

ONE OF THE FEW REMAINING LINK'S CONNECTING MODERN ILFRACOMBE WITH PAST  
GENERATION'S HAS JUST BEEN SEVERED, BY THE DEATH OF MRS. JOHN DAVIE,  
THE LAST INHABITANT OF LANTERN HILL. SHE WAS ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN  
BUSINESS UP TO WITHIN A FEW WEEKS OF HER DEATH.

MANY YEARS BEFORE THE NEW LANDING STAGE, (THE PIER. 1871.) WAS  
CONSTRUCTED LANTERN HILL WAS A FAVOURITE RESORT FOR VISITORS AND THE  
LARGE ROOM, NOW UTILISED FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE LIGHTHOUSE, AND WHICH  
IN AGES PAST WAS A CHAPEL DEDICATED TO ST. NICHOLAS. PATRON SAINT  
OF SAILORS, WAS USED AS A READING ROOM AND WELL PATRONISED. THIS WAS  
BEFORE THE DAYS OF PENNY PAPERS. THE ADVENT OF THE CHEAP PRESS WAS A  
DEATH BLOW TO THE READING ROOM, AND IT WAS CONVERTED INTO A LAUNDRY  
WHICH FLOURISHED FOR MANY YEARS. MR. JOHN DAVIE, WHO PRE = DECEASED  
HIS WIFE SOME YEARS AGO WAS WELL = KNOWN AS A STEAM = BOAT AGENT, HE  
WAS THE SON OF ILFRACOMBE'S WELL KNOWN " ONLY BARBER " IN THE DAYS  
BEFORE " HAIRDRESSING " CAME INTO FASHION. MR. DAVIE. SENIOR WAS A WELL  
KNOWN CHARACTER IN HIS GENERATION. MR. & MRS. DAVIE BROUGHT UP A LONG  
FAMILY OF CHILDREN ON LANTERN HILL, OF WHOM TWO DAUGHTERS SURVIVE.

MR JOHN DAVIE & FAMILY HAD TO MOVE OUT OF LANTERN HILL, WHEN A LARGE  
ROCK FALL OCCURRED ON THE SOUTH SIDE DURING BLASTING OPERATIONS ON  
SUNDAY NIGHT, JANUARY 14th, 1872. OWING TO WORK ON BUILDING THE NEW PIER.  
THE CHAPEL REMAINED EMPTY FROM 1872 TO 1962, ALTHOUGH THE LIGHT WAS  
LIT EACH WINTER FROM SEPTEMBER 30th: TO MAY 1st:. IN 1962 THE LOCAL  
ROTARY CLUB PAID WILLIAM PEARCE LTD. BUILDER'S TO RESTORE THE BUILDING  
AND THE LARGE GROUND ROOM ONCE AGAIN WAS FITTED OUT AS A CHAPEL.

BIRTH. MAY. 20th. 1849.  
ST. NICHOLAS LIGHT.

TO THE WIFE OF MR JOHN DAVIE.  
A DAUGHTER. THE 14th: CHILD.  
TWO OF THEM IN THE CHURCHYARD LIE,  
TWO HAVE GONE TO SEA,  
AND TEN OF THESE OLIVE PLANTS,  
ARE ROUND ABOUT HIS TABLE,