

Around

St. Gerrans

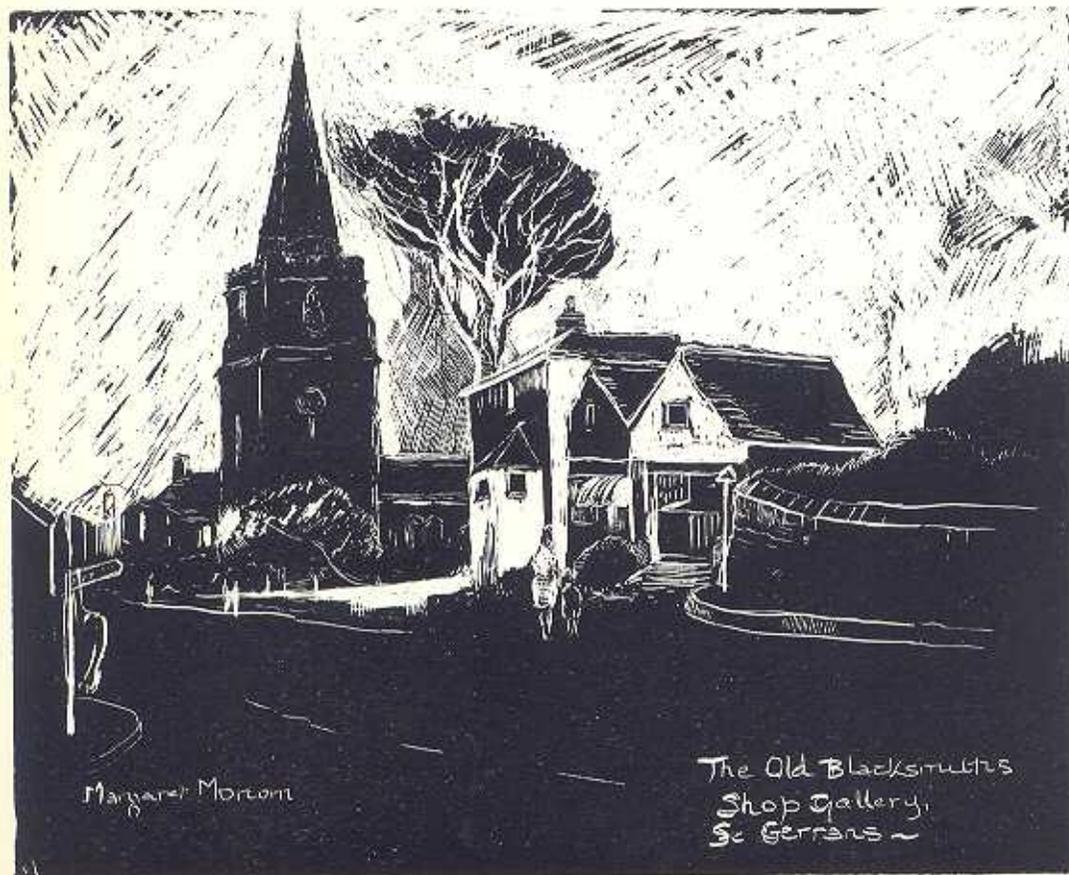
ST. GERRANS
(Geraint or Gerennius)

King of Cornwall and grandson of Constantine, whose castle is supposed to have stood at Curgurrel, was killed fighting the English at Langport. Tradition says his body was carried across Veyan bay in a golden boat with silver oars and buried together with the boat in the Barrow of Carn Beacon (370' in circumference) in A.D. 600.

The church erected in the thirteenth century was practically rebuilt in 1848, but the granite piers supporting the arches are fifteenth century and the font is Norman. The granite spire, which was repaired in 1606 and again in 1890, is a well-known landmark for sailors. An unusual feature is to be found in the timbers outside the eaves, whilst in the churchyard is a fine example of a Celtic cross.

Opposite the church is the old Blacksmith's shop in use until 1967 when it was acquired by Margaret Morcom and converted into a Studio Gallery in 1968. The original walls, forge and slates have been retained. Here there is a permanent exhibition of her paintings in water colours, oils, and ink and wash.

Next door to the Gallery is the old toll house set up by the trustees of the Creed and St. Just turnpike road. This is now Nancy's. Whilst on the opposite side of the road is Jubilee Cottage which was originally the parish poor house.



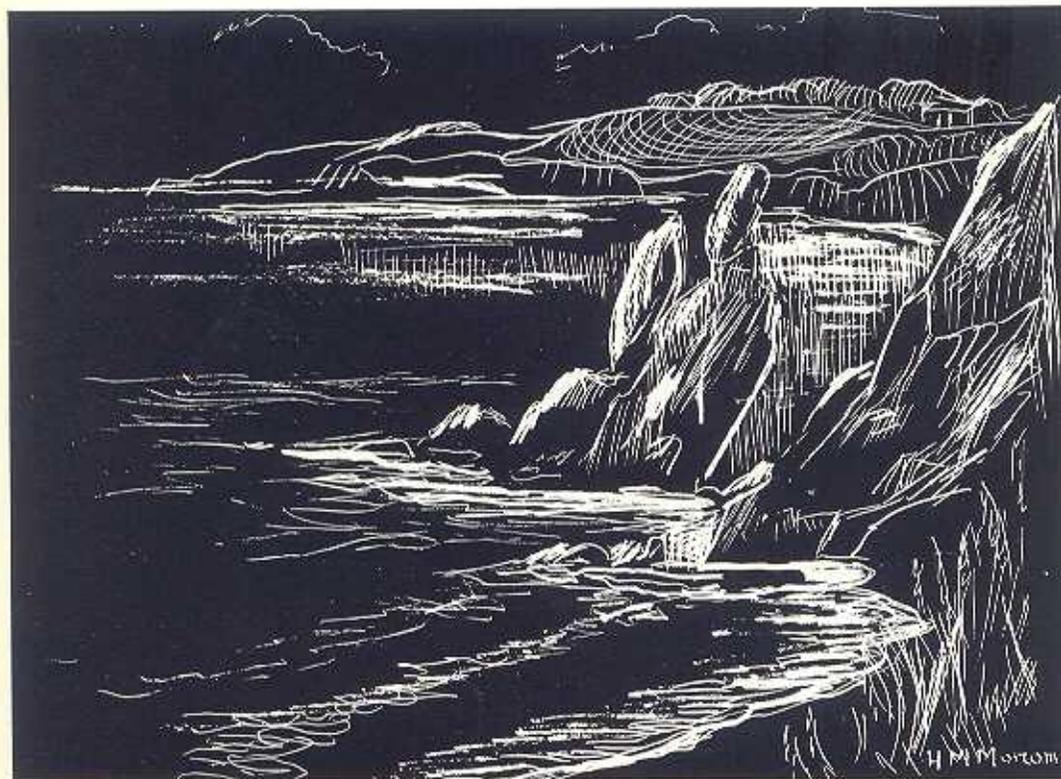
Margaret Morcom

The Old Blacksmith's
Shop Gallery,
St. Gerrans ~

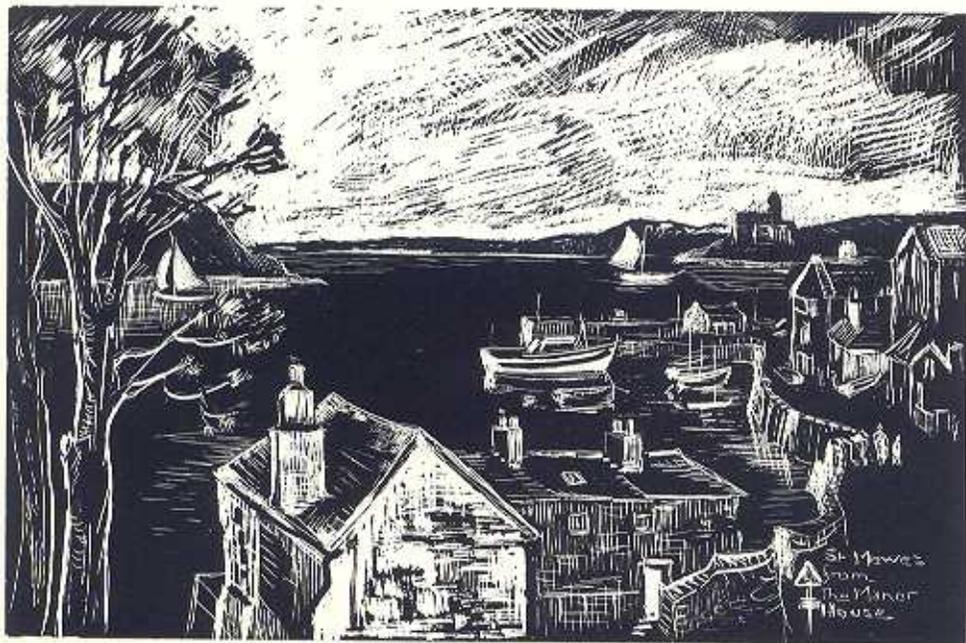


PORTSCATHO

(Porth - bay; scath - boat) was originally a small fishing village. It was said to have been engaged in smuggling and wrecking in the early nineteenth century. On the Lagger is a row of attractive Georgian houses.

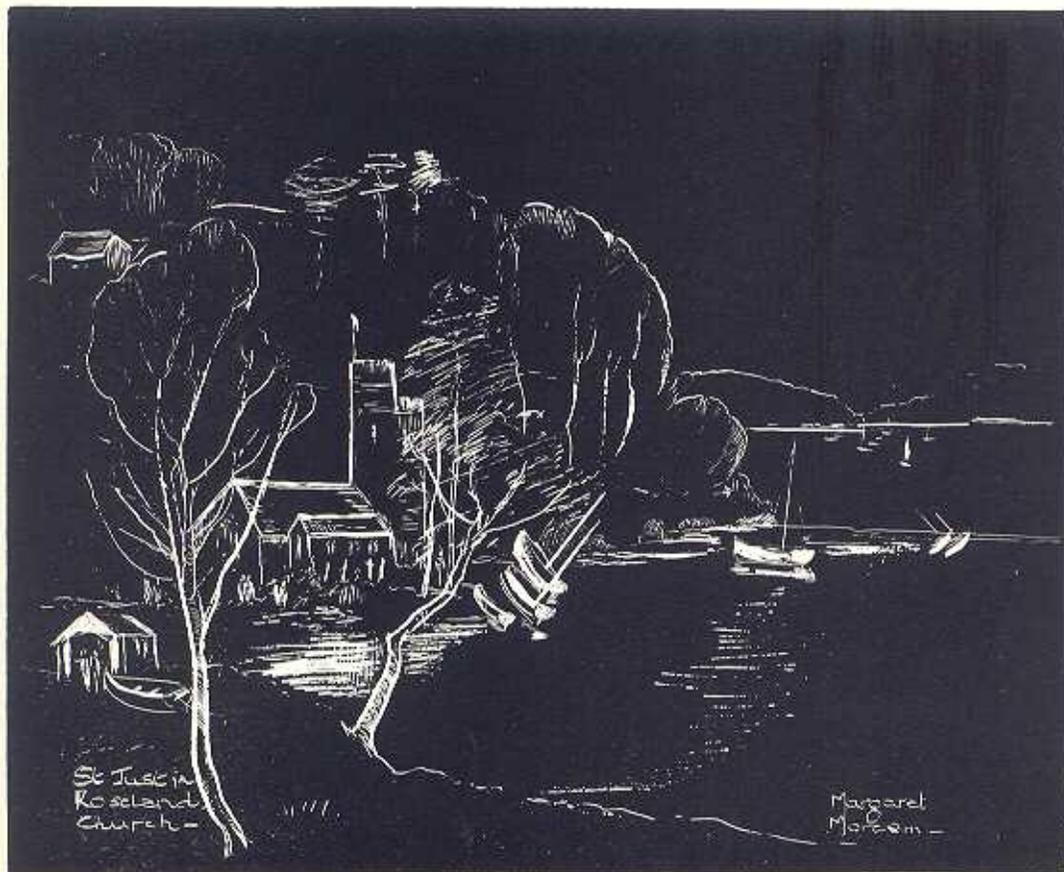


The Roseland (Rhos - heath or moor) Peninsular comprises the parishes of St. Anthony, St. Gerrens, St. Just and Philleigh. It was originally an island until a bar of sand and shingle was built up at Towan (sand).



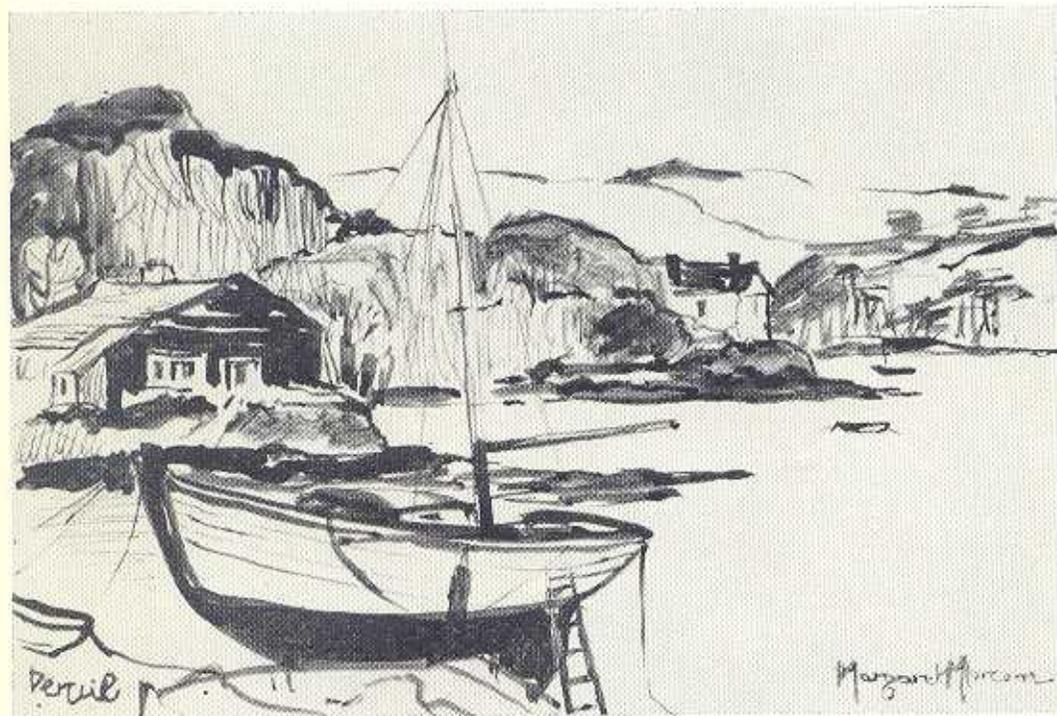
One legend says that St. MAWES (or St. Maudite) was a Welsh saint who settled on the shores of the Portcull River and lived as a hermit. "He formed himself a chair in the rock above the well for the enjoyment of the warm situation." (Ancient & Holy Wells) but another states he was St. Maudiz (a Breton saint) who erected a chapel and a holy well.

The castle which is in the form of a clover leaf (the entrance from the land side being the stalk) was built by Henry VIII c. 1542, possibly with stones from the old monastery at Place. In the Civil War it was held for the Royalists but captured by Fairfax in 1646. Today St. Mawes sees the royal yacht Britannia anchor in Carrick Roads.



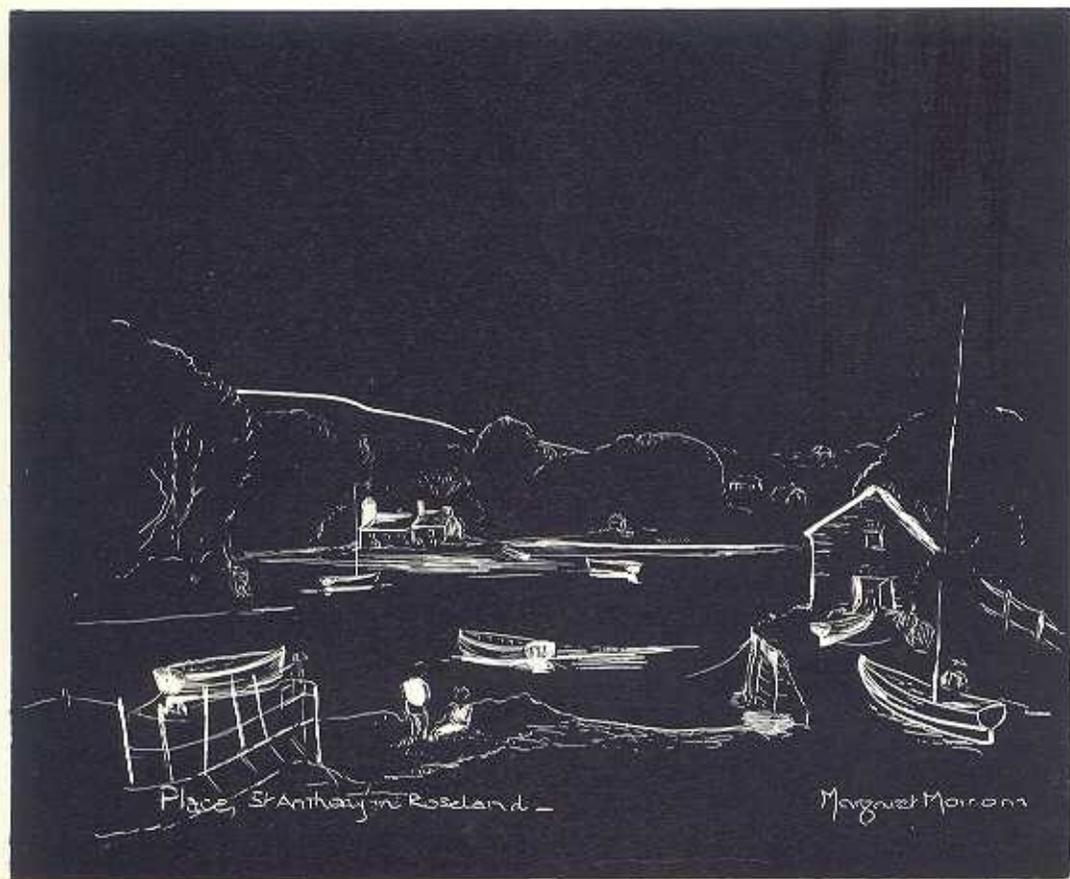
ST. JUST church, the mother church of St. Mawes, situated on the edge of the creek was founded c. 550 A.D. in honour of the Celtic saint. The chancel dates from the middle of the thirteenth century and the rest of the building from the fifteenth, but it has suffered from a bad Victorian restoration. The Rev. C. W. Carlyon who made the plans for the rebuilding of Place Church was rector here from 1836-1883 and painted the texts on the walls.

In the nineteenth century whalers sailed in and out of St. Just and the fishermen were busily engaged in the catching of mullet and pilchards which were salted and exported to Italy. Today Mr. Bennet's boatyard and the figure heads carved by Mr. Moore are a source of interest to visitors. Charles Moore specialises in woodcarving old ships, figureheads and fair ground figures.



Situated on the Portcull River, PERCUIL (spelt Porthcull in 1613 and Porqueu in 1957, queu & cul probably meaning narrow and referring to the narrow strip of land) is to-day noted for its oyster beds and yachting - Jack Webb's boatyard is here.

In 1650 Robert Long of Verryan came up the channel to St. Mawes and was convicted of piracy in the Portcull River.

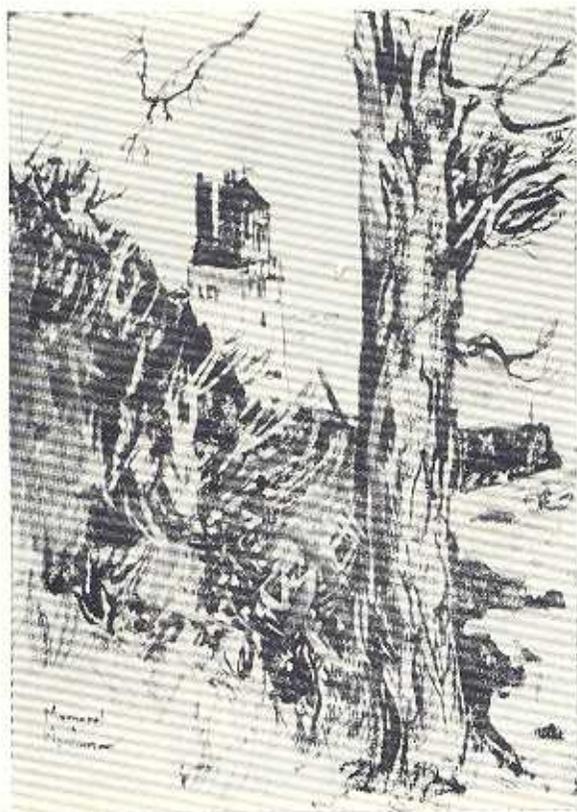


Place, St Anthony in Roseland -

Margaret Morrison

Most of the manor house at PLACE (Place - palace) was built by Admiral Spry c. 1840 over the remains of a small priory connected with the Austin priory at Plympton. Behind the house is a small church which was almost entirely rebuilt c. 1851 for the Spry family to the design of the amateur architect, the Rev. C. W. Carylton. The nave, however, is mostly Norman and the South door has a Norman arch.

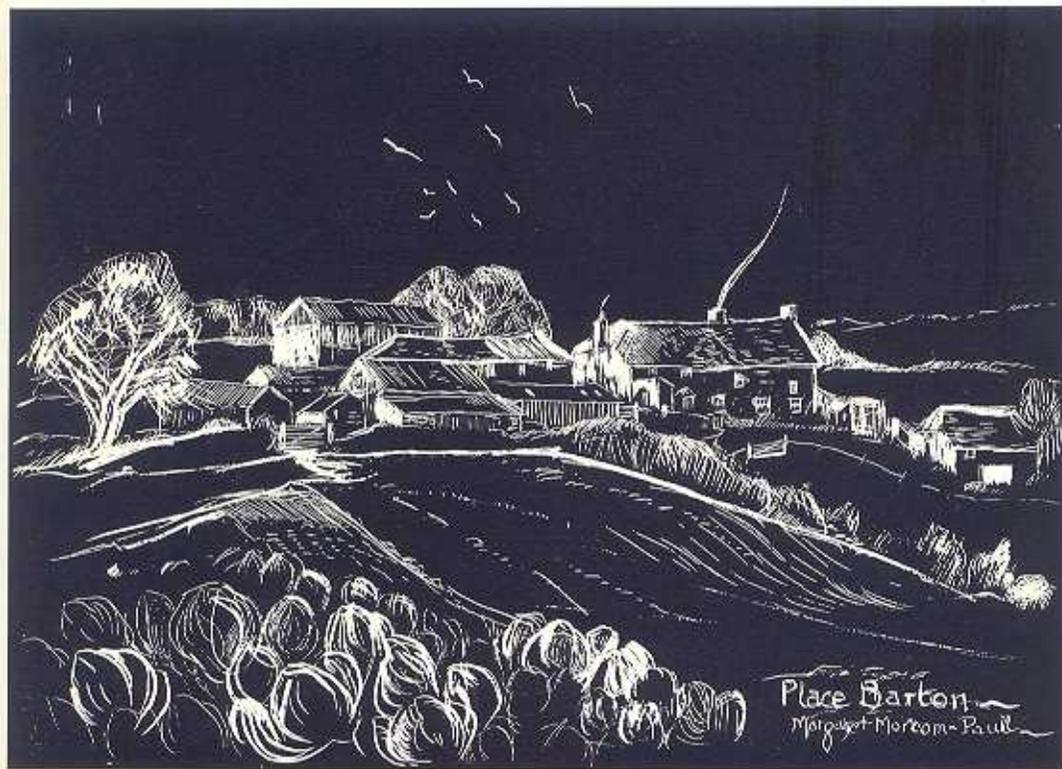
Place Manor, now owned by Major N. Grant Dalton, a descendant of the Spry family, has been converted into a residential hotel, where non-residents can enjoy morning coffee and afternoon teas.



ST. ANTHONY LIGHT, standing at the foot of the headland overlooking the entrance to Carrick Roads, was established in 1835. In 1865 a subsidiary light to cover the Manacles was added. A new lantern with occulting light was erected in 1911 but it was not until 1954 that electric light was installed. The present focal plane is 72' above high water and the 20 second occulting lamp (17 secs. light, 3 secs. eclipse) is visible for 18 miles.

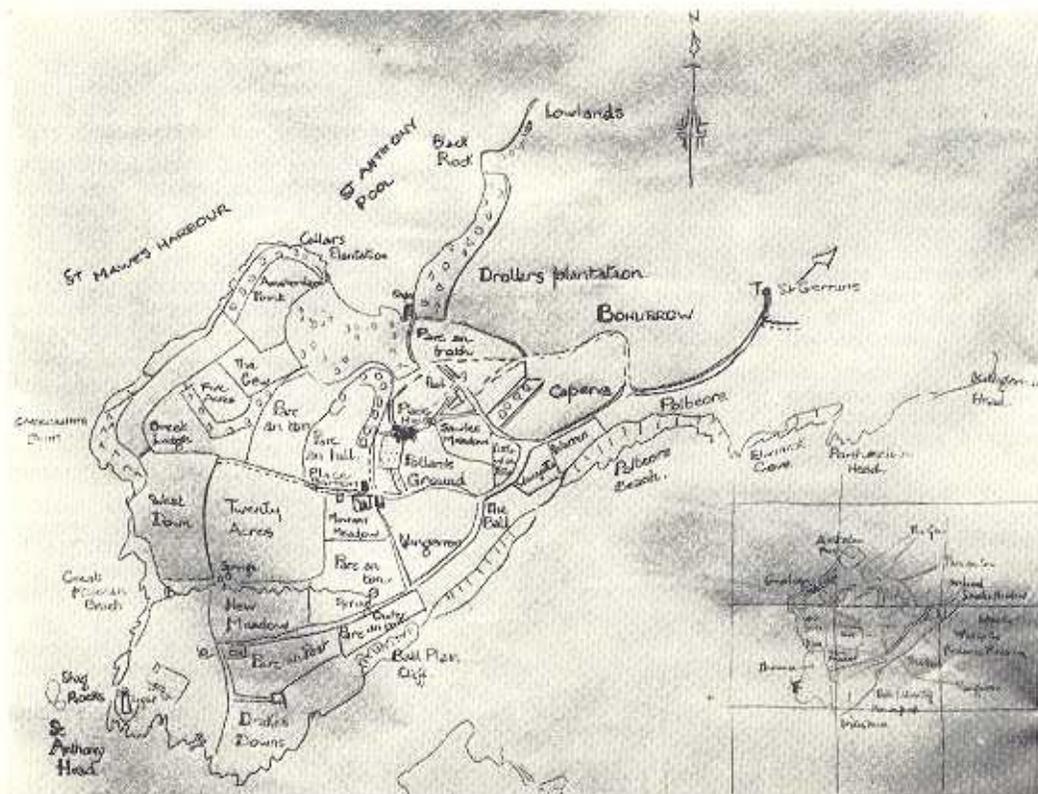
The 1882 two ton fog bell was removed in 1954 and presented to Penwerris Church where it proved too heavy for the tower and was eventually melted down.

The lighthouse is open to visitors each weekday after 1 p.m.



PLACE BARTON, dating from the Middle Ages and believed to have been the farm for the priory at Place, is the home of the artist. Here her husband, James Paull, farms the 300 acres adjoining the Lighthouse and overlooking Carrick Roads. Most of the fields still bear the names to be found in early maps. One tradition says that a former tenant of the barton was beset by misfortune because he dragged an ancient stone coffin from the churchyard to use as a cattle drinking trough, until the time he returned it.

During the 1914-18 War troops were stationed in the farm and army horses stabled in the linhay whilst in the Second World War it was the site of gun and searchlight batteries and barrage balloons.



Place Barton

Ancient field names