

Historical Swanage

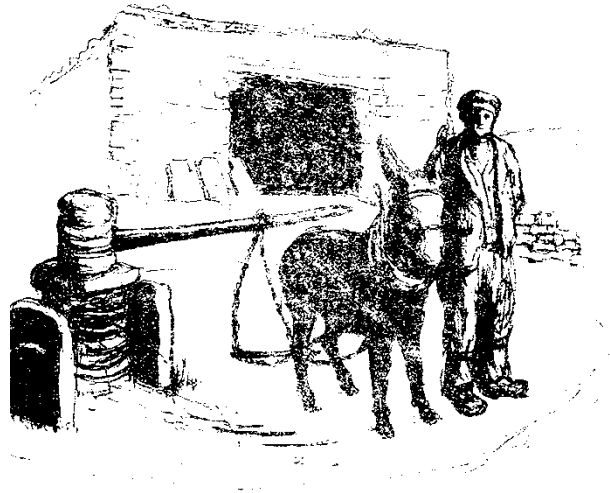
in

Purbeck

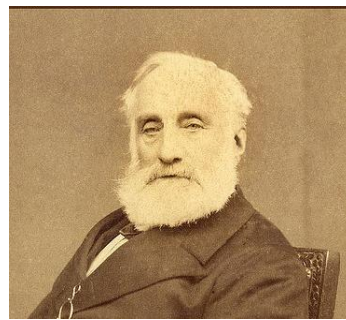
Stone in Swanage

Before there were any tourists in Swanage, people either worked in the stone industry or were fishermen. The stone found in this area is Limestone. It was quarried underground by men from a very young age.

Tunnels or shafts were dug into the ground and stone was brought up to the surface. These slabs of stone were put onto the wagons pulled by the donkeys and moved down to the sea onto a small boat. This then transported the stone to the larger ketches.



Limestone was sent around England and sold. Much of the stone went to London to be the pavements; some went to be used in important buildings such as St Pauls Cathedral and Westminster Bridge.



There were 2 men who made a success of the Swanage stone trade. John Mowlem, born in Swanage, began paving the streets of London. His nephew, George Burt, took over the business. Many items from London have been bought back into Swanage, giving the town it's name 'Little London by the Sea'

See if you can answers the questions below.

1. What is the main type of rock quarried around Swanage?

2. Name some of the things that it may have been used for.

3. What is the difference between a Quarr and a Quarry?

4. How was the stone moved from the Quarr to the sea?

5. What animal helped move the stone?

6. Who was important for the stone trade in Swanage?

7. What is Swanage also known as? Why?

Answers to the questions below.

1. What is the main type of rock quarried around Swanage?

Limestone

2. Name some of the things that it may have been used for.

St Paul's Cathedral, important buildings, pavements, houses

3. What is the difference between a Quarr and a Quarry?

Quarrs are family owned small tunnels, Quarries are industrial sized, usually open top

4. How was the stone moved from the Quarr to the sea?

By a wagon, can still see tracks on seafront today

5. What animal helped move the stone?

Donkey, looked after very well

6. Who was important for the stone trade in Swanage?

John Mowlem and nephew George Burt

7. What is Swanage also known as? Why?

Little London by the Sea, many old London relics bought back as ballast on ships

Steam in Swanage

Swanage Railway was opened in 1885 by George Burt, a very important person in the history of Swanage. It was originally used as a way to transport the stone from here to London as it was faster and easier than by boat.

This brought about a way for Londoners to travel to the seaside easily and the train became much more of a tourist transport. With the popularity of cars, the train became less used and in 1972 it closed as few people used it.



Volunteers in Swanage decided to reopen the station in 1982 as a tourist attraction of what life was once like. Now the station is run purely by volunteers; the ticket officers, the drivers and the station masters! The railway runs from Swanage to Herston, Corfe and the track finishes at Norden.

Swanage Railway Word Search



Steam

Engine

Tracks

Conductor

Locomotive

Coal

Shovel

Whistle

Station

Swanage

London

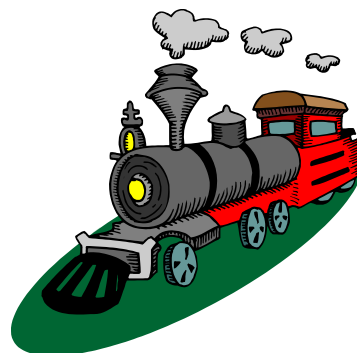
Power

Train

Herston

Corfe

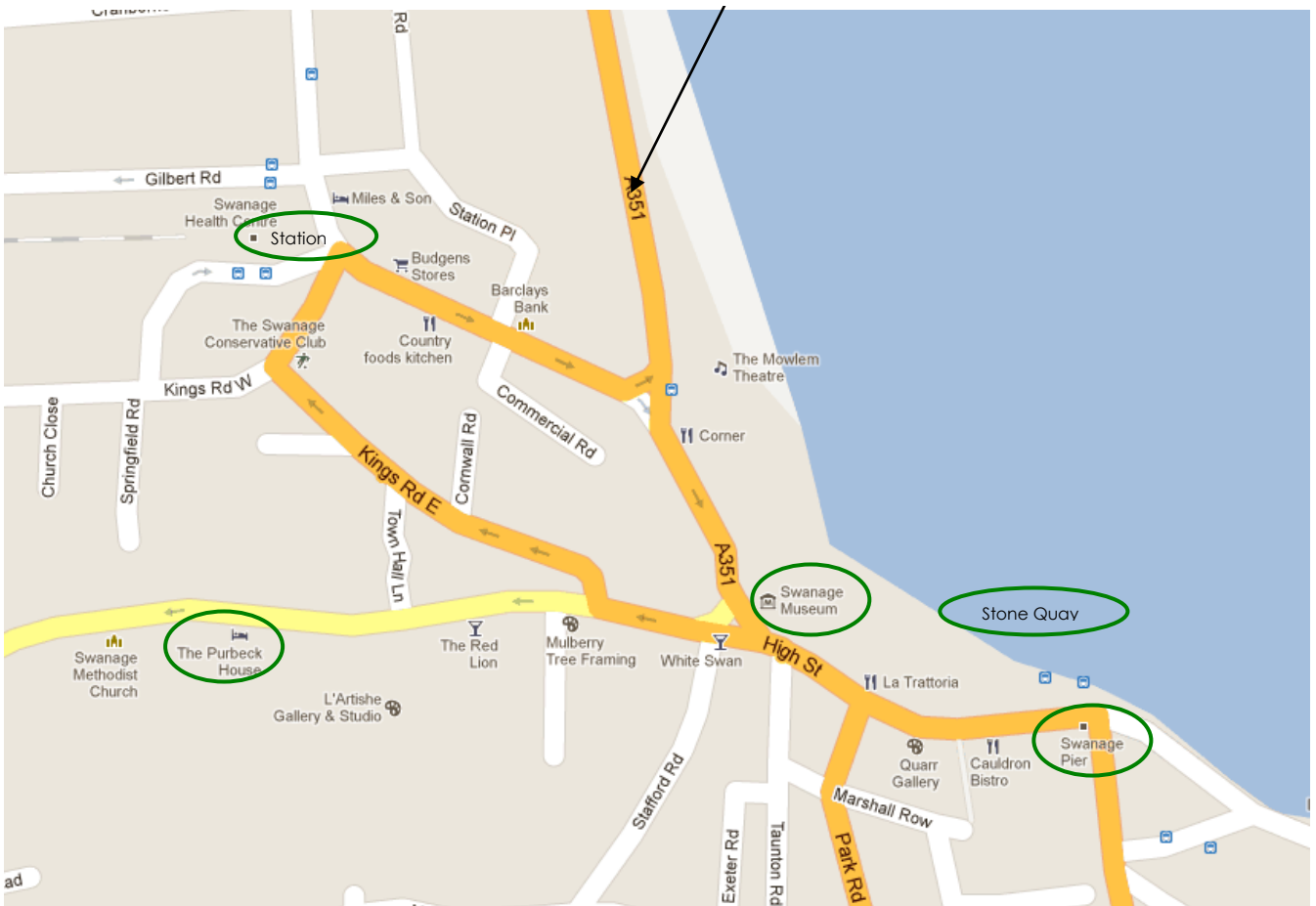
Norden



Map of Swanage

Areas of interest to Swanage History

Shore Road is closed to vehicles between Victoria Avenue and the Mowlem from May to October.



For more information on the history of Swanage, contact the Swanage Heritage centre and museum.