

Location	Interest
SEA WALL	<p>THE RAVAGES OF THE SEA</p> <p>The sea is one of Teignmouth's major assets - fishing, tourism, port - but it comes at a cost.</p> <p>Teignmouth used to suffer from constant flooding from the sea both on its own and in combination with the flow of the River Tame which ran down from the hills above Teignmouth and into the Teign estuary roughly where the Jolly Sailor pub is today.</p> <p>Going back 250 years plus the stretch from there upto roughly where the station now is was marshy and it was around this period that the centre of Teignmouth started to be reclaimed with ballast from incoming ships being deposited there.</p> <p>The sea walls are the first line of defence and the above plaque represents improvements made in the silver jubilee year, 1977:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Heccadon Sea Wall, Completed 1977, W C Heccadon Esq, Chairman East Local Land Drainage Committee, South West Water Authority</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Engineer, M D Kavanagh BSc FICE, Director of Operations, South West Water Authority</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Contractor, E Thomas, Ponsanooth, Cornwall</i></p> <p>Note the curvature of the walls which deflects the power of the waves back on themselves. They are expensive - order of £2000 plus per metre but very effective at preventing erosion</p> <p>More recently defences have been constructed on the river-beach around to New Quay Inn.</p> <p>Climate change will probably need more development - projections for 50 years from now show large parts of Teignmouth and the Teign estuary once again being regularly flooded.</p>

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MARKET SQ	<p>ORIGINS OF TEIGNMOUTH, TWINNING</p> <p>This area lets us talk about the origins of Teignmouth</p> <p>References quote East Teignmouth as receiving its market charter in 1253.</p> <p>BUT the commemorative stone refers to the year 1002.</p> <p>This puzzling contradiction is added to because the first record of Teignmouth is supposedly in 1044 (<i>Reference - The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-names</i>).</p> <p>There is evidence though of early settlements very close by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the banks of the Teign estuary were in Saxon hands since at least 682 • a battle between the Ancient Britons and Saxons is recorded on Haldon in 927 with my celtic namesake, King Howell, losing and retreating west • Danish raids having on the Teign estuary in 1001, <p>In 1630 Tristram Risdon wrote:</p> <p><i>“At West-Teignmouth, it seems, the Danes committed such horrid slaughter in 970, that the cliffs have, ever since, been stained with blood: they are ‘so very red, we are told, that they apparently memorize the bloodshed of those times’</i> </p> <p>In that work Risdon himself quoted from an earlier poetic reference</p> <p>“In memory whereof, the clift exceeding red Doth seem hereat again full fresh to bleed.”</p> <p>Does this couplet stand on its own? Or is it part of a larger work on the invasion of the Danes? When was it written? Who wrote it? unanswered questions the fascination of history</p> <p>As well as the commemorative stone there is also the original granite market cross which would have been sited where the market originally stood - in Teign Street, formerly known as Market Street.</p> <p>Finally, the markers you find around town are made from a pink granite originating from Cornwall. But Teignmouth is also twinned with Perros-Guirec in Brittany where there are quarries of the same type of granite.</p> <p>The twinning has a certain irony as we’ll see at our next stop.</p>

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FRENCH ST	<p>FRENCH INVASION</p> <p>As a significant port Teignmouth has been attacked twice by the French. Firstly in 1340. British retaliation came 7 years later when Teignmouth contributed by sending seven ships and 120 men to the expedition against Calais in 1347.</p> <p>Three hundred and fifty years later and Teignmouth suffered again. During the Nine Year War in 1690 the French were gathering a large fleet in the Channel. Under the French admiral Anne Hilarion de Tourville they defeated the joint smaller force of English and Dutch vessels at the Battle of Beachy Head.</p> <p>The French fleet then headed west and anchored in Torbay. Some of the galley fleet travelled the short distance up the coast and attacked Teignmouth. A petition to the Lord Lieutenant from the inhabitants described the incident:</p> <p><i>“... on the 26th day of this instant July 1690 by Foure of the clocke in the morning, your poor petitioners were invaded (by the French) to the number of 1,000 or thereabouts, who in the space of three hours tyme, burnt down to the ground the dwelling houses of 240 persons of our parish and upwards, plundered and carried away all our goods, defaced our churches, burnt ten of our ships in the harbour, besides fishing boats, netts and other fishing craft ... ”</i></p> <p>Subsequently, the Crown issued a church brief that authorised the collection of £11,000 for the aid of the town. Churches from as far afield as Yorkshire contributed, and the collections enabled the further development of the port.</p> <p>Although they had won the Battle of Beachy Head, the French had failed to exploit their success. To the fury of Louis and Seignelay, the sum of Tourville’s victory was the symbolic and futile burning of the English coastal town of Teignmouth in July, and he was relieved of command.</p> <p>This was the last invasion of England but in 1774, the inhabitants of Teignmouth and Shaldon presented a petition to Sir Wm. Courtenay, that the French had plundered and burnt the place, in the second year of William and Mary, and that they then threatened a second visit; they, therefore, petitioned him to allow them to build a small battery on the beach, at East Teignmouth</p>

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STATION ROAD	<p>EDMUND KEAN</p> <p>Edmund Kean was a celebrated Shakespearean stage actor who performed in London, regionally and as far afield as New York and Paris. He was well known for his short stature, tumultuous personal life, and eccentricities (such as playing with a tame lion in his drawing room)</p> <p>He could perhaps be described as the Oliver Reed of his time.</p> <p>He had an interesting start to his life:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He made his first appearance on the stage, aged four • He bunked school and shipped as a cabin boy at Portsmouth but the sailing life was not for him • By age 14 he was playing leading characters such as Hamlet at the York Theatre • Rumour of his abilities reached George III, who commanded him to appear at Windsor Castle <p>THE TEIGNMOUTH CONNECTION 1: Whilst touring he received an offer from Mr. Fisher, the Teignmouth manager, and eventually agreed to play here for 4 nights.</p> <p>He saved the Drury Lane theatre when his opening there in 1814 as Shylock roused the audience to almost uncontrollable enthusiasm. Successive appearances in <i>Richard III</i>, <i>Hamlet</i>, <i>Othello</i>, <i>Macbeth</i> and <i>King Lear</i> demonstrated his mastery of the range of tragic emotion.</p> <p><u>Coleridge</u> said, "Seeing him act was like reading Shakespeare by flashes of lightning.</p> <p>THE TEIGNMOUTH CONNECTION 2: Four years later John Keats wrote an equally passionate critique of Kean's performances having been to see him a number of times in London. As a result, when he came to Teignmouth he made a sort of pilgrimage visit to this theatre.</p> <p>At the height of his fame though he was sliding into drug and drink dependency and his appearance in Paris was a failure owing to a fit of drunkenness.</p> <p>His death was equally dramatic. He was playing Othello at <u>Covent Garden</u> on 25 March 1833. His son, Charles was palying Iago. At the words "Villain, be sure," he suddenly broke down and cried "O God, I am dying. Speak to them, Charles,".</p> <p>He fell insensible into his son's arms and aged 44 his official cause of death "dissipation" (!!)</p>

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WELLINGTON ST	<p>ELIAS PARRISH ALVARS</p> <p>Born in Teignmouth on 28 February 1808, son of Joseph and Mary Ann Parish.</p> <p>His father was an organist, voice teacher and book dealer in Teignmouth and gave him his first musical instruction.</p> <p>This led to his first concert in Totnes in 1818 and subsequently becoming a renowned harpist and composer.</p> <p>In 1820 he was sent to London to study with Nicolas Bochsa and continued his lessons with Bochsa at the Royal Academy thanks to the financial assistance of a local landowner and philanthropist, Sir Warwick Hele Tomkin</p> <p>In 1828 he finished his studies and left for Florence and by 1842 he was living in Vienna, teaching and appointed solo harpist at Hofopertheater.</p> <p>After attending one of his concerts in Dresden Hector Berlioz wrote:</p> <p><i>“In Dresden, I met the prodigious English harpist Elias Parish Alvars, a name not yet as renowned as it ought to be. This man is the Liszt of the harp.”</i></p> <p>Liszt himself wrote:</p> <p><i>“from underneath his prominent forehead speak his dreamy eyes expressive of the glowing imagination which lives in his compositions”.</i></p> <p>In 1848 the first riots erupted in Vienna and Parish Alvars found himself in serious financial straits. The Gesellschaft der Musikfreunde closed suddenly, stopping all payments, and even refusing to pay him the salary owed for the last six months.</p> <p>He could not travel to other cities or countries, he had lost most of his pupils, who, as members of noble families, had left town out of fear; musical life had stopped, and the Hofopertheater burnt down.</p> <p>He and his family eventually found refuge in Leopoldstadt, on the outskirts of Vienna.</p> <p>But his health suddenly worsened and he died of pneumonia on 25 January 1849</p> <p>Teignmouth celebrated him in 2008 with a series of harp concerts marking the 200th anniversary of his birth.</p>

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TEIGN ST	<p data-bbox="405 300 584 331">LUNY HOUSE</p> <p data-bbox="405 376 1503 524">Thomas Luny was an English artist and painter, mostly of seascapes and other marine-based works. He was born in Cornwall in 1759 but moved to London at the age of 11 where he became apprenticed to the London marine painter Francis Holman</p> <p data-bbox="405 568 1503 757">In September 1777 he left London for a visit to France. He must have also travelled further afield on this journey, as his first exhibited picture in London, at the Society of Artists in that year, was entitled: "A distant view of the island of Madeira and Porto Santo". He regularly exhibited at the Royal Academy with 29 paintings in total between 1780 and 1802, and then a long break until three in 1837.</p> <p data-bbox="405 801 1503 949">In 1783 Luny moved to Leadenhall Street, where he met Mr. Merle, a dealer and framer who promoted Luny's paintings very successfully for more than 20 years. Leadenhall Street also housed the headquarters of the East India Company and he received many commissions from officers of the company.</p> <p data-bbox="405 994 1503 1106">In 1793, at the commencement of the long French Revolutionary Wars, Luny joined the Royal Navy as a purser and served under Captain George Tobin, RN. Luny retired from the Navy in 1810 due to rheumatoid arthritis</p> <p data-bbox="405 1151 1503 1576">In about 1807 Luny decided to move to Teignmouth where he built the house now known as the Thomas Luny House in Teign Street. Here he received large numbers of commissions from ex-mariners as well local gentry in the area. His illness confined him to a wheelchair and caused him to lose the use of his hands. In order to paint, he had to either hold the brush between his wrists or have them strapped on. Despite this he was as successful in Teignmouth as he had been in London, producing many works of the Devonshire coastline, as well as the occasional ship's portrait or naval engagement, which were specific commissions. Luny continued painting right up until his death in Teignmouth on 30th September, 1837. It is estimated that he produced over 3,000 works in his lifetime, with over 2,200 between 1807 and his death</p> <p data-bbox="405 1621 1503 1688">Thomas Luny is buried in the cemetery of St James Church, Teignmouth where he is interred in the same tomb as his half-brother, Captain James Wallace.</p> <p data-bbox="405 1733 1503 1845">Luny's work is represented in the National Maritime Museum at Greenwich, which also has his sketchbooks in their collection, and the Royal Albert Memorial Museum in Exeter. There are also a few of his paintings in Bitton House.</p>

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NEW QUAY INN	<p>TEMPLER WAY</p> <p>The Templer Way is an 18 mile walking route starting from Haytor on Dartmoor and finishing at New Quay in Teignmouth.</p> <p>It starts from the old Haytor quarries and follows the course of the Haytor Granite Tramway built by George Templer in 1820 to carry blocks of granite down to Teignmouth for shipping to London for construction of the new London Bridge and other public buildings.</p> <p>The wooden flat-topped waggons had iron flangeless wheels and ran in trains of usually twelve waggons drawn by around 18 horses in single file, in front for the upward journey and at the rear for the downward.</p> <p>An old sailor called Thomas Taverner wrote a poem which gives us this information:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Nineteen stout horses it was known, From Holwell Quarry drew the stone, And mounted on twelve-wheeled car 'Twas safely brought from Holwell Tor</i></p> <p>The Granite Tramway ends at Locks Bridge which is the start of the Stover Canal leading to Jetty Marsh just outside Newton Abbot. Canal boats would take the granite down to the New Quay whilst the Templer Way itself now follows the southern side of the estuary down to Shaldon where you cross by bridge (or ferry) to Teignmouth and the New Quay.</p>

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QUAY ST	<p>NEW QUAY</p> <p>The New Quay was built in 1821 by George Templer to handle the movement of granite to London for the building of the new London Bridge and shipping of clay to the potteries.</p> <p>Granite was taken from quarries near Haytor via the Haytor Granite Tramway, built specifically for this purpose. The tramway joined the Stover canal where the granite was transferred onto barges for transport down to the river at Newton Abbot and thence to Teignmouth for shipping.</p> <p>On the edge of the New Quay is the New Quay Inn formerly known as The Newfoundland Fishery in the days when fishing was the principal commercial activity of the town. <i>(As an aside, on the wall of the New Quay Inn is the poem <u>'Teignmouth'</u> by Keats).</i></p>

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<p>NORTHUMBERLAND PLACE</p>	<p>KEATS</p> <p>Keats stayed in Teignmouth for three months in 1818 whilst he was looking after his younger brother, Tom, who had come to Teignmouth in the hope of alleviating his consumption.</p> <p>They stayed with the Jeffery family in a house in Northumberland Place. Although there is a plaque and sign indicating the current location of Keats' house there has been by no means consensus about whether this is the correct location.</p> <p>The local Council, however, decided to consult the Curator of Keats House, Hampstead, London', who, for reasons unknown, gave his verdict in favour of 20 Northumberland Place, 'where the tablet was accordingly fixed.'</p> <p>Subsequent research suggests that it is virtually certain that this is correct based on Keats' own letters, obvious misinterpretation of letters and photographic evidence discovered subsequently in America. The clincher though was the memory of one old man - W R Hall Jordan</p> <p>Keats wrote a number of poems whilst in Teignmouth ranging from what he described as simple doggerel to completion of one of his major works - Endymion.</p> <p>He may have spent only three months in Teignmouth but there is evidence to suggest it was a pivotal point in his life and transformed the style and richness of his poetry.</p> <p>There is LOADS to say about Keats in Teignmouth but that's another walk!!</p>