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# Knowledge organiser

Our local area - changes within living memory

# Our Local Area

Over 200 years ago West Porthmeur, as Charlestown was then known, was a small fishing village with no harbour and just three cottages where the local people made a living from fishing for pilchards. The China Clay pits in nearby St. Austell began to flourish in the latter half of the 18th Century, so there became a need for a local port to facilitate the transport of the clay. A local man, Charles Rashleigh, saw the opportunity and began constructing the Harbour in 1790.



In modern times, Charlestown is a privately-owned working harbour which remains vibrant, and completely unspoilt. It has been under its current ownership since August 2018. Charlestown still boasts the presence of historic tall ships, two of which belong to the Harbour.

Rashleigh built the gun battery to protect the village and this was used by the 'Huer' or look-out man. The Huer would see shoals of fish and alert the fishermen, guiding them to the fish. The name of the village was changed in order to honour Charles Rashleigh and became Charlestown. Charlestown began to flourish, and the population grew, bringing the need for more cottages, an Inn, a hotel, a chapel and eventually a church.



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## Books to read:

‘The Lighthouse Keeper’s Lunch’ Ronda and David Armitage

‘Percy Pengelly and the wibble-wobble’ Jenny Steele Scolding and Andy McPherson

## Key vocabulary

<b>pier</b>	a platform projecting from the shore and into the sea
<b>promenade</b>	a paved public walkway along the seafront
<b>parasol</b>	an umbrella used to protect you from the sun
<b>pollution</b>	harmful substances that are released into the atmosphere
<b>harbour</b>	a place on the coast where ships can settle
<b>beach</b>	a strip of land covered with sand, shells, shingles or stones close to a body of water – typically the ocean or sea
<b>fishing</b>	the activity of catching fish

## Websites

[The History of Charlestown, Cornwall \(historic-uk.com\)](http://www.historic-uk.com)

[Historic Harbour - Charlestown Harbour](http://www.charlestownharbour.com)

## Top takeaways

Having studied this topic you should be able to:

- Explain why Charlestown was important
- Explain how Charlestown has changed over the last 200 years
- Explore other changes within living memory such as technological, transport and housing