. Have we got an old map.

Kate What on the Tithe map? Is it?...

Richard That's the old way, went straight across there, see?

Mark Oh yes.

Richard Well the footpath used to go through there, but before this it was a kissing gate there, a metal sort of, so the cattle couldn't get out, you could get in and walk up through. And it went straight across diagonally through the field to.

?Vivienne Probably still a legal right of way?

Richard They diverted it.

Michael But this is where all the RAF personnel used to go for a shortcut, those who rode bikes would ride around the roads, but those that were walking to go on duty at the radar station would go across Aerodrome, because that's part of the First World War aerodrome.

? Where's the First World War aerodrome?

Kate Those fields over there. ...

Michael There isn't any hedges, that's just a fence across there. It ran a field's width that way and right out that way till it joined the Portlemouth road, where the water tower is. And Canadians came with the horses and ? to take down all the hedges, and there were hedges and lanes going into get to the small fields. Different lanes that ran in.

...

Richard About twenty years back. I think so not quite sure

Kate Field Centre – was it as long as that?

Richard It was a field centre up until the time these people bought it and that wasn't that long ago they bought it. Not quite sure. Time goes so quickly!

...[people walking along slowly towards Moorwell Pond]

Richard Well the road, this road wasn't here in 1842-47, there was no road around this way. The road into the village went down that way and across the top where we've just come from. This was just a waste bit of ground really, this bit. [something about the willows]

Richard This is fairly new, they didn't have willows here. ...

Kate Have they said at the beginning that these two are brothers?

Chris Oh they're brothers are they?

Richard This road was built between 1842-47 and 1886.

Kate What because we know it was here in 1886?

....

Kate So what happened in 1886 that we know?

Richard Well there's a map, that's the first map .... yes we've got one (ordinance).

Michael What I didn't tell you about Charlie the blacksmith, he was a bachelor and he was a lovely feller and if you broke anything in the morning out in the field and you left fairly early dinner time and got in before one 'clock before he went to dinner and said "Charlie I've broke this chain can you mend it?" he wouldn't have his dinner, he'd mend your chain whilst you went home and had your dinner, and then when you came up over the green after the dinner there was the chain all mended, on the steps of the

blacksmith shop. But another story he and Harry Putt, the carpenter, used to work together on the green. And Charlie used to like his cider when he was younger and he'd been down the Union and got fairly well oiled with cider, and when he come up to his house, course there weren't any lights or anything, he couldn't find the blinking key hole. So he didn't put up with that very long. He was a ginger haired bloke, so I suppose he had a fairly short fuse. So he went out in the blacksmith shop and got a sledge hammer and knocked the door down. He had a good night's sleep and in the morning he went over and saw Harry Putt, come over I've got a job for you Harry. And he looked at it and Harry used to stammer a bit and he said "door, door, door is all knocked down." And he said "yea I know tis a door, all I want you to do is mend it". I told you about the Ford boys and their carpentry and one day they must have – the father used to have the amateur engineer paper and in the paper they must have seen how to make a bolt. So they decided to make a bolt. So they made [too complicated to listen to type back!!] and then they covered it in mother's oilcloth that you used on the table. Tack that on and that was the water proofing. We brought it over here, so they said "right Mike you can try it". So they gave me a paddle, sat me in the boat and pushed me off to do the test drive. It worked lovely. I was out in the middle of the pond. They all "come in" cos they wanted ago. But no, no I was all right. ... [walking along]

Michael It was all marshy all around here.

Kate It has a limestone base. Richard will tell you won't you Richard? It is limestone based isn't it?

Richard There's a solid base. For the horses and thrashing machines. They did bring in limestone to put on the fields, so they might have.

Michael They used to use it for horses to drink as they came by. We've got pictures of horses here. Back to brother Bob with his Austen pickup, when the thrashing machine was up there working, we'd have to come down with a wooden cider cask with a square hole cut in the side, in the pickup with a bucket on a rope and reverse the pickup in the water and jump in over the back and with the bucket dip it out and fill this hogshead – how much is it 80 gallons?

Richard Something like that.

Michael And then rush after the thrashing machine ??? and suck it out.

Richard Steam engine, not thrashing machine. The steam engine that drove the thrashing machine.

Kate I said that, it's my fault.

Michael On wheels. Came round the village and then went away again. The first steam engines they had here were portable engines towed by horses and Jack Hannaford, again our horseman, he told me that what a game they used to have over West Prawle when it was muddy in the winter, cos they used to thrash during the winter. You were lucky if you could get a thrashing machine [car going by can't hear]. Then the portable engine and get it all lined up so the belt wouldn't come off, it was quite a job. So the traction engine. The first portable engine that came here was Charlie's older brother. Charlie Yelland the blacksmith, and they farmed over Borough during Queen Victoria's jubilee and he was in the Navy and he came out with a gratuity and a pension so he went to Beers of Newton Abbot and bought a thrashing machine ... and a portable engine and he went contracting, cos being in the Navy he dealt with steam and fire and that. Farming became very hard and the farmers couldn't afford to pay him and he was in a position where Beer's was threatening to come and take it back, he had it on the never never. He was thrashing over Farmer Goodman's over Holeset, big farmer on the way to Portlemouth and course everybody knew that this had taken place and they were worried that they'd lose their thrashing machine. So Farmer Goodman had a quiet word with him. "I hear you're in a bit of trouble", and he said "yes, well I think they're going



to take it back, I can't afford to pay them". So he said "I've been thinking about it, how much is it you owe?" He told him and he said "Well if I pay it off and paid you for the other part and then I'd employ you for your lifetime to operate it". So that's how Goodman's got into it. And Farmer Goodman somehow lost a hand. I never knew him. Farmer Goodman's father lost a hand ... Another thing of Jack Hannaford, our horseman, he told me that the Salcome lifeboat disaster, 1917, I think. He was ploughing out at West Prawle the fields overlooking the sea, and that fateful day he saw the lifeboat go down, look at the wreck and see that the breeches buoy rope were abroad and nobody around and then they turned and rode back. Saw them go back and he said one minute you could lifeboat on the crest of the wave and another time you couldn't see the lifeboat, he was down in the valley. Two were saved and they were washed on the rocks and they were out at Rickham Farm convalescing, they couldn't move them from there, cos the Air Ambulance wasn't available, and they convalesced there until they were well enough to go back to Salcombe. One of them was the coxswain of the lifeboat. There was a family of three, a father and two sons buried up in Salcombe grave. Anybody seen the graves?

Kate In Salcombe?

Michael If you go down the bottom and go up through the graveyard from those wooden gates down the bottom, they're about half way up on the right. ... So the water goes right down there through Ducks Lane, which is that lower road, and then down and across round castle, where we were previously. ...[long bit of general conversation]

[about gates]

Michael A contractor from Moreleigh, Mr Bill Widger told me, that when he was travelling with his traction engine and thrashing machine, he 'd come to a field gate and he couldn't get through, so he'd back up to here with his big wheel and put a chain round the traction engine wheel and just chuck forward and he'd lift the gate pillar right out. Then they'd dig it out a bit and he'd get in. He'd say to the farmer "you want to put a wider gate so next time I shan't have this caper". They never did. ...

[something about the gate pillar and how it's made and about hanging leads - ....???)

Michael All the council houses are all new as far as we're concerned.

Kate Some were definitely built in 1949 because Hilda Shepherd was a land girl here and she remembers them. ... about Wilf Easterbrook being a bit fiery.

Michael His daughters have got letters he wrote to Winnie several times a week – and they've got all that.

Celia It's interesting that letters went backwards and forwards in the war.

Kate Mummy and Daddy wrote to each other every day.

Richard Brother Bob, I remember a lot of his airmails coming with sentences cut out. ... The site of a chapel in 1547, that was mentioned.

Kate Was it actually mentioned? Who by?

Richard I can't remember that, but it is recorded.

Kate I've got it written I didn't realise it was actually recorded.

Richard It's recorded in the documents of the Manor of Stokenham and the church wardens at Stokenham had to pay 12pence to Henry VIII's widow, Katherine, for renting this chapel. After that.

Kate Have you got that?

Richard Yes.

Kate I've got a lot of it documented but I haven't got the dates.

Richard Recently, Jeanne James has been delving into the chapels on the coast and she thought that the chapel was somewhere else in the village. Well recently I've got details about this area here, and in there it says about "chapel houses burning down and new houses being built", so that's why she couldn't find anything in these houses to do with the

chapel, because they were burnt down in 1700s and then they built these new ones, and it was on a 3000 year lease. From 1597, the original houses. That was after the chapel was burnt down. No the chapel wasn't burnt down, they converted the chapel into chapel houses and then the houses were burnt down, and before that, or after that it was on a 3000 year lease. From Queen Elizabeth the First. It's all documented and we've got a field over the road there on a 3000 year lease, from the Earl of Huntingdon who was the Lord of Stokenham Manor, and this was all in the manor. From 1585 something like that.

Michael We are looking for his agent is Richard Pooley.

Richard Richard Pooley – if you ever come across Richard Pooley we'd like to know who he was! He was the agent for the Earl of Huntingdon whose name is on the deeds of the selling of these properties and they keep. Lots of houses in the village keep appearing in these old documents. He was selling off a lot of ground on these 3000 year leases.

Chris A Who do they revert to after 3000 ? [laughter]

Kate Richard Partridge.

Richard No by act of parliament in 1925 they done away with all those archaic leases cos they didn't make any sense. ... They just bought the lease and apparently, so that the peasants buying them didn't think they owned too much. They didn't own it, so they didn't get above their station. ...

Michael There's also Chapel Field isn't there?

Richard These documents that I got about 6 months ago more or less prove that this was where the chapel was, along there. And the lady that wrote about it, is studying it. She's seen the deeds and she agrees now with me, and I've been telling her for the last 15 years, and now she agrees because I've got these deeds.

Kate That's Jeanne James is it?

Richard Yes, she agrees that. She's going to rewrite it and say ...

Kate I am going to have to do a bit of rewriting too!

Michael From the Bishop of Exeter's records there's a bit about the chapel at Prawle isn't there?

Richard Yes, well he says about it being rebuilt. They did pay rent in 15 whatever, 1547, to Henry VIII's widow. ....[lorry going by] 1547 but it was there before that. Records of it I think in 14.....[can't hear] [something about Napoleon being on board his ship nearby]

Michael He was strutting about in his cocked hat.

Kate My tape is running out.

Michael The roof of this garage especially came from the RAF camp. That was some of the roofs. Here's this drain.

Kate Here's the standpipe. ...[can't quite get it but it's to do with the standpipe and Richard has a photograph of himself standing by it and another much older photograph??]

Richard Made Lidstone's of Kingsbridge.

Kate Which we know all about!

Richard That one's been there nearly 100 years. ...

Michael This is the last main's water standpipe in the village and I was glad – that was built when did you say Rich? After the war?

Kate I think it was 1942-3. It was in the war.

Michael Yes I was up there with Betty and then I could come, I only had to come to here instead of right down there to carry water. We lived in this house with the chimney. Father tells about an old man that used to live there when he was a boy and the boys got ??? and the old boy got smoked out. Sort of thing they used to do.

Richard This is the oldest house in the village and here's a photograph. They extended it over the years. Still got this roof line. 16 century. This is the oldest one in the parish the experts say. If you go inside it is fairly oldey worldy.

Michael They dropped a lot of cider when they were building it.

Richard Apparently there wasn't a chimney, smoke just went up through a hole in the roof. You can see inside the beams from the roof joint. It was thatched. This is a fisherman here and he used to keep his pony in this shed for taking his pots etc down to the beach.

Michael Shall I tell you a little story about him? Albert Rundle ex Navy with a bad leg. He's one of the people sat on the green on the stones we first looked at. He married the district nurse. I don't know the history about that, Nurse Rundle, and they lived out where the water tower and the windmill is, out at Fairfield. He used to fish out at Landing Cove with a man from Waterhead, tell me what he's called Rich.

Richard I can't remember.

Michael Anyway the engineer's down there brother. There was an engineering shop down at Waterhead and they made cast iron rollers. Abraham Yabsley the brother of the engineer and he used to walk from Waterhead up to New House on the Portsmouth Road, there's Wood Lane that comes up West Prawle and then they'd go fishing about four/five o'clock in the morning. Come back here get a bit of bread and cheese and go down in the pub and have a glass or two of cider, bread and cheese. One summer's day Albert had this donkey because he had this bad leg and that was the donkey carried his fish tack and they come out of the pub and they made their way out to Fairfield talking about old times, like we are now. When they got out to Fairfield Albert who lived in Fairfield said to Abraham "I've quite enjoyed this talk about old times, I think I'll walk you a little way. You can tell me a bit more". So they walked on and on this lovely summer's evening talking again about old times and enjoying the experience and when they what we call come to, when they realised where they were they were right down Waterhead, walked all the way. So Abraham said "I've really enjoyed that, I think I'll be a little bit ? with it" and they walked a little bit back and when they were realised they were back where he lived at Fairfield again, so he had to walk on his own. The Prawle Carriers, did you ever come across ?? he told me that story. He was brought up in this house here.

Richard That was the stables that belonged to Bowhay House and the man from Bowhay House was a carrier.

Kate He was one of the first ones wasn't he?

Richard Yes. He bought Bowhay House in 1870 at an auction at the Providence Inn for £80. It's still called Bowhay House. ... In 1928 our uncle bought the cottage here for £325 and built that extension on.

Michael Then he had to find out who the garden belonged to.

Richard His father had bought the garden before. His father - our uncle's father, which is our grandfather - lived in the next house, Rosario, and he bought a derelict cottage for £8 and then when his son wanted to extend he sold him the garden for £100. ...

Michael He bought the stable as well did he?

Richard Uncle Jack bought the stable when he bought the house. ...[walking along]

Vivienne What was the Community Hall?

Richard That was the chapel, a Methodist chapel. The early time it was the Bible Christians. There was already a building there in 1842-47. They say the chapel was built in 1848 but the chapel was already there.

Michael [about the Bible Christians and John Wesley's footsteps and they started up the bible Christian. ] .... Showing up in that photograph is cob, they put cob on top of stone wall before you get the stone again. I went out to Auntie Easterbrook, the lady we were talking about, and showed her the photographs. .... she said well the original cottage was thatched and when they built a stone wall by the house. TAPE ENDS.