

LOCATION 1

← BACK



THE STRAND

When the houses along the Strand, then called Pleasant Row, were built from about 1786, they were quality residences, many of which were probably let throughout the summer season to wealthy families. By 1830s, many of the houses were occupied by tradesmen.

From Queen Street at the western end, there are a few remaining of the original cottages. Poppadum's, Fulford's Estate agents and then Bay Windows Café are still on their original footage. Their gardens were still there in the 1960s, one of which had a small palm tree.

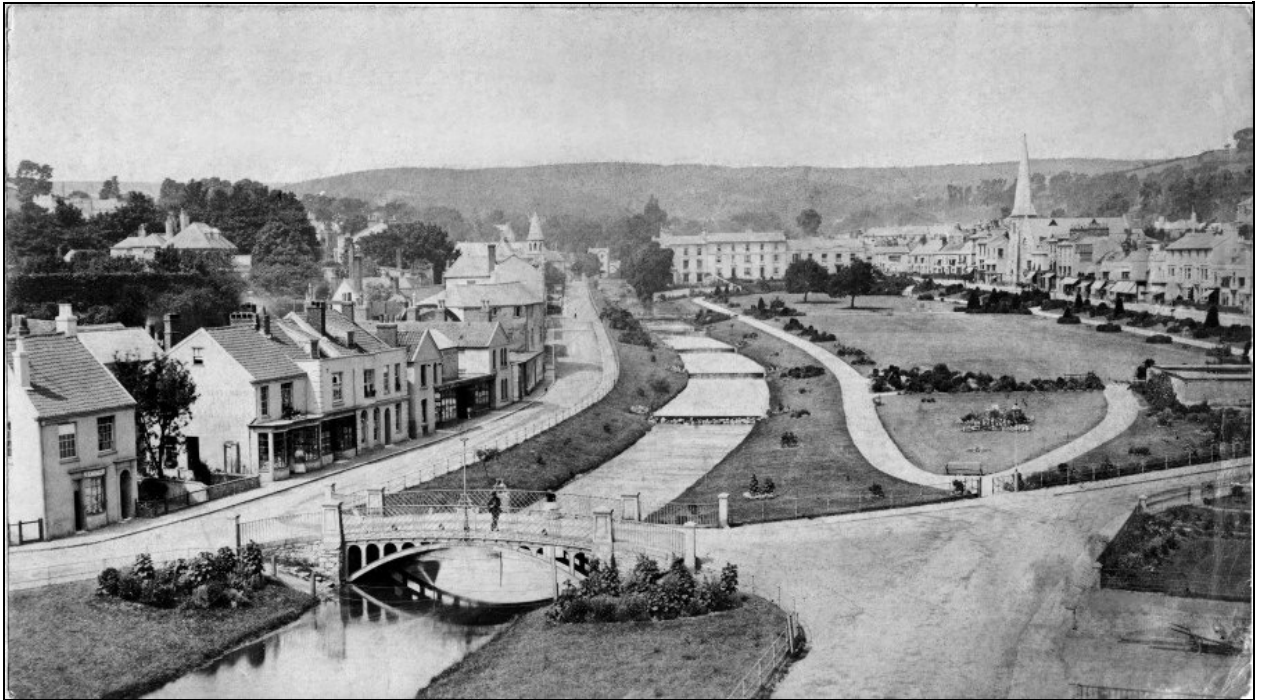
Poppadum's was the entrance to a printing works belonging to the Dawlish Gazette whose owners lived in The Moorings nearby. The printing works moved across the road to what is now the Library building for a while but it all closed down in 1970. As you can see from these houses the frontage is 15' feet or so from the pavement and most of the following houses would have been the same. Later three-storey buildings on the previous garden were turned into shops.

Where the Strand Centre (UR Church) is now, was originally known as Tripe's New Inn, built in the 1780s. From 1820, it became a hotel called the York Hotel, which was demolished for the present church, built as the foundation stone says in 1871.

The shops have changed many times but there were more food shops here – butchers, two bakers, greengrocers, grocers, two or three drapers, ladies and gentlemen's outfitters, stationers.

At the far eastern end of the Strand, where the Co-op building is now, stood the London Inn. Originally built around 1800 as a residence, it soon turned into an inn. And in 1859, it was the London Hotel. Sadly, in 1910, part of the building was demolished for road widening and was completely replaced in 1926 for a cafe and a bank. The buildings now house a betting shop and the extension to the Co-op.

LOCATION 2



THE LAWN & BLACK SWANS

The area now known as the Lawn was originally called Tunncliffe Waste and was a marshy area with a meandering stream running through it. Early drawings show a series of rickety wooden bridges crossing the boggy land.

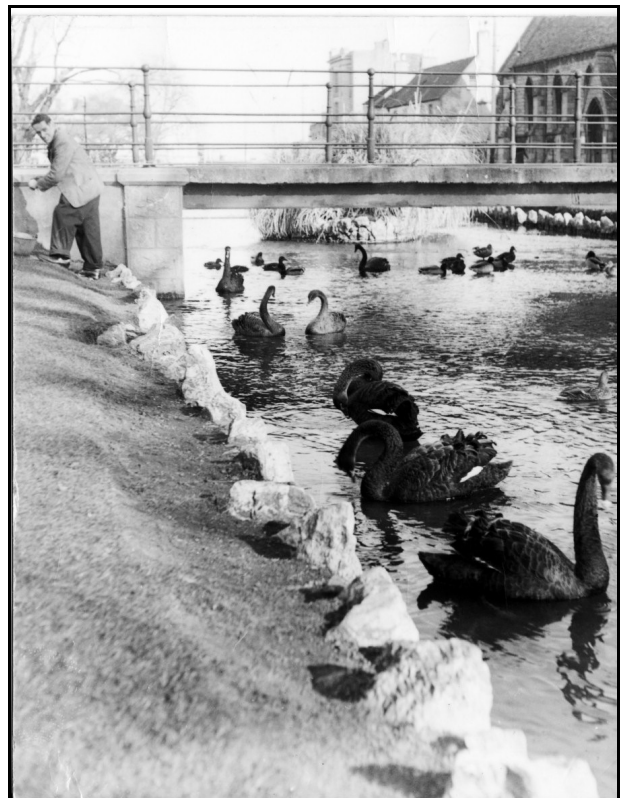
In 1807, 23 year old John Ede Manning bought a large section of land in the middle of Dawlish and began to tidy it up by digging a canal to contain the stream within straight banks. He also widened the pathways to create Queen St and Strand Hill putting the extra soil onto Tunncliffe Waste to create a grassy area. Unfortunately, in 1810 there was a flood caused by melting snow on Haldon and the Lawn was washed away along with several houses and two ponies.

The next year, Manning reinstated the canal and added weirs to prevent further damage. He owned much of the property next to the Lawn and in 1814, put several lots up for sale, including the Lawn for building plots. He had already allowed Joseph Parish to build at the east end of the Lawn. There was great opposition to this building and in 1816 it was burnt to the ground but soon rebuilt. The two three story buildings are still there housing The Ugly Duckling and the Children's Society shop. However, in order to prevent any further development, a group of local business men leased the lawn on behalf of the town, in 1825. The rent was £50 a year for 99 years.

Some farmers had the right of common pasturage on Dawlish Common and Tunncliffe, so sheep and cattle were grazed here.

In 1828, a footbridge was built from Brunswick Place onto the Lawn – known as Waterloo or Wellington Bridge. In 1844, a narrow iron bridge replaced the wooden one at the eastern end. A wider stone bridge was built for Victoria's jubilee in 1887.

By the 1860s, the Lawn was said to be in a poor state and it was gradually improved and shrubs and trees planted. The town's surveyor is said to have planted twelve Chestnuts on the north side and thirteen Weeping Willows on the south side. Some still remain. Ladies toilets were created underground in 1880s and in 1898, a shelter was built. A wooden flagpole was erected in 1899 (replaced in 1971 by a metal pole). And to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee a bandstand was erected – mainly of wood in a hexagonal shape with open sides and rustic wooden railings. It was replaced by the current structure in 1937.



Bowls were played on the lawn long before the green was built in 1907. A pavilion was built in 1924. Tennis was occasionally allowed on the Lawn and in 1920s permission was given for four courts for public use, which lasted until 1930s. Nowadays, fairs and concerts are regularly held on the Lawn

In 1896, two Australian black swans were ordered from Liverpool, apparently by Mr Dart the fishmonger of Beach Street as a present to the town. Two more were ordered the following year. They were fed by the miller at Weston Mill. They were a feature of Dawlish Brook until 1920. Several local people were inspired to offer exotic ducks and other waterfowl.

After the Second World War, a Captain Pitman gave the town a breeding pair raised in Sydney's Tonga Zoo. This gift was in memory of his parents, who had happy memories of living in Dawlish.

The current flock of waterfowl are looked after in a special enclosure on the Brook.

A few years ago Dawlish made a gift of a pair of black swans to Carhaix, our twin town in France.

LOCATION 3



WATER WHEEL AND FORMER MILL

Although now known as Brunswick Place, the area around the mill was previously called Mill Row. The mill was originally called Lower Mill but for many years has been known as Strand Mill. The millpond was situated behind the houses in Plantation Terrace turning and dropping through a launder to the mill wheel (which was a backshot wheel) then dropping underground into The Brook.

In 1729 John How was the first miller. He died in 1738 and his widow continued there. In 1772, we have the name of Richard Reed who ran both Town and Strand mills. After his death in 1805 his son, Richard Reed junior, took over but he became bankrupt in 1838. The baking ovens that he used in his baker's shop are still in the rear of the mill and were still in use within living memory.

James Lock took over for thirty-six years from 1890. During his tenancy the mill suffered an extremely bad fire. The Dawlish Gazette of 8th February 1910 records that the fire started due to overheated bearings (a very common occurrence in mills with the dry and dusty conditions) which quickly spread towards the house but said the fine efforts of the fire brigade saved the dwelling. However, much later reports said it was destroyed and had to be rebuilt. During the melee the shop till had been burgled and some of the rescued furniture had gone missing.

In 1920 the mill was taken over by Torbay Mill Company Ltd which continued in business offering corn, flour, forage, cake, manure, seed and even coal, until 1958 when the water to power the wheel was turned off.

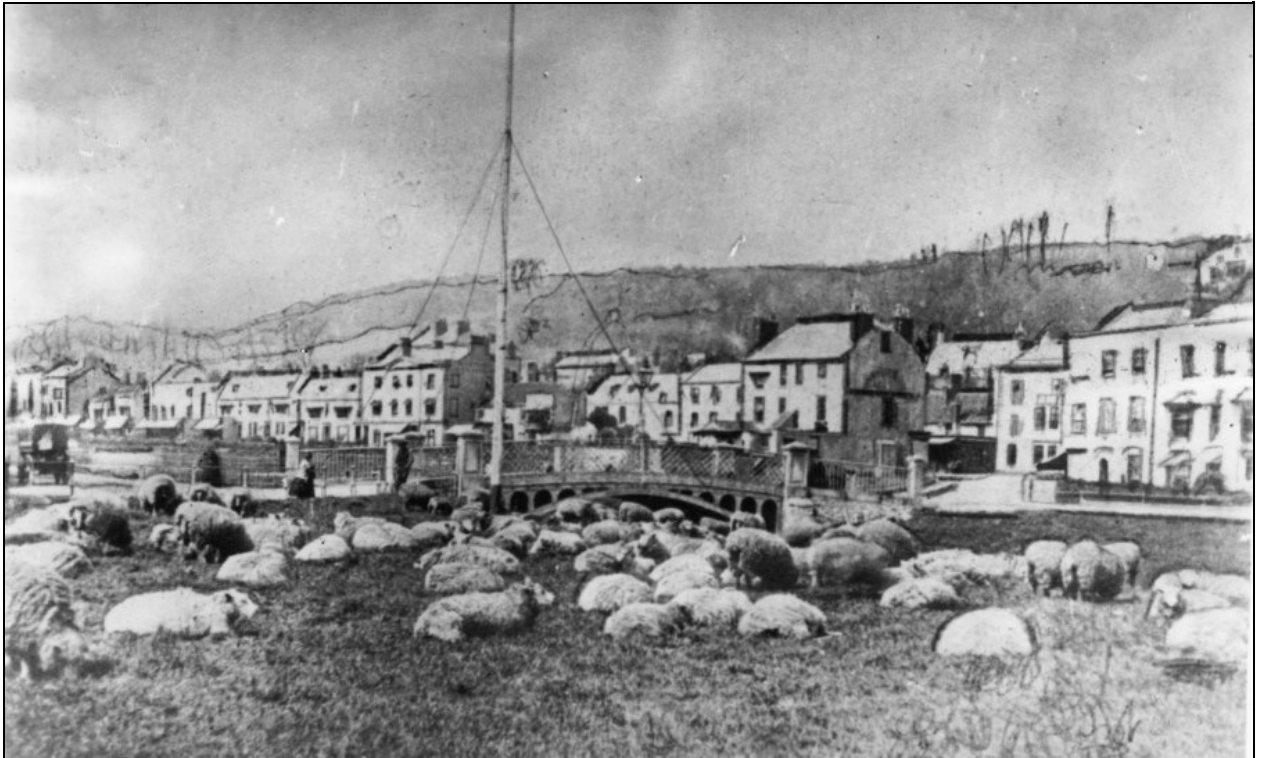
In 1959 Brian Wills leased the premises when the front portion of the building was used a potato store. He turned it into an upholstery and flooring business. It passed through many changes such as selling furniture, fishing tackle, then a general and hardware store, and more recently, tearooms.

This family then ran the funeral directors business next door for many years.

The launder that brought the water from the leat over the cliff behind the mill was demolished about 1965, although the working machinery inside the building is still there with the mill stones in situ upstairs.

The mill wheel is cast iron, probably replacing an earlier wooden one, some 33 feet in diameter made by A. Bodley of Exeter and probably installed by John Dicker of Chagford who seems to have been the region's mill engineer.

LOCATION 4



YORK GARDENS AND EARLY'S FOUNTAIN

Early's Fountain was erected in 1881. It is situated in York Gardens, though prior to 1899 the area was known as Tuck's Plot, where Mr Tuck used to graze his donkeys. Richard Dewdney Early, was a local stone mason and builder, more famous for building Early's Wall near Coryton Cove.



According to local newspapers of the time, however, the erection of the ornamental fountain was attributed to a Mr Hatcher, a local businessman and member of the Dawlish Local Board (a forerunner of Dawlish Town Council). Mr Hatcher was reported as having opened the fountain in June 1881, with the work 'having been satisfactorily completed by Mr Crow'.

A new waterworks system had been installed in Dawlish at this time, and the fountain was fed by means of a holding reservoir to provide a head of water. The first trial of the new fountain was reported to have thrown up a column of water nearly 80 feet high, using only the central jet.

Mr Hatcher's vision was for the fountain "to be a handsome central jet of fanciful design, which will revolve and throw off the water in fantastic ways". It was intended that the fountain would play for five hours daily.

From old photographs, it was evident that the fountain produced a far larger and more impressive display than in more recent times. Then, in colder winters the water sometimes froze over in a spectacular cascade.



LOCATION 5



THE STATION

Brunel began work on the South Devon Railway in 1844. Due to the steep inclines involved in the route, he decided to adopt the new atmospheric system. This meant that the locomotives did not have to carry heavy fuel as they would be drawn along the track by the vacuum created in large pipes alongside the railway line. Pumping stations at three mile intervals create the necessary vacuum.

The system was installed as far as Totnes but was never used beyond Newton Abbot. Continual problems meant that the whole system was abandoned in 1848. The pumping house at the north end of Dawlish station remained until 1868, when the goods yard was created to ship produce such as locally grown violets to London.

The first station was a simple temporary wooden building on one side of the track only. In 1860s, fire places replaced stoves in the waiting room and a station master's office and parcel store were built. A new station was being planned in 1872 but the wooden one was completely destroyed by fire in summer of 1873.

The new stone built station opened in April 1875. The Booking Hall had a luggage lift up to platform level. The Parcel Office was next to the Booking Hall but was inconvenient and relocated to the platform level and is now a café. There was a first class waiting room, which became the ladies' waiting room, and a second class waiting room which became the general waiting room. In addition, there was the stationmaster's office and a telegraph office. The "water closets" were run by Mr Pessel, who kept them clean and charged 1d for their use. On the down side there were separate lavatories for first class ladies, second class ladies, and gentlemen. Third class ladies were not catered for.



There are stairs leading up from the beach side to the down line platform but they have been bricked up. Wide canopies covered the platforms which had a bookshop and newsagent on the up line. These were replaced in 1961.

Dawlish station was built when the South Devon Railway was thriving and is subsequently one of the best that they built.

LOCATION 6



LANHERNE (FORMERLY SEAGROVE)

Before Dawlish became a 'fashionable watering place', a house was built here in the style of pure Strawberry Hill Gothic. It was known for over a hundred years as Sea Grove but we know it as Lanherne. It was built around 1786 by William Watson born in Middlesex in 1744 he went to Cambridge after attending Charterhouse, wrote 'A Treatise on Time' and was knighted in 1796. We have a good description of the house by the Rev. John Swete who travelled all over Devon writing and sketching as he went:

"Having descended a steep hill, I enter'd the Village of Dawlish.... Here the most conspicuous object was a house erected by a Mr Watson after the Gothic style of architecture, exhibiting in its front a kind of arcade with columns and pointed arches decorated with escutcheons and network pinacles forming one of the most pleasing specimens of the Gothic manner I ever...The gardens that surrounds the house is curious having a variety of Exotic plants in it, for Mr Watson is not only a Botanist but hath made considerable advances into natural history."

After Sir William's death in 1825 his widow remained in the house. And then in the early 1840s the building of Brunel's atmospheric railway started along the coast, which some people in Dawlish welcomed. Others, including Lady Watson, had other views. Unluckily for her, her property was very close to the proposed line and although she could not actually see it from the house she could probably hear all the noise and suffer the dirt and smoke from the engines.



By 1865 a Mr. Leon Solomon had bought Sea Grove although he also owned a house on Westcliff (formerly Sunrise, now Devon Court). He was born in Poland but was a British Subject and described himself as a 'Capitalist'. There were two rumours that surrounded his family. The first is that he had 25 children! The other rumour was that some of his family emigrated to America and changed their name to Simpson. It was a member of this family who was the second husband of a woman called Wallis who later became the Duchess of Windsor. It is more than a probability that Solomon also re-built Sea Grove. There were two doorways through to the gardens, one from Beach Street and one on Exeter Road,

both of which were probably for the servants or gardeners.

In 1878, Mr. Thomas Lea of Worcester - a Member of Parliament for Kidderminster, a member of the Reform and Devonshire Club in London - purchased Sea Grove and another piece of land on the west cliff from the Local Board for £240. He gave this piece of land to the town and in gratitude they called it Lea Mount after him.

It was in August 1916 the house was renamed Lanherne and became a school for girls. Each dormitory was named after the British Empire. The school finally closed in and in October 1944 the property was purchased by the Coventry & Warwickshire Saturday Hospital Fund and converted into a convalescent home with beds for 50 men run by the General & Municipal Workers Union.

In 1978, Teignbridge built sheltered accommodation for the elderly on the site. In the grounds there are three interesting trees – a tall straight oak tree (possibly a Sessile Oak) on the lawn, the Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima* introduced into England in 1750s) on one side of the main gates and on the other side is a Cork Oak with its gnarled and furrowed trunk, probably all planted over 200 years ago by Sir William Watson.

LOCATION 7



TUDOR COTTAGES

The buildings date from 1539 and are similar to farm buildings of the period.

Description of Tudor Rose cottage:

Believed to date back to the days of King Henry VIII, this Grade II listed, two bedroom cottage forms part of a terrace of possibly the oldest properties in Dawlish. The cottage has uneven floors and walls with exposed timbers, a wooden curved staircase, and feature stone fireplaces.

In the hall are exposed timbers and stone flooring. In the living room the oak beams to the ceiling are believed to be former ship timbers and one wall has a fine oak muntin screen. There is oak panelling on one wall, exposed floorboards, a feature stone fireplace with a wooden lintel, natural wood latch doors to large storage cupboard.

From the living room a door leads to a wooden curved staircase, with small window and exposed beams, which rises to a small landing area with natural wood latch door to the main bedroom with exposed floorboards, part sloping ceilings and some exposed beams, a stone fireplace with wooden lintel, metal frame multi-paned window to the front and natural wood latch door to a second bedroom.

Behind the house is a terraced cottage style garden.

A local resident remembers Tudor Cottages: "One used to be a laundry and next door lived the Okey-Pokey man. He was an Italian ice cream vendor and used to push his barrow around the town."

LOCATION 8



HIGH STREET

Previously known as Park Lane this road connected the old part of the town to the beach and many people thought this was built in the 1800s but an older map shows there was an earlier road.

Where the car park is behind the South Devon Inn was a court containing a number of cottages demolished in the 1970s to make way for the car park. Next door is Cleveland Close, where stands the elegant 18th Century Cleveland House and its neighbour "The Cobbles". In 1930s, they were combined to become a school and for a while Cleveland Garage fronted onto High Street.

Clifton Place was built around the 1900s on the site of Ivy House, in which a curate lived in the early 1800s, then a doctor. Where Leigham Court is now, there used to be a large builder's yard.



On the site of Belvedere Court had been a small hospital called "The Infirmary" founded in 1897. During that year, 39 people were admitted, 11 operations were performed and 2 patients died. They bought an X-ray machine for £46 12s and spent £80 on drugs. Later, it was the auctioneers Avant's repository and sales room

On the north side of the road there was a forge until the 1880s, this was taken over by Avant undertakers who were still going in the 1980s.

At the top of Lawn Hill, which used to be New Cut, was Jenner's green grocer's shop.

Where the Jehovah's witness's Kingdom Hall stands was a slaughter house, where the cattle were driven in and sometimes causing chaos.

The biggest business in Dawlish was the brewery and lemonade works covering both sides of the road from 1817-1928. When the brewery ceased, the site became workshops for various builders and much later by Crocker, Martin & Williams who had a builders' merchant shop until about 1994, which was left empty for years, apart from offices above, before being demolished and town houses built on its site.

Before Orchard Gardens was built in the 1920s the old cob cottages continued to be Ferris's Brewery premises. In one of them in

1840s lived a smallholder called William Tuck, a son of Henry Tuck who kept donkeys on a plot by the putting green near the railway viaduct that was named after him. And also along here lived George Tozer a chimney sweep from about 1851 to 1871.

At the end of the road was Gay's Dairy, now Costcutters, where people could buy a jugful fresh from the churn. And opposite is the entrance to Orchard Gardens commemorating the many orchards which grew here.

LOCATION 9



THE FORMER BREWERY

The biggest business in Dawlish was the Ferris Steam Brewery and lemonade works covering both sides of the road (connected by overhead pipes) from 1817-1928.

The building on the south side contained the brewing section. In 1825, owing to ill health, John Till sold the brewery to local farmer Richard Brock of Botchill at an auction at the York Hotel (now the URC) on the Strand conducted by John Force of Exeter. The price was £1,650. His brother-in-law, Richard Ferris took it over and it became Ferris Brewery.

Richard Ferris II took over the brewery in 1838 and, to increase his sales of beer, started to purchase pubs in Dawlish to 'tie' them to his brewery. Apart from the Prince Albert, the first was in 1849 with the Royal Western (near the station), then The Brunswick Arms in 1855 followed shortly by The Country House (Smugglers Inn, Holcombe) in 1863, then a good handful in 1872, The Station Hotel in 1874 and The Teignmouth Inn in 1875.

In 1865, he had bought a lot of property in High St, including many cottages, an orchard and a wheelwright's shop. These housed some of his workmen – maltsters including Sid Sanders, dray men and carters and labourers.

Just a few years after, Richard Ferris died in 1878 and his son, Richard Brock Ferris, took over.

In 1902, Brock was also a whiskey bonder and blender with his bonded warehouse in Teignmouth. He won prizes in France for his drinks for he not only brewed beer but also made lemonade, "the best in Devon. The recipe jealously guarded by the Ferris family and died with them" although it is said that he only drank mineral water from Torquay. He produced Oatmeal Stout which was considered better' than Guinness from Dublin. He continued to buy pubs and owned 28, when the brewery was sold to Heavitree, who immediately closed down the business and transferred all brewing business to their site in Exeter. Brock died in 1932 with an estate of £75,000.

LOCATION 10



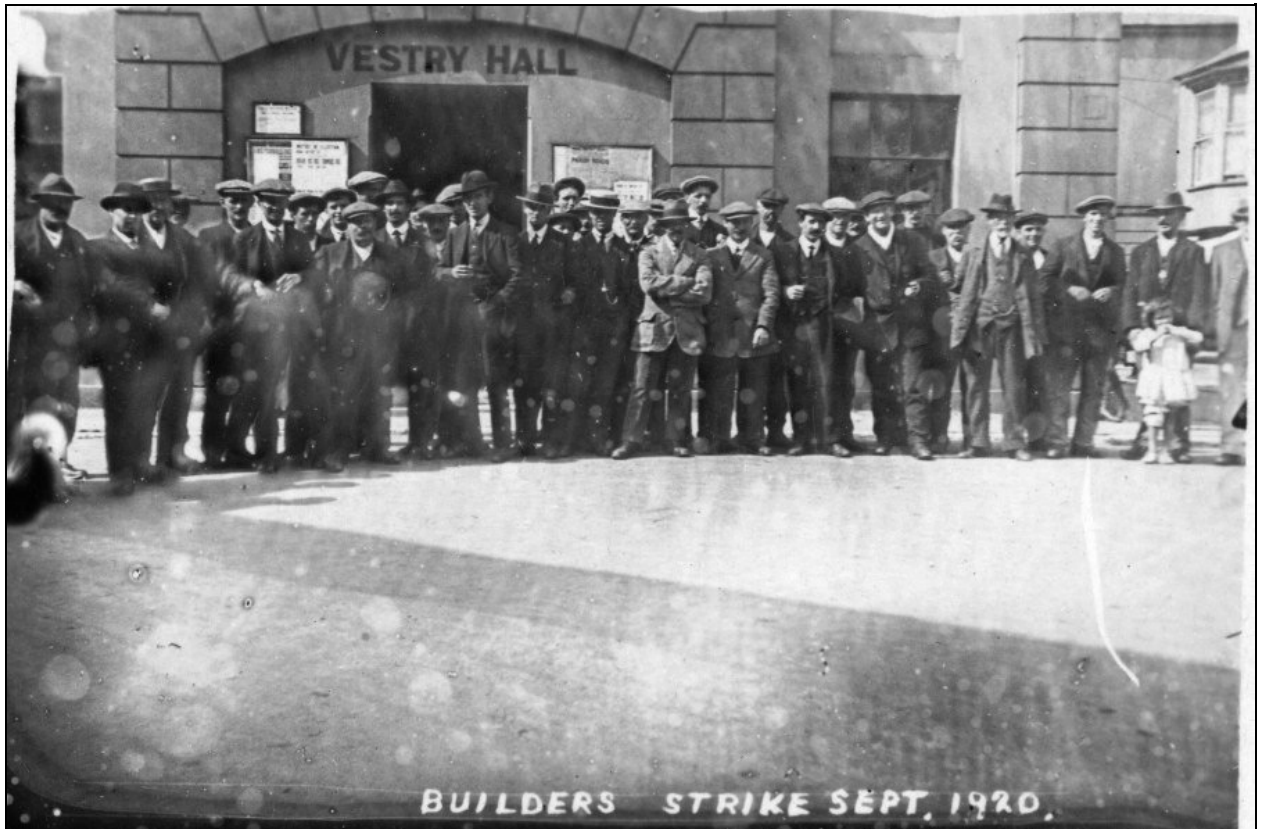
THE DISPENSARY

In 1855, Dr Baker and William Cosens, a local philanthropist, set up a dispensary in a building on the corner of Queen St to provide medical treatment for the poor of Dawlish, Starcross and Mamhead. In order not to compete with the local hospitals, he insisted that no in-patients would be accepted. Three of the town's doctors gave their services and surgeries were held from 9 until 11 on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. Mr Adams was employed as a dispenser.

In 1887, it was noted that "nearly all those treated have chronic diseases,". As there were no antibiotics infections took much longer to cure. In 1892, there was an outbreak of influenza and 256 cases were treated.

In 1903, the Dispensary was merged with the Cottage Hospital and the building sold to pay for medical equipment.

LOCATION 11



THE VESTRY HALL (BAPTIST CHURCH)

A meeting of Dawlish's most influential citizens, in 1853, proposed using a piece of ground at the top of Town Tree hill for a "magistrates room and lock up". At the same time, the Parish Vestry acquired the land for the new Vestry Hall. However, both parties were satisfied as the upper room became the courtroom and a room in the basement became a goal cell.

The former Town Hall was completed in 1855 in the Classical style with stuccoed front and central projecting pediment. It is listed for its architectural value. The hall has a hipped slate roof and parapet. Pilasters separate the 1st floor windows. In addition, it has quoins to ground floor, a rusticated ground floor with segmental arch, three sashes with glazing bars intact and blank panels over ground floor windows.

In 1850, the Dawlish Literary and General Knowledge Society was founded to provide a library, lectures on Art, Literature and Science. It fell on hard times but in 1861, it was reformed and was housed in the newly built Vestry Hall. It thrived and membership included 155 ladies and 11 juveniles. Subscriptions were 6 shillings for men and 4 shillings for ladies, so the poorer inhabitants of Dawlish were excluded but could pay 6d to sit at the back, which many did.

The Local Board was instituted on 3rd Feb 1860 under terms of Local Government Act 1858. In Whites Directory of 1878 we read: "The Local Board was formed on March 24, 1860, and consists of 12 members, to whom Mr. J. S. Whidborne is clerk, Mr. Ellis, surveyor, and Mr. C. Tapper, inspector. Mr. William Staddon is town crier. The Town Hall and Court House, in King Street, was built in 1853. Petty Sessions for this district of Teignbridge petty sessional division are held here every Thursday; the magistrates usually attending are the Right Hon. the Earl of Devon, the Rev. W. H. Palk, Sir John L. Duntze, Bart., P. Merrick Hoare, Esq., C. J. Wade, Esq., C. Tonge, Esq., Col. Germon, C. H. Turner, Esq., and Lieut.-Col. Savile. Mr. J. S. Whidborne is their clerk." DevonHeritage.org/Dawlish/Dawlishwhitesdirectoryof1878.htm

The Urban District Council replaced the Local Board in April 1894 under terms of Local Government Act 1894. It met at Vestry Hall until 1911, when the town bought Knowle House and grounds (now the Museum). The building continued to be used as a Town Hall until 1940s, when it became Central Hall for Christian Fellowship. And in the early 1990s, Dawlish Baptist Church bought the building.

LOCATION 12



PARK ROAD

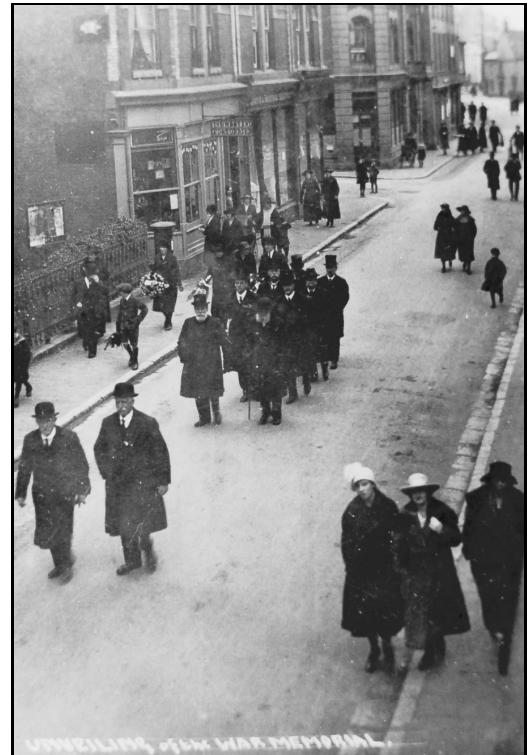
This appears to be a continuation of the High Street but in fact the main road used to continue through King Street and Regent Street – Park Road was not built until the 1870s. Hatcher Street was built around 1890 in this area known as the Park, where town events and circuses were put on.

The RAFA building was the Cosen's Institute established by William Cosens in 1865 for the benefit and improvement of the working men of Dawlish through lectures. The management was vested in trustees, and there were 100 members in 1878. The Working Men's Association was opened every evening. There was a beautifully proportioned meeting room with a plaster ceiling. A small museum, including old prints of Dawlish and the library were housed there. RDH Barham, a rector from Cambridgeshire, who retired to Dawlish in 1863, was also a well known geologist. He classified fossils found on the beach and set up a valuable geological collection in the institute.

In 1899, it became a Working Men's Club and later a Church Institute for social and educational activities.

Further along there was a man's outfitters in 1910 called Lorams, where the Conservative Club is now, and a shoe shop that had hundreds of boxes of shoes and boots up to the ceiling in a confusing manner but if asked for a particular shoe, the owner knew exactly where it was.

There was a Police Station that lasted until the 1960s and of course our famous photographer, Chapman & Sons, had his studio and shop here.



LOCATION 13



FORMER POST OFFICE AND HOSPITAL

The very first hospital facility for the poor - Dawlish Cottage Hospital, at the junction of Regent Street and Park Road, was opened in 1871. It had 6 beds and was supported by voluntary contributions. Miss West was matron; Doctors F. M. Cann and Parsons were acting medical officers.

As the road was very busy, straw was laid on the road outside to deaden the noise of the horses' hooves when they had a particularly sick patient. The rules stipulated that no children under 4, no TB patients and no-one with an infectious disease would be admitted. It closed after 9 years, when Dr Cann built the Cottage Hospital at the top of Hospital Hill.

In 1892, this was the West End post Office. The building had various uses over subsequent years as a Chemist shop, an Optician's in the 1920s. In the 1940s, it was a Gentleman's Hairdressers before reverting to being a private house.

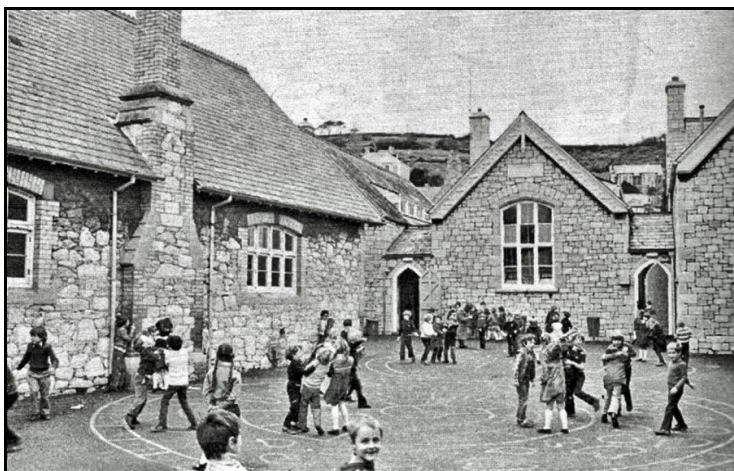
LOCATION 14



OLD TOWN STREET - FORMER INFANTS SCHOOL AND LIBRARY

At the junction of Stockton Hill and Old Town Street, you will see the Victorian library and school building, which is now the Dawlish Christian Fellowship.

In 1819 the National Parochial School was established in Old Town Street at a cost of £120 for 130 children with 90 boys and 40 girls. Funded by a government grant of £40, local subscriptions and 'children's pence'. The Infants' School was added in 1820, which catered for 140 children. These schools were under the Government control and a yearly diocesan inspectorate, run by a Board whose chairman was the Vicar and the Religious instruction was Church of England. In 1819, a Poor House was built in Old Town Street with accommodation for a workhouse master, the school was erected on part of the workhouse yard. In later years a new boy's school was built higher up the hill to accommodate over 200 boys. The girls and infants stayed in the Old Town Street site, this was enlarged in 1898.



The Madras system was adopted whereby cleverer or older children taught the younger ones. This was brought in by Alexander Bell after seeing the methods in schools for children of the military in Madras, India. It was also known as the Monitor system. In 1860s, Miss Fanny Hill was the school mistress. Some local ladies would come into the classroom to help with needlework and dictation and teach the children hymns and poems. However, the teacher and her monitress had to control up to 122 children.

Memories of Helen Cornelius; c1908

"I was born in Dawlish in Dec 1904 and I started school at the age of three in Jan 1908 in the Infant's School, Old Town Street and was

taught how to count, spell, read and write. Firstly though I had to learn the alphabet and how to count, the latter by a counting frame.

The School was divided into three classrooms, the first for the three year olds and the second (for 4 year olds) appeared rather odd as it was a kind of gallery with shallow steps. The third classroom was slightly larger for the children age 5 and 6. At the age of seven we were transferred to either the Girls School or the Boys at Longlands according to sex.

The teachers always wore black satin aprons – this I think was because the white chalk was very dusty."

LOCATION 15



← BACK

THE MANOR HOUSE

The Manor House, in spite of its name had nothing to do with the manor. Around 1802, the Dean and Chapter sold the Manor of Dawlish by to John Inglett Fortescue for the very low price of £9,755 as a sitting tenant. Fortescue had financial problems and sold the land to John Ede Manning in 1806 for £68,000. Manning built the house around 1808 and put it up for sale in 1810 as a modern Mansion House with 3 acres of lawn and pleasure ground and meadows. The house included large Drawing and Dining Rooms, seven bedrooms, servants' quarters and two water closets, which at the time were a great innovation. Outside were a double coach house and four stables. It stood on the very edge of the old town

In 1811, the house description also included a Billiard Room, Wine Cellar and Ladies' Morning Room. All rooms had stone or marble chimney pieces.

By 1815, Thomas Lloyd Baker of Gloucestershire was living in what was then called the Manor House.

In 1819, the Long family from Warwickshire took up residence until Miss Rose Ann Long died in 1871 age 78. The sales particulars of 1872 describe the house as "an old fashioned family residence with a circular carriageway sweep approach" with "pleasure grounds of unusual beauty, adorned with handsome timber and choice shrubs of mature growth, and including well formed lawns, numerous flower beds, a splendid rockery, extensive shady walks, two park-like enclosures of meadow intersected by a small stream with cascades.....Also, nine shops and cottages adjacent to the above." The Conservatory was also built by this time.

By 1881, the Jackson family were owners. George William Collins Jackson, ex-Major of the 7th Hussars, was born in Madras and his wife, Catherine Price was heiress to the owners of the Holcroft Ironworks in Cardiff. Their son Harry Courtenay of 3rd King's Own Hussars died at sea in 1885. The second son, George Wilfred was widowed twice and died in 1901.

Five of the eight daughters were living at the Manor House in 1891: Katherine, 34; Georgina, 32; Emily, 28; and twins Gertrude and Maude, 26. Their father had built a large ballroom onto the east side of the house supposedly for the entertainment of his daughters. By 1901 the two spinster sisters, Katherine and Georgina, were living at the Manor house with their orphaned nephew and niece, Wilfred and Maude, children of George Wilfred. Later their widowed sister, Maude also moved in with her daughter, Catherine. Miss Katy took charge of the house and menu, while Miss Georgina looked after the gardens. There were many pet dogs, including champion Clumber Spaniels and a donkey to keep the grass short.

During WW1, Maude and Katherine joined the Red Cross, while Georgina, known as Poppy, became a volunteer ambulance driver. Nephew, Wilfred was a Lieutenant in the East Kent Buffs and was killed in Belgium in April 1915.

Katherine died in 1929 and Georgina sold the house to pay off the death duties, eventually moving to Surrey with Poppy.

From about 1937 until 1946, the house was owned by Viscount Alfred Charles Harmsworth, who formed Amalgamated press in 1887 and started the Daily Mail and Daily Mirror newspapers and “changed the course of British Journalism”

Then it was bought by Dawlish Urban District Council with money raised locally and has been used as Council Offices and community centre ever since.

LOCATION 16

← BACK



LOT 1. GARDENS AND DAWLISH WATER.

THE MANOR GARDENS

The original gardens to the Manor House occupied just over 4 acres stretching up to Barton Terrace and comprised tennis and croquet lawns as well as grassy areas intersected by the Brook. The mill race flowed through the land near Barton Terrace and the owners of the Manor had to pay 15 shillings a year to each of the owners of Town Mills in Church St and Strand Mills in Brunswick Place for the use of the water.

On the other side of Manor Row (Brook St) next to the Manor House was the Kitchen Garden with fruit trees and several glasshouses for peaches and vines etc.

LOCATION 17



ST GREGORY'S CHURCH

This was an ancient pagan meeting place and burial ground, having a small pool of water provided by a fresh water spring. In 600AD missionaries arrived from Rome and used the local people's rituals to draw them to Christianity, so a Saxon church of wattle and daub with a thatched roof was built on the site.

After the Norman invasion, the church was rebuilt using red stone from Whipton quarry, which they carved with leaves and plants and Christian symbols. The only surviving piece of this carving is a large ram's head, which now lies against the north wall of the church but originally supported a roof beam. (See picture)

In 1349, the Great Plague, when Dawlish lost three new vicars in a year, brought the great era of cathedral building to an end, so skilled masons were employed in the building of private houses or rebuilding of parish churches.

Around 1400, the church tower was built of red sandstone and is now the oldest part of the present church. It housed the bells which regulated the lives of Dawlish's medieval inhabitants and tolled at their passing. Soon after, due to growing prosperity, the walls were also rebuilt in the same local stone. And in 1438 the carved pillars were constructed in the nave.

During Cromwell's reign as Protector, a simple, puritan approach to religion meant the colourful medieval wall paintings were white-washed and statues were destroyed. A screen behind the altar was painted with the 10 commandments and everyone had to attend church every Sunday by law.

During the Napoleonic Wars, travel to the Continent became impossible, so seaside resorts sprang up all around our coast. Fashionable visitors flocked to Dawlish and swelled the population. In 1823, the church was enlarged and a new roof built 3 feet higher than the original in order to accommodate galleries for the larger congregation.

In 1875, the Victorians refurbished and enlarged the church with a new Chancel and south aisle, now the Lady Chapel. When the galleries were removed in 1897, the whole church was the light and open building it is today.

LOCATION 18



THE BARTONS AND BARTON TERRACE

Barton House and its estate known as The Bartons was one the most important in Dawlish. The house stood on the site of the present Barton Crescent. Its first known occupant was Sir Peter Balle in 1665. The Balles and their relatives, the Vernons and A'Courts lived their until 1738, when it was lived in by Stephen Weston, Bishop of Exeter.

The Manor was sold in 1800 to John Inglett Fortescue. Admiral Schank owned it from 1807 and his family lived there until 1867, when it was sold to Charles Gray.

The Terrace was originally a cul de sac as Barton Cottage stood near to the Museum, blocking the way through, but it was demolished around 1870, after Gray bought the old Barton House and planned to build Barton Villas and Crescent.

Barton House was demolished and plans drawn up to develop Barton Meadow, starting with Barton Terrace and the Crescent near the Church.

New Barton House and fourteen semi-detached villas called Barton Villas and the first two houses in Barton Crescent were erected in 1870s - reputedly built of sun-dried bricks from the Ashcombe valley. However, finding buyers became difficult, so the rest of the land remained as pasture and cattle were grazed on a field between the Masonic Hall and the Villas until 1930s.

In 1871, the first house in Barton Terrace was put up for sale It comprised:

“First floor: dining room, parlour, servants’ hall, kitchen. Second floor: drawling room with folding doors, two large bedchambers, dressing room, water closet. Third floor: five good bedrooms. There is also a garden plot and pump of water behind the house and ground for coach house and stabling if wanted.” This house was named “Florinville”.

Nos 2, 3 and 4 and 8 were of the same neo-classic design.

Nos 5, 6 and 7 were built by 1839 and are of a different style and have the original wrought iron gates and railings.

All the houses had gardens leading onto Barton Lane.

Barton Crescent was completed in stages in 1880s and 90s by different developers. This is reflected in the varying styles of the houses.

LOCATION 19



BACK

THE KNOWLE (MUSEUM)

Knowle Cottage was built between 1811 and 1839 by Mr Upham on the knoll overlooking the river . It was for sale in 1840 and described as:

“situated in a shrubbery and garden and commands a beautiful view of the Valley of Dawlish and the sea, the latter within 4 minutes walk. The house contains breakfast room, dining room, drawing room, ...and 4 best bedrooms and closet, servants bedrooms, kitchen, pantry, china cabinet, underground cellar and other convenience. The air of Dawlish is mild and salubrious and is one of the most select watering places on the coast with unusually numerous and genteel families.”

However, in 1847 the lower part of the grounds had been sold to Dawlish Gas Co. but the house and garden were improved and it was leased out. The next owner was Dr Charles Lovely, a prominent local resident and councillor, who had his surgery in his own house as did all the local doctors before the health centre was built in 1970.

In 1913, Dawlish Urban District Council bought the house for offices until 1946, when it moved to the Manor House. It remained as a clinic until the Museum took it over 1969.

LOCATION 20



THE OLD FIRE STATION

The first fire engine was only for those insured with the Sun Insurance Co. Having been restored in 1914, this can now be seen in Dawlish Museum.

In 1900, the town bought a horse drawn steam fire engine, which was named Sir Redvers Buller, after a famous General. This was superseded by a motorised vehicle, in 1930s which was housed in this new Fire Station on Barton Hill.

The photo shows Dawlish Fire Brigade outside the Fire Station with the Fire Engine in 1965. The Fire Brigade is now located in Oakhill Road at the western edge of the town.

LOCATION 21



BROOKDALE COTTAGE

Built around 1800. The first occupant was John Upham, a bookseller from Bath with a shop in Exeter. His brother Edward built Knowle House, which is now Dawlish Museum. After his wife's death in 1829, John moved away and leased the house to a variety of people at £100 a year with the option of a stable and coach house.

In 1880, Walter Tebbitt bought the property for £1460. He had a building constructed for the use of the working people of Dawlish. This was known as "Our Room" and became the Shaftesbury Theatre. Later that year Tebbitt held a fundraising event there for a parochial room for the vicar. At this event, he demonstrated Gower and Ball's loud speaking telephone, which connected a room in Brook Cottage to Our Room, where people could hear music and speech from the house.

In 1916, the cottage was sold to Mrs CA Lock, a relative of the miller at Strand Mill. In the early 20s it had several tenants and was known as The Rookery but in 1923, the name was changed to Brookdale.

In 1959, a new Post Office was built on the house's tennis court (now the Monkey House).

In 1967, the seven bedroom residence was offered for sale at £4,500.

The house is a charming, ornate, thatched cottage painted a warm pink and is a picturesque site alongside the Brook and weeping willows.

LOCATION 22

← BACK



THE SHAFTESBURY THEATRE

In 1882 a local benefactor, Walter Tebbitt, who lived at Brook Cottage at the end of Brunswick Place built the Shaftesbury Hall on the site of a derelict house nearby for the moral benefit of the townspeople.

This was known as “Our Room”. Later that year Tebbitt held a fundraising event there to pay for a parochial room for the vicar. At this event, he demonstrated Gower and Ball’s loud speaking telephone, which connected a room in Brook Cottage to Our Room, where people could hear music and speech from the house.

There was living accommodation for a caretaker, who strictly controlled the use of the building. It was not popular with local people and fell into disuse.

In 1950, the dilapidated building was rescued and renovated to become the town’s Shaftesbury Theatre.

The theatre has a ghost called Esmerelda, who switches the light on and off at critical moments. One time the cast arrived for a performance to find every light in the theatre blazing.

LOCATION 23



LAWN TERRACE

These houses were built in the 1790s before John Edye Manning created the Lawn in the early 1800s, in 1810 a flood demolished some bridges and also the house adjacent to the Brook which had to be rebuilt. "It had just been made ready for habitation and was filled with handsome furniture and an elegant library".

The parallel roads on either side of the Lawn appear to have been planned to frame the rectangular plot and, to complete the frame, houses were built across one end and called Cross Park. All the houses in what is now Lawn Terrace have Georgian proportions and stuccoed facades and their roofs hidden behind parapets.

The doctors of the town had a preference for living in this central position as their houses also contained their surgeries before the first health centre was built.

The Scala House at the end of Lawn Terrace next to the Library became the Scala Cinema. Charlie Payne was the manager for many years and is fondly remembered. He had been projectionist at the old Palace Cinema in Albert Road.

"There were curved steps at the entrance and a round ticket office. If it wasn't too busy, Charlie would see you in, take your money and show you to your seat.

Many people went twice a week because there was a change of programme on a Wednesday. There were never many people there in the afternoon, perhaps only three or four. When the commercials were on, Charlie would take orders for tea, make it and bring it round to you. He wore a suit and tie during the day and a dress suit and dickie bow in the evenings.

The Saturday matinee was showed films for children. If the children got too excited and stamped their feet, Charlie would come down and threaten to throw out anybody who wasn't behaving."

The Scala closed in 1962.

LOCATION 24



ALBERT STREET

← **BACK**

An old cobbled street with a central gully, Albert Road was formerly, Chapel Street, The Congregational Chapel was on the north side where the Spiritualist Church now stands. In 1871, the church moved to a new building in The Strand. It is now the URC.

Later the site became The Palace Cinema, known as the Flea Pit. You can still see the old walls either side of the Spiritualist Church, which stands there now.

The White Hart pub described as “ House, Yard and Premises newly built” was licensed in 1858. Next door, where the launderette is now, was a drapers shop and later a grocers shop that became Hayward’s Fish café during WW2.

Chapel Street was central to the caring profession in the old town. Midwife Elizabeth Murch and several nurses lived here. Alongside lived carpenters, tailors, masons and maltsters.

LOCATION 25

← BACK



HALDON TERRACE

This was an exclusive address. It had a permanent gardener and held croquet tournaments and afternoon teas on the lawn. The gates barred all non-residents but the gardens were visible from the Cottage Hospital. Several of the Hospital donors lived here and provided “recommends” for poorer inhabitants of Dawlish. In 1970, a health centre was built at the bottom of the communal garden. It is now a vet’s practice.

LOCATION 26



FORMER COTTAGE HOSPITAL

The origin of the term “Cottage Hospital” may derive from the fact that they were intended to treat “cottagers”, who were the poor of the community.

In 1880, Dr Cann built the Cottage Hospital on open land at the top of what is now Luscombe Terrace. The hospital was subscribed by voluntary contribution. It cost £970 to build.

The land was given for the hospital on condition that “no maternity, tuberculosis, hopeless mental or chronic illness were admitted” Children under two were also excluded except for operations or accidents.

There was a system of “recommends”, which meant that donors to the hospital could be approached to provide a recommendation for treatment at the hospital. The Misses Gamling of Charlton House frequently provided these. This system was abolished in 1922 and an insurance scheme was introduced

The local ambulance was a truckle cart, a stretcher with a leather hood which could be fixed to a set of wheels and pushed by volunteers of the St John’s Ambulance.

Before 1947, local hospitals were paid for by the local community. There was a Matron responsible for the nursing and housekeeping. The doctors gave their services free, making their living from their wealthier clients. In 1932, a lottery made a profit of £150 and a fete raised £249 thanks to the support mainly of a small number of wealthy residents.

During WW2, a lot of the nursing was done by the civil nursing reserve who gave their services voluntarily. Sisters and nurses lived in a small room on the top floor. Matron lived in a small flat which became the physiotherapy dept. There were coal fires in the wards but a lot of heating was provided by the Aga cooker. Nurses carried patients’ meals from the kitchen but private patients had theirs on plates with copper base filled with a hot water.

When the NHS was created, the Government took over, improving working hours and salaries. Floors were covered in lino and the yellow and brown paintwork was made lighter and brighter.

In 1970, a health centre was built at the bottom of Hospital Hill allowing patients to visit their doctor in a purpose built building. This was replaced in 1990 with a new, larger building on the north side of Barton Terrace. And in 1996 a large modern hospital was built next to it.

LOCATION 27

← BACK



HATCHER STREET

Hatcher Street was built around 1860s in an area known as the Park, part of the Lammas Estate, where town events and circuses were put on.



Around the turn of the last century, street vendors were a common sight. In this photo Mrs Stab of Brixham is selling hake, dabs and whiting.

LOCATION 28



THE BOY'S SCHOOL

1877; New Board School in Dawlish Stockton Hill opened by Sir John Kennaway. Built with limestone from Ipplepen, with Chudleigh coigns and dressing and Doulton stone, Accommodation for 200 pupils, cost with site stated as £2692.

1880; Elementary Education Act made school attendance compulsory for children age five to ten years.

The Boy's School Log book had some interesting facts, pupils 158, in March they received some reading books for the boys. Attendance was very irregular as potato planting was going on. They had a good inspection report, the Head being John Carter Chinneck with Charles Pyne, assistant head teacher, and two other masters.

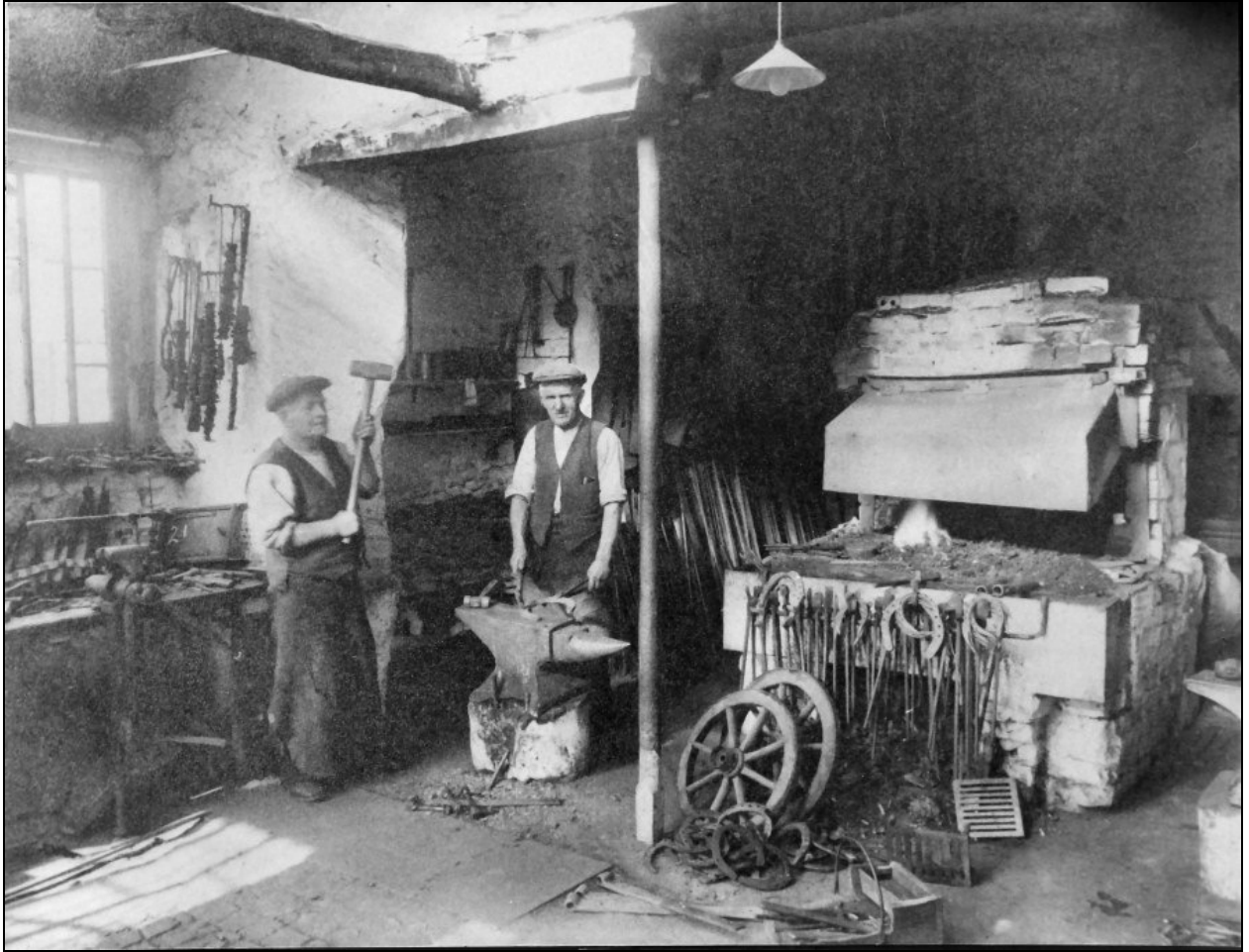
"In August 13 boys have leave from school to go harvesting and they all have a half day for the Regatta. "Dec 17th, my assistant teacher Mr Pyne was absent from school on Monday last. He asked me to excuse him on that day as he was married on the previous day, which I accordingly did."

A hundred years ago, corporal punishment was normal. Stanley Shorland writing about his school days in about 1911 recalled "It was rare to see a master walking among his class without a cane in his hand or tucked under his arm. It seemed that any minor infringement in behaviour or carelessness in work was enough to start him laying about him indiscriminately". One teacher had three canes which he named 'Benjamin', 'David', and 'Goliath', in ascending order of size, selecting the cane best suited to the offence.



In 1937, when the new secondary school was built, the Boy's School became the mixed Junior School and the building in Old Town St became the Infants School.

LOCATION 29



← BACK

THE FORGE, OLD TOWN STREET

In the 19th century the old Town Street area of Dawlish was at the heart of a thriving trade and commercial area, serving the local population and farming community. Many blacksmiths were recorded as working in the town – 6 around 1850. Trade would have been brisk as travel then was limited to horse or foot, at least until the arrival of the railway in Dawlish in 1846.

Samuel Jewell was blacksmith at The Forge at this time (Charles Jewell was another local blacksmith). Interestingly, from around 1852 Samuel Jewell also ran The Red Lion public house opposite the Forge, the tenancy being taken over by his widow from March 1861 – January 1862. (Red Lion Court was built in 1991 where the pub had formerly stood).

The Forge operated up until the 1960's and was run then by the Penaligon family, brothers Harry and Alfred, and their father before them. Harry Penaligon used to shoe horses for farmers who attended a monthly cattle market held near St Agatha's RC Church at Elm Grove (Road), Dawlish. The horses were left at The Forge and would be delivered back to their owners by the blacksmith or his assistant.

Other work was obtained from shoeing horses taking part in local race meetings held at Elm Grove.

As mechanised transport took over from horses, blacksmiths had to diversify. Reginald Penaligon, the last of the family at The Forge, ran a cycle and pram business there in the 1960's, which is still remembered by some older Dawlish residents.

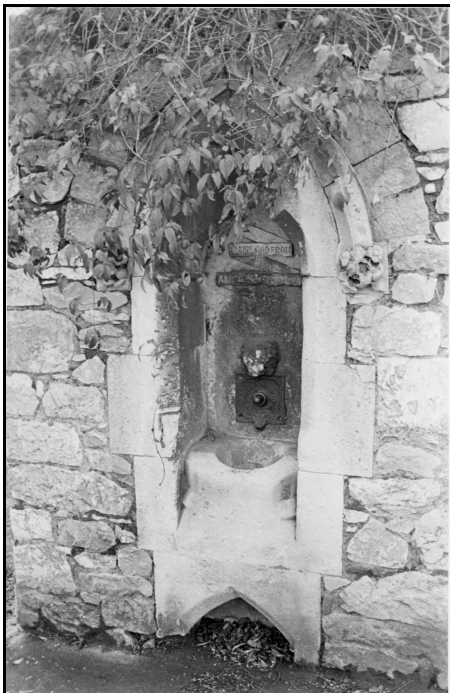
Dawlish Museum now houses some of the blacksmiths' tools of trade, including an anvil.

LOCATION 30



DRINKING FOUNTAIN, OLD TOWN STREET

This Gothic style drinking fountain is located in Old Town Street on the corner of part of the surviving stone wall of Brook House. It was designed for public use. Though defunct as a drinking fountain today, it is still clearly visible set in the wall. It bears the inscription:



“C D MARCH
1877
Praise God from Whom
All Blessings Flow”

Brook House, formerly known as New Bridge House, was for many years the residence of Admiral Thomas Dick and his family. Rear Admiral Dick moved to Dawlish as a widower with his daughters, Catherine, Elizabeth, Ellen and Charlotte around 1850, and lived there up until his death in 1862. His grave lies in St Gregory’s Churchyard.

Elizabeth, Ellen and Charlotte continued to live at New Bridge House after their father’s death. In 1877 Charlotte Dick decided to commission the drinking fountain, and obtained the services of a well-known Cheltenham architect of the time, John Middleton, to draw up the plans. These incorporated Charlotte’s initials, the month and the inscription above. The fountain was reported in the Exeter & Plymouth Gazette/Daily Telegraph of Saturday, March 31, 1877 as being “of Bath stone” and having “a neat and effective appearance”.

After it was built in March 1877, Charlotte wrote and offered to hand over the drinking fountain to the Dawlish Local Board, on condition that they properly maintain it for use by the public. In May 1877 the Board accepted Miss Dick’s proposal and agreed to pay a nominal rent of 1s (one shilling) to each of the millers for the use of the water (from their leats) until an alternative water

supply had been obtained by the Board.

Charlotte herself did not live much longer to enjoy the results of her philanthropy, and died in May 1889. She was survived by her sisters, Elizabeth and Ellen, the latter living to the age of 99 when she died in February 1925.

LOCATION 31



BADLAKE HOUSE

Built in early 17th Century, Badlake House was part of a small farm, with a few acres around the house and some fields opposite the house and further up the hill. The earliest known tenant was Robert Painter in 1722. He died in 1816 and the Pensons took over the farm. The family were still there in 1852, when a fire in the barn killed a horse, two pigs and some chickens. It had probably been caused by a spark from a lantern, when the farmer checked his animals before going to bed.

From the mid 1860s, the house was occupied by a series of curates and was known as Myrtle Cottage. And in 1882, the Rev. James Kavanah lived there. He married a local girl and moved away. Sadly, their first and second child died in infancy and the children's mother soon after. All are buried in Dawlish Churchyard.

By 1909, the house, owned by Robert Hambly, was a farm again but in bad condition. A sanitary inspector's report said: "water from a spring above, rubbish in the garden, 8 rooms, 2 adults, roof of thatch, no slate or downpipes." Mr Hambly owned all nine houses up Badlake Hill. In 1945, numbers 7, 9 and 11 were demolished.

In 1919, Hambly sold Badlake House (still called Myrtle Cottage) to Miss Cavendish-Bentinck of The Cottage at the end of Weech Road. A relation of the late Queen Mother, Mis Cavendish-Bentinck's chauffeur, Henry Negus, lived here. And later, his widow until she died in 1932.

Later, Weech Road was widened and the house reduced by one room width.

LOCATION 32



BRIDGE HOUSE

Bridge House was built in 1793 for newly weds John Davy Foulkes and Elizabeth, daughter of Richard Inglett Fortescue, Lord of the Manor of Dawlish. Foulkes was the commander of the East Indiaman ship “Asia” and, in 1795, captured seven Dutch East Indiamen off St Helena. With his prize money, he bought a house in Exeter. However, he died in 1813 and in 1814, the house was put up for sale.

Sales Particulars:

House: dining room, drawing room, breakfast room, five bedrooms, water closet.

For the servants: housekeepers room, butler’s pantry, kitchen, dairy, cellars and five bedrooms at the top.

Double coach house and stabling.

Two acres and a cottage

However, the house was not sold until 1829, when retired vicar from Dublin, Rev Theobald Walsh and his family moved in. He enlarged the house to accommodate his seven children by adding the bow fronted extension. Generations of the family lived in Bridge House until 1898. Then, for several years, the family leased the house out to visitors for the summer and only returned occasionally.

It is believed that Charles Dickens wrote parts of Nicholas Nickleby (published 1838) whilst staying here and made Dawlish the birthplace of its main character

In 1906, the house was bought by Sir William Gordon-Cumming, a retired lieutenant Colonel of the Coldstream Guards, who fought in the Zulu Wars and Egypt. The family had estates in Scotland and owned Gordonstoun (later the public school). He was discharged from his regiment for dishonourable conduct after cheating at cards, when playing Baccarat with the Prince of Wales and friends.

The family enjoyed living in Dawlish. Their daughter loved the garden and wild primroses. They helped the local cricket club, re-turfing the pitch on the Newhay. And two members played for the club. The family returned to Scotland in 1913.

Then, Lady Fairlie-Cunningham bought the house and eventually sold it to the trustees of the Railway Convalescent Homes in 1918. The institution was established in 1899 by a group of railway men. They were funded by subscriptions deducted from the men’s pay as the railway companies did not provide any financial support. The first convalescent home was in Herne Bay. The Dawlish home was very popular and in 1929, it was substantially extended. A Games room and Billiard room were added in 1935. An additional storey was added to the games wing to provide a writing room, rest room and veranda.

The ghost of Lillie Langtry is said to haunt the house. She is said to have stayed here with Edward VII when it was owned by Lady Cunningham until the end of WW1.

LOCATION 33

← BACK



CARPENTER'S BRIDGE

This was previously known as Dawlish Old Bridge. It afforded the relatively safe crossing of the Brook, and it was built in stone in the 17th century, carrying traffic along the ancient track way from the north to Holcombe and Teignmouth.



It became a County Bridge in 1690, but Dawlish had to contribute to its upkeep. Traffic needs led to its widening in 1864, as is recorded on a stone plaque facing the road. But it doesn't surprise us to learn that in 1875 a flood came down which damaged the Church Street bridge and caused the tragic death of one John Radford who was trying to save the stonework. He fell and was washed away, his body being recovered from the beach next morning.

The re-building was in the hands of civil engineer John Carpenter, his name is inscribed on the new plaque of 1876, hence the bridge's alternative name of Carpenter's Bridge.

LOCATION 34



CHURCH HOUSE

It is not a previous vicarage, nor was it built by the church. In modern times it would have been called the village hall. Up to the 15th century the nave of the church was used by local people for plays and wedding parties. Ale was also made for sale for the parties. It was also used for conducting business. By 1500, the Church wanted churches to be kept more 'religious' and so "Church Houses" began to be built, usually by the Lord of the Manor near or adjacent to the church and run by the churchwardens, the profits going to the church.

In Dawlish it is complicated as the Dean and Chapter were the owners of all the land in the town. They built this Church House which they rented at 12d. per annum in 1589 until 1613 or so when it seems to have become an inn. This is difficult to prove, but certainly it was a malt house until 1740 or so and leased out.

In about 1760, the Manor of Dawlish was leased to Richard Inglett Fortescue and then around 1780, to Peter Churchill, an attorney, one of the Dorset Churchills, who married Fortescue's daughter. They leased Church House but made a lot of alterations, building on top of the original cob malt house creating No. 18 next door. Peter's wife died and he took another wife, related to the family who leased Bridge House.

When the Dean & Chapter sold Dawlish in 1802, Peter Churchill seems to have bought the house and it stayed in the family until, in 1856, when the Luscombe Estate bought it along with next door, No.18, and all the thatched cottages which stood next to the church.

From 1856, the house was let to various people, a vicar or two, then at least three doctors lived here, including Dr. Lees before WW2. After the war it was leased to the miller from Town Mills, which was in Church Road where Mill Row is now. They kept budgies in the top room flying free and this explained all the bird seeds found under the floorboards some time later!

LOCATION 36



THE MASONIC LODGE

Benevolent Lodge in Teignmouth was constituted on 25th March 1794 and consecrated on 1st May 1794, with the number 540. On 3rd July 1865, seventy-one years later, it was proposed that “a Masonic Hall be built in the town dedicated entirely to Freemasonry”. A site was offered by the Earl of Devon and on 3rd August 1868 the Masonic Hall was dedicated.



Benevolent Lodge signed petitions for a new Lodge, in 1873, for Salem No. 1443 at Dawlish. The Freemasons Lodge met at the Town Hall in Dawlish (the current Baptist Church in Park Road) on the third Wednesday in the month.

The Masonic Hall was built in 1889. The brickwork is a stark contrast to the stucco finish in the rest of Barton Terrace. It was opened on 20th October 1890 with a grand banquet.

The lodge thrives and now, as Mother Lodge, shares its premises with other local Lodges, including St Michael's Teignmouth and Haldon.

LOCATION 37



SEFTON HALL

Building in Plantation Terrace was first started 1819, when this house was built for John Henry Ley 1770-1850 (later Sir) First Clerk of the House of Commons in 1833. He was from Kenton and also owned the last house Kia Ora (now Plantation Lodge). He lived here naming his house Plantation House then later Ley House. After his death, his widow and married daughter (to a Mr Plantagenet Somerse!) seem to have lived there until its sale around 1875.

This was when Dr Francis Cann the renowned surgeon from London bought it, having been living in Walton House next door since his marriage to a Miss Holt around 1866. He bought the house and sometime later, in 1878, after backing the winner, Sefton, in the Epsom Derby, Peter Hoare of Luscombe suggested changing the name to Sefton.

At Epsom, Sefton started at odds of 100/12 in a field of twenty-two. Insulaire, was made favourite ahead of Bonnie Scotland. The weather was miserable. Ridden by Henry Constable, Sefton was sent to the front after a furlong and never headed. In the straight he held off the challenges of Childeric and the fast-finishing Insulaire to win by one and a half lengths and won prize money of £5,850.

Wikipedia: Hand-coloured engraving of Sefton and Henry Constable.



Dr Cann was considered quite a wag, riding round the town in his hunting Pinks, offering his patients a swig from his hip flask. He argued with other doctors, causing a split with some going with him to run one hospital and the others to another hospital. However, he was the one who helped build the Cottage Hospital around 1900. It was rumoured that his wife had 17 children but only 3 survived. His son Mark Francis was also a doctor but hated his father due to the way he treated his mother. One time, his father came home hot from hunting, demanding the fire in the hearth be put out and, when refused, he got a jug of water to throw over the fire. Mark later lived in Ilex House nearby dying in the 1940s.

Dr. Cann senior left his wife and went off with his 'nurse'/mistress living in Putney until his death in 1929 but he is buried in Dawlish Cemetery (the first large above ground tomb at the entrance (he was an anti-vivisectionist). In his will, he left some money to the vicar to take care of this grave and any money left over was to be given to a dozen Dawlish poor but only if they took flowers to his grave.

So, the house was again sold in the 1930s and it became a hotel run by Mrs Peters, until the 1940s, when it was taken over by the Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital Fund together with another house, Lanherne - one for men the other for women. It seems in 1966 the adjoining house was combined to accommodate more patients. This house had been a boarding school in the 1880s.

Since then Sefton has always been used as a convalescent home by various companies.

LOCATION 38

← BACK



BROOKDALE TERRACE

On this site, stood a large thatched house built of cob after 1810, when a great flood, washed away the blacksmith's shop and cottage that were here. It also destroyed many other houses and wrecked the newly created Lawn and water course.

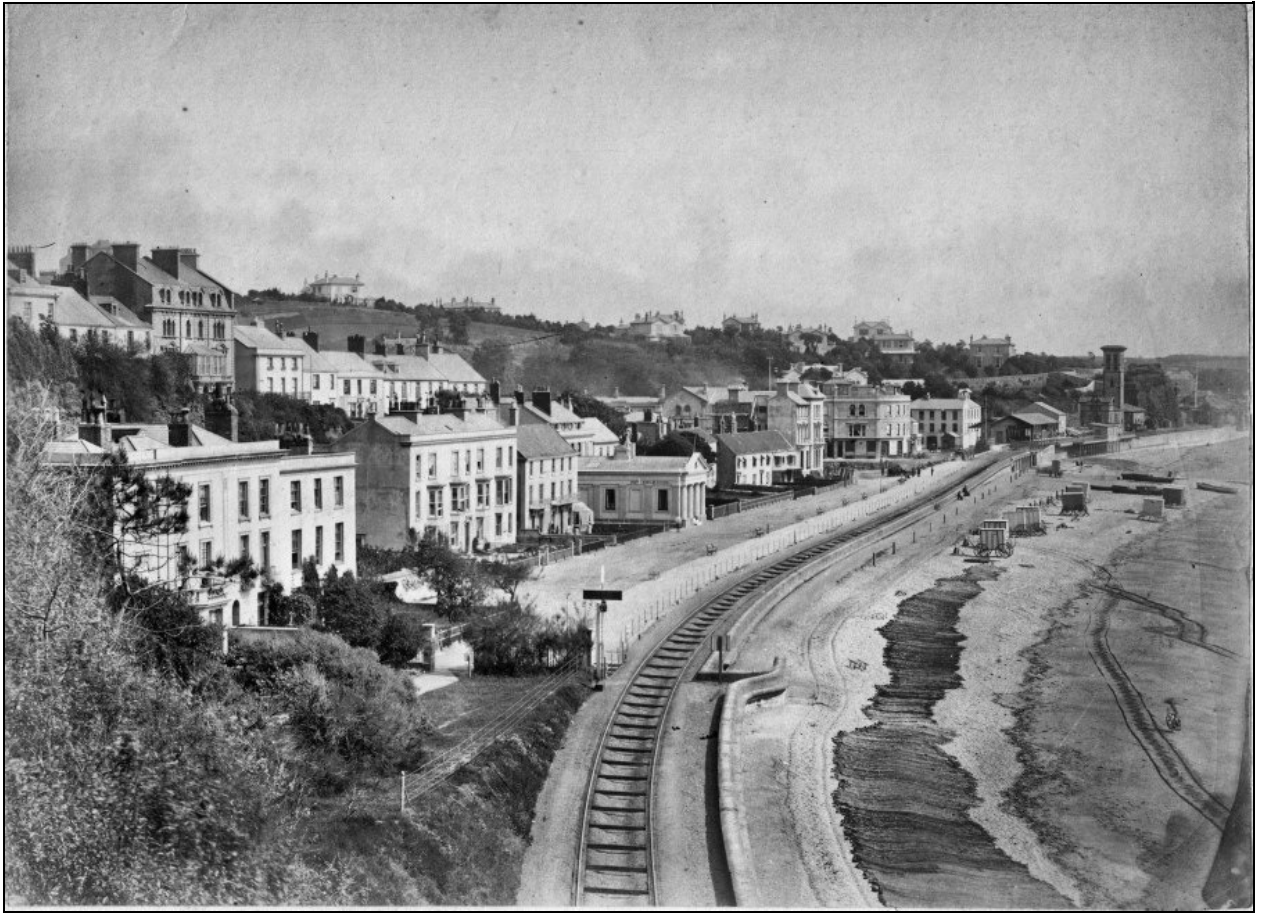
In 1861, the house, known as Sea View House was advertised as "All that genteel dwelling house with plot in front, with detached coach-house and stable, ... having a frontage of 132' together with a small shop and yard of 27' frontage."

Joseph Matthews bought the house. He and his wife, Amelia, lived in one part; his son and daughter-in-law in another; and an officer's widow and her daughter in the third section.

By 1878, the house had been demolished for the construction of the current Brookdale Terrace. And in 1889, the Devon and Cornwall Banking Company bought the adjoining cottages and built the bank, which was until recently, the Natwest bank.

LOCATION 39

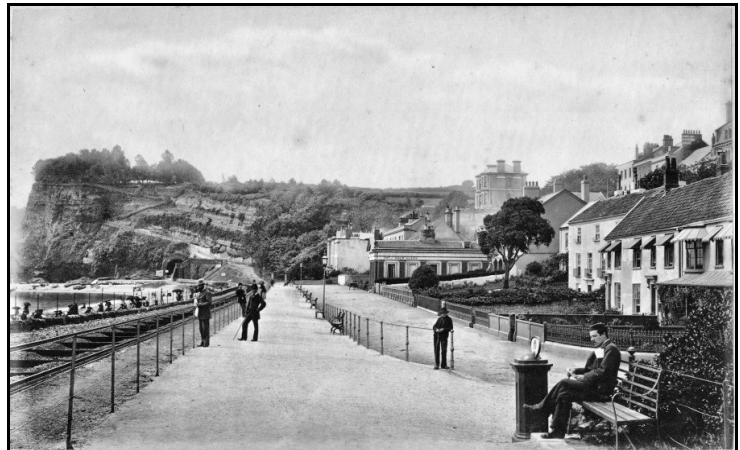
← BACK



MARINE PARADE – FORMER BATH HOUSE

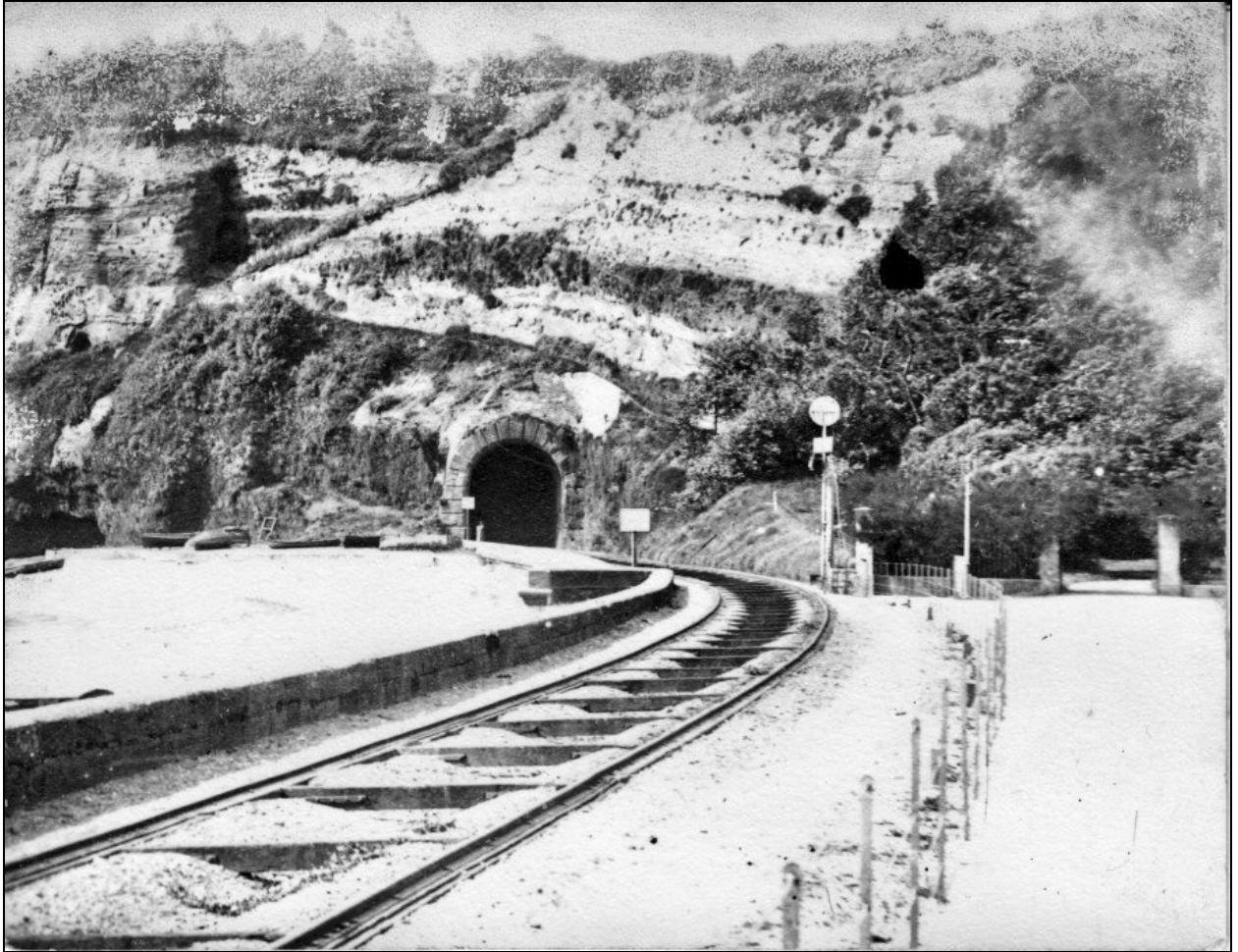
By 1796 there were about eight houses on Marine Parade and in 1805, a small Bath House was built but this was replaced by a more elaborate building in 1828. The building was neoclassical with Doric columns. Here there were hot and cold salt and freshwater baths available. The water was pumped from the sea by a hydraulic engine and the water was heated with steam.

In 1895, the baths were replaced by the current building, which was originally a Gentlemen's Club. It is now a guest house.



LOCATION 40

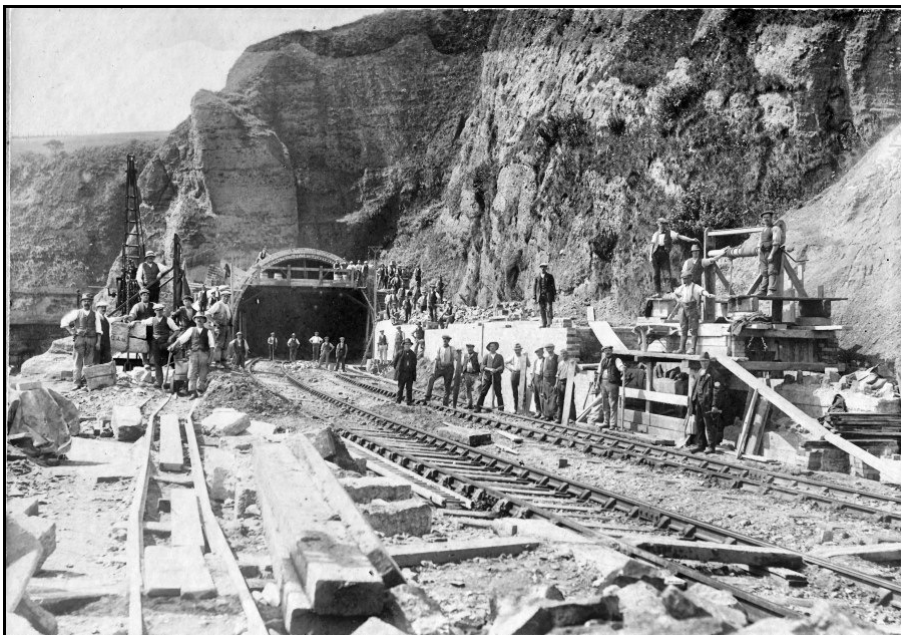
← BACK



RAILWAY AND TUNNELS

The coming of the railway in 1846 was not greeted by the fishing community with any great enthusiasm as they anticipated the loss of much of the beach and the obliteration of Boat, Coryton and Shell coves. Their concerns led to a change to the plans so that the railway was to be constructed inside the existing short sea wall, built by the parish authorities in 1837, by introducing tunnels and by cutting back the cliffs. In the event cutting back was used only at the Langstone rock and along the cliff towards this rock,

reducing the height of the cliff and pushing Ladies Mile a few yards inland.



Five tunnels were cut along this length. From Dawlish they are: Kennaway, Coryton, Phillott, Clerk and Parson. In order to protect trains from rock falls, Parson's Tunnel was extended by 147 yards at the east end. In total there are more than 1200 yards of tunnel.

Even though the tunnels were built, much of the beach was lost including the large shingle ridge which the fishermen had used to haul their boats to safety. It was intended that all communications between the beach and shore should be preserved by means of

slipways to allow boats, seine nets, bathing machines and goods traffic to be moved from the exposed beach over level crossings. In the event none were built probably because the adoption of the atmospheric system of propulsion involved huge pipe lines which would obstruct the crossings. A subway was built near Kennaway tunnel but flooded and was replaced about 1879 by an iron

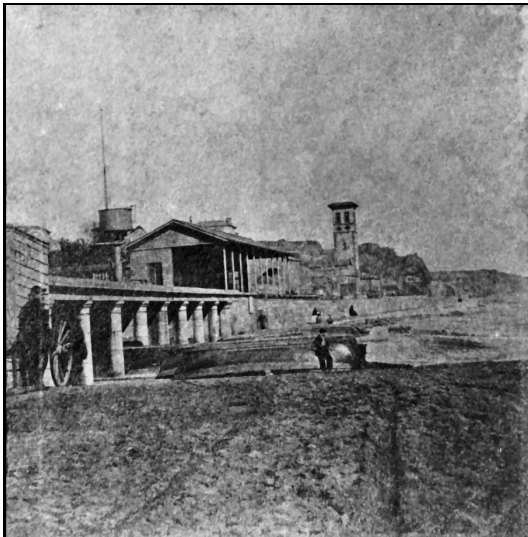
footbridge which was useless to the fishermen. A walkway along the sea front was to be built for public use and to protect the railway but this was not completed until 1902 at the cost of a further 18 feet of beach, and has proved vulnerable to storms. In 1905, the tunnels were widened to allow two lines to pass through.

LOCATION 41



THE RAILWAY AND VIADUCT

Work began on the South Devon Railway in 1844 and opened in May 1846. Brunel persuaded the Company to adopt the Atmospheric System, which provided traction for the trains with a vacuum tube to draw them along. Pumping Stations were built at 3 mile intervals to create the vacuum in each section. The system was ready in late 1847 but was plagued with problems until it was abandoned a year later and was never used beyond Newton Abbot.



The line was initially Broad Gauge and single track from Dawlish to Teignmouth.

By 1880, broad gauge track was being replaced with standard gauge but SDR did not update their line until May 1892. A third rail was installed along many sections and, over the weekend of 20th May, the work was completed. Many thousand came to watch the work in progress and the gangs welcomed the overtime payments of 25% extra plus 1 shilling a night allowance.

Track through the tunnels remained single track until 1905 when the tunnels were widened to accommodate a second track.

Brunel's viaduct of 1845 had eight stone columns, which restricted the view of the sea, so when, in 1928, plans were put forward to replace it with a steel structure, the local council asked for a new design to open up the view underneath, which is what we have today. The stonework of the old viaduct was strewn over the rocks between Dawlish Warren and Langstone Rock.

Prior to the coming of the railway, the coastline was very irregular and served to break up the tidal action but the sea wall provided a long and continuous run for heavy seas, causing increased scouring of the beach in spite of the several groynes built by the railway authorities. It has been claimed that the beach at Dawlish has been eroded to an average depth of 10 or 12 feet since 1840.