

Ken Gollop's Newspaper Collection (1970-1990)

Selected and transcribed by Felicity Cox, 2016/2017

Ken and Roy Gollop, owners of the trawler "Sea Soldier" and of the Lyme Bay Fisheries Ltd are two young men whose names have become synonymous with enterprise. Three months ago the Lyme brothers sustained a minor setback when a runaway bus smashed into their fish shop in the Guildhall market. As the premises are listed it took some time to get the go ahead for renovations but the shop stayed open and was well supported by the loyal customers who have come to respect Ken and Roy. Now it's back to normal at the market, the frontage has a bright new look and the Gollops are reaping the full reward of their labours.

Ken and Roy Gollop are responsible for the revival of the fishing industry at Lyme Regis. It all began back in 1959 when Roy left the royal Marines and Ken a hydrographic surveyor came back to Lyme. The two bought a trawler in the firm belief that they could make a living from the sea. "It was a bit of a struggle during the first couple of years " said Ken "and all of the old blokes said we would starve if we went fishing, but I am glad to say we proved them wrong". The Gollop's success story served as encouragement to others and now there are five trawlers using the Lyme harbour in the winter. At first the Gollops sent their catches to market but in 1967 they opened their shop at the Guildhall market and have been supplying the local housewives and hotels with a good choice ever since. Ken is the front man serving up his own particular brand of West Dorset charm along with the fish while Roy skips the Sea Soldier, a comparatively new 36ft trawler on her search for food from the sea. The Sea Soldier is equipped with all the modern aids to fishing and she can be out in the bay for as long as two days, although daily landings are much more usual. The Gollops enjoy what they are doing. Their family has been entrenched in West Dorset for centuries and produced many seafarers but one of them hit stormy weather back in the days of Queen Elizabeth 1 when he took up the butchery trade and transgressed by selling meat in Lent, he was required to give "Good Queen Bess" an undertaking that he wouldn't do it again. The Lyme brothers have succeeded through hard work and a certain amount of courage, their success is most certainly Lyme's gain.

(Lyme Regis News 18 December 1970)

Mrs Lavinia Alberta Jefford a member of the Curtis family, one of the oldest families in Lyme Regis, has died at her home 34 Corporation Terrace. She was born and educated in Lyme and left school to work for the area laundry. She married Mr Albert Jefford, a first-class stoker in the Royal Navy, they had seven children and nineteen grandchildren. Mr Jefford died in 1962.

(Lyme Regis News 22 January 1971)

When Lyme Regis non-conformists were arrested – Service of Commemoration. 289 years ago last Sunday the Minister and a gathering of non-conformists were arrested for holding an illegal meeting at their headquarters in St George's Square Lyme Regis. At the Congregational Church on Sunday a special service was held to commemorate that fateful day. Among those present were the Mayor and Mayoress, councillor and Mrs V J Homyer, members of the Lyme Regis Girl Guide Company and Mr R Gullick who represented the Special Constables. The service was conducted by the Minister the Reverend H E J Vickery. He said " We are here to remember when, on 31st January 1682 the constables arrested the Reverend Amos Short and his congregation. According to a well-known history book people

were not arrested for their religious beliefs as Parliament had been dismissed by the Crown but there was a feeling amongst those in authority that they had to be against anyone who dissented. There was a belief that non-conformity was not good so when the Reverend Amos Short and his congregation were gathered together in their headquarters the constables broke down the door and arrested most of those present. They also destroyed most of the fittings inside the house. Many of those arrested were sent to Dorchester Prison, including Mr Short and some were sent to the West Indies to serve their sentence there. Mr Short was eventually released and went on to reach the age of 81. The idea of commemorating the constables raid was that of the Assistant Secretary of the Congregational Church, Mr Roy Jones who arranged the service. There were five popular hymns, members of several local folk societies performed some well-known works and the lesson was read by Mr David Cozens.

(Lyme Regis News 5 February 1971)

Paul Wason at 15 years old is believed to be the youngest trawler skipper in the country. He is captain of his father's £20,000 boat Barbarella which is the biggest trawler operating out of Lyme Regis.

(Lyme Regis News 7 January 1972)

Mr & Mrs Jack Cawston, former licensees of the Cobb Arms and both formerly actively engaged with lifeboat work in Lyme. They received an unexpected gift when they came back for the annual lifeboat ball, a painting of the inn by the London artist Ivor Wilson.

(Lyme Regis News 3 March 1972)

Henry Chessell, mayor – elect and curator of the Lyme Regis Museum, when taking part in a local authority property inspection of the town mill found four 17th century illustrated atlases which once belonged to Forde Abbey. They were purchased by the late James Moyl who donated the land for the Langmoor Gardens to the borough. These and some old statute books were sold for £700. £200 was given to Lyme Regis Museum and £500 to a special fund set up to celebrate the 1200th anniversary of the first settlement of Lyme.

(Lyme Regis News 4 April 1972)

Haye Farm was sold in two lots at Axminster for £42,500. Lot One was 10.5 acres with over 300 yards of frontage and advertised as being suitable for future residential development. It was purchased by Mr W Tottle of Taunton who said he had no intention of developing the land and intended to live on the land. Planning permission was sought in 1962 and 1963 by the former owner Mr L Felton but his applications were turned down. Lot Two which included the farmhouse set in 16 acres went for £22,500 to an unknown buyer.

(Lyme Regis News 29 September 1972)

Lyme Regis was shocked to hear of the death of one of its most popular figures Mr Lewis Hodder of 57 Anning Road. He was known to thousands of holidaymakers to Lyme in the summer months as the man at the tiller of the Skylight tripper boat. For most of his life he was connected with the fishing industry in partnership with his brother Lionel. He was born in Lyme and served in the army during the last war. He founded the local cribbage League, was a keen skittles and darts player and a one-time chairman of the Football Club.

(Pulmans 5 December 1972)

From 1875 – the tolls of the Lyme Regis Turnpike Trust for the ensuing year were offered for competition. The first lot , the four principle gates let last year at £651, were put up by the commissioners at £600 and although there was a fair attendance of persons in the line there were no bidders above that sum.

(Pulman's 30 October 1973 " Lyme 100 years ago")

New lease of life for Lyme Regis engine. The old number 488 tank engine which once ran on the Lyme Regis branch line to Axminster has been given a new lease of life on the Bluebell Railway in Sussex. The engine was first used on the old East Kent Railway until 1946 when it was put into service at Lyme Regis where it remained until the closure of the branch line ten years ago. Number 488 now looks spick and span in Drummond green livery and is one of the Bluebell Line's great attractions.

(Lyme Regis News 9 November 1973)

From 1874 – Market Tolls. At a meeting of the town Council tenders for the Fair and Market tolls were received. Mr S Hallett's of the Dolphin Inn was accepted at £16. Mr Hallett was also appointed scavenger for the ensuing year.

(Pulman's 15 January 1974 " Lyme 100 years ago ")

Mr Henry Francis Hodder of 8 North Avenue has died aged 91 years. Born in Lyme Regis, the second son of the late Mr and Mrs George Hodder, his father was a building worker . Educated in Lyme Regis he then joined the Royal Navy and served on a minesweeper during the 1914 – 1918 war. After the war he was employed at Avonmouth docks and about 12 years ago he returned to Lyme to live with his sister. He was for a time a gardener at Stile House Hotel. A widower for many years he is survived by two sons and a daughter.

(Pulman's 18 September 1973)

Two gas holders dating back to 1836 have been uncovered during excavations on East Cliff Lyme Regis. These holders were part of the Lyme Regis Gas and Coke Company which was situated on the cliff, then known as " Spinning Yard ". They were operated there for about 50 years until owing to cliff erosion the company moved its site to Church Street. The original gas company was formed by several well-known local men. George Roberts the Lyme Regis historian, Edward Brown internationally known for kitchen ranges and other ironmongery manufactured in the town were both founder members. Robert Hillman a local solicitor was also a shareholder. Before the cliff fell into the sea there were several small houses on the cliff top. The lane leading to the area was once called Charmouth Lane, nearer to the gas works it was known as Gas House Lane. The works themselves were a very small affair, the gas holders being about the size of two hayricks one on top of the other. (Lyme Regis News 30 November 1973)

Lyme Regis did not sit back and say "oh well " when the West Dorset District Council wanted to take over the towns money making resort amenities. Their officials studied the Local Government Act of 1972 and Government memorandums on reorganization carefully. It was clear to them that Lyme should be treated as a special case and they persuaded the District Council to have second thoughts about grabbing the lucrative holiday amenities. The result is that Lyme will be better off by at least £12,000 a year and will precept for a smaller rate than was previously anticipated if the District Council took charge of the foreshore.

(Pulman's 26 February 1974)

For 180 years the Sun Assurance Company provided Lyme Regis with a fire engine and paid crew but looking at the original engine in the Museum and considering the fire hazards of the buildings of that period, wood and thatch, one wonders how a machine of that size coped with a major blaze. There is evidence that more than one fire engine existed in the town. A local newspaper report of 1844 stated " great praise is due to the officers and crew of Her Majesty's cutters Adelaide, Eagle and Asp which happened to be in the roads at the time and whose exertions to stop the progress of the flames, both by assisting in the pulling down of the houses and at the engines were highly meritorious". The engine now in Lyme's Museum attended its last fire at The Shambles in 1889 where it broke down ironically where the office of the Sun Assurance now stands.

(Lyme Regis News 29 March 1974)

Roman bath house found. The site in a field at Holcombe Farm Uplyme was first discovered in Victorian times but it was not until 1969 that members of the Devon Archaeological Society started to excavate it. In 1967 a farmer, Mr L J Denning started ploughing up mosaic pieces and the Government asked the society to excavate the field. A late pre-Roman Iron Age settlement with the remains of four timber houses and a Roman villa consisting of a stone walled farm were found. The most important find was an octagonal bath house of eight rooms around a central cold plunge bath. This building is unique in Britain.

(Western Morning News April 1974)

A cannonball was found by a Charmouth man, Mr Dennis Jerrard, wedged in rocks near Broad ledge. It was considerably larger than the grapeshot which is often found around Lyme. Another cannonball was discovered by Mr Ian Kennaugh of Bramcote, East cliff and taken to Mr Henry Chessell curator of the Philpot Museum for identification. Such cannonballs may well have been fired during the 1644 Siege of Lyme when there was a fort on the East cliff or they may have come from the gun emplacements on the Cobb. Some cannonballs are on display in the Museum , they were certainly fired before the end of the 18th century. The last was in the 1790's in action with the French fleet under Admiral Tourville.

(Lyme Regis News 26 March 1976)

Lyme's well known taxi driver Mr Lewis Wakely aged 63 of 5 Queens Walk died in his car after pulling into a layby, he was still working at the time of his death. He also held a contract for distribution of national newspapers, which required him to start work at 3 am daily. Mr Wakely was born in the area and worked on a bakery round when he first left school. He later drove for eight years with a private bus company. During the Second World War he served in the Middle East and rose to Sergeant with the Royal Corps of Signals. He returned to Lyme in the late 1940's he was a member of the Royal British Legion and worked as a mechanic and driver for Watson's Garage before starting his own taxi business. He leaves a widow, Elsie and twin daughters.

(Lyme Regis News 26 March 1976)

Mr Michael Dixon who is the education correspondent of the Financial Times and lives in Lyme Regis has been appointed a Governor of The Foundling Hospital in London which was established by the sea captain Thomas Coram who was born in Lyme Regis in the 17th century. Mr Dixon said " now I am a resident of Lyme Regis I am especially pleased to have been elected a governor of Captain Coram's legacy and am keen to do all I can to see that his work is furthered ".

(Lyme Regis News 9 April 1976)

The late Walter Abbot is this weeks " personality of the past ". He was arguably the greatest town crier that ever lived. He started his career in 1907 as deputy town crier, seven years later he became the official Town Crier, an office he held for 38 years. In national championships from 1923 until 1939 he was never unplaced. From 1930 he was champion of England and Wales for three consecutive years and again in 1939. The radio and press endeared him to millions, he was also seen and heard in cinemas as far away as Adelaide and New York. His ultimate honour on the radio came when he compared the double length show of "In Town Tonight" to commemorate the two thousandth performance. As Sergeant of the Mace Mr Abbot opened and closed the time honoured Court of Hustings at Lyme and just failed to achieve his ambition of attending the Mayor making ceremony for 40 years.

(Lyme Regis News 16 April 1976)

A large frame containing the Royal Arms of Charles 11 was found this week behind the organ in Lyme Regis Parish Church. The 300 year old frame was well preserved said the vicar the Rev. Peter Nicholson and a prominent position would be found for displaying it. An even older Royal Arms can be seen in the Lyme Regis Guildhall where the escutcheon of James 1, grandfather of Charles 11graces the Mayoral seat. It is an original dating back to the early 1600's.

(Lyme Regis News 14 May 1976)

Mr William Francis Ryder of the New Haven Hotel, Pound Street has died aged 64. His funeral service took place at Lyme Regis parish church. Mr Ryder was born in Dublin, as a boy he moved to Lyme when his father was appointed as coastguard. After leaving school he was apprenticed as a carpenter to the late Mr Will Hallett later working for Caddy's building firm. He served in the 1939 – 45 war spending four years in Burma. In 1947 together with partners he set up the now defunct building firm of Artisans. In 1956 he took over the Volunteer Inn and moved to the New Haven Hotel in 1962. In 1934 he married Miss Edith Hockey of Uplyme. As a young man he was a keen sportsman and played for the Lyme Bantams football team.

(Pulman's 11 January 1977)

Mr Roger Mayne, a top professional photographer and Oxford University graduate is the new Curator of the Philpot Museum in Lyme Regis. Mr Mayne, who has lived at Colway Manor for the past two years, has already researched a great deal of Lyme's history, he is particularly interested in old prints, drawings and photographs of the town. Mr Mayne has published books of photographs, held exhibitions on various themes and taught at art schools. One of his most important works was "The Shell Guide to Devon" the book was researched and written with the help of his wife, the playwright Ann Jellicoe, while spending summers from 1966 onwards in the Lyme area. Mr Mayne succeeds Mr Henry Chessell as curator.

(Lyme Regis News 11 February 1977)

Mr Cecil Quick the Lyme Regis tradesman who first ventured into business over 30 years ago on 3 May 1946 with a wheelbarrow and a boy, John Loveridge, writes the final chapter of his success story next month when he winds up his building firm Harris Quick and Co Ltd. It will cease to function but Mr Quick will retain the firm's premises in Coombe Street for a new venture. He built up his business to be one of the biggest operating out of Lyme, at one time with a branch in Axminster and employing 35 men. Mr Quick is particularly proud of the firms work at Clappentail Park where 27 houses of quality were built. Mr Quick said that he

had been a spec builder mostly, estimating that he had built on average one house every 12 weeks. Mr Quick, a mason by trade, is also the former owner of the Lyme fish and chip shop. He is well known in Dorset for his Royal British Legion work, he is the president of the Lyme Regis branch. Now Lyme waits to see what the next Cecil Quick business venture will be.

(Lyme Regis News 4 March 1977)

Malcolm and Janet Street have bought the Tudor Café in Broad Street . They have been working with Mr and Mrs R Hazel for the past five years in the business , Mr and Mrs Hazel are retiring after running the café for 21 years. Mrs Hazel will continue to supply the café with the sweets and chocolates for which it is so well known. The Streets will concentrate on the catering side serving coffee, lunches as well as early evening meals for a longer season. Mr Street served in the Catering Corps when doing National Service after which he became a chef for Fortes in Bournemouth before moving to Lyme. The Streets have an interest in local scouting founding the Group Scout Supporters Club. They have a family of two boys Brian 11, David 9 and a girl Julia 5.

(Lyme Regis News 18 March 1977)

Lt Col George Edwin Permain of Timber Lodge Timber Hill Lyme Regis died last November. Mrs Edith Constance Chalmers of Lower Ware Lyme Regis died last October.

(Pulman's 22 March 1977)

A piece of stone from St Andrews well has been donated to the Philpot Museum. Curator Roger Mayne is anxious to trace the second fragment which was known to be in existence in the town earlier this century. The piece of stone being prepared for display is part of the well basin. It was taken to the garden of Belmont in 1928 by the owner at that time Dr Cooper. It has been retrieved and given to Mr Mayne by author John Fowles who now owns Belmont. The stone came from St Andrews House, now the Woodroffe Boarding House, where the towns first water supply was tapped many centuries ago. A medieval chapel was built over the spring and well and dedicated to St Andrew. The remains of the chapel, with curved stones and steps leading down to the spring, could still be seen until 1928 when the stones were removed to Belmont. The second stone fragment referred to in files handed down by Cyril Wanklyn's bequest in 1943 has not yet turned up. It is a sandstone capital for a pillar and the carving of a fleur de Lys and a semi – human head is clearly visible on the file illustrations which were drawn by hand in 1928 by Miss G Lister, niece of Lord Lister.

(Lyme Regis News 22 April 1977)

Mr Geoff Cozens has opened a new shop called Sails in Broad Street Lyme Regis. He was born in Lyme Regis and educated at the former Grammar School, he has returned to live in Lyme after years away as a ships pilot in the Persian Gulf in command of many vessels including huge supertaskers. In 1968 he set up a Marine Consultant and export business which is now beginning to flourish in Broad Street. Sails is a shop that specializes in ships chandlery, Mr Cozens is an agent for Topper dinghies, Copeland boats and an agent for Admiralty Charts and for many craft and outboard engines.

(Pulmans 23 May 1978)

The curators of the Museum Mr John Fowles and Mrs Ann Mayne have been permitted to select items of special local interest from the estate of the late Mr Bruce Boswell of Sherborne Lane. There are many interesting photographs, prints, and books of great local interest, most notable was Rowland Brown's " Beauties of Lyme Regis" dated 1858. There was also a collection of early papers by De la Beche and Conybeare. The museum hopes to

acquire some of the unique collection of old carpentry and upholstery tools . From Miss Gwyneth Chaney the museum has received a valuable collection of papers concerning the HMS Formidable incident of 1915. They originally belonged to the late Gwen Harding, included are photographs, many newspaper cuttings and an eye witness account. An album of old postcards and a copy of Dunster's " Royal Album of Views of Lyme Regis ". Mr Lawrence Whistler has presented the museum with a unique manuscript of a satirical poem of the Regency period called " The Lymiad " A typewritten transcription should be ready by the end of the year. A fine 1908 photograph of the Lyme Regis Fire Detachment came from Miss Dorothy Holmes while Mr Donald Hardy has presented a very early cinema programme at the Drill Hall (now the Marine Theatre). A copy of Cameron's Lyme Regis was presented by an anonymous donor and a last day Lyme Regis railway ticket was given by Mr Douglas Fortnam. Mr Cecil Quick gave a sailing ship " cat " or anchor raising pulley.

(Lyme Regis News 26 May 1978)

An Australian couple have been in Lyme Regis this week tracing their ancestors the Hooke's, a family of staunch Methodists and clothiers of Lyme. They are direct descendants of the family that helped to found the Lyme Wesleyan Chapel back in the 1840's. They learnt that recently four ancient leather bound coffins were unearthed from a sealed tomb in Church Street in Lyme on the site of the old Methodist church. They knew about the deaths in infancy and childhood of some members of the family and their reburial and visited the cemetery to see the stone plaque that originally hung in the church. They visited the Rev Peter Nicholson at St Michaels church and Mr W M Cann of the Methodist church to study local records. These revealed that John Swain Hooke married Mary Ann England in 1825 and in 1852 they, with their surviving children, left their home on the corner of Georges Court and Coombe Street and went to Australia probably because of disputes in the Methodist Church and the cholera epidemic. They arrived in Australia at the start of the goldrush and settled in Bendigo near Melbourne. Mr Hooke produced a very old family document giving dates and details of birth, marriage and family of Lyme's John Swain Hooke who was born in 1797. One relative has been found locally – Miss Flossie M Hooke of Grosvenor Cottage, Charmouth.

(Lyme Regis News 19 June 1978)

One of Lyme's most colourful personalities Mr Reginald Thomas Gollop of 1 Hill Road Lyme Regis has died aged 72. His name was synonymous with Bumbles Circus, the Carnival tableaux and the Lyme Regis refuse collectors who gained international fame for wearing bowler hats and swallowtail coats. Mr Gollop followed in the footsteps of his father Frank who was a fisherman and worker on the old stone boats. Mr Gollop ran a pleasure boat from Cobb Gate beach called the " Wanderer ". His son Ken still operates from that beach with his boat the "Donna Marie" As a young man Tom Gollop followed his father and uncle into the lifeboat service at the time of the "Thomas Masterman Hardy" a boat requiring a strong crew of oarsmen. He was among the guests of honour at the re-opening of the inshore lifeboat station at Lyme and saw his two sons join the crew of the new boat. In his young days he worked as a gardener for the Chalmers family at Southcliffe House. During the war he was drafted into the fire service and worked at Exeter and Plymouth during the bombing raids. After the war he helped to re-form the Lyme Carnival and served on the Regatta committee for many years. He took over the position of borough mace bearer when his cousin Fred Gollop retired from the post. On his retirement he kept up his favourite hobby of gardening at his allotment where he kept ducks and goats and also returned to fishing. He continued to take an interest in his eldest son Roy's net making business and in Ken's tripping boat work. His first wife and mother of his five children, originally Miss Olive Hawkes of Exeter died in 1953. In 1958 he married the widow of Wally Hodder Mrs Ada Hodder who survives him.

(Lyme Regis News 15 September 1978)

Mr Albert Lane a former Mayor of Lyme Regis has died aged 84. He devoted 52 years to local government and was the last man to be awarded the Freedom of the Borough of Lyme Regis. In 1974 reorganisation eliminated the age old honour. Mr Lane was first elected to the former Borough Council in May 1961 and became Mayor in 1966 two years after he had retired from a career in local government. During his years with the Lyme Regis Borough Council he fulfilled the role of both town clerk and chief financial officer. During his period as Mayor he saw a wish close to his heart come true – the re-opening of the local lifeboat station in 1967. Mr Lane continued to serve on the council after local government reorganisation in 1974 despite his strong feelings that the changes to the system were a retrograde step.

(Lyme Regis News 20 October 1978)

Lyme Regis Town Council has received a letter from the Town Crier Mr Richard Fox thanking the town for supporting him in the World Championship contest. "I would like to express my thanks to the members of the council and to the people of Lyme Regis for their magnificent support which enabled me to compete, I am sorry that I was unable to win the competition but at least I managed to take third place. I am sure the members will agree that the publicity given to the event by the media was significant, the name of Lyme Regis was spread over the whole of the North American continent. In Canada the town received publicity from the newspapers The Star, Mail, Chronicle, Herald, and Metro News. Canadian Television linked from coast to coast for the contest and United States Television also linked in for the Northern states of America, there was also radio coverage. I am pleased that such widespread publicity was given to our town and that I did my best to try to gain some goodwill for the West Country"

(Lyme Regis News 3 November 1978)

Finnish schoolchildren learn about life in England as part of their English language lessons in senior classes. Lyme Regis was chosen as one of several typical small communities which could illustrate the English way of life. An English teacher who lives and works in Finland has been visiting Lyme to interview and record discussion with certain members of the community who were able to contribute to the overall picture. Among those interviewed was Mrs Ada Gollop warden of the old people's homes at Hill mead, Hill Road. She was able to explain how Lyme looks after its elderly residents. General practitioner Dr Robert Bowles was also interviewed about medical and hospital care. Mr John Hodder was interviewed as coxswain of the Lyme Regis lifeboat he was able to talk about the town as a fishing port and playground for water sports.

(Lyme Regis News 17 November 1978)

Bakers at Lyme Regis are confident they can meet demand during the bread strike. Mr Dick Hammett of Broad Street received flour yesterday and expects further supplies, Mr Paul Saxon of John the Baker in Coombe Street said he had plenty of flour to meet all demands.

(Lyme Regis News 10 November 1978)

The funeral service for Mr Colin Ralph Cross aged 74 of 54 Anning Road Lyme Regis took place at the Parish church, the service was conducted by the Rev P Nicholson and internment followed at Lyme Regis cemetery. Mr Cross was a keen fisherman and boatman in Lyme, he had served for many years in the Dorset Constabulary and served in the single and married quarters at Lyme Regis police station during the war years.

(Pulmans 9 January 1979)

Mr William Samuel Frank Curtis a former Lyme Regis sailor of 27 Kingsway has died aged 69. Mr Curtis was born in Lyme the son of the Late Mr and Mrs Frank Curtis, his father was a Lyme fisherman. William was a pupil at Lyme School and as a young man worked on the boats with his father, during the 1939 – 45 war he served on a minesweeper and engaged in the relief operations at Dunkirk, he was later invalided out of the Service. For 21 years he was a night watchman at the RAF Barracks on Monmouth beach and for 10 years a cook at Lyme Regis hospital. In 1935 he married Miss Nora Seward of Lyme and they lived in Sherborne Lane then for the past 30 years in Kingsway. Mr Curtis was one of the original players in the Lyme Bantams football team, the secretary of one of the first social clubs in Lyme at the Volunteer Inn, secretary of the Lyme branch of the Royal British Legion, a member of the Standard Spoon Club and the Standard and Volunteer cribbage teams and the Lyme Regis Bowling Club.

(Lyme Regis News 26 December 1978)

Research in Lyme Cemetery – Dr Joan Walker has been carrying this out for the Lyme Regis Society. The cemetery was consecrated by the bishop of Salisbury on 1st of November 1856. The cost of building the two chapels one for the Church of England the other for the Dissenters and the porter's lodge amounted to £759 10s 6d. In 1933 it cost £285 to buy by compulsory purchase an extra two acres. The first year of burials in 1857 included the names of many families still living in Lyme today: Curtis, Fowler, Hallett, Hodder, Jefford, Love Loveridge, Quick, Rowe, Rugg, Searle, Toms and Upjohn. Dr Walker's researches have revealed that of 72 burials in 1857 39 were of children.

Lyme's population at the 1861 census was 2,537 the biggest boost in population came after World War 2 when many retired people sought refuge from the mental wear and tear of city and suburban life. Today the Church of England chapel is used for all denominations and the former Dissenters chapel is now a gardening store.

Among the well-known names on gravestones are members of the Philpot and Anning family, Cyril Wanklyn Lyme Regis historian who died in 1943, blacksmith George Govier who died in 1903, the graves of six German airmen from 1941 and a memorial to six sailors from HMS Formidable sunk in Lyme Bay by a German submarine in 1915.

(Lyme Regis News 16 March 1979)

Important gift of Roberts papers - Lyme Museum curator John Fowles writes :” Last year a distinguished Dorset historian and book collector Mr H F V Johnstone of Poole loaned the museum George Roberts own annotated copy of his “ History of Lyme “ and two of his manuscript notebooks. He has now made a permanent gift of these three unique books and has most generously added two more Roberts albums containing many additional hundreds of notes made on Lyme's history. Roberts made these notes after his book was published and they contain a wealth of new material. We know a majority of Roberts papers have disappeared since they were last seen together in London in the 1870's, they then filled a large trunk. Meanwhile we may be profoundly grateful that such a handsome remnant did come into Mr Johnstone's hands and is now, by his kindness, returned to us. The notes and papers span all Lyme's past from medieval to Victorian times and range over an enormous field of subject matter from 14th century property deeds to amusing fragments of the full old Dorset dialect that Roberts still heard around him when he lived here. Mr Johnstone's benefaction is not confined to the Roberts material since he also sent us photocopies of a number of other rare documents of Lyme interest. One gives a complete list of Lyme ships, their names and tonnage for the year 1578. In addition he has given us a copy of the finest of all local smuggling books” John Rattenbury's Memoirs of 1837”. The museum hopes in due course to publish it and the most interesting of the Roberts material”.

(Lyme Regis News June 1979)

The derelict railway station building has gone from Lyme Regis. During the past two weekends railway enthusiasts from Hampshire dismantled the wooden structure board by board. It is to be reconstructed and preserved by the volunteers of the new Mid – Hants Railway Company at Alresford, it was sold to them for £100. It may be of some consolation to Lyme Regis people to know that it is being preserved for posterity. The famous “Bluebell line” tank engine which travelled the Axminster – Lyme Regis route is also being used on the Bluebell Railway in Sussex.

(Lyme Regis News 15 June 1979)

The 1895 painting of “ The Little Rose of Lyme “ by the artist James McNeil Whistler is currently on public exhibition in Boston Massachusetts USA. It is one of a limited number from the city’s Museum of Fine Arts selected to represent “ Faces of Five Thousand Years.” The painting, one of several painted by Whistler during a stay in Lyme Regis was inspired by the eight year old auburn haired daughter of Alderman G J Rendell twice a Mayor of the town. The information was received by Mrs Avis Chessell who is trying to trace another of Whistler’s paintings “ The Dorsetshire Daisy” for which the model was the eleven year old daughter Ada of master blacksmith Sam Govier of Lyme Regis. Whistler’s portrait of The Master Smith is known to belong to the Boston Museum of Fine Arts.

(Lyme Regis News 5 October 1979)

The sudden death of Charlie Rice has shocked Lyme Regis – Mr Charles Rice 51 a member of a well-known local family of 39 Summerhill Road leaves a widow and four children. He served with the Royal Engineers from 1946 until 1948 afterwards he gave a lifetime service to the South Western Electricity Board. One of Mr Rice’s great interests was the Lyme Regis Branch of the Royal British Legion which presented him with a certificate of appreciation this year for 15 years of devoted service.

(Lyme Regis News 19 October 1979)

Mr Kenneth Reginald Gollop, a Lyme Regis boatman of 46 North Avenue, the younger son of the late Mr and Mrs Thomas Gollop was married to Miss Joan Beryl Carter of Shoreham by Sea Sussex at St Michael’s Parish Church Lyme Regis. The bride, a chartered librarian is the only daughter of Mr and Mrs Eric Carter of Redditch Worcestershire. The best man was Mr Roy Gollop, the bridegrooms brother and the ushers were Mr Max Gollop and Mr Brian Holmes. A reception for 100 guests was held at the Masonic Hall in Lyme Regis. Mr Gollop is a launcher with the local lifeboat crew and a member of the cliff rescue section of the Coastguards. His wife is a member of the lifeboat shoreline organisation connected with the look – out section at Shoreham.

(Pulman’s 29 May 1979)

Mrs Violet Bradshaw aged 71 who lived in Lyme Regis for over 30 years died in Lyme Regis hospital. The Bradshaws used to run the small dairy in Coombe Street Lyme Regis now known as Marrons Creamery, which was then owned by Hammetts of Exeter, Mr Bradshaw used to do the milk round while Mrs Bradshaw ran the shop. After her husband died she went back as a dairy assistant, retiring only three years ago when Mrs Joy Raff (then Feeney) sold the business.

(Lyme Regis News 26 October 1979)

Holman and Ham the chemist business in Broad Street previously owned by the Exeter based firm of Cross and Herbert is to become Poultons. Lyme Regis now has a privately owned chemist shop as pharmacist Geoffrey Poulton has taken over the former Broad Street premises and will trade under his own name.

(Lyme Regis News 19 October 1979)

Lyme Regis Bowling Club headquarters once stabled horses president Mr Cyril James told club members at their annual dinner. It was originally stables for horses used by stone hauliers when the old cement works were in use. In those days life was very different, the pubs opened at 6am so the labourers could down several pints of ale or cider before setting off on their mornings work. They used to collect the raw material for the cement from the cliff east of Lyme Regis and transport it in five ton loads by boat to the harbour. Then the horses were used to transfer the material to the works. Their pay was a mere one shilling and six pence a load

(Lyme Regis News 26 October 1979)

Lyme's Museum curator unravels the Warren mystery. Mr Fowles writes " The mysterious gentleman from Lyme Regis whose silhouette goes on sale at Sotheby's next week must be John Warren who was five times mayor of Lyme Regis between 1788 and 1818. He was baptised here on July 1754. His father Samuel Warren was also mayor four times between 1753 and 1776. The Warrens were leading supporters of the Fane family who owned Lyme in Borough and Parliamentary terms during this period. John Warren lived in Broad Street where the Post Office now stands, in those days the garden of this house though quite narrow ran all the way down to the river. The apples for the traditional pie in the mayoral September feast always came from this garden. In the 1830's the house became the historian George Roberts' academy for young gentlemen. The Warren family first appear in Lyme in the 1690's but they seem to have disappeared by 1830 as no one of that name figures in the first full list we have of Lyme inhabitants, the reformed electoral roll of 1833."

(Lyme Regis News 26 October 1979)

The silhouette miniature of "Mr Warren of Lyme Regis" will return to the town. It has been bought at auction for Lyme's Museum by the "Friends of the Museum" for £170. The curator John Fowles told a reporter " apart from the local connection the silhouette is a fine example of its kind by one of the best known makers John Field. I am grateful to the Lyme Regis News for drawing our attention to the Sotheby's sale and am delighted that the Friends managed to acquire the portrait for us. It would have been difficult to justify the purchase from the museum funds as we have to budget largely for the upkeep and running costs. The energetic new secretary of the Friends, Mr Tom Gilbert, has already enrolled many fresh members this year. I hope even more will be encouraged to join in view of this very practical demonstration of what community support can achieve. It's soon to be a registered charity."

(Lyme Regis News 2 November 1979)

It was a great sense of pride that Lyme Regis fisherman Ken Gollop addressed Bridport and West Dorset Family History Society. He told how he was a sixth generation in his family to fish from Lyme Bay. He was also a member of the lifeboat crew since its reinstatement in 1967, both his father, grandfather and great uncle were involved with the lifeboat. His family had lived in West Dorset since 1413 he said and spoke amusingly of the male line marrying into money. Gollops merged with Temples and Strodes and acquired large estates. He included some fascinating anecdotes – an 1870 Admiralty chart aboard a French craft which came to Lyme Bay revealed that the old name for Harcombe Hill was Gollop Hill indicating the family's former prowess. The old name disappeared when the area was surveyed. One

Gollop who travelled to America during the 1600's became a premier pilot on the East Coast, his sons amassed estates and fought native Indians, each time they won a battle they were given a little more land by the Governors. Gollops were among the lists of Monmouth rebels.
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(Lyme Regis News 13 March 1987)

“Lower Ware” Lyme Regis, unique coastal estate commanding views to Portland Bill, in all 37 acres. Lower Ware consists of a handsome listed family residence with self – contained guest/granny wing and over 3 acres of beautiful grounds, Barn Cottage currently laid out as 2 flats and about 34 acres of coastal grassland above the Cobb. For Sale by Auction Friday 30th October 1987(unless previously sold) at the Royal Lion Hotel Lyme Regis.
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The National Trust acquired 34 acres of coastal land at Lyme Regis one week before it was due to be sold at auction as part of the Lower Ware estate, however “Lower Ware” itself failed to reach the reserve price but “Barn Cottage” also part of the estate did sell for £88,000 to a buyer from Sidmouth. The acquisition of the land by the National Trust followed considerable activity and encouragement from the Lyme Regis Society and in particular John Fowles. Fox and Sons the selling agents said that this sale to the National Trust was always the wish of the vendors Mr and Mrs Attwood. He said that Lower Ware house and four acres will now be offered for sale by private treaty with offers of more than £325,000.
(Western Morning News 14 November 1987)

Stedcombe House near Axmouth , now in need of much restoration, was built around 1697 by merchant Richard Hallett who made much of his fortune from sugar and rum shipped to Lyme Regis from Barbados. The interior was enriched by Hallett's widower son Southcott around 1760, the splendid rococo design chimneypiece in the drawing room is undoubtedly the most prominent feature. The Hallett family lost most of their fortune in the late 1800's and Stedcombe was sold in 1890 to ink maker Samuel Saunders Stephens. He modelled his famous ink bottles on the design of Stedcombe. Savill's are selling the eight bedroom house, lodge and stables with planning permission for two homes together with grounds of almost 9 acres and despite the sadness of its condition they are expecting substantial offers for the property . The compact design, the splendour of its architecture and its magnificent setting overlooking the Axe Valley gives Stedcombe the right ingredients to turn it into an outstanding country house price £375,000.
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Fishermen's Association. For 35 years Mr Govier served the community as a retained Dorset Fireman.

(Lyme Regis News 11 March 1988)

A detached period cottage in Lyme Regis "Little Park Cottage" which has many of the original features is on the market with agents Lawrence Alder King. The property comprises a thatched porch, entrance hall, sitting room with inglenook, dining room, study, fitted kitchen, cloaks and wc, three bedrooms, bathroom and wc. It has full central heating and walled garden with garage. The cottage is believed to date back to the 17th century and is constructed principally of rendered stone walls beneath a thatched roof. In recent years it has undergone complete refurbishment. The property enjoys a quiet setting in picturesque Hay Lane some rooms have the benefit of sea and country views.

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Lyme Regis former police station is up for sale and expected to make £30,000 to £40,000. The three bedroom house has its own prison cell. The Victorian building ended its life as a police station in the 1920's but because the deeds went missing it could not be sold and had so had been used to house former policemen but had been empty in recent years. Now the documents have been found so the building together with the two bedroom constables cottage behind will be auctioned. The police station originally had two cells and its own bell tower where officers used to sound the alarm when there was a fire in the town. Lyme Regis formed its own borough police force in 1850 with a sergeant and three constables. It was incorporated into Dorset Constabulary in 1900 and the new police station in Hill Road was built in 1927.

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(Pulmans 13 June 1988)

Mrs Lavinia Alberta Jefford a member of the Curtis family, one of the oldest families in Lyme Regis, has died at her home 34 Corporation Terrace. She was born and educated in Lyme and left school to work for the area laundry. She married Mr Albert Jefford, a first-class stoker in the Royal Navy, they had seven children and nineteen grandchildren. Mr Jefford died in 1962.

(Lyme Regis News 22 January 1971)

When Lyme Regis non-conformists were arrested – Service of Commemoration. 289 years ago last Sunday the Minister and a gathering of non-conformists were arrested for holding an illegal meeting at their headquarters in St George's Square Lyme Regis. At the Congregational Church on Sunday a special service was held to commemorate that fateful day. Among those present were the Mayor and Mayoress, councillor and Mrs V J Homyer, members of the Lyme Regis Girl Guide Company and Mr R Gullick who represented the Special Constables. The service was conducted by the Minister the Reverend H E J Vickery. He said " We are here to remember when, on 31st January 1682 the constables arrested the Reverend Amos Short and his congregation. According to a well-known history book people were not arrested for their religious beliefs as Parliament had been dismissed by the Crown but there was a feeling amongst those in authority that they had to be against anyone who dissented. There was a belief that non-conformity was not good so when the Reverend Amos Short and his congregation were gathered together in their headquarters the constables broke down the door and arrested most of those present. They also destroyed most of the fittings inside the house. Many of those arrested were sent to Dorchester Prison, including Mr Short and some were sent to the West Indies to serve their sentence there. Mr Short was eventually released and went on to reach the age of 81. The idea of commemorating the constables raid was that of the Assistant Secretary of the Congregational Church, Mr Roy Jones who arranged the service. There were five popular hymns, members of several local folk societies performed some well-known works and the lesson was read by Mr David Cozens.

(Lyme Regis News 5 February 1971)

Ken and Roy Gollop, owners of the trawler "Sea Soldier" and of the Lyme Bay Fisheries Ltd are two young men whose names have become synonymous with enterprise. Three months ago the Lyme brothers sustained a minor setback when a runaway bus smashed into their fish shop in the Guildhall market. As the premises are listed it took some time to get the go ahead for renovations but the shop stayed open and was well supported by the loyal customers who have come to respect Ken and Roy. Now it's back to normal at the market, the frontage has a bright new look and the Gollops are reaping the full reward of their labours.

Ken and Roy Gollop are responsible for the revival of the fishing industry at Lyme Regis. It all began back in 1959 when Roy left the royal Marines and Ken a hydrographic surveyor came back to Lyme. The two bought a trawler in the firm belief that they could make a living from the sea. "It was a bit of a struggle during the first couple of years" said Ken "and all of the old blokes said we would starve if we went fishing, but I am glad to say we proved them wrong". The Gollop's success story served as encouragement to others and now there are five trawlers using the Lyme harbour in the winter. At first the Gollops sent their catches to market but in 1967 they opened their shop at the Guildhall market and have been supplying the local housewives and hotels with a good choice ever since. Ken is the front man serving up his own particular brand of West Dorset charm along with the fish while Roy skippers the Sea Soldier, a comparatively new 36ft trawler on her search for food from the sea. The Sea Soldier is equipped with all the modern aids to fishing and she can be out in the bay for as long as two days, although daily landings are much more usual. The Gollops enjoy what they are doing. Their family has been entrenched in West Dorset for centuries and produced many seafarers but one of them hit stormy weather back in the days of Queen Elizabeth 1 when he took up the butchery trade and transgressed by selling meat in Lent, he was required to give "Good Queen Bess" an undertaking that he wouldn't do it again. The Lyme brothers have succeeded through hard work and a certain amount of courage, their success is most certainly Lyme's gain.

Lyme Regis News 18 December 1970)

Mr Ivor Curtis has been elected Mayor of Lyme Regis. He is a member of one of Lyme's oldest families, he was educated at the old Lyme Regis senior school and left at 14 to be apprenticed to the printing trade. After seven years with a Broad Street firm he joined the Royal Air Force for National Service. In 1955 he joined the P and O Shipping Lines as a ships printer and remained with that company until 1963 when he became a partner with Powell and Morris printers in Coombe Street. He still works with this long established company. He lives with his parents George and Irene Curtis at 31 Kings Way Lyme Regis.

(Lyme Regis News 3 April 1981)

West Dorset Health Authority has upset the Lyme Regis branch of the Royal British Legion by agreeing to sell the town's hospital. In the 1950's Royal British Legion members were at the centre of a major fund raising campaign to build the hospital extension. A committee was formed by former Lyme Regis practitioner Dr Tony Barker to raise £15,000 to pay for the materials while Royal British Legion members organised voluntary labour for the project. A significant figure who helped build the extension was Mr Cecil Quick, now president of Lyme's branch of the Royal British Legion, he is appalled that the hospital building is to be sold to a private nursing home company. He said "I don't like it the whole town is absolutely dead against the sale".

(Lyme Regis News 26 January 1990)

The old coaching house in Haye Lane Lyme Regis is in the process of getting a facelift. It is to become the home of a local couple who are reconstructing it as closely as possible to the original while including modern day services and facilities. This 300 – 400 year old building was once part of the Haye estate and former part of Prince Maurice's headquarters during the Siege of Lyme in 1644. During the last century the outbuilding housed the black coach and black horses belonging to the family while a black coachman, a negro, may have occupied the living quarters above. The building was in a sad state of repair when a young local couple Colin and Penny Jones made a start on it. The couple spent £7,000 on the property and land and have spent another £ 4,000 on building costs. Strict regulations are being adhered to in the reconstruction work because it is a listed building of historical note. The thatch is being replaced by natural Welsh slate, Georgian styled window frames were considered the most suitable and the couple have had approval for a thatched porch with a solid wood front door.

Iron shot was found in the floor and walls mementos to the Siege of Lyme and the efforts of Lyme Regis people to protect their town.

(Lyme Regis News 27 June 1975)

Mr Robert Gapper died at his home 6 Peek Mead, Rousdon on 11 July aged 81. He was born at Landslip Cottage, Rousdon the son of the late Mr and Mrs Richard Gapper, educated at Rousdon school and after leaving was employed on a farm at Combpynne. During the First World War he served with the 4th Dorsets and saw action at Ypres and the Somme, was wounded and later served in Egypt. In 1919 he married Miss Emily Jefford, they first lived in Combpynne later moving to East Lodge Rousdon in 1937 where he was employed as an Estate Forester.

(Pulman's 22 July 1975)

After the construction of the North Wall extension in Lyme Regis the sand level has dropped revealing relics of the past. Harbourmaster Mr Bill Hopkins found a length of rusty iron that he recognised as a length of railway line dating back to the days when the Cobb was a hive of industrial activity and an important port. It was once part of the track built in the early – middle 19th century that was used by horse draw carriages for transporting lias rock from Broad ledge to the old cement works. Bags of the highest grade cement were then exported for building everything from the streets of London to the harbours of Malta and Gibraltar. The line was also used for importing coal and timber from the large cargo ships of the day. Vessels of up to 150 tons came in to the harbour and it was not until the early 1900's, when the cement works became derelict that the old track was taken up.

(Lyme Regis News 25 July 1975)

Research by the curator of Lyme Regis Museum and Mayor of the town Mr Henry Chessell has led to the discovery of the earliest document relating to the very beginning of Lyme Regis in 774 AD. It concerns the actual transfer of a piece of land on the banks of the river Lym from the West Saxon King to the then Bishop of Sherborne for the establishment of a salt distillery. The document, written in Latin, has been traced to the 17th century antiquarian of the British Library. Here it forms part of the Sir Robert Cotton collection which with other collections founded the British Museum in 1658. This particular document is not the earliest one of 774 AD but a 12th century copy which fortunately was not destroyed in the 1751 fire when the original perished with many of the country's most precious records. The two beautifully penned sheets of the record are filed into a mammoth tome with solid wooden covers, but they have been photographed by the British Museum for Mr Chessell. He is awaiting a translation of the Latin and when this is received this paper will bring you the English version of the ancient transaction. (Lyme Regis News 1 August 1975)

Channel View, the centuries old Lyme Regis cottage on Church Cliff which for generations belonged to the Curtis family is receiving massive restoration work. This involves almost completely rebuilding parts of it and gutting the interior adding a solid stone extension and replacing the roof. The aim of the present owner, Mr G Postles, is to maintain one of Lyme's famous land marks and to make it strong enough to last a few more generations. The house was last restored by Wiscombe's in 1860 for £100. The house was handed down through at least four generations of the old Lyme fishing family of Curtis until the son of 92 year old Mrs Louisa sold it recently. Mrs Curtis now lives at no 2 Marder's Bequest (almshouses).

(Lyme Regis News 29 October 1975)

In last week's paper I asked for information about an area near Lyme Regis called "Blondon". Mr Phil Moore former town councillor recalled playing there near the cement works as a child. The works were sited at the foot of the cliffs west of Lyme in the Monmouth beach area, a tramway ran from there to the end of the Cobb transporting cement and rock to and from barges. Beyond the cement works towards Seaton there used to be a conveyor built of wire ropes which carried buckets, this was referred to as "Blondon" probably an incorrect spelling of the name of the great tight rope artiste Blondin who crossed Niagara Falls on a similar wire.

(Lyme Regis News 28 November 1975)

Cobb Ale – this was not a drink but an ambiguous title given to an abstruse form of tax which for centuries provided a fruitful source of revenue for the town until it was abolished by the puritan John Geare in 1608 under the Prohibition Act. His reason no doubt was the annual Saturnalia which somehow combined the tax. Revellers from all sides flocked to Lyme for the festivities. The cost of one gallon of the finest ale in 1640 was three pence.

(Lyme Regis News 12 December 1975)

Whatever became of the famous whalebone which used to stand in the doorway of the old Lyme Fossil shop before it was demolished in 1910? The Lyme Regis News has traced it to a home in Uplyme where it has been for many years. It was featured in one of the most famous photographs of the fossil shop taken in about 1890. After the shop was demolished to widen the road the bone was taken to the Pilot Boat Inn where the landlord was the late Mr Robert Warren, grandfather of Mrs Yvonne Thorn of Gore Lane Uplyme who now has the whalebone at her home. When Mr Warren retired from the Pilot Boat the bone went with him to Handel House (now the Copacabana restaurant) in Church Street where it stood in the main entrance for many years. When Handel House was sold in the late 1920's the bone found a home with Mr Victor Warren in Ferndown Road. It was not until 1968 that it came to Mrs Thorn, she said that it had been offered to the museum many years ago but there was not enough room for it. We asked the curator of the Philpot Museum Mr Henry Chessell if he knew anything about the whalebone, he was most surprised and very interested to learn of its whereabouts "I had no idea what became of it" he said "It must have been offered to the museum before my time."

(Lyme Regis News 26 December 1975)

Original receipts for cash paid by King Charles 11 to his illegitimate son the Duke of Monmouth have been unearthed by officials at Lyme Regis Museum. The receipts for £2,000 and £1,500 are part of an annual pension paid by Charles to his favourite son and date from 1673 and 1678. Their existence was previously unknown. The receipts were hidden among a collection of papers which came into the museum's possession after the death of local historian George Roberts. "These items have been lying among Robert's papers for over

100 years and nobody recognised them “ said Museum curator author John Fowles. One of the receipts is signed by Stephen Fox a treasury official and an important political figure of his day. Revenue for the receipts came from the City of London and the counties of Middlesex and Surrey. These finds will now be displayed in the museum alongside the payment authority document signed by Charles 11.

(Lyme Regis News 9 January 1981)

Mr Dick Chick a well-known Lyme man has died aged 74. Mr Chick a skilled carpenter had lived at Sunny Bank his Marine Parade home for 27 years. During the war he worked on vital repair work in the bomb damaged areas of Exeter Plymouth and London. He served with the Home Guard and was a special constable for 20 years. After the war he worked for the Lyme Regis building firm of Stratton and Mundy.

(Lyme Regis News 1 January 1982)

Mr Reginald William Huxford who was born in Lyme Regis and lived in the town all of his life has died aged 83. His funeral was in the Cemetery Chapel. Mr Huxford served in France with the Royal Lancashire Fusiliers during World War 1. He and his wife Elizabeth, who died in 1976, ran hotels at the Cobb. Their first establishment was in Ozone Terrace in 1941 they then moved to “ The Cobbe” which they ran as a hotel until retirement in 1963. Mr Huxford was a member of a family associated with Lyme Regis for over 150 years, he was the son of Billy Huxford a well-known local character who operated horse-drawn carts to and from Lyme Regis station until 1937.

(Lyme Regis News 8 January 1982)

Lyme Museum curator John Fowles has made new discoveries about a famous 17th century vicar Ames Short who lived in the town. In 1662 he left the Church of England to start the first local free church which had to meet in secret .Until now, the whereabouts of his vicarage and secret meeting house was not known, but it was always considered a predecessor of the Coombe Street United Reformed Church. Now deeds to an old Church Street house reveal exciting new information and place the 1600,s vicarage in buildings which are numbers 6 and 7 Church Street. The deeds, given to the museum by Mr Ted Cocksedge of Puncknowle, also showed the site of the Independent Meeting House where Ames Short and his followers met for around twenty five years. It was in the back garden of his vicarage in an outhouse about the size of a modern living room , it adjoined the extensive stables and cottages of George’s Court, all of which were destroyed in the great fire of 1844.Said Mr Fowles “for twenty five years Ames Short and his followers were endlessly persecuted for their so called heresy but he finally received a Royal Pardon in 1687”. Historical records show that Short died in 1897 aged 81. The deed acquired by the museum is from 1699 when his children sold the property to John Burrige. Mr Fowles said “this is a marvellous document to recover after nearly three centuries, many 17thCentury features can be seen in the buildings at numbers 6 and 7 Church Street.”

(Lyme Regis News 7 January 1983)

A business card for F W Crabb – Job and Postmaster - The Nags Head Lyme Regis - believed to date from the late 1800’s has been found beneath the floorboards of a house in Lym Close by the owner Mr Dudley Turner. A former landlord of The Nags Head Mr Les Coade, who had delved into the history of the premises during his seven years there, said the inn was a coaching station for the run between Lyme and Axminster before the railway opened in 1903. There were stables at the rear and old iron rings to which horses were tethered were still on the back wall of the inn. The coach entrance used to be where the

public bar entrance was until recently. The Silverleigh apartments next door were not there in those coaching days, then the Nags Head extended to this site.

(Lyme Regis News 7 January 1983)

Lyme's former postwoman Mrs Daisy Gay has died aged 84. She was born in Charmouth, the daughter of wheelwright George Chick and his wife. As a young woman she was married at Lyme Regis parish church to gardener Jimmy Gay, they lived at 43 Church Street. She was believed to be the last bride to drive to church in a horse and carriage before the bridal taxi service was introduced. It was when the Lyme Post Office was on the premises of Geoff Poulton's Broad Street chemist shop that Mrs Gay was on the staff. As a postwoman she walked long distances and often delivered parcels as far away as the Pinhay estate. During World War 11 she took in evacuees. Mrs Gay and her husband remained in Church Street for many years until their home was demolished by a runaway lorry carrying sulphuric acid carboys down Charmouth Road.

(Lyme Regis News 7 January 1983)

JOB and POSTMASTER – Frederick William Crabb – whose very old business card was found in 17 Lym Close under the floorboards was born in Lyme Regis and baptised at the parish church in September 1873. The card was found because it was once the home of Mr Crabb's brother Sidney so his niece Vera Geary of Ozone Terrace Lyme Regis has informed us. Mrs Geary and Lyme Regis museum curator John Fowles provided a pen sketch of Mr Crabb's life. He belonged to a family of ten boys and one girl born to sailing ship pilot and 1890's lifeboat coxswain Albert Crabb and his wife Mary Ann (nee Huxtable.) The term postmaster on the business card means "one who supplies the post horses" that were used regularly between Lyme and Axminster and for transport to local functions including weddings.

(Lyme Regis News 14 January 1983)

Anthony Hallett an Australian whose ancestors once lived in Lyme Regis wanted to know more about his forebears so Lyme Regis News with help from museum curator John Fowles and Mrs Helena Hallett have pieced together some of the facts. Amos Hallett was baptised on January 24 1836, he was the son of a thatcher Joseph and his wife Jane Hallett. Amos was a baker who married Jane Trayte, daughter of a stonemason Thomas Trayte, on October 18 1860. Amos had a sister Amalia who was baptised seventeen years earlier than him in 1819, an older brother Eli who was five years his senior and another brother Jewel or Joel baptised in 1844 who became a shoemaker. Amos and Jane Hallett were among the many residents of Lyme who emigrated to Australia in the mid 1800's during and after the goldrush.

(Lyme Regis News 4 February 1983)

Collection goes to Lyme Regis Museum. Lyme photographer John Oldfield who moved to South Africa this autumn gave his collection of old Lyme scenes including 600 negatives to the museum. Mr Albert Brown, newly appointed assistant curator of the museum said "they are copies of old pictures, many of them overlap with my own work but there are also quite a few different ones. The sets for the film of "The French Lieutenant's Woman" shot in the town were largely based on John's prints. We are very grateful to have been given them."

Lyme Regis News 28 November 1986)

An assistant curator has been appointed for Lyme's Philpot Museum - taking on the new position is Mr Albert Brown who has been a trustee of the museum for the past three years

and is also secretary and treasurer of the Friends of Lyme Regis Museum. The new position has come about because of the increasing work commitments of curator John Fowles and the development of the museum. To facilitate the development of the museum the trustees are looking to fill three unpaid voluntary positions. Someone is needed to summarise house deeds and the like, although a little legal and local knowledge would help the position requires above all the patience to read old handwriting. An experienced geologist is required to take over the geological side and there is also work for anyone who can type and manage indexing.

(Lyme Regis News 28 November 1986)

Mrs Phyllis Gurd an active and much liked member of the local community has died aged 67. Mrs Gurd who lived at "Caro Sara" Hill Road Lyme Regis was president of the Town Women's Institute for eight years born and educated in Lyme she married in 1939 and during the war spent a period in Ireland with her husband who had been posted there by the RAF. Between 1970 and 1978 Mr Gurd was the town's sub-postmaster and he ran the office with his wife. On his death in 1978 Mrs Gurd left the post office. She leaves two sons Tony and Peter and two grandchildren Sarah and Caroline.

(Lyme Regis News 26 December 1986)

Mr Michael Hodder of 7 Lym Close has died aged 45 the funeral service took place at Lyme Regis parish church. Mr Hodder who was educated at the local Church of England school leaves a widow and a family of three children. He worked for many years as a gardener for Lyme Regis town Council serving under the late Charlie Mercer who was English Bowling Associations singles and British Isles champion and captained the England team when he was parks superintendent at Lyme. Mr Hodder was the son of Mrs Dorothy Hodder of 27 Lym Close and the late Arthur (Puddy) Hodder.

(Lyme Regis News 2 January 1987)

Bridge goes – having stood for more than 80 years the old railway bridge across Whalley Lane Uplyme is to be dismantled next month. The bridge was erected sometime between 1900 and 1905 by the London and South West Railway Company, the line on which the bridge stands was closed in the early sixties.

(Lyme Regis News 6 January 1987)

Henry Broom Lyme's deputy mayor and first citizen councillor died at the town's hospital aged 74. Mr Broom who lived at Providence Place leaves a wife Lillian and son John. Born and educated in Lyme Regis he served an apprenticeship as a builder and decorator with a local firm. He joined the Royal Artillery in 1940 and during the war served in France, Germany and Holland. On his return from service he established the building firm Broom and Evans with his brother in law Mr Mervyn Evans. He retired ten years ago. The business is now run by his son. Mr Broom was a dedicated local councillor since the late sixties when he joined the old Lyme Regis Borough Council. In 1976 he became mayor until 1978. He was governor of both Lyme Infants school and the Junior School. He was a member of the Royal British Legion, the conservative Association and the Boy's club Management Committee. For many years he was an active member of the Regatta and Carnival Committee. He will be remembered as a man who cared passionately about his home town and worked hard for its benefit. His ashes are to be placed in the garden of remembrance.

(Lyme Regis News 23 January 1987)

A concrete tunnel which used to link two coast defence guns to their magazine during the last war has been exposed by further land slippage in the Spittles area to the east of Lyme. The guns, in place between 1940 and 1944, were under the control of the royal Artillery's 376 Coastal Defence Battery. One member of the battery Mr Albert Thorington married a Lyme girl and moved to the town. He said " the guns were 4.7's which had been taken from a Japanese destroyer their magazine was in the middle and the tunnel was used to join them. One gun shelter was camouflaged as a hay stack and the other as a farm building. In the middle of the field was an observation post camouflaged as another farm building." The guns were taken away in 1944.

(Lyme Regis News 1987)