

THE ST DAY FEAST PILGRIMAGE WALK

Raising Funds For Local Charities

ST DAY AND CORNISH CELEBRATIONS

Dating back to the 11th century in a land of lore and legend, the village of St Day grew to become the most prolific industrial centre of the Gwennap Region extracting minerals such as tin, copper and zinc. You need not walk far to capture the semblance of this once great era, emanated by a haunting landscape of eroding mine-stacks that once proudly epitomised the age of steam.

When Cornwall's Industrial Revolution was at its peak the Gwennap Region boasted 'the richest couple of square miles in the world'. During this period farm hamlets grew into villages and railways were built to serve inland mines, enabling them to export their produce to far-off southern lands.

Today, the Kingdom of Cornwall enjoys its antiquity celebrating great landmarks of yesteryear and the much-loved sons who helped shape its identity. In Summer months, local communities host traditional outdoor events which help tell the story of a diverse existence. In our ward celebrations usually begin with St Piran's Day, honouring Cornwall's Patron Saint on the 5th March; followed later in the season by fairs paying tribute to the best-known inventors of the Industrial Age. There are pilgrimages too which mark the early times when the only 'Tourists' were those visiting The Chapel to St Day en route to St Michael's Mount. One special festival widely acclaimed is the St Day Feast which falls each year on the 10th Sunday after Easter. Although the celebrations culminate on Monday there are community events leading up to the main theme including the Vogue Festival. The Star Inn at Vogue plays a major role over Feast Weekend hosting a beer/'Pop Concert' (for charity) on the

Saturday which over the last decade has become a major fixture in the programme. It is also from The Star Inn where we set off on The St Day Feast Walk which will support a local charity too.

THE WALK

A Pilgrimage made in honour of a Cornish Charity

Venue: The Star Inn

Distance: 5 miles

The Route:

Using public footpaths and tramways associated with The Modern Day Cornish Pilgrimage, this 5-mile walk takes in Vogue, St Day, Poldice Valley, Scorrier, Treskerby and Pink Moors.

Places of Interest:



The Star Inn, Vogue

Serving the inhabitants of Vogue and St Day, the charming 19th century Star Inn does more than just sell ale. In addition to the various accolades it has won for 'Pub of the Year' it has resourcefully evolved into a community centre housing a library with wifi, hair salon and restaurant. Throughout the year it provides entertainment, and hosts fundraising events too; the main one is the Spring Ale Festival on the St Day Feast Saturday. And, although not ideal for some, The St Day Feast Walk starts the following day at the inn around 11am!



The Old St Day Church

Built on the site of The Chapel to St Day, this iconic 19th-century building was once hugely synonymous with community life until its roof ultimately succumbed to wear and tear. It may no longer function as a church but still retains its se-

renity overlooking the peaceful cemetery at the entrance of the village.



The Town Clock

Recently restored it remains a popular landmark which continues to enthral visitors and natives alike.



The St Day Inn

This famous old inn - affectionately known locally as 'The Top House' was restored to former glory in 2016 after fire damage. Its endearing interior and strong community forum in the presence of the Cornish Choir make it a fun

place to conclude the Annual Feast.



The Rugby Ground

Presently without a local side the ground is leased to other clubs and on Feast Day is the venue for the daytime ceremony comprised of band, entertainment and market stalls.

THE JOURNEY

Setting off from The Star Inn, walk up Vogue Hill towards St Day passing by the sports centre on the right. Along Fore Street is a village hall, post office, shop and The St Day Inn which are all in close proximity. Turning left beyond the Town Clock walk to the end of Scorrier Street and leave the thoroughfare via a public footpath which lies straight ahead.

Along the back of a housing estate a track descends to the Scorrier/Carharrack Road; from here cross carefully to the Rugby Ground opposite.



Turning right continue along the road, or for a safer passage, enter the rugby field and walk the perimeter as far as the Chacewater Road junction. Now turn left and make an initial descent of roughly 300m to the Portreath Tramroad on the left by Pol-

dice Cottages. The tramroad was created as the 'brain child' of Cornwall's Industrial Revolution, built to serve the tin and copper-rich inland mines, transporting ore to Portreath Harbour for shipment. It has since been adopted as a National Cycle Route running coast-to-coast to Devoran, and this section is demarcated by a large granite mile stone opposite the cottages. It offers two rights of way along muddy terrain; the left

states walking only, but we tend to use the right one which clips the last section of Poldice Valley as it skirts a small lake by the woods.

The woodlands that encompass the path echo the voice of nature adding a joyful tone to the journey. One is rarely alone for long here and it is all too easy to be ambushed by adrenaline-fuelled cyclists enjoying the coast-to-coast experience. The club at Bissoe frequent the tramroad on Sundays and endurance athletes use its course as a training ground too. Cycle hires along the way have helped it evolve into an immensely popular seaside route for families, and a discovery trail for visitors on their quest to delve deeper into the lost world of Cornish Mines.



Passing through a set of gates the terrain gives way to a sealed track beside the busy Scorrier Road. Ascending towards the village for a further mile, the path cuts through another wooded section, crosses the road and follows the pavement to the top of the

Redruth/Truro highway. Shortly after turning left into Scorrier we locate The Fox & Hounds Inn and stop for a beverage. This idyllic pub is one of two in the region sharing the title - the other is less than 3 miles away at the hamlet of Comford. Festooned with hanging baskets and set in spacious garden next to the tramroad make it a relaxing place to enjoy a few moments of sun with one's favourite choice of brew.

On resumption, walk back to the top of the car park and turn right onto the paved thoroughfare. Walking towards Mount Ambrose offers a glimpse of Scorrier Estate; being largely obscured by woodlands makes it a natural habitat for indigenous fauna including birds of prey, badgers, foxes and squirrels. After continuing for about a quarter of a mile, locate the bridleway near the end of the village across the road on the left. Initially the path passes by a few buildings as it heads towards the green

belt; then skirts the back of a small housing estate on the approach to Treskerby. Intrinsic to local mines, this diminutive place also played its part in the Industrial Age, extracting black tin and copper ore from Treskerby and Wheal Chance, where in the 1800's, the set had extended to within 900 yards of the village.



Joining the village from the footpath, a road bears left towards a lane (right fork marked in St Piran colours); continuing from here take the next right turn along a solid track to Treskerby Farm. A brief descent takes in views of the countryside and a few residential properties - one titled 'Hedgehog Cottage'. On reaching the

farm buildings at the bottom, cross the stile and follow the trail through a small escarpment. This last section returns to Vogue via three quarters of a mile of paddocks known as Pink Moors. The path traverses several large fields affording panoramic views of St Day and its neighbouring communities. An equestrian centre exists to the upper left of the first field and occasionally we have horses for company. The wide open space evokes a sense of freedom as the walk ebbs to a conclusion along hedge rows and a few more stiles to a granite step beside a stream. Reaching the tarmac at the perimeter of Vogue leaves the small matter of returning to The Star Inn via Pink Moors Lane.

Once at the pub, with the day still young, we can rejoice at the Feast to come, and remind ourselves of a well-worn adage 'A thirst endured is one that must also be enjoyed!'

The Portreath Tramroad



Built in 1809, becoming Cornwall's first railway it was horse-drawn transporting ore from inland mines as far as Crofthandy to the coastal terminus of Portreath. The Basset family financed the construction of Portreath Harbour ena-

bling ore to be shipped to Wales in exchange for coal to fire the engine houses. In response to the growing export trade and a need to mine other minerals, The Redruth & Chacewater Railway opened in 1825 to provide a link to Poldice Valley and wagon way to Devoran. Arsenic was one of the commodities, extracted in the Bissoe Region and ferried from Devoran to New Zealand where it could be manufactured in to sheep dip.

The Fox & Hounds



A characterful Keltiek inn with authentic interior befitting of its title. Predominantly a food establishment managed by long serving Sue Swiss, it remains a popular meeting place for locals. Sue is credited with over 25 years of service to Fox and Hounds pubs having been at Comford during the 1990's, eventually calling time there

on the eve of the Millennium.

Scorrier Estate



Established during the heyday of Cornish mining by the entrepreneurial Williams family who built the Manor House in 1780. Like the Bassetts they made a considerable contribution to local mining during the Industrial Age, and have since overlooked the evolution of the family estate gardens.

Obscured by woodlands for most of the journey there are only a few glimpses of the estate between Scorrier and Treskerby. Beyond Treskerby the old Redruth Highway tumbles ahead towards Mount Ambrose, while to the east the St Piran's Trail crosses Pink Moors providing a delightful passage to Vogue and St Day.

ST DAY FEAST



Originating from the Manor of Tolgullow, the title of St Day (Sen Day) was first used around the 14th century and feast days have been observed ever since.

Each year, in accordance to Easter, the feast date can vary up to a month after Whitsun though it mostly falls during June. The village usually hosts a week of activities culminating with a grand celebration on Monday, which could in some way be deemed a 'Local Bank Holiday'.

The Feast Day (Monday) celebrations are typical of traditional Cornish Village Tea Treats. In the afternoon school children walk through the streets behind the Carharrack and St Day Band to the Playing (Rugby) Field where after dancing the St Day Dance, there are sports and the children receive a large saffron bun and a gift of money, whilst the senior citizens are entertained to a free tea.

In the evening the band leads firstly the children and then the adults in the St Day Dance through the streets.

After the ceremony, locals round off the day enjoying a drink or two amid the merriment of Cornish anthems and cheerful banter at 'The Top House' as the Cornish Choir bring a joyful end to this iconic festival.

USEFUL INFORMATION

Charity Walks/Events

For the latest newsletter and this season's events please visit:

www.robin-moore.co.uk

For more information about The Modern Day Cornish Pilgrimage please visit:

www.cornishpilgrimage.org.uk



For videos and news updates about walks visit:



Robin Moore's Walking For Charity On Face Book and YouTube.

Also for local walks Robin Moore's Community Walks on Face Book.

Other Info:

www.starinnvogue.biz

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info@starinnvogue.biz

PLEASE HELP SUPPORT LOCAL CHARITIES!



The old Poldice Cottages signal the way to the tramroad on the left; a large granite milestone is situated on the opposite side of the road.

Poldice Cottages and tramroad are roughly 300m from this point.

