



**Summary of a visit to**

**Boyton and Tregony in Cornwall**

**and**

**Ugborough in Devon**

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(Updated 2011)

**by**

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## INTRODUCTION

As part of our holiday in Great Britain and Ireland, Kate Rathbone and I visited the villages of Boyton and Tregony in Cornwall and Ugborough in Devon, as these were known villages were ancestors of the Argus family lived and whose descendants migrated to Australia.

Unfortunately only having a 24 hours period to undertake this exercise we could only gather a flavour of the towns for sharing with interested people back home in Australia.

## Slide Show

Together with this report on the [www.argus-family.info](http://www.argus-family.info) web site is a file of photos that can be downloaded and will run automatically without any other software. Just download and double click on the file SLIDESHOWCORNWALL.EXE

### Slide Show Instructions:

Double click on SLIDESHOWCORNWALL.EXE file in Windows Explorer.

- The first slide provides the show title and you need to click on the 'OK' button to continue. The slides will automatically change every 8 seconds and continue to loop until you stop it.
- The control buttons at the top of the window allow the user to manually control the slides (pause and restart the automatic process etc).
- Should you wish to Save and/or print one of the photos/graphics
- Stop on the slide required, Use the 'File' drop down menu to select 'Save as...' function and save the file. Afterwards open the saved file and print.
- To see the slides at their best, maximize the slideshow window when the slides start running.

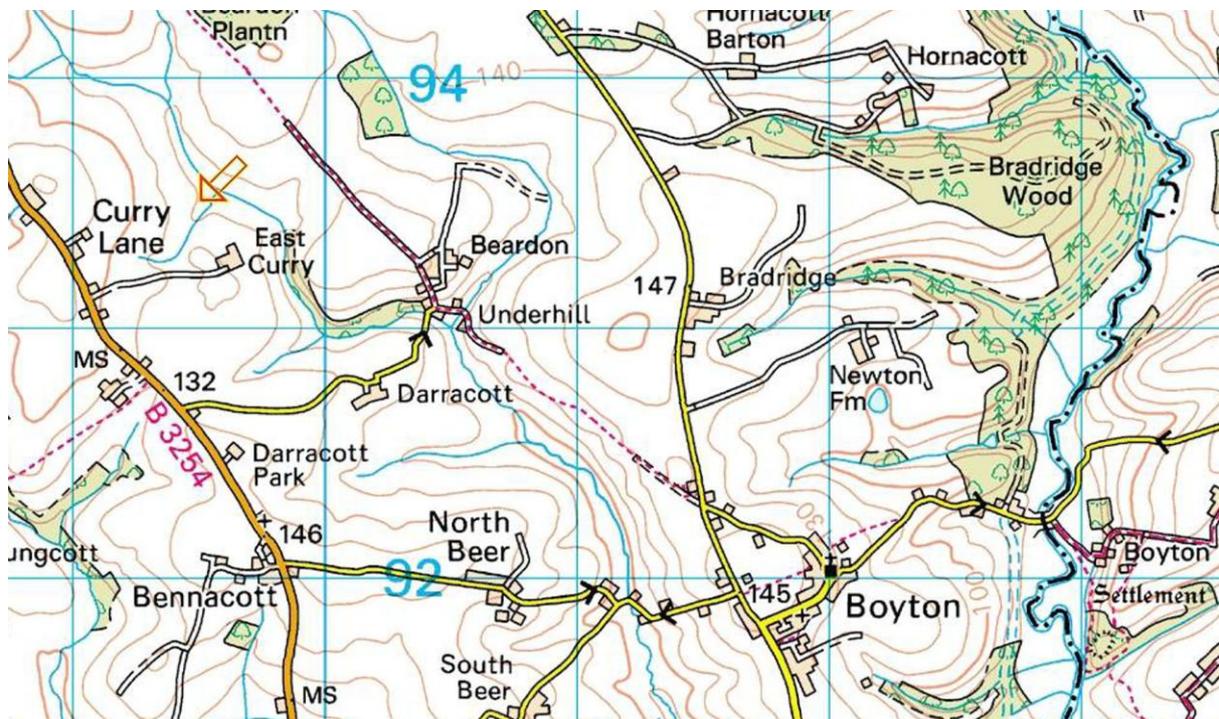
## BOYTON - CORWALL

The 1841 Census of Cornwall has the following entries:

Nicholas Argus	Cory Lane	Boyton – CON
Thomas Argus	Cory Lane	Boyton – CON

So we went looking for Cory Lane in Boyton.

We accessed Boyton from Launceston, which is on the A30. Travelling north on the B3254 down some very narrow lanes with high hedges on both sides. The village has about 10-15 houses, no shops; a Church and an Inn now converted to some other function. It is predominantly a farming community with some retired folk living in the village.



**Figure 1- Boyton Map showing Curry Lane**

Unfortunately we were not able to visit inside the Church as it is kept locked due to vandalism. The Church is almost directly across the road from the old Wheatsheaf Inn.

I found a retiree who had lived there for 20 years but he had not heard of Cory Lane. There are only about 3 streets/lanes in Boyton anyway. It was disappointing, not to locate a street where ancestors were known to have lived. But it was well worth the effort to see the old Church where they probably attended.



**Figure 2 - Old Wheatsheaf Inn**

The old Wheatsheaf Inn now a private dwelling is currently having its thatched roof repaired.



**Figure 3 - Boyton Church**

### **Update (2011)**

On our visit we were looking for a Lane in Boyton called Cory.

Another researcher has suggested that a **Curry Lane** location exists approximately 2 to 3 km North West of Boyton and this could be the reference in the 1841 Census. Refer to the previous map of Boyton.

## TREGONY - CORNWALL

Before arriving in Cornwall I pronounced Tregony as “Tre-gony” but the locals pronounce it as “Treg-ony”. They still seem to know what I was talking about anyway!

For a detailed account of the History of Tregony please visit the web site [www.tregoneyhistory.co.uk](http://www.tregoneyhistory.co.uk) , which was established by Franklin Grigg.



**Figure 4 - Franklin Grigg**

Kate and I appreciated being conducted around Tregony by Franklin Grigg, here seen outside his parent’s old home in the main street. Franklin’s knowledge on the history of Tregony is comprehensive and I am sorry that I didn’t have a tape recorder with me to capture all the information.



Figure 5 - Tregony Map



Figure 6 - Village from the bridge.

The village of Tregony is ¼ mile up the hill and the Bridge is just to the left. The road through the village (B3287) which takes you to St Austells , approximately 8 miles away. The road that crosses the photograph is the A3078, refer to Map of Tregony.



Figure 7 - Welcome to Tregony signs

At the entrance to the Village from the Bridge the welcome signs shows that Tregony was an ancient Borough.



Figure 8 – Borough of Tregony Crest

### ***Tregony Bridge***

This bridge was built between 12<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Centuries and provided access across the River Fal. The town of Falmouth where the river enters the sea is about 15 miles away.



**Figure 9 - Tregony Bridge**



**Figure 10 - Tregony Bridge from the Village**

The Bridge can be seen at the bottom of the hill. The River Fal being silted up from Tin mining many years ago.

***Parish Church of Tregony with Cuby***

This is the Parish Church of Tregony with Cuby where many Argus ancestors attended and were christened, married or buried.

The Church is located near the top the hill with the village between it and the Bridge.



**Figure 11 - Entrance to Church**

Headstones from the Church Cemetery have been placed either along the sides the walkway to the entrance of the Church or around parts of the perimeter fence. This helps protect them from falling over and being broken and provides an open environment around the Church building, which is easier to maintain. Unfortunately there didn't appear to be any head stones with the name Argus on them.

This Church is also kept locked to prevent theft and vandalism.



**Figure 12 - Sundial over the entrance to the Church.**



**Figure 13 - Covered stairs on side of Church tower**

The stonework set out from rectangular section the steeple encloses a stairway to the top.



**Figure 14 - Church from the Front**

The enclosed access to the steeple can be better seen in this photograph from the front of the Church.

### ***Around the Village***

Walking from the Church down the main street towards the Bridge at the bottom of the hill.



**Figure 15 - Main Street from the Church**



**Figure 16 - Central part of the Main Street**

This part of the main street is where the hotel and a few shops are located and lead down to the Square.



**Figure 17 - Clock Tower**

The ancient Clock Tower in the main street, which has been extended and upgraded numerous times.



**Figure 18 – Part of “The Square”**

Tregony has a Square in the main street where stallholders would set up for market days many years ago.



**Figure 19 - Replica Water Pump**

A replica pump installed where the original stood in The Square, this would have been the main water supply for the village.



Figure 20 - Old boarding house



Figure 21 - Thatched roof house

Looking down the main street towards the Bridge at the bottom of the hill.

### ***Minimum Accommodation***

The voting qualifications for persons in the Borough were that they were householders of at least 6 weeks residents and were able to provide their food and boil a pot. There are ruins in a side alley off the main street of a row of dwellings each with one room off the entrance and another room above (one up and one down).

It is rumoured that potential parliamentarians provided these houses to buy the votes of the residence.



**Figure 22 - Ruin of a row of 'One up and One Down' houses**



**Figure 23 – Looking through the entrance of a “One up and one down” house.**

Looking through the entrance, holes in the wall can be seen that would have held timber joists for the upstairs floor.

## UGBOROUGH – DEVON

Ugborough is just off the A3121 that connects with the A38 near Plymouth.

Again the Church in Ugborough was significant for the Argus ancestors. Bob Argus ( [blargus@smartchat.net.au](mailto:blargus@smartchat.net.au) ) who is preparing a book on the Argus family asked if I would take some photographs and collect any history on the Church that I could find.

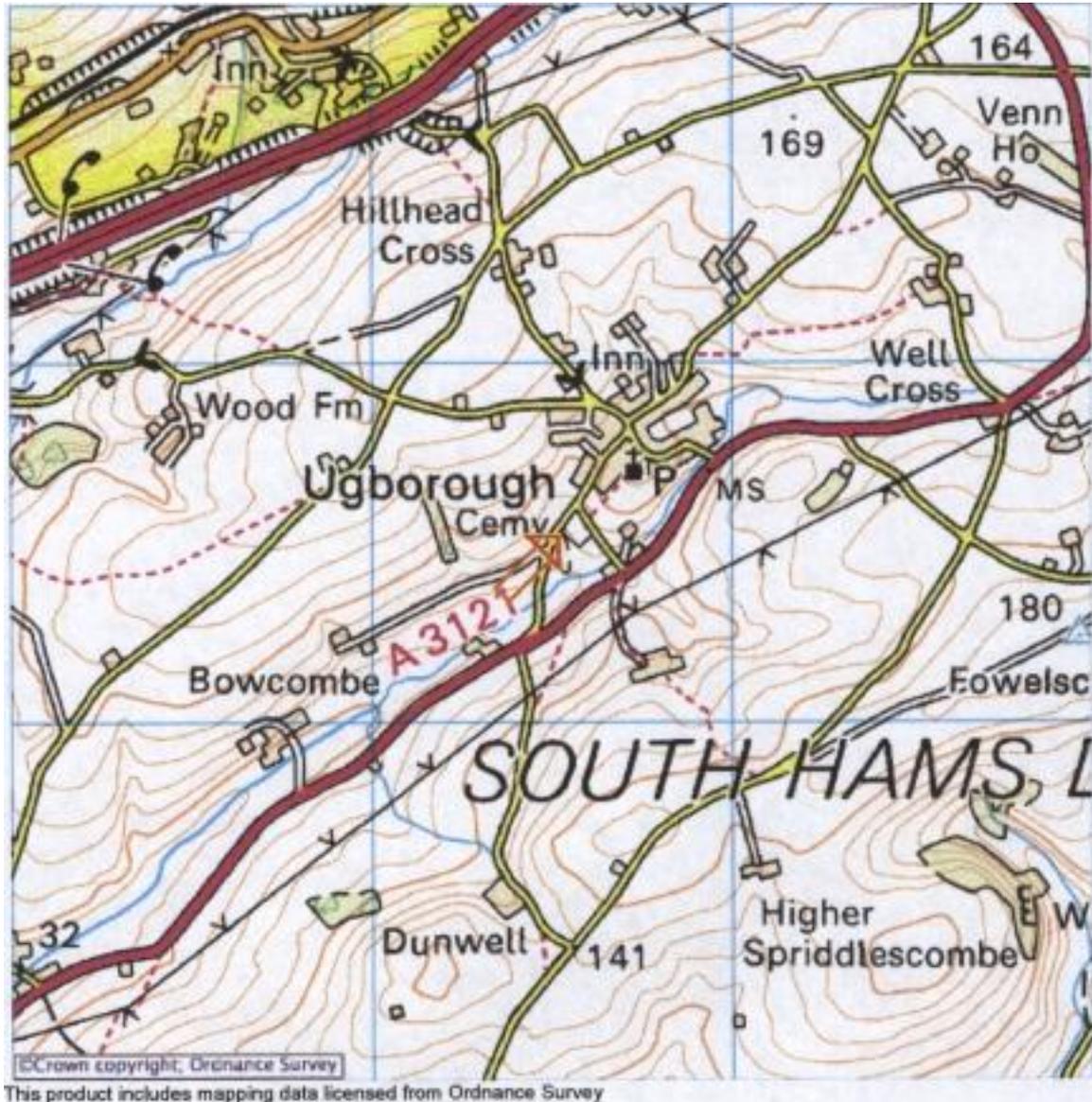


Figure 24 - Map of Ugborough



**Figure 25 - Entrance to Ugborough**

The village is  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile up the hill from the A3121. The church can be seen at the top of the hill.



**Figure 26 - St Peter's Church Ugborough**

The Church is along one of the sides of the village square.

### ***St Peter's Church***

Information extracted from "Around the Churches of South Hams" by Walter Jacobson an Obelisk Publication.

Standing above the village square on a site which was once believed to be an earthwork fort, St Peter's is a large building-somebody has measured it as 131 feet long. Much of the surrounding parish can be viewed from the sturdy 94-foot turreted west tower made of Dartmoor granite. The high moor itself can be seen reaching up to the north; to the west is the wooded valley carved by the River Erme on its way from the

moor to the sea; to the east is a green rolling landscape, deeply indented by the Avon, another major river of the South Hams.

The main structure of the church dates from the 14th century, but the fine, though damaged, Norman font of red stone is evidence of an earlier building.

Wealthy Royal favourite Lord William Brewer, who lies buried in his own Dunkeswell Abbey in East Devon, acquired Ugborough Manor at the end of the 12th century, and with its income endowed another of his foundations, TORRE Abbey, "with one ferling of land in Ugborough and with common land of Dartmoor".

The church, however, belonged to Plympton Priory, and the first known Rector of Ugborough was Hugh de Plymstone, instituted 1266.

Fine bosses in the north aisle include one of a sow and eight piglets - the symbol of St Brannock, the Irish saint who came from Wales in the 6th century to convert the people of North Devon. Another boss depicts St Loye (or Eloys), the patron of blacksmiths and goldsmith to King Dagobert, mentioned in Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*.

A memorial to Thos. Williams of Pyke is a reminder of a double link with the neighbouring parish of Hartford, on Dartmoor, in the Erme valley. Williams was the son of Thos. Williams, Speaker of the House of Commons in 1563, who is portrayed in armour in St Petrock's, Hartford.

When young John Prideaux, also of Hartford, was turned down for the job of parish clerk at Ugborough, a sympathetic patron gave him a scholarship to Exeter College, Oxford, where his outstanding work earned him a chaplaincy to James I and also his appointment as Bishop of Worcester, all because - he was wont to explain - of his rejection at Ugborough.

Among other outstanding interior features of the church, whose exposed high points outside make eerie music out of the north winds blowing from Dartmoor, is the 17th century pulpit carved out of stone.

Pictures painted by a Jacobean artist - 32 in all - adorn the panels of the screen with a variety of subjects, including St Sebastian being pierced by the archers' arrows, St Apollonia (who intercedes for those with toothache), and St Dorothea (her emblem a basket with roses and apples). The nave, which in its present form has welcomed worshippers for almost seven centuries, has no seating in part of its spacious west end, and on the stone ledge around the wall there is an explanatory notice. It aids the imagination to a glimpse of the past: "The old stone seats are supposed to be a survival of the days when there were no seats in the

body of the church - the congregation standing or kneeling on the earthenware floor, the seats against the wall being provided for the aged and the infirm."

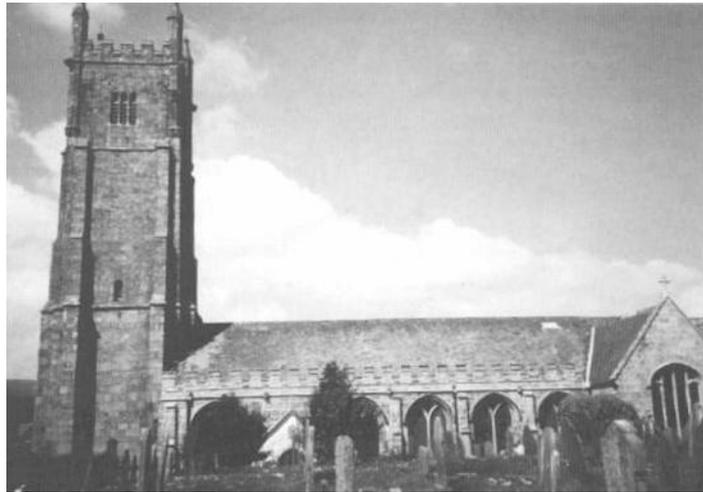


Figure 27 - St Peter's Church from "Around the Churches of South Hams"



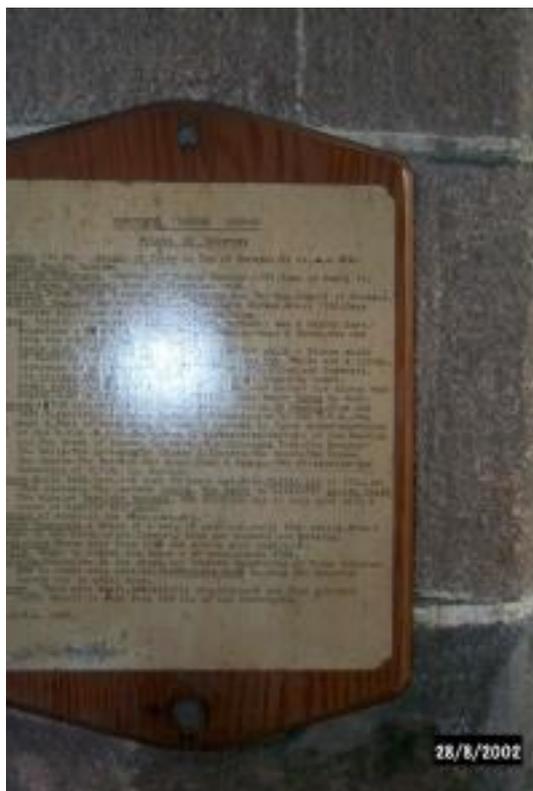
Figure 28 - Steeple and entrance to St Peter's Church from the square.



Figure 29 - Alter in Ugborough Church



Figure 30 - Main aisle in Ugborough Church



**Figure 31 – “Points of Interest” document in Church**

“Points of Interest” from notes hanging in Church - dated 1928  
(Details extracted from photograph).

Length - 131 feet

Height of Tower to top of Parapet – 94 feet - AD1520

Earliest Reference – Charter of Bishop Chanter in 1185, Time of Henry II

Pulpit of stone - 17 Century

Choir Built – 1420 and restored some 60 years ago

Furnishings – Some have a trace Spanish influence

Registers – Date from 1538 and are in good condition



Figure 32 - Brass decoration removed from a grave in the Church



Figure 33 – Original Water supply in square