

CHURCHTOWN TRAIL

A one-hour trail starting and finishing at the Cornwall Centre, Alma Place.

1 Clinton Road

Leave Alma Place, walking beneath the railway bridge into Bond Street and across the top of Treveriff Hill to Clinton Road. Immediately on your right is the **Passmore Edwards Library**, built in 1894 with bequests from the wealthy publisher John Passmore Edwards and Mr O A Ferris of Truro. The former **Thomas Collins' School** is now the reading room of the library. With its decorated tiled façade, it was built in 1891 by Collins, an ex-headmaster of Trevirgie School, and was named Redruth College. Here he taught local children, and those of emigrant Cornish parents.

Next door is the former **School of Science & Art** (1883) and the Redruth Meadery, once the **Robert Hunt Museum** (pictured below), designed by Redruth-born James Hicks FRIBA, MSA (1846–1895) and built in 1889 by the Miners Association of Devon & Cornwall as a memorial to Dr Robert Hunt, FRS (1807–1887), Keeper of the Mining Record Offices in London, and an outstanding scientist and folklorist.



Across the road you'll see **St Andrew's Church**, designed by Hicks and J P Seddon, and built of local stone in two stages in the gothic style – the first in 1883 and the eastern section in 1937. James Hicks lived in the highly decorated house next to the church. Before walking down Treveriff Hill, look down **Clinton Road**, created in 1879–1880 through fields and the disused mining ground of Wheal Sparnon. The large, opulent villas which flanked it, boasting a variety of designs and much local granite, were built for the wealthy and known locally as Clinton Castles.

2 Treveriff Hill

As you head down the hill you can see how it has been cut down – the last time in 1884. Treveriff Terrace on your left shows the original level. On your right, the **Bible Christian Methodist Chapel** bears the date 1863; Thomas Merritt the Illogan carol composer, was harmoniumist here for several years prior to 1889.

LEGEND	
	Town Trail
	Building of Interest
	Car Parking
	Public Toilets
	Telephone Kiosks

5 Treveingy Bridge

At the junction look across the road to a raised wall capped with granite, the visible remains of **Treveingy Bridge**. Situated at Higher Sentry (a corruption of Higher Sanctuary – the boundary of the church glebe lands) the bridge spanned the 1 in 15 gradient of the Tresavean Incline (1838–1936), a mineral branch line serving the Tresavean Mine at Lanner, the Cornish Tin Smelting Co at Seleggan and the Basset Mines of Carnkie. The deep incline was filled in recent times to build houses.

Cross at the junction and turn left along Treveingy Road, past Treveingy Crescent on your left, to reach the bollards of Church Lane. Starting at Redruth's West End, this is the ancient funeral route to the Parish church, along which coffins were carried, followed by hundreds of hymn-singing miners. It was also here that William Murdoch ran his small model locomotive steam engine in 1784, alarming the rector! As you follow the lane, on your left is the graveyard of 1880, and on your right is the **Old Rectory**, its front section built in 1808, the rear in 1880.

6 The Parish Church of St Euny

At the end of the lane you come to **Churchtown Green**, flanked on the left by an 18th century house. Until 1911, it was the Prince's Plume, or **Plume of Feathers**, public house. Before you is the 1810 lych-gate to the **Parish Church of St Euny** (pictured below), with its exceptionally long coffin-rest – tragically necessary during outbreaks of cholera or mining accidents. This has been a Christian site since the 6th/7th century. The church's Georgian nave dates from around 1768, and the Tudor tower from 1487–1497. It features interesting gargoyles, including the heads of Henry VII and his bride of 1486, Elizabeth of York. Within the churchyard are the graves of many emigrant miners who died in America, Cuba, Australia and elsewhere. (Guidebooks are available at the church).



The brick arches in the stone wall on your right are all that remains of the Redruth Gasworks, established by John Reed in 1827. The gasometers were dismantled in 1976. If you walk a few yards up Gas Lane, you'll find a stream, once the **Gas Leats**, which not only provided water power for machinery, but which was also an open sewer during much of the Victorian period.

3 Falmouth Road

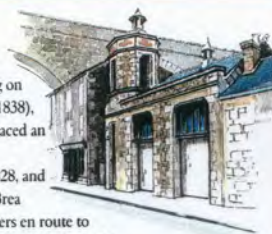
At the foot of the hill look across Falmouth Road to the garage, once **Lanyon's Coachworks**. Rebuilt in 1893, its large glass window provided joiners and upholsters with good light for building horse-drawn vehicles, some exported to Cornish emigrants in South Africa. Rising behind the garage is the tower of **Trevirgie School** (pictured left), built by Arthur Carkeek at a cost of £5000 in 1886, following the 1870 Education Act which led to the building of Board Schools for all children. It was the largest in Cornwall, with room for over 900 pupils, buildings for woodwork and cooking, and areas for gardening.



Turn and walk towards the **viaduct**, built for the Great Western Railway, 1884–1888, from Carnmarth, Carn Brea and Dartmoor granite. Its magnificent eight segmental headed arches replaced a shabby wooden viaduct of 1852, serving the newly-constructed railway station. Look for the 'GWR' boundary stone set in the pavement beneath, and also the rare Edward VII post box opposite.

On your right, the **Old Fire Station**, 1913 (pictured top right), replaced an earlier building which previously served as the Bethesda Chapel. Parish Vestry Room and private school before being converted as Redruth's first Fire Station in 1893. The tower was used for suspending and draining fire-hoses.

Cross Falmouth Road and walk up Trevirgie Road, passing on your left **The Buller's Arms** (1838), now a hairdressing salon. It replaced an earlier pub of the same name, converted from a dwelling in 1828, and served miners from East Carn Brea Mine and Wheal Uny, and farmers en route to Redruth Market. Continue up the hill through this Victorian residential area for professional people, its lower south side called Trevirgie Terrace in 1855. In 1881, Dr Robert Hudson, Samuel Abbott, broker, and Thomas Trounson, wholesale grocer, lived here.



4 Trevirgie House

Where the righthand pavement ends cross over Trevirgie Road to the lefthand side. Continue up to the junction, bear left briefly and cross the road with care. To your right, take the raised pathway under the trees which takes you around to the left of West Trevirgie Road. Here look across to **Trevirgie House** (pictured above) and its extensive gardens, built around 1820–1825 on the site of an earlier dwelling inhabited in 1606 by the Haweis family. Thomas Haweis (1734–1820), was founder of the London Missionary Society in 1795. The Jenkin family, Quaker mining adventurers, lived here



from the early 18th century until the death of the Cornish historian Mr A K Hamilton Jenkin in 1980. Within the courtyard is the coachman's cottage. Before the pavement ends, cross West Trevirgie Road to join the pavement on the righthand side. You will pass a series of fine town houses, post 1908. Fifty years before the junction with Treveingy Road look for the granite pillars at the entrances to Pendriggy and Chycarn on your left – these were brought from Trehidy Mansion on its conversion to a hospital in 1922.

9 The Parish Workhouse & the Old Tram Office

Turn right and walk down West End. The large, three-storey building on the right, where the pavement narrows, is the 18th Century **Parish Workhouse**. French prisoners of war were kept here in 1757, when John Wesley recorded that they mixed with the usual congregation at the Parish church. Behind it was the Pound, used to impound pigs and other animals found roaming in the town. Beside it was once the large shop of **Terrill and Rogers**, brass and iron founders, who specialised in Cornish ranges made at their foundry in Coach Lane. Diagonally opposite, the two-storey building on your left is the **Old Tram Office** which served as the office and waiting room at the terminus of the Camborne–Redruth Tramway 1902–1927. The only tramline in Cornwall, it extended to Trelowarren Street, Camborne.

10 Bank House & the Redruth Drapery Stores

Just before the iron railings on the right of the street is **No 11 West End**, the former photographic studio of James Chenhall 1835–1917, an early photographer born at St Agnes. He had a studio in Buller's Row in 1857 before moving here in 1875. Note his large studio window above. Redruth Victorians and Edwardians came here to be photographed before emigrating. Beyond, just before Church Lane, is **Bank House** (1899) (pictured above) which replaced the 18th Century Copper Bank where copper merchants transacted their business, and the later West Cornwall Bank. John Wesley is said to have preached from the balcony of that building, the supporting pillars of which can be seen at the main entrance – placed there on its rebuilding in 1899. Further along on the left is the **Redruth Drapery Stores** (pictured below). An earlier Sarah's Drapery Stores here of 1897 was destroyed by fire in 1915; that which replaced it in 1916 was also gutted by fire in 1987. Fortunately the



façade of Carthew pink elvan, and its shop sign, were sympathetically retained and restored for its rebuilding in 2000. Continue ahead up Fore Street, turning right before the clock tower to return to the Cornwall Centre at Alma Place.

7 Coach Lane

Turn left into Coach Lane, originally Coose Lane, renamed when a coachworks was established at its junction with West End. Cross over the railway bridge, noting the 1846 WCR boundary stone in the garden on your left. On your right is **The Fairfield**, site of the annual Redruth Whitsun Fair since the late 19th century. Continue down the hill to reach the carpark on your left, the site of the **Hayle Railway Terminus** (1838), Redruth's first railway station and coal depot. The railway was extended to the present station in 1852, following which the Old Station Yard became a coalyard.

8 Penventon & Tolvean

At the junction with West End, look left across the road to the entrance of the **Penventon Hotel**, built in 1830–1835 by banker and brewer, John Penberthy Magor (1796–1862), who succeeded his father, Reuban Magor, as principal proprietor of the Redruth Brewery. It was bought by Redruth-born builder Sir Arthur Carkeek in 1891. During World War Two, gas masks were fitted and issued from here, and medical assessments conducted for National Servicemen. Immediately opposite you is the large villa of **Tolvean** (pictured above), built in 1870 for Alfred Lanyon JP, mining adventurer and proprietor of the Redruth Gas Company. His monogram, the date 1870, and the name of architect James Hicks, are on the front door. The left side is a remnant of an older, lower, dwelling, built around 1831. Within its grounds stood the Classical School of 1803–04, which became a Grammar School and National School before it was demolished in 1871. Tolvean is now owned by the Cornwall Healthcare Trust. It was a residence for midwives at the Redruth Hospital, and more recently a psychiatric unit.

