

Pepperpot Cottage

This delightful cottage stands on Southfield Road (No. 19), by the junction with Shorton Road. The Cottage's octagonal shaped roof and four tall chimneys give rise to its name "Pepperpot". It is a Grade II listed building.



Built in about 1840, some claim it was a toll-house for the old turnpike road to Torquay (the 'old way') at what was then the edge of Paignton. It has been suggested that the rectangular recess on the Shorton Road side of the Cottage could have been where the toll charges were displayed. Others believe the building was simply a lodge to the larger property, Belle View House, at the rear.

The turnpike road was built by the Dartmouth, Torquay and Shaldon Turnpike Trust, to collect tolls from travellers using the route.

The term "turnpike" refers the military practice of placing a pikestaff across a road to block and control passage. Upon payment of the toll, the pike would be "turned" to one side to allow travellers through. The Turnpike Trusts were responsible for the costs of improvements to, and maintenance of, the roads. The Dartmouth – Shaldon turnpike road was 38 miles in length and was created in 1765.

The route of the turnpike road from Torquay to Paignton was

- *'... village of Kingskerswell, and through Southey Lane, by Chapel Hill, to the Hotel at Torquay.*
- *From Torquay by 'Fleet Mill' to the north side of the limekiln adjoining to 'Hoppaway Hill' in Tormohan*
- *The south end of Chapel Hill in Tormoham parish, through Cockington parish, across 'Tuckingmill', alias Hollicombe Lake, into Paignton parish, and on to 'Cleatland Cross' in the same parish.'*

Today, we would recognise this route as:

- *'... from Kingskerswell, past Torre Railway Station, East St, Tor Hill Rd, Abbey Rd and Fleet St to Poulton's Hotel (later the Royal Hotel) on the Strand.*
- *From the Strand, up Fleet St (the Fleet Mill was pulled down in 1835), to Pimlico (at the bottom of Stentiford Hill - formerly Hoppaway Hill) and a little way up Market St (the lime kiln was near the bend in Albert St – now the Union Square shopping arcade).*
- *Join Union St to the Newton Rd and back to Torre Railway Station, across country through Chelston and Cockington, to join the A3022 at Livermead, then follow the main Torbay Rd to Preston. Turn off onto the Old Torquay Road, Oldway Road, Southfield Road and Winner Street. Then along Totnes Road to Claylands Drive (Paignton Zoo) – formerly Cleatland Cross.*



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