

A Story of
WJ Mills and St Day

Front cover: Portrait of WJ Mills by his son, TR Mills

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A brief history of “the justest man you could meet”
and his charitable legacies in St Day

By Anne Knight

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Author's Note

When I was asked to write this book I realised that I would need to do a fair amount of research into a part of my family that I knew very little about. There has been evidence of the Mills family in the St Day area since the marriage of John Mill to Ann was recorded in 1758. The 'Mills Trust' started as the generous gesture of one member of this family, William John Mills. It was built up over a period of time with other members of the Mills family. My grandfather Simon Mills was WJ Mills' nephew and so I knew I had a connection to the founder of the 'Mills Trust' but I didn't know much more than that. In my research I discovered just how generous and influential the 'Mills Trust' has been and the great respect in which it was held at its inception and is still held today. I have included some family background and I have tried to show the conditions that were prevalent at the time WJ Mills bought the houses which were to form the W.J. Mills [Cottages] Trust.

The Trust has been, and still is, involved in other charitable work in St Day and the neighbouring parish of Carharrack and I have included what I have learnt about this too as I think it is part and parcel of the same spirit of generosity.

In essence this book has come from members of the Mills family and the people of St Day. I am very grateful for the contributions that have been made by the current Trustees, especially cousin Elizabeth who provided

much of her family history to add to that collected by my father Joe Mills and my brother Dr Jon Mills. The historic pictures of St Day have been supplied by John Newcombe, Denis Williams and Elizabeth Wilson whilst Paul Barker provided the words and pictures on the Christmas giving. I leant heavily for background detail on the content of *The Book of St Day* which was written by Joe Mills and Paul Annear. My sister Frankie Long (nee Mills) and Tania Gilbert-Davies helped me with the information and pictures of Carharrack and St Day Band.

I would also like to thank the Royal Institution and the Courtney Library, Truro for the continuing help they give me in my research and my son Robin for his essential help in the finalizing of my draft.

Anne Knight (née Mills)



The plaque at the top of Mills Street, from the founder of the St Day almshouse trust WJ Mills



Three generations: WJ Mills with son, TR Mills, and grandson, John Mills

Foreword

The Mills Trust of St Day

The W.J. Mills [Cottages] Trust has its origins in the Benefit Fund started by my great-grandfather, William John Mills, in the 1930s when he bought the two rows of 28 cottages, which were then known as Simmons Street. He felt a tremendous affinity and loyalty to St Day, having spent his formative years in the village, and made his first tentative steps there in the dairy business, which eventually grew into the successful Duchess of Devonshire Dairy, based in Tiverton, Devon.

Ever the philanthropist, “WJ” was keen for the people of St Day to benefit from his success, and so acquired the Simmons Street properties in 1930

to provide housing for the "poor and needy" of St Day. Having been renamed Mills Street in 1933, the following year his son (my grandfather), Thomas Richards Mills set up a system which provided sufficient income to allow around half of the residents to live rent-free. In 1952 his son, my father, also William John Mills (but known as John), took over the running of the Trust and embarked on a major modernisation programme; we continue to upgrade the properties today.

I became chair of the Trust in 1992 and I have been immensely proud, both of the generosity and achievements of my family's work (brothers, cousins and aunts have also been involved), and of the dedication of the trustees and present chairman, Mr John Newcombe who has held this office since 2004, and the trustees who continue to ensure that WJ's goodwill lives on to the benefit of residents.

This booklet is both a celebration of that work and an historical document which charts the development of the Trust and other projects designed to enrich both our residents and the wider St Day community.

Elizabeth Wilson (née Mills)

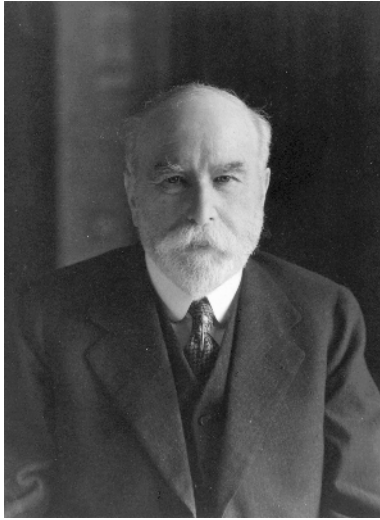


Mills Street today (2009)

W.J. Mills (Cottages) Trust

Introduction

Today, in 2012, the W.J. Mills [Cottages] Trust manages one of the largest almshouse trusts in the West Country - over 40 properties providing essential housing for the "poor and needy" of St Day. The Trust is named after its founder, William John Mills. The Trust portfolio comprises 30 one and two-bedroom dwellings in Mills Street, a one-bedroom flat and two-bedroom house in Mills Court, three two-bedroom houses at Mills Terrace, and seven newly-built one-bedroom bungalows that were opened in 2009 in Mills Gardens. The Mills family has been associated with St Day for generations and several members still live in the town.



William John Mills, founder of W.J. Mills (Cottages) Trust

WJ Mills

Born at Kit Bartley, Scorrier, in 1855, William John Mills moved to St Day when he was just a few weeks old; his parents were St Day people. He had two brothers: Thomas Richards and Joseph. As a youth he started a dairy produce business in St Day. He left his native county and became a successful businessman, first moving to Bristol in 1876 where he established a dairy

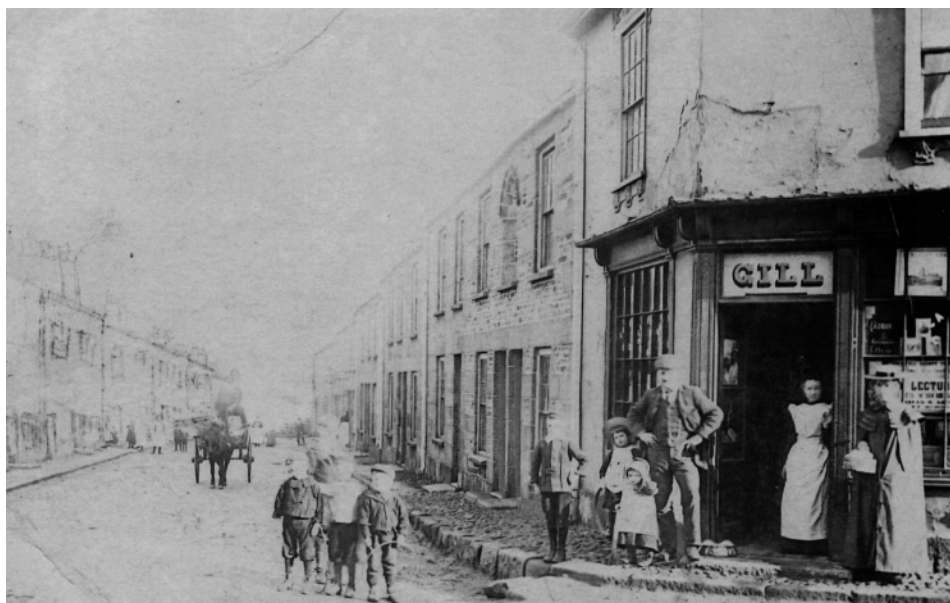
business selling butter and cheese and then moving to Devon establishing the Duchess of Devonshire Dairy at Tiverton Junction in 1900. Initially they contracted with farmers on an annual basis for the supply of farmhouse butter and cream, the farmers retaining the skimmed milk for stock feed. Later on milk was delivered by the farmers to the dairy. Butter was also purchased from New Zealand and Australia, blended with Devon butter and retailed under various brand names or wholesaled in bulk. The capacity continued to increase over the years peaking at about 8,000 gallons per day. Despite the Dairy's growth, as with the Mills Trust in St Day, the Duchess of Devonshire Dairy always maintained the image of family, with the suppliers known personally to both staff and management.

When the business was sold in 1929 to the Union Cold Storage Company WJ Mills' son TR Mills, continued as joint managing director. Subsequent acquisitions saw the firm being eventually taken over by Unigate in 1959.

Throughout his business life WJ Mills never forgot his roots, making several donations in St Day and Carharrack and to other local causes. He paid for the improvement of the St Day playing field and established the W.J. Mills Benevolent Fund to support the Feast and provide Christmas gifts for the residents. He made payment to the then Gwennap Parish Council for the maintenance of the St Day town clock and provided a village hall and playing field in Carharrack.



Mills Street in 1933



Simmons Street circa 1909

W.J. Mills [Cottages] Trust Charity Commission Ref 275488

In the 18th and early 19th centuries St Day was the commercial centre of a very prosperous copper mining area referred to as 'the richest square mile in England'. However, with the decline of the mining industry, the aftermath of the Boer War, World War 1 and the looming Depression, the area had itself become a depressed shadow of its former glory. This was the background in which WJ Mills found himself, a successful businessman with a great social conscience. His family were St Day people. He was a generous man with a concern for the people of his home town and for his employees. He was said to have been the 'justest' man you could meet. It was a characteristic of his that he thought of others and that his actions 'were open to the light of day'. It was his wish to help the people of his native village. There are references in the minutes of the St Day Community Council and in several local newspapers to his generosity. It was estimated that these gifts amounted to £15,000 in 1933, a considerable sum for the period.

The W.J. Mills [Cottages] Trust started with properties in Mills Street, formerly Simmons Street, which had been bought by William John Mills in 1930 to provide housing for the "poor and needy" of St Day. One of the earliest enhancements made was the provision of street lighting in the form of oil lamps. Simmons Street was officially renamed Mills Street at a ceremony in 1933. Chairman of the Community Council

Mr HB Veale welcomed the Lord Lieutenant Mr JC Williams and introduced WJ Mills' son TR Mills and daughter, Mrs Quinlan, and their spouses. The Lord Lieutenant was then invited to cut the blue and gold ribbons which were held by Paula and Marion Mills, the great nieces of WJ Mills.

The Mills family became totally responsible for the running of the Mills Street houses. It had been WJ Mills' intention to establish a Trust in



WJ Mills' great-nieces, Marion (left) and Paula (right), assist in the opening of Mills Street in 1933



From left: Gertrude Lucy Mills, Charlotte Mills, TR Mills and JC Williams



Feast Day: Enid Mills (left) and John Mills (right) with Peggy and Leslie Martin, Chairman of the Feast Committee



Feast Day: Gertrude Lucy Mills presenting money and buns to the children



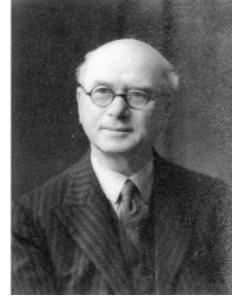
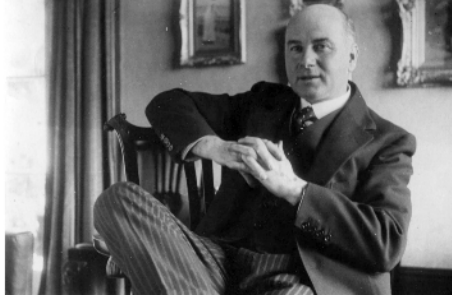
Feast Day in the 1930s



Street party to mark the 50th anniversary of Mills Street, at which residents were given a commemorative silver teaspoon

respect of the properties but, in fact, he never did and from 1930 to 1966 many of the tenants were allowed to occupy their property at a nominal rent.

After WJ Mills died in 1934 his son, TR Mills set up a system which provided sufficient income to allow half of the residents to live rent-free. The other half were charged just two shillings (10p) a week in order to make the whole of the houses self-supporting. When TR Mills died in 1952 his son, also William John Mills (but known as John), took over the running of the Trust.



These three pictures are of TR Mills who took over the running of the Mills Trust on the death of his father WJ Mills

In 1967 it was necessary to carry out considerable capital improvements. The gross weekly rent from the properties was only £22.7s.1d per week. It was decided by the then owners of the properties, Mrs Charlotte Quinlan, Mr WJ (John) Mills and Miss Enid Mills [TR Mills' daughter], to vest the properties in a charitable trust for the common good of the people of St Day and the larger area of the Parish of Gwennap (changed from Gwennap to Kerrier in a 1977 deed). They were aware of the Social Security provisions of the time which had undergone great changes the previous year. They stated that in addition to helping the elderly they might consider helping young persons, perhaps with apprenticeships or Outward Bound or other courses. The Trust continued as a family concern with the trustees drawn from members of the Mills family.

When we look at the built environment of St Day, Mills Street stands out as probably the best example of a street of houses from the industrial period in the district. It sits within the conservation area which covers the central core of St Day including Chapel Street, Mills

Street and as far south as the Church. Mills Street was built on old mine wasteland thereby using a cheap and otherwise useless area. The mid 19th century trade directories suggest that the inhabitants of Simmons Street were professionals, shopkeepers and skilled tradesmen rather than the miners who worked nearby.

When John Mills took over after the death of his father none of the houses had an indoor water supply and the only toilet was at the end of the garden. He therefore undertook an extensive programme of modernisation. As well as providing indoor toilets and running water, he included a central heating system run from two boiler houses at the bottom of the street. The standard of accommodation has continued to be upgraded over the years with modern kitchens and bathrooms and double-glazed sash windows.

In 1993 these houses were listed as being of historic and architectural interest as “an exceptionally well-preserved row of workers’ housing... having been built for the accommodation of miners”. The schedule includes the following descriptions: built mainly in the early 1840’s with some being completed later that decade; mostly built of coursed rubble with granite lintels and quoins; gabled artificial slate roofs with brick stacks; two storeys with granite lintels over 2/2 pane sashes (formerly 4/4 pane but with horizontal glazing bars removed); interiors include original joinery and stick-baluster staircases with turned newels; rubble walls enclose rear gardens with slate-roofed former privies.

Nos 27 & 28 have a copper plaque and wreath at first floor level commemorating the endowment of the street by WJ Mills.

The listing does not reveal the full complexity and added interest of



Opening of the Community Centre in 1989. John Mills, Stella Mills, Denis Williams (builder) and Chairman of the Residents Association, Jim James

Mills Street in that it was a conversion of a simple street of houses into what became effectively a road of almshouses. The result has been to protect and preserve buildings, outbuildings and curtilages from inappropriate or overzealous alterations and additions. Throughout its

existence the Mills Trust has undertaken to carry out work of excellent standard and high quality in keeping with the historic environment in which its properties sit. A better example of the effects of listing and conservation would be difficult to find. In line with its founder's wishes, it is very much part of the continuing ethos of the Mills Trust that what it does sits well not only within the historic environment of St Day but also with the local community's wishes on how it wants to see its town develop.

In 1989 the Trust purchased commercial properties in Barracks Lane, including a former slaughterhouse, which were converted into a

community centre, a flat and a two-bedroom house, now known as Mills Court.

In 1997 the Trust purchased a derelict piece of ground at the rear of Market Square, on which two houses had been demolished many years previously, and built three two-bedroom houses, now known as Mills Terrace.

In 2009 the latest addition to the Trust's almshouses, Mills Gardens, was officially unveiled by Lady Mary Holborow, Lord Lieutenant of Cornwall. At a cost of £1 million, seven new bungalows were constructed to house Mills Street's less mobile tenants and are equipped with such features as large bathrooms, walk-in showers, spacious bedrooms and extra wide doorways. Among those present at the opening was Paula Temple [née Mills], who, 75 years earlier, had held the ribbon with her sister Marion at the unveiling of the original Mills Street properties.



Mills Gardens opened in 2009



Part of the £1 million development at Mills Gardens



Opening of Mills Gardens. Councillor Mark Kaczmarek, John Newcombe, Elizabeth Wilson, Lady Mary and Paula Temple



Lady Mary Holborow, Lord Lieutenant of Cornwall cuts the ribbon.

The Trust today continues to honour its founder's feeling of family and caring for the community. This is seen no more so than in the annual giving of a Christmas gift to the beneficiaries of the Trust.

Trustee Paul Barker wrote the following report on the 2010 Christmas gift giving:

On Saturday 11th December 2010 a number of the trustees participated in the annual distribution of a Christmas gift to all the residents of the W.J. Mills (Cottages) Trust. As well as a Christmas card the residents are also given a Christmas present which, for a number of years now, has been in the form of a Christmas hamper. The idea behind this was that there was always going to be 'something for



Christmas hamper

everybody' (i.e. not everyone likes or can eat chocolate) and they could always share the contents with their friends and family.

The hampers are always very well received and, more recently, they have been sourced locally from St Day General Stores, so we're also able to support the local economy as well as bring a little bit of seasonal goodwill to our residents.

Some comments made during this year's distribution:

"It is a lovely gift... it's gorgeous!", from Ralph and Esther Gilbert at No. 3 Mills Gardens.



Mrs Gill Fitzsimmons receiving her Christmas hamper

"They are brilliant! It's really good to see that they are sourced locally and the profits stay in Cornwall", from Maurice James at No. 3 Mills Street.

"I've never lived anywhere like this before... a lovely warm house that I can take pride in... genuine friends... it's like living in a community within a community... it's a very safe environment... I'm very grateful to the Mills Trust", from Gill Fitzsimmons at No. 16 Mills Street.

St Day Feast

It is possible that the origins of St Day Feast go back to the religious celebrations of the mediaeval period, to a time when the Church celebrated its Saint's day. It is certain that it was recorded in 1824 that St Day Feast Day should be four weeks after that of Gwennap and that local newspaper reports of the mid 19th century give annual accounts of a significant celebration. The town would repaint its houses, put out flags and bunting and prepare to enter a variety of sports events. Stalls and entertainments would be set out and all of St Day and the surrounding area would take part.

Today, Feast continues to be an annual event and is held ten weeks after Easter. It was traditionally supported by the W.J. Mills Benevolent Fund (Charity Commission Ref 230560), which was set up to:

'...provide for a free tea for children under the age of 16 and a free tea for old people of 65 years and upwards in the district of St Day in the Parish of Gwennap on the occasion of the Feast Day of St Day. For the benefit of the poor and needy old people and infirm at Christmas each year whether in the way of cash or in the purchase of coal, groceries and other articles as the trustees shall see proper.'

In 1933, as part of Feast Day celebrations, the town showed its appreciation of the many gifts WJ Mills had bestowed on St Day. On

Monday, July 3rd 1933 the celebration of the Feast of St Day began with 400 children and adults, including members of the community council and Gwennap and Lanner Royal British Legion, walking in procession through St Day headed by Carharrack and St Day Silver Band. This was said to have been the largest gathering in the district for half a century. At the top of Simmons Street, Mr TR Mills presented an inscribed knife to the Lord Lieutenant of Cornwall, Mr JC Williams, who then cut the blue and gold ribbons and renamed Simmons Street - Mills Street. This is where there is a commemorative plaque dedicated to the memory of WJ Mills' parents and sisters who are buried on the south side of the old church.



T R Mills presents scissors to Mr JC Williams of Caerhays who cuts the ribbon. Also in the picture are Herbert Veal, Gertrude Lucy Mills and young Paula Mills



Feast Day procession 3 July 1933

The Playing Field

The procession then moved to the Playing Field where further instances of WJ Mills' influence and generosity can still be seen. The Playing Field itself was opened on Feast Day 1928. WJ Mills bore the expense of laying out the field with shrubs and plants in memory of his friend the late Mr TR Tripp, the first chairman of St Day Community Council. He paid for the erection of the pavilion, conveniences and the playing apparatus.



The obelisk in the Playing Field was officially unveiled in 1933 by the Lord Lieutenant of Cornwall, Mr J C Williams

It is here that there is a granite obelisk, 10ft 6ins high, cut from stone taken from Carn Marth quarry and erected by the townspeople in thanks for his generosity to the town. In the centre of the obelisk is a hollow space containing a bronze bust [cast by Mr Burton at Thames Ditton in Surrey] and a commemorative plate beneath [designed by W Wills RA].



To the left of WJ Mills' bust is TR Mills with Paula Temple (née Mills) to his right. On the right of the obelisk is Lt Cdr Joe Mills alongside Simon Mills and (2nd from right) Joan Mills, great-niece of WJ

"Erected by the People of St Day as a token of their gratitude to WILLIAM JOHN MILLS whose many generous gifts have enriched the life of their community. 1933"

The obelisk was officially unveiled by the Lord Lieutenant of Cornwall, Mr JC Williams, who described the monument as one of the nicest, most refined and satisfactory memorials which could have been placed there. It was a rare piece of workmanship which, he believed, would be pleasing to everybody.

Major GT Williams, honorary secretary of the Playing Fields Association voiced his appreciation of the manner in which the playing field was laid out.

Mrs Quinlan formally presented playground apparatus provided by her father to the children and said she hoped they derive as much pleasure playing on it as her father had from giving it. The proceedings continued with the planting of trees by the Lord Lieutenant, Mrs Quinlan and Mr



Photo includes Simon Mills, far left; Paula Temple (née Mills), front row centre; Marion Peebles (née Mills), middle row, far right

TR Mills in memory of the occasion.

Mr TR Mills and Mrs C Quinlan began the annual tradition of distributing buns and the gift of a shilling to 600 children, again through the kindness of Mr WJ Mills.

Feast Day is now held every year and, on arrival at the playing field, which had been gifted to St Day in 1928 by Mr Peter Michael Williams, the children of the procession place flowers around the WJ Mills memorial. Then, following a short dance in the centre of the field, they take part in traditional running races at the end of which they receive their saffron bun, a bottle of pop and a £1 coin.

Putting down roots

A TREE-planting ceremony in St. Day turned out to be a real family occasion at the weekend.

Mr. John Mills — executor of a trust set up by his grandfather in 1933 which bequeathed houses in Mill Street to old people — returned to the village to watch his cousin, chairman of the parish council Mr. Joseph Mills, plant silver birch and copper beech trees. (See right).

A central heating system was installed in homes on one side of the street last year and the trees have been planted to disguise oil tanks. It is hoped to complete the work in 16 other homes next year.

A buttonhole and a bouquet were presented to Mr. Mills and his wife Stella, who live in Cullompton, by the street's long-standing tenant Mrs. Evelyn Wills.



St Day Clock

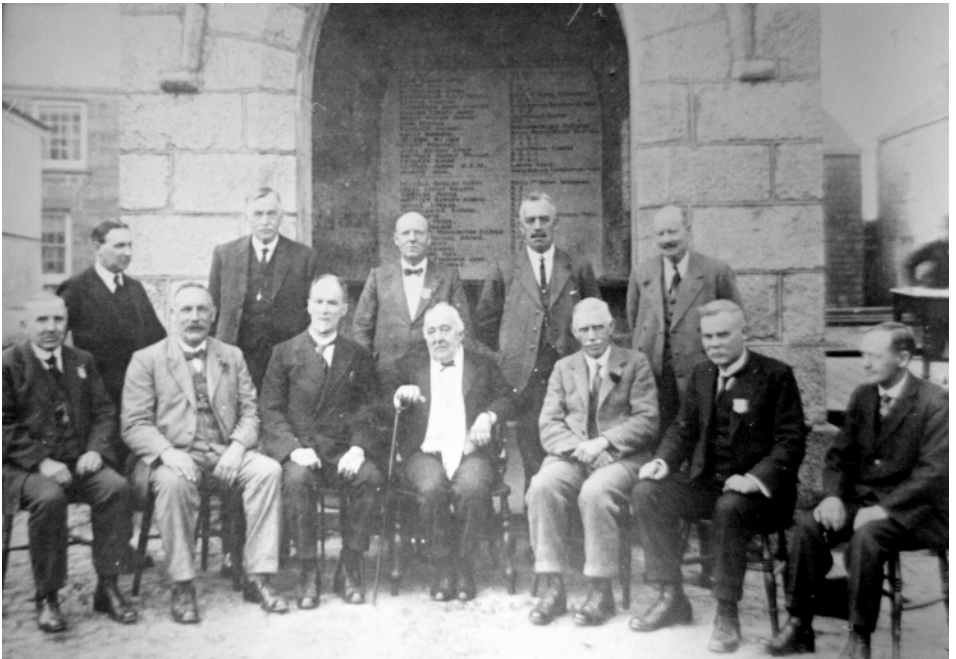
St Day clock was built in 1831 at a cost of £400. The bellcote was added in 1904 when it was removed from the town clock in Redruth. The lower room was at one time used as the town lock-up or clink. It was sited in the market square alongside the market house.

St Day's old market house fell into disuse and was demolished in 1911 leaving the Town Clock to stand forlornly alone in the centre of the market. Up to the end of the First World War the clock was maintained by public subscription. As a result of industrial depression and distress which overtook the area it fell into disrepair. In 1910 an appeal had been launched by the town's Clock and Lamps Committee, aimed at the



The base of the St Day Clock Tower

St Day boys abroad, for help towards the maintenance of the town clock and lamps. Four years later, in February 1914, when further money was needed, a similar appeal was aimed at the St Day boys in South Africa. The Clock and Lamps Committee, of which both TR Mills and WJ Mills were members, printed posters asking the public whether or not 'the clock be kept going and the lamps continue to be lit during the coming year'. The First World War had just started but in the event the town voted to keep the clock going and the lamps lit. The clock had taken on an importance as the centre piece of the town and so it was natural that in 1921 a memorial to those men of St Day



St Day Clock Tower with the War Memorial Tablets (taken at the ceremony handing over responsibility to Gwennap Parish Council)

who lost their lives in the First World War was built on its south side. It took the form of a seated shelter and included a granite tablet recording the names of the men and their regiments. At the end of the Second World War a second tablet was added carrying the names of the fallen 1939 -1945.

The clock continued to be maintained through public subscription up to a period following the first war, but "in consequence of the acute industrial depression and distress which overtook the area" the clock became neglected and finally stopped working. Although the St Day Community Council spent £30 on its repair, its future maintenance was in doubt.

On 27 May 1926 a public meeting was held to consider the question of the town clock and any other public business that might arise. The question of funds for the maintenance and running of the clock was brought up. Mr WM Petherick of Redruth offered to approach his uncle Mr WJ Mills. In 1928 a cheque for £145 was received from Mr WJ Mills. £113 was to be used to buy Consols (a type of government bond) to hand over to the Parish Council as an endowment for the town clock, £25 to be used to put the clock in good order before handing over and £7 for a memorial tablet to his late brother [another Thomas Richards Mills], to be erected on the Clock Tower. The invested money was to produce an income of £5 per annum for the maintenance of the clock. A garden, enclosed by a low wall, was also

provided and a marble tablet was mounted on one side of the granite tower.

The inscription reads: *October 1928. This tablet records the endowment of this tower and clock by W.J. Mills, Esq., of Torquay, in memory of his brother, the late T.R. Mills, who was a leader in all movements for the welfare of St. Day. 1839-1915*

A condition of the payment was that the future repair and maintenance of the clock should be under the control of Gwennap Parish Council. The work of repairing the clock and other considerations was left in the hands of the Community Council with Mr TR Tripp as chairman and Mr Richard Rodda Blewitt as honorary secretary. On Easter Saturday the title deeds of the clock tower and the square surrounding it were handed over to the Parish Council; Mr Tripp presided at the ceremony.

Mr Charles Bawden of Redruth unveiled the tablet describing himself as the oldest living St Day man. He had been born there in 1847. He described how prosperous and busy St Day had been, but that nowadays it seemed as though the Pied Piper of Hamelin had appeared and borne everyone away. Among others present at the ceremony were the chairman, Mr George S Bray, members of the Parish Council and members of Tregullow Lodge of Freemasons, No 1006, St Day, of which TR Mills was a Past-Master. W. Bro. FB Strongman representing Tregullow Lodge spoke of W. Bro. Mills' association with the Craft.

He said TR Mills was initiated in Tregullow Lodge in 1873 and elected Master in 1879. His active association with the Lodge continued until his death in 1915. One of his chief activities was in connection with Masonic charities and benevolent work and he was for many years the Lodge representative on charity committees. Both Mr WJ Mills and Mr Petherick were unable to attend because of ill-health.



1865 Barkerville, British Columbia

Thomas Richards Mills, in whose memory the clock was dedicated, was born on 26 January 1839 in Carharrack and christened on 23 June 1839 in St Day. He died on 5 June 1915 in Church Street, St Day. He was a tinner and gold prospector in California on the

Frazer River with his brother Joseph Mills, and later in Caribou, British Columbia. Those were the years when every family in the Cornish mining districts had menfolk abroad, giving rise to the saying 'wherever there is a hole in the ground, you'll find a Cornishman at the bottom of it'. An American mining journal of the mid 1800s is quoted as saying 'do not employ English ex-coalminers, they are useless. The best are the Germans and the Cornish'. In 1867 Thomas Richards Mills was living in Williams Creek, Barkerville, British Columbia. He was part of the enormous gold rush community there. On his return to



St Day Clock Tower today

St Day he used money he had made to invest in an ironmongery and furnishing business in St Day and he became an auctioneer in Redruth and an auctioneer, valuer and commission agent in St Day. He was president of the Cornish Tenant Right Valuers Association and of the South Western Counties Valuers Association. As a Freemason he held Provincial Rank in Craft, Chapter and Mark. He was Past Provisional Grand Master of the Independent

Order of Oddfellows, Lannarth Lodge. He took a keen interest in St Day and its inhabitants and his obituary praised his ready support for matters concerning the welfare of the district. He married Mary Jane Trewartha who was born in 1843, the daughter of Elisha and Mary Ann Trewartha. He had no children of his own.

In 1986 the newly formed St Day Parish Council, under the chairmanship of another member of the Mills family Councillor Joe Mills, commissioned an imposing pair of wrought iron gates to protect the memorial tablets within the War Memorial shelter. The clock continues to be the centre of town activity every year when the service

is held on Remembrance Sunday. St Day Clock Tower along with the Boundary Wall was Grade II listed on 12 September 1989, giving it scheduled monument status.

W.J. Mills Benevolent Fund and W.J. Mills Grant Fund

The aims and objectives of the W.J. Mills Benevolent Fund have been *“to provide a free tea for children under 16 years of age and a free tea for the old people of 65 years and upwards in the district of St Day in the Parish of Gwennap on the annual occasion of the Feast Day of St Day. For the benefit of the poor and needy old people and infirm at Christmas each year whether in the way of cash or the purchase of coal groceries and other articles as the Trustees shall see fit.”*

In recent years, the Trustees established the W.J. Mills Grant Fund (Charity Commission Ref 1120627) to replace an earlier, but now defunct, W.J. Mills Benefit Fund; it also allows a much wider remit. It provides for bequests to individuals and organizations within the Parish of St Day, the promotion of any charitable purposes for the benefit of the community or individuals in the Parish of St Day and neighbouring Parishes in the County of Cornwall in particular the advancement of education, the protection of good health, both mental and physical and the relief of poverty and sickness. It also provides for other exclusively charitable purposes in the United Kingdom and elsewhere which are in the opinion of the Trustees beneficial to the community including Cornwall.

The first meeting of the W.J. Mills Grant Fund Trustees was on 17 November 2007. Mrs Elizabeth Wilson was appointed Chairman,

Mr Stephen Edwards, Vice Chairman and Mr Paul Barker, Treasurer. To the date of writing [2011] the Trust has been able to support Funzone Out Of School Club, Sunny Days Nursery, Carharrack and St Day Silver Band, Action St Day, St Day Community Council, the Handstand Appeal, St Day Cricket Club, The Enterprise All Stars Bowls Club, St Day Football Club and the St Day & Carharrack Community School.

Carharrack

WJ Mills funded the building of Mills Hall for the people of Carharrack along with Carharrack Playing Field.



Mills Hall, Carharrack

Mills Hall is run as a registered charity for use for concerts, lectures, educational classes, social functions and other entertainments for the benefit of the people of Carharrack and District. Its use for political meetings is excluded.

Carharrack Silver Temperance Band was formed in 1912. In 1932 WJ Mills made a gift of instruments and uniforms to the band following which the band became known as Carharrack and St Day Silver Band. In 1933 the instruments were formally presented to the band by Joe Mills on behalf of his great-uncle, WJ Mills, who was unable to be

present due to ill health. The band was assured that it would be able to store its instruments and practise in the village hall at Carharrack.



Carharrack and St Day Silver Band

APPENDIX I

TRUSTEES

William John Mills

1930 - 1934

WJ was born at Kit Bartley, Scorrier in 1855 and moved to St Day when only a few weeks old. He found his fortune in the dairy business, starting in St Day before setting up in partnership in Bristol and then founding the Duchess of Devonshire Dairy. Described in a memorial address as “the justest man I ever met”, he gave generously to a wide range of causes from St Day to Torquay where he spent his latter years.

Thomas Richards Mills

1930 - 1951

TR was born near Bristol in 1879 where he joined his father’s dairy business, Mills and Palk Ltd, before they relocated to Devon. He was a prominent freemason and a Justice of the Peace for Tiverton. There, he was a trustee of several local charities as well as supporting many

local causes including the Tiverton and District Hospital Extension Fund.

Charlotte Quinlan (née Mills) 1930 - 1971

Charlotte spent her formative years in Torquay before marrying Dr John Thaddius Quinlan in her thirties. They lived in Ireland initially, later emigrating to Tasmania.

William John Mills

1951 - 1992

John (as he was known) was born in Tiverton in 1922. He saw service in the Navy and after the war went into the coach building business. He was wholly committed to honouring his grandfather's intentions of looking after the Trust's St Day residents, initiating a major programme of renovation and modernisation. He was also involved in many community and charity schemes in Devon including the Tiverton Almshouse Trust. He was reluctantly forced to resign his chairmanship of the W.J. Mills (Cottages) Trust following a near-fatal road accident.

Enid Mills

1946 - 2000

Enid was born in Devon in 1910 and became a Trustee in 1946. She spent her working years as a Speech Therapist in London and Switzerland and later studied at the Jung Institute in Zurich. She didn't become fully involved in the Trust until her later years and retired in 2000 aged 90.

Peter Mills

1980 - 1997

Treasurer 1992 - 1997

Peter was born in Tiverton in 1950 and was educated at Mill Hill in London. He studied to be a Chartered Accountant and after working for several different companies in London, mainly in the music business, eventually set up on his own. He returned to Devon to live in 1990 but now resides in Tasmania to be near to his son, Alex.

Elizabeth Wilson (née Mills)

1980 - present

Chair 1992 - 2004

Liz took over the chair of the charity in

1992, but has been an active trustee since 1980. Of course, being a direct descendent of the founder and accompanying her father on many visits to the area, she has been exposed to the Trust all her life and has grown up with a real affinity for St Day and a passion for continuing the aims and ambitions of her great-grandfather. That same spirit has also spurred her to be involved in various charity work away from the area including a "PHAB" week (for the Physically Handicapped, Able Bodied) and a befriending scheme with the elderly at school in Dorset and later on returning to her home county with the Devon County Association for the Blind and at a local Day Centre for people with mental health problems and with physical disabilities. She was also Volunteer Co-ordinator in Tiverton for 4 years, recruiting and managing volunteers for many local charities.

Anne Knight (née Mills)

1989 - 2006

Anne is the daughter of Cdr Joe Mills of St Day. Whilst her father was a flying instructor in the Royal Naval Air Service she was brought up in Wales and Sussex before moving back to Cornwall with her family in the 1950s. After 3 years in the Army she became a career Civil Servant working for the MOD, as a Special Investigator, Fraud Officer and Training Officer/Instructor and represented the Government in court. She gained her qualifications at Cardiff and Bristol. She is an historian with several published works and takes a keen interest in local military history, helping at the Cornwall at War museum.

Roger Temple

1989 – present

Roger was born and brought up in St Day, a descendant of the Mills family on his mother Paula's side. He went to Trewirgie School, Redruth before going on to Cornwall College. In 1970 he joined

the GPO as a telephone engineer. He continued to work for them under the BT banner until retiring in 2011.

John Newcombe

1989 - present

Chair 2004 - present

Treasurer 1997 - present

John has lived in St Day all his life, qualified as a Chartered Engineer and spent over 40 years in local industry and as a college lecturer. For over 25 years he was a member of the W.J. Mills Benevolent Fund and St Day Community Council, which organises the St Day Feast celebrations, this included 14 years as secretary. In 1989 WJ (John) Mills invited him to become a trustee of the Cottages Trust. In 1997, on the resignation of Peter Mills, he took over as Treasurer; he also took on the chairmanship when Liz relinquished the post in 2004. He has been a member of St Day Parish Council since 1995 and its chairman since 2001. He is also a

member of the local University of the Third Age and has served 3 year terms as secretary, treasurer and chairman.

Paul Barker

2000 - present

Paul joined the W.J. Mills (Cottages) Trust in the summer of 2000. A Redruth boy born and bred, Paul moved to St Day in 1985 when he married a local St Day girl. Through Paul's connections in the village, he knows many of the residents personally and is fully committed to supporting the aims of the Trust for generations to come. Paul and his family attend St Day Methodist Church, where he is the Treasurer, and always support the annual Feast Monday by participating in the Feast Dance. Paul is also the Treasurer of both the Falmouth and Gwennap Methodist Circuit and the Carnon Downs Drama Group, where the whole family is involved in amateur dramatics.

Sally Burley (née Mills)

2000 – present

Sally grew up in North Cornwall and moved to St Day in 1976 when her family returned there. She trained and qualified as a riding instructor and worked with horses for many years. Her husband grew up in Crofthandy and their three sons all attended St Day and Carharrack Community School. She has always had a keen interest in local affairs, being involved with the local playgroup and school. She is interested in Cornish music, dance and culture, involving herself in various events around Cornwall. She is also a keen singer and member of two local choirs. She is very proud of her family connections to WJ Mills and all that the Trust does for St Day.

Sue Manley (née Hicks)

2000 – 2004

Sue was born in Scorrier but moved to St Day in 1960 when her parents became Landlords of the Star Inn, Vogue. She

attended St Day School and then Truro Grammar School. Sue married in 1975 and has one daughter. The community has always played a large part in her life, having been involved with the Youth Club, Playgroup, Brownies, Community Council, Mills Trust and the school where she has worked for 26 years. Sue is also Churchwarden for both Holy Trinity St Day and St Piran's Carharrack churches. She really enjoyed her time working for the Mills Trust and was sorry to have resigned for personal reasons.

Steve Edwards

2000 - present

Steve was born in the West Midlands but, whilst a student in London, met a 'St Day girl', married her on leaving London and settled in St Day in 1975. He has lived here ever since and both of his daughters attended St Day & Carharrack Community School. In September 1975 he began work as a teacher of Modern Foreign Languages

(German & French) at Penzance Girls' Grammar School (now Penwith 6th Form College) and moved to Penair School in Truro when it opened in 1978. He later became Head of Department and retired in 2007. He has been a member of several organisations in St Day, having played both football and cricket for the village teams. When St Day Parish Council was formed in 1985, he became the first Parish Clerk and still continues in this position. He joined the Cottages Trust in July 2000 and is now also Vice-Chair of the Grant Fund.

Keith Goldsworthy

2010 - present

Keith was born in Redruth and has lived in and around Redruth all his life, moving to St Day in 1998. He qualified as an accountant in 1989 and established a new practice in 1991, with his partner, which has continued to grow.

Keith is married to Deb and they have two teenage sons.

Appointed as a trustee of the W.J. Mills (Cottages) Trust in 2010, Keith is known in the village as a governor of the local school, serving as vice-chairman and as chair of the finance committee, and for his involvement with St Day Methodist Church. He also continues to be the treasurer for the Cornwall Methodist District and has been a trustee of a number of small local charities and trusts.