

100 YEARS AGO!

Life in Bampton: December 1920

with thanks to Russ Davies

John Tooze, rabbit trapper, Beach Cottage, Hockworthy, was summoned at Tiverton Divisional Sessions for causing unnecessary suffering to a dog by wounding it with a shot gun. Mr. M.J. McGahey prosecuted on behalf of the R.S.P.C.A. Defendant pleaded guilty. Mr. McGahey said defendant was a rabbit trapper at Nutcombe, Clayhanger. On the 22nd November Mrs. Goddard, of Zeal Farm, Bampton, had a brown and white sheep dog, which her bailiff found lying in the roadway about two or three hundred yards from the land where defendant was trapping. The animal was covered in blood, and subsequently died. On examination, it was found that the chest was perforated by shot. The defendant said "I will tell the truth. I did fire at Mrs. Goddard's dog, but only to frighten it. I have been losing so many rabbits, but did not intend to kill it." The Bench fined defendant £4.

At the National Schoolroom, Mr. F.M. Drake, of Exeter, gave a lantern lecture on "The 15th century glass of the Bampton parish church in the different stages of its restoration." The Rev. E.V. Cox (Vicar) presided, and assisted by manipulating the slides. The old window, containing glass of almost priceless value, is to be removed to the south wall of the church, and, when restored, so that the various characters can be recognised, it is to be inscribed with the names of those parishioners who fell in the Great War, thus becoming a memorial window.

At Tiverton County Police Court, Messrs. Escott and Co., bakers, Bampton, were summoned for carrying bread not of an even number of pounds. Mr. A.M. Alford, prosecuting, said Inspector Hunt weighed 27 loaves which he took from defendants' van outside their shop. Twelve of the loaves were 4lb. loaves, and the remainder 2lbs. Although the bread was new the loaves were underweight to the extent of fourteen and three-quarter ounces; several were overweight to the full extent of eight and a half ounces. The Inspector was cross-examined by Mr. S. Ernest Crosse of Exeter (for the defence) as to his experience in baking, and suggested he knew nothing about it. Inspector Hunt said he had made himself acquainted with the trade.. Mr. Crosse said a committee had been appointed to consider the working of the Order under which the prosecution was taken, and suggested that this case was its dying kick. Fined £1 and £3 costs.